1 pm - 3 pm

10 5:30 pm - ???

12 9 am - 11am

15 8 am - ???

16 8 am - ???

17 1 pm - 3 pm

6 pm - 8 pm

20 9 am - 12 pm

25 9 am - 12 pm

11 am - 12 pm

1 pm - 3 pm

26 9 am - 12 pm

1 pm - 3 pm

1 pm - 3 pm

# Blades and Blooms

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

Docent Meeting: SPGA Barn Area.

General Meeting: SPGA Barn Area.

Wild about Wildflowers Walk w/ Pam

Cultivar Trials Garden Prep: SPGA.

Plant Sale Wrap-up Meeting: SPGA

Night Weeders. Peony bed at SPGA.

Peony Education Program: Wingert

SPGA Jubilee Meeting: Wingert Tossey

Memorial Day Peony Cuttings -

Memorial Day Peony Cuttings -

Wild about Wildflowers Walk w/ Pam

Cultivar Trials Planting: SPGA.

Bennett - Location TBA.

Barn Area.

Barn Area

Tossey Pavilion.

TENTATIVE: SPGA (Peony Garden Area).

**Education Committee:** 

TENTATIVE: SPGA

(Peony Garden Area).

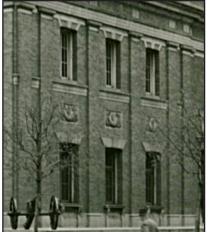
Bennett - Location TBA.

Wingert Tossey Pavilion.

Transfer seedlings: Wittenberg to SPGA

Volume 30 Number 5 May, 2023





A close up of the side of Memorial Hall from the early 1900s, showing the artifacts from the building.

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## Index Mark Your Calendar......1 President's Corner.....2 Pam's Posies ......2 What's Growing On ......3 Birthdays......3 Committee Reports ......4-6 Backyard News......7 Gatherings about Gardens ......8

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Congratulations Clark County Master Gardener Volunteers!!

This year marks 30 years that we have been working to grow, educate, share, and grow some more. There has been lots of planting, weeding, establishing beds, learning new things and methods and I think we can see great benefits from our efforts.

Change is constant. The seeds we plant change from a seedling to a thing of beauty (right plant, right place), the crop is beneficial (unless the bugs get it first), and we are fed, gratified, thankful for those little seeds which we are encouraged to save for future gardens. There are many changes evident at Snyder Park Gardens & Arboretum as the new entrance to the gardens takes shape, the new plans for Springfield Foundation Feature Gardens are implemented, Demana Victory Garden is presently planted with potatoes and onions (more vegetables to come), Landscape with Nature takes shape with native plants, and Kiwanis Children's Garden begins to bloom and grow. Garden of Eatin' is soon to be growing...well, you get the idea.

We are happy when the plans we make come to fruition and planning is important for the good of the order. The future is before us and we must plan strategically for the coming years as we move out of the way for future gardeners. We will begin planning for a new class of interns later this year. We are working with various entities to share in maintaining the present gardens. Educating as we go with best practices from university research, and just having fun and working hard with our friends and others eager to learn.

As I get out of my comfort zone to serve as President of this wonderful, energetic group of volunteers, I hope you will consider stepping up to serve as officers, chair committees as your passion leads you, and give care and support to those who serve in these capacities. I see how you are with each other and appreciate all you do for the Clark County Master Gardener Volunteers. Love you all.

Sue Ann Dill

P.S. My goal is to have every gardener grow DILL pickle seeds (:<)



## Pam's Postes

Dear MGVs,

Where in the world does time go? It seems like I just started in this job and last December, I celebrated 30 years. Holy Cow! It really doesn't seem possible. I also learned this past February that I can retire with full benefits on October 1, 2023. When I heard that, I literally experienced retirement anxiety for a weekend. I couldn't sleep, wondered what I would do after I retire, wondered about the future of SPGA, and so much more.

After a lot of thought and conversations with many of you, I am now in a good place on this issue. I will know when the timing is right, but it's not for at least another year. I know there are rumors out there that I might retire at the end of this year. I will NOT retire until we have a succession plan for SPGA and OSUE. I want to make 100% sure that there will be someone in Clark County Extension who will be responsible for the future of the MGV program and all of our activities. Therefore, I won't retire at the end of this year.

