

Blades and Blooms



Master Gardeners of Clark County
PO Box 158, Springfield, Ohio 45501-0158

Volume 31 Number 03 March 2024



Mark Your Calendar

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------|--|
| 7 | 9 am - 4 pm | 24th Annual Central Ohio Perennial School; Hollenbeck Bayley Center. |
| 11 | 1 - 3 pm | SPGA Committee Meeting; OSUE Lg. Conf. Rm. |
| 12 | 11 am - 12 pm
1 pm - 3 pm | Perennial Cmte. Meeting; SPGA Docent Training; OSUE Lg. Conf. Rm. |
| 13 | 6 pm | MGV General Meeting; OSUE Lg. Conf. Rm. |
| 14 | 1 pm - 3 pm | Lawn & Garden Helpline Meeting/ Training; OSUE Lg. Conf. Rm. |
| 18 | 10 am - 12 pm | Early Ohio Settler's Meeting; OSUE Lg. Conf. Rm. |
| 19 | 1 pm - 3 pm | Plant Sale Meeting; OSUE Lg. Conf. Rm. |
| 28 | 11 am - 1 pm | Education Cmte. Meeting; OSUE Lg. Conf. Rm. |
| 30 | 9 am - 12 pm | Pruning Workshop; SPGA |

Regular Intern Training Classes & Workdays

MGV Training classes every Wednesday from 8:30 am - 4:00 pm at OSUE Lg. Conf. Rm.

Perennial Cmte. Workday every 2nd and 4th Tuesday from 9 am to 11 am at SPGA.

Planting/Seeding Mitchell Greenhouse (limit 2) Every Tuesday 9 am - 11 am.

Landscape With Nature Workday every 2nd and 4th Wednesday from 10 am to 12 pm.

Planting/Maintenance Mitchell Greenhouse (limit 2) Every Thursdays starting March 21st 9 am - 11 am.

Garden of Eatin' Workday Friday March March 22nd. 9 am to 11 am.



Last year's Central Ohio Perennial School. Flyer for 2024 Perennial School on pg. 10.



Pam Bennett at last year's Perennial School.

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President's Message

It is hard to believe we are in the month of March and spring is just around the corner. This winter has been a mild one and like many of you, I have bulbs peeking up from my flower beds.

Our new class is fantastic! Please welcome them with open arms and be sure to introduce yourself each time you come to class or see them at meetings. They are eager to begin volunteering. Thanks to all of you who are helping with training and presenting projects and serving as a mentor. All of this leads to a great experience for our Interns.

Friday Wildflower Walks will begin sometime in March, weather permitting. They generally begin at 1:00 at a local preserve or garden. Watch your email and the MGCV calendar for more details from Pam.

Christi Lockhart, President



Wildflower Walk Clifton Gorge from 2023.

Pam's Posies

Dear Master Gardener Volunteers,

Wow what a ride! By now, most have heard about the infirmary at the Bennett house. It truly has been a roller coaster. Rick's (hubby) general practitioner had him go for a low dose CT scan (not a bad idea for all seniors!) in October. Since he was a smoker, she does this when you hit 65. Thank goodness he followed up on this as they found that he had a calcified aortic valve. This led him to the cardiologist (his family has history of heart disease). The cardiologist ordered a stress test, and he did this on the Friday I was in Ecuador. He killed the stress test, completed it easily. However, his cardiologist didn't like a little blip on the EKG and had him do a heart cath.

Monday, February 5th we left the house thinking we would be home around noon if all was good or home around 4:00 p.m. if he had to have a stent or 2. What happened next totally punched me in the gut. The Dr. came into the consultation room and said that his main artery was 70% blocked and another on the right was totally blocked. The main artery is considered the widow-maker and for a good reason. Things happened quickly that Monday and they admitted him, they would not let him leave the hospital in that condition.

Thursday the 8th he had his surgery and came through wonderfully. The next few days were difficult as he got pneumonia and was having trouble breathing. Eventually he came home on the 16th. His progress is outstanding and he's gaining energy each day.