It was suggested by a very wise person that the MGVs conduct a strategic plan. We will be doing this over the summer months. I am working with a few facilitators from OSUE who are good at this and will help guide us through the process. Watch for more details on this. It's very important that when I do retire, we have a plan in place so that the person who follows can hit the ground running.

So, let's talk about plans for this year. Holy Cow again! We have so much happening in SPGA it's amazing and it's all because of you – the MGVs. The Education Committee continues to knock it out of the park with events, programs, activities, and more. The individual Garden Committees are working at an incredible pace to get their gardens ready for the season. And there are quite a few people working behind the scenes to get things accomplished. We are a well-oiled team with a few squeaks now and then!

Watch for the entrance to be finished soon – it is quite amazing – and the sidewalks and the benches and picnic tables and the new containers. All coming this spring. If you are in the gardens taking photos on your cell phone, be sure to share these photos on social media. Use the hashtags #spga, #osuemgvs, and #discoverspga to let people know what's happening. If you don't know how to do this, just ask. We are getting more and more people on board with social media!

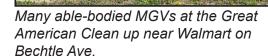
Pam's Posies cont. op pg. 3

## WHAT'S GROWING ON

More pictures from Beth this month.



Future Ready
Friday class from
Springfield-Clark
CTC learning about
vegetable gardening
with MGVs Deb
Brugger and Beth
Brooks.





MGVs answering questions and distributing Victory Garden seed packets to support & promote awareness of Springfield Regional Medical Center's new Associate Garden.

#### Pam's Posies cont. from pg. 2

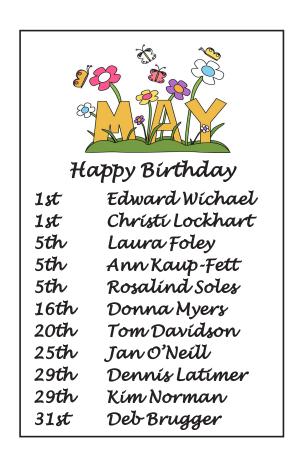
Another thing about us is that we are quite flexible when needed. Things come at us that might not be planned and you all rise to the occasion and pitch in to help. I am continually amazed at your passion for the MGV program and willingness to teach others. Thanks as always for all that you do.

The SPGA Tree subcommittee met and several of the members presented their trees. It was fantastic to hear the MGVs talk about the tree species that they were assigned and to consider what will be planted in SPGA in the future. We will do this again, likely in June. As an additional bonus, individuals learned a lot about their tree species.

I appreciate all that you do. I may be the face of the MGVs in the community, but you are the heart and soul, and you are the ones that make our OSUE horticulture outreach possible in Clark County. Thank you for all you do.

#### Pam

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



# COMMITTEE REPORTS EARLY OHIO SETTLER'S GARDEN

Some Early Ohio Settlers enjoyed some of the beautiful weather in April, and made quick work of rolling and labeling the chicken wire from the garden plots, and tackling the leaves protecting the soil. There were quite a number of perennials waiting to peek out into the sunshine. May garden dates are May 1 to lay the straw paths, May 15 to plant, and May 30 to thin and weed. All work days will start at 8:30, weather permitting. We welcome any MGV to join us when you can! Also, thanks to Sonya Ryhal for updating our board on the "Outhouse". She has more planned, so keep your eyes open!

Kim Bachman, Judy and Mark Finnegan, co-chairs

Perennials in the EOS garden ready to go.





ARLY OHIO

SETTLER'S

April crew of MGVs in the Early Ohio Settler's Garden.

Great looking information board on the outhouse. Thanks Sonya Ryhal.

## SPGA JUBILEE COMMITTEE

The summer of 2023 at Snyder Park Gardens & Arboretum is shaping up to be exciting with the new entrance being completed plus programs being scheduled. Our traditional Jubilee with MGV's wearing their red shirts and stationed all around the area is planned for Saturday, August 5, from 9 am to 2 pm.