In the meantime, I have had a few gallbladder attacks since November and had removal scheduled for February 9th. I canceled it of course and things were fine. Until the Sunday after I brought him home. This attack wasn't going away so I went to the ER and had my gallbladder removed on Monday, February 19th. I came home Wednesday and am doing great also!

We have both been blessed with God's hand in this process (and it's been a process for sure!). He has put us in the right place at the right time. It was pitiful at our house for a week or so while we both were recovering.

Welcome Salena Hall!!

Hello all! I'm Salena Hall. I am extremely excited to meet and get to know each of you! I'm here because sustainability and bringing an end to food insecurity in my community are two very important causes for me. I feel I can make great contributions to our organizations for those reasons. My fiancé and I have 4 children between us and are in the process of growing our little homestead, which is a wonderful teaching opportunity for the children to learn valuable life lessons, accountability and responsibility. Thank you all for being so welcoming and supportive at the beginning of my new adventure!



Salena Hall and her fiancé.



Early spring snow drops.

Pam's Posies cont. from pg. 2

I thank each and every one of you for your friendship and love. Your cards, phone calls, texts, emails, and the food that you have brought to our house is appreciated more than you can imagine. I have always watched in amazement at the kindness all of you give when someone is in need. This time, Rick and I were the recipients of your love and kindness. You are all amazing individuals and as a group, over the top wonderful! THANKS SO VERY MUCH.

Always thankful for MGVs and this organization! Thanks for all you do.

Pam and Rick Bennett

Pam
Pamela J. Bennett
State Master Gardener Volunteer Coordinator
Extension Educator, Horticulture
Ohio State University Extension



COMMITTEE REPORTS

PERENNIAL COMMITTEE

HYPERTUFA WORKSHOP

When: Tuesday April 23rd, 12-3pm, at the Barn;
pick-up Friday April 26th 12-2pm

"Hypertufa" is a mix of cement, peat, vermiculite, & water, making a clay-like mixture that is packed around a mold to create a unique, stone-looking container. Join us for a Master Gardener workshop to create your own hypertufa. Limit is 20 people. This workshop will be a test run. After some practice & working the bugs out, we hope to offer a future class to the public. Pam Thullen will be instructing this workshop for us.

A former Master Gardener Volunteer, Jerry Howell, had a business, making, selling, and teaching Hypertufa, and has generously given us a variety of molds and some of his beautiful completed hypertufa pots to the Master Gardeners. They are in Barn #2, in the Perennial Committee cubby if you would like to see them. We have invited Jerry to our workshop! If you are interested, I recommend watching a couple of Youtube videos on making hypertufa. I have watched a lot of them and would recommend these two:

1. Buddha's Botanicals - Making a Hypertufa
2. City of Cambell River - Hypertufa Workshop

You will see two different techniques for making hypertufa - 1) molding on the inside & 2) molding on the outside of a container, tips for creating the right hypertufa recipe, creative mold ideas, planting them, and their care. They can last for up to 20 years!

Participants will be making a hypertufa pot to take home for your garden. We will also be working on making containers for the Clubhouse alcove steps. They will be wrapped in plastic and stored in the Barn for 48 hours to start curing. It is important to protect them from freezing temperatures at this stage. On Friday 4/26, we will remove them from their molds, show how to finish them, and take them home to enjoy!

I have not bought the supplies yet so cost is still unknown, but hope to have it in the \$25/person range. If you have experience in making hypertufa and would like to help with this workshop to teach others, please let me know. It is a messy process, so be prepared to get dirty. It will be like making mud pies!

Questions and to sign-up: contact Marilyn Hinderer. Money will be collected at the workshop.

Text: (937) 478-5919 or call (937) 828-1589, leave your name & a message.

Marilyn Hinderer
Perennial Committee

PLANT SALE COMMITTEE

The Plant Sale Committee has been meeting and we are in full swing! Items you should know:

1. We need ALL of you to make this the biggest and most successful Plant Sale of all time! We have ordered more beautiful plants, and a larger variety of natives than ever.
2. Assignments will be available at the March meeting. If you have a job that you would love to have again, please let Deb know before the March meeting.
3. Please bring in your old 3" and 4" unmarked pots. We need these to repot our vegetables for the sale.
4. If you have any old Plant Sale yard signs, please bring them to the March meeting. We will update them, and get them out to "high profile" areas.
5. We are also in need of more wagons and wheelbarrows for sale day. If you have one we can borrow, please mark it with your name and bring on sale day, please.
6. Dates for upcoming meetings: **March 19, April 16**

We hope you will join us!

Loretta Blazer, Karen Parsons, Deb Brugger and Jill Pfister



MGV Plant Sale May 2023.

GREENHOUSE COMMITTEE

The Mitchell Greenhouse was cleaned on January 30th. Thank you to all the MGV volunteers that helped with this task.



Greenhouse cleaning crew Karen Parsons, Karen Dunn, Linda McCann, Marilyn Hinderer, Natheta Mercer, Theresa Gregory, Jean Rickards, Rosalind Soles, Karen Titone, Beth Brooks.

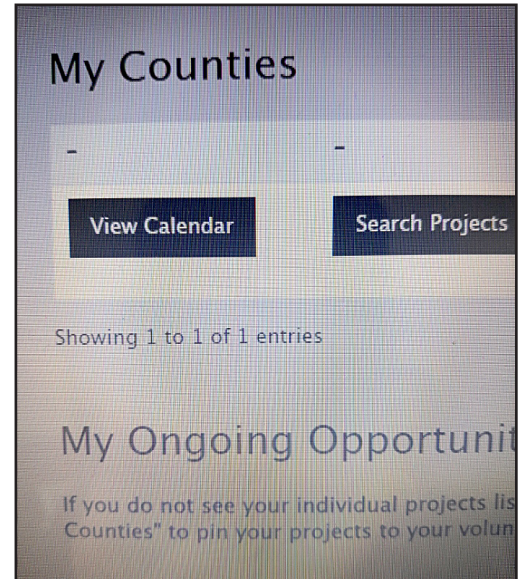
New weed barrier was put on the floor on the north side of the greenhouse. Also, a new heating cable was placed on the grid for the germination bed.



The first AAS seeds planted were petunias on February 20th.



To work in the greenhouse, you MUST sign up using HOC. Go to View Calendar to see existing opportunities.



The Mitchell Greenhouse chairs: Theresa Gregory, Karen Parsons, Rosalind Soles, Joyce Watson and Linda McCann

SNYDER PARK GARDENS AND ARBORETUM COMMITTEE

Meeting: March 11, 1:00 P.M.

We will be meeting in the large conference room on March 11 from 1-3:30 p.m. to discuss the upcoming season. All garden committee chairs should attend; if you can't attend, please send someone in your place to represent your committee. Be prepared to share upcoming plans for the season, including plans for the garden, purchases, etc. We will be discussing the budget as there have been a few changes. We will also discuss additional items that need to be completed for this season. We will establish a committee to work on the entrance as well as the area just west of the Wingert Tossey Pavilion. Please be sure to have your committee represented. Remember, anyone is invited to participate in this committee, however, garden chairs are required to be on it.

Pam Bennett

LANDSCAPE WITH NATURE **COMMITTEE**

According to an old proverb: "The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago. The second best time is today." The awareness of the role of trees in our ecology has been increasing. This past year LWN added a white oak and two black cherry trees and supported work toward arboretum accreditation at SPGA. The need and value of more trees is being addressed by not just tree huggers, but by the Ohio Legislature.

Governor DeWine signed House Bill 101 which addresses the problem of a shortage of trees for planting in Ohio. In 2003, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources discontinued growing their own tree seedlings and has been purchasing their trees from outside sources. Shortages have developed in meeting conservation objectives. HB101 will provide funding for the establishment of the new Buckeye State Tree Nursery that will be located at the same site as the previous Zanesville Nursery. DeWine said, "We are constantly striving to enhance conservation within Ohio's forests. This nursery helps us in that mission by improving access to Ohio-grown tree seedlings and expanding the supply for our many tree planting initiatives." It will support various ODNR projects, including the Girl Scout Tree Promise.