Please wear your thinking caps and attend the three planning meetings. Planning goes best if a representative from each garden area attends as well as folks who are willing to be on the general committees like Welcome, etc. The first meeting will include brainstorming about how to best use the area.

#### **Meeting Schedule:**

May 25th, 1-3:00 June 22nd,1-3:00 July 27th 1-3:00 Sept. 21, 1-3:00 (wrap up)

All meetings will be in the Pavilion so you need to bring a chair.

If you are looking for fun volunteer hours, we still have a few subcommittee chair positions for the SPGA Jubilee that need to be filled. Please contact one of the tri-chairs if you are interested.

SPGA Jubilee Committee Tri-Chairs Rita Lane, Christi Lockhart, Susan Smith

## **VICTORY GARDEN COMMITTEE**

Master Gardener Volunteers planted onions and potatoes in mid April. As you read this article the plants should be above ground and growing well. The fence has been repaired, the plots assigned and we are currently planting seeds ie. corn, beans and cucumbers. So stay tuned and come and work with us every Tuesday at 9:00 am.

Ed Wosniak, Drew Titone, Mark Finnegan

## NIGHT WEEDERS COMMITTEE

The Night Weeders will have our first weeding session of the season on May 17th at 6 pm in the Peony beds. We will be polishing up the beds for the May 20 Peony educational program. Our committee is great for those of you who aren't available during the day or prefer to work in the cooler evening hours. We meet every other week at 6 pm and rotate throughout the SPGA beds. Hope to see you there!

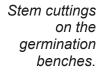
Susan and Tom Miller Committee Co-Chairs

# MITCHELL GREENHOUSE COMMITTEE

April was a very busy month in the Mitchell Greenhouse! Approximately 1400 Sunpatiens stem cuttings from Sakata were started and watered twice a day. Pam Bennett and Beth Brooks took on the watering task for the cuttings most of the month. The Sunpatiens will be planted at Snyder Park in the Feature Gardens.



Pam giving instructions on stem cuttings.



By the third week of April, the stem cuttings were transplanted into 4" pots. Approximately 1300 of the Sunpatiens stem cuttings rooted.

The remainder of the AAS seedlings plus a few AAS perennial and annual plugs were also transplanted in April.



Rooted Sunpatien cuttings.

Mitchell Greenhouse Co-chairs, Rosalind Soles, Karen Parsons, Theresa Gregory, and Linda McCann



Many AAS seedlings along with some annual and perennial plugs sent to us from growers hoping for AAS recognition.

#### **GRINS AND GROANS**

from Judy Finnegan

Can February March? No, but April May!
What did Spring say when it was in trouble? May
Day!

An employee asks his boss, "Can I have two weeks off for Christmas?" His boss replied, "It's May...", to which the employee responded, "Oh, sorry. May I have two weeks off for Christmas?"

Four high school boys afflicted with spring fever skipped morning classes. After lunch they reported to the teacher that they had a flat tire. Much to their relief she smiled and said, "Well, you missed a test today so take seats apart from one another and take out a piece of paper." Still smiling, she waited for them to sit down.

Then she said: "First Question: Which tire was flat?"

Should I plant flowers in April? May as well! Where do Kentucky Derby horses shop? Old Neigh-vy"

What did the momma say to her foal? It's pasture bedtime.

Why should you never buy flowers from a monk? Because only you can prevent florist friars.

# LANDSCAPE WITH NATURE COMMITTEE

HAPPY EARTH DAY! was the theme for LWN'S NATIVE PLANT WORKSHOP, Saturday April 22, 2023 at MGV barn door #2. "What is a native plant?" asked Tom Davidson as he worked the computer slide presentation. The use of native plants in our home landscape will save the birds, butterflies, and insects from extinction. Tom explained how he picked from a book the 16 plants that contained an abundance of nectar and pollen to plant in The Bee Haven Garden. The 16 he chose turned out to be native plants!!

Tom stressed the knowledge of Doug Tallamy, an American entomologist, ecologist and conservationist who has authored many books on saving the world "in our own backyards."