Yes, the Girl Scouts do something besides sell cookies. They made the Girl Scout Tree Promise in 2021, as a national protection initiative to plant 5 million trees over five years, and to protect and honor new and existing trees. The Ohio part of the Girl Scout Tree Promise is a commitment to plant 250,000 trees by 2026. ODNR has committed to providing the resources for the planting of the trees.

Trees

By Joyce Kilmer

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.

A tree whose hungry mouth is pressed
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;

A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;

Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain

Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.

The sails for the pergola arrived! Join us in the Landscape with Nature Gardens on March 13 and March 27 when we work on the pergola and prepare the gardens for 2024 growing season.

LWN Committee: Tom Davidson, Jani Malowney,
Donna Meister

Some newer trees to Snyder Park Gardens and Arboretum.



New Flame Thrower Redbud trees.



New Taxodium distichum, bald cypress tree planted in early 2022.

Backyard News

When I was a younger working woman, I thought the gardening year began in March when I started seeds indoors and ended in late September or early October when the evenings grew too dark to work outside. Given the flexibility retirement offers and, let's be honest, a warming climate, I find myself gardening pretty much all year. Ohio's weather can be so fickle. I remember looking out the window at work, the weather sunny and beautiful, only to have it rain, rain, rain every weekend. Now, I watch the weather like a hawk and dart outside whenever I can.

That's how husband Tom and I found ourselves outside on a sunny February day spreading seeds in Rainbow Run Wetland. A couple weeks prior Donnie Knight from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had ordered our seeds. The seeds came from two native plant sellers and were a mix of grasses and forbs. One seller provided seeds for the lower, wetter areas and one provided seeds for the spoils pile. The spoils pile holds all the soil, clay and gravel that was dug out of the pond area, that's 12,000 cubic yards of spoils. It's a huge pile. I'm sure that some day in the future kids will love to sled down that pile. When this soil mixture covered our high water table it was always wet and spongy. But piled up it will eventually dry out, so we needed some of our seeds to be able to handle dry periods.

We began our seed spreading adventures on the spoils pile. We figured it would be the driest area for spreading seed, although after five inches of rain in January and a couple inches of snow,

tiny seeds. I walked back and forth, swinging my arm in big arcs, letting the wind catch the seed and spread it. Tom used a seed spreader for the tiny seed. I walked back and forth and Tom walked to and fro, both of us covering the area in a grid pattern. My work boots made indentations in the moist soil, a big help as I tried to keep track of where I had spread seed. In the background I heard a rhythmic whirl as Tom quickly marched to and fro like an Energizer Bunny spreading seed. By lunchtime, my arcs were smaller and we both had giant mud feet from marching through the damp soil.

After lunch we switched to gum boots, hoping to leave more soil on the ground, and headed to the wetter areas. Back and forth, back and forth I slowly worked my way through the wetland. Tom, the Energizer Bunny, whipped by, swish, swish, swishing as he went. At one point he looked a little muddier and grumbled that he had fallen down three times. I made sure he was alright and cooed words of support. We marched on. The next time Tom swished passed he announced he had fallen two more times. Internally, I rolled my eyes. I cooed more words of support and scurried on, afraid he would take me into the mud with him.

By the time our energy gave out we had covered the entire nine-acre wetland with four bags of seeds, leaving us three and a half bags to go. Spreading this seed is a big milestone for establishing the wetland. I can't wait to watch that dark muddy soil disappear and new life spring forth.

Happy Gardening!
Susan Miller



Susan spreading seed

there weren't really any dry areas. From now until July or August, the chance for dry gets lower and lower in the wetland.

I took the light and fluffy seeds and Tom took the



Tom relaxes after working hard



2024 Master Gardeners of Clark County

Intern Training Class Schedule

February 7, 2024

9:00 a.m. - noon

Chapter 2

Botany and Plant Nomenclature – Curtis Young, PhD, Entomology

12:30 p.m.- 3:30 p.m. – Note time!