Next Jani Malowney asked, "How many of these native plants are providing important habitat in your garden?" Namely: Goldenrod, New England Aster, Ironweed, Purple Coneflower, Butterfly Milkweed, Blue Wild Indigo, Wild Bergamot, Penstemon Digitalis, Virginia Mountain Mint, and Golden Alexander. All plants are native! These are the 10 Great Plants from OSU that go the extra mile by providing ecological links to many different creatures including birds, butterflies, bees, and other beneficials.

Donna Meister talked briefly about the Butterfly Buffet Garden and how it gained the distinction of becoming part of the Monarch Waystation Registry. We will be combining with National Trail Parks and Recreation District for a monarch tagging event August 26 at SPGA!

After discussing the Butterfly Buffet, Donna was able to speak about her real love: Trees!

Without our trees, we would not exist since they play a vital role in our lives: giving us oxygen, storing carbon, stabilizing the soil and giving life to the world's wildlife. Donna had slides of her tree plantings showing it's possible in country and city to create a habitat and wildlife oasis. One slide was Janet Hannel's home and yard that is a native oasis in the middle of town!

Tom closed with a slide presentation of Shana Byrd of Dawes Arboretum showing how to get started planning and planting wildflower patches, flower strips and meadows. She uses native plants to support birds even as the climate changes here in central Ohio.

To assist our plantings Tom shared with us the

latest technique for selecting keystone plants for our yards. Go to Native Plant Finder and put in your zip code!

#### THEN GET PLANTING!!

Beside a Fun time on Earth Day, we collected \$50 in donations for Community Gardens!

LWN May workday is May 24, 9-noon Jani Malowney, Tom Davidson, Donna Meister



Donna Meister and Janet Hannel showing her native plant oasis at her home.



Shana Byrd presentation of the Dawes Arboretum.

## SPGA TREE SUBCOMMITTEE

Congratulations to those who presented their appointed tree species. What a great day and learning opportunity. Before the horse gets too far out of the barn, we need to meet and discuss how we want to label the trees, get them identified on GIS, and create a plan for more planting. On June 12, in the Wingert Tossey Pavilion or in the barn, depending on the weather, we will meet at 10:00 am to discuss moving forward with the trees in SPGA. Please come dressed for the weather. If it's not pouring, we will be in the gardens.

Pam

## **Backyard News**

Remember last June when I told you we won an H2Ohio grant to restore our wetland? The work has finally started! On April 7th the contractor showed up to start digging the pond. Honestly, it's been very stressful. The wetland is 9 acres in size, but when the contractor started hauling in their giant equipment, the wetland just seemed to shrink

(Figure 1). It's taken a minute to calibrate a plan that respects the restoration process, but I think we've gotten there. Who knows? By the time you read this, the pond may be installed. I



VTF Tractor. Tires are taller than me!

hope so. I'll tell you, if there was ever any doubt that we had a wetland (there wasn't) we now know for sure that we have a wetland! Twelve inches into the digging we hit water. The water table is that close to the surface. You know how lots of pond builders must use clay or liners to seal in the water? Not us. The water greets us as we dig. It's really neat.

The yard is in full wake-up mode. I've got plants coming up all over. Every winter I look at my garden plans and decide if there is anything else I need for my garden. Somehow, I conveniently forget where I've put some plants (I know. "But



put some plants Cheyenne Spirit from gardenia.net

you have a plan!") My beds are like archeological sites. Something from the past pops up and I think "Oh. I planted you in 2020 and didn't think you made it!" Or "Woops! I forgot to put you on the plan. Welcome back!"

You've heard this description of perennial plants: the first year they sleep, the second year they creep and the third year they leap! It looks like I have some leaping going on this year! Over the last few years I have planted three kinds of purple coneflower (Echinacea purpurea). Magnus, Cheyenne Spirit and last year some PowWow given by a friend. Every one of these is a winner. In 1998 Magnus won the Perennial Plant of the

Year award. In 2010 PowWow was an AAS winner. In 2013 Cheyenne Spirit was an AAS winner. Magnus and Cheyenne Spirit have been really well behaved, which is not what I want out of a coneflower. This year, it looks like they are going rogue. They are everywhere. Yippee! My friend tells me that PowWow reseeds prolifically, hence the gift. I hope

PowWow goes Rogue too.