Chapter 5

Plant Pathology – Francesca Peduto-Hand, PhD, Plant Pathology

February 14, 2024

9:00 a.m. - noon

Chapter 1

Introduction

Orientation - Pam Bennett, HoC Tutorial - Beth Brooks

1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Chapter 3

Soils and Fertilizers - Amanda Bennett, Extension Educator, Miami County

February 21, 2024

9:00 a.m. - noon

Chapter 9

Lawns and Lawn Care - Greg Meyer, Extension Educator, Warren County

1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Chapter 8

Woody Ornamentals - Pam Bennett

February 28, 2024

9:00 a.m. - noon

Chapter 7

Herbaceous Ornamentals – Pam Bennett

1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Chapters 17/6

Houseplants/plant propagation – Beth Brooks

Worm composting (tentative) – Linda Newman

March 6, 2024

9:00 a.m. - noon

Chapter 4

Entomology– Jen Andon, Program Manager, State MGV Program

1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Chapter 14 / 15

Integrated pest management/Pesticide Safety, Pam Bennett

March 13, 2024

9:00 a.m. - noon

Chapter 16

Backyard Wildlife – Marne Titchenell. OSU Extension State Wildlife Specialist

1:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Chapter 13

Pollinators in the Landscape, Denise Ellsworth, Specialist OSU Bee Lab

March 20, 2022

9:00 a.m. - Noon

Invasive Species – Amy Stone

1:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m.

Chapter 12

Fruits in the Home Landscape - Gary Gao, PhD. OSUE State Fruit Specialist

March 27, 2024

9:00 a.m. – Noon

Good Ag Practices – Pam Bennett

Project work, misc. catch-up

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Chapter 10

Vegetable Gardening and Compost – Carrie Jagger, Extension Educator Morrow County

April 3, 2024

9:00 a.m. – noon

Soil Test Results – Pam Bennett

Noon - 1:30 p.m. Potluck Luncheon

1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. – Actual last class

Putting It All Together, Wrap Up and Final Group presentations.

24TH ANNUAL CENTRAL OHIO

Perennial School

March 7th, 2024

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Doors open at 8:30 a.m.

Location: Hollenbeck
Bayley Creative Arts
and Conference Center

Speakers:

- **Kirk Brown**

Garden Designer and Keynote Speaker

- **Dr. Dave Smith, Ph.D.**

Founder and President of Freshwater Farms of Ohio

- **Pam Bennett**

Professor, The Ohio State University

Cost: \$70

(Includes a continental breakfast, lunch, and handouts.)



**Registration
Ends**

March 1, 2024

**REGISTER NOW AT
GO.OSU.EDU/CENTRALOHIO
PERENNIALSCHOOL**



**For more information on
sessions and speakers visit :**



<https://go.osu.edu/perennialschoolinfo>



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

clark.osu.edu

Master Gardener Volunteers of Clark County Plant Sale



Snyder Park Gardens & Arboretum
1900 Park Street, Springfield, OH 45504

Proceeds benefit Snyder Park Gardens & Arboretum

May 4, 2024

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Open until everything is sold or 2:00 p.m.

- Perennials, Annuals, Herbs, Natives, Vegetables, Shrubs, Trees, Ferns and Grasses
- Barn Sale: Garden Art, Accessories, and Books



To learn about all garden events scan this
QR Code or visit us at
go.osu.edu/clarkmgvmeetmeinthearden



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Ohio State University Extension
Clark County
3130 East Main Street
Springfield, OH 45505



*Tracy DiSabato Aust at the 2023 Annual
Central Ohio Perennial School.*

**March general
garden clean up
date TBD.
Stay Tuned!**

The Master Gardener “Blades & Blooms” is a publication of the Ohio State University Extension, Clark County, 3130 East Main Street, Springfield, Ohio, 45505, 937.398.7600. The Master Gardener Advisor is Pam Bennett. <http://clark.osu.edu/program-areas/master-gardener-volunteers/blades-blooms-newsletters>.

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