Last year a friend gave me some Queen of the Prairie (Filipendual rubra) It is a gorgeous feathery pink plant that can reach a height of six to eight feet. It is supposed to do well

in wet locations. I planted it where water runs off of our hay fields and drains into the wetland. It has been under



Queen of the Prarie, Filipendual rubra (picture from prairiemoon.com)

water several times this spring. This is its second year, so it should be creeping, but not this girl. She is leaping into action. I've talked before about the aggressive invasive species that are always trying to take over the wetland. Right now, it's looking like the Queen of the Prairie will reign supreme! Take that, you stupid invasives!

Happy Gardening, Susan Miller

## **Gatherings about Gardens**

**THE LOVE OF DIRT** by Charles

Dudley Warner Green Prints Collector's

Edition

With dignity and feeling, this 150-year old essay describes a basic human yearning.

The love of dirt is among the earliest of passions, as it is the latest. Mud-pies gratify one of our first and best instincts. So long as we are dirty, we are pure. Fondness for the ground comes back to a man after he has run the round of pleasure and business, eaten dirt, and sown wildoats, drifted about the world, and taken the wind of all its moods. The love of digging in the ground is as sure to come back to him as he is sure, at last, to go under the ground and stay there. To own a bit of ground, to scratch it with a hoe, to plant seeds, and watch their renewal of life—this is the commonest delight of the race, the most satisfactory thing a man can do...

Let us celebrate the soil. Most men toil that they may own a piece of it; they measure their success in life by their ability to buy it. It is alike the passion of parvenu and the pride of the aristocrat. Broad acres are a patent of nobility; and no man but feels more of a man in the world if he have a bit of ground that he can call his own. However small it is on the surface, it is four thousand miles deep; and that is a very handsome property. And there is a great pleasure in working in the soil, apart from the ownership of it. The man who has planted a garden feels that he has done something for the good of the world. He belongs to the producers. It is a pleasure to eat of the fruit of one's toil, if it be nothing more than a head of lettuce or an ear of corn...

To dig in the mellow soil—to dig moderately, for all pleasure should be taken sparingly—is a great thing. One gets strength out of the ground as often as one really touches it with a hoe. Antaeus (this is a classical article) was no doubt an agriculturist; and such a prize-fighter as Hercules couldn't do anything with him till he got him to lay down his spade and quit the soil. It is not simply beets and potatoes and corn and string-beans that one raises in his wellhoed garden; it is the average of human life. There is life in the ground: It goes into the seeds; and it also, when it is stirred up, goes into the man who stirs it. The hot sun on his back as he bends to his shovel and hoe, or contemplatively rakes the warm and fragrant loam, is better than much medicine. The buds are coming out on the bushes round about; the blossoms of the fruit-trees begin to show; the blood is running up the grape-vines in streams; you can smell the wild-flowers on the near bank; and the birds are



flying and glancing and singing everywhere. To the open kitchendoor comes the busy housewife to shake a white something, and stands a moment to look, quite transfixed by the delightful sights and sounds. Hoeing in the garden on a bright, soft May day, when you are not obliged to, is nearly equal to the delight of going trouting,...

I do not hold myself bound to answer the question, does gardening pay? It is so difficult to define what is meant by paying. There is a popular notion that unless a thing pays you had better let it alone; and I may say that there is a public opinion that will not let a man or woman continue in the indulgence of a fancy that does not pay. And public opinion is stronger that the legislature, and nearly as strong as the ten commandments. I therefore yield to popular clamor when I discuss the profit of my garden...

Of course, there is no such thing as absolute value in this world. You can only estimate what a thing is worth to you. Does gardening in a city pay? You might as well ask if it pays to keep hens, or a trotting horse, or to wear a gold ring or to keep your lawn cut, or your hair cut. It is as you like it. In a certain sense, it is a sort of profanation to consider if my garden pays, or to set a money-value upon my delight in it. I fear that you could not put it in money. Job had the right idea in his mind when he asked, "Is there any taste in the white of an egg?"

"When I go into the garden with a spade, and dig a bed, I feel such an exhilaration and health that I discover that I have been defrauding myself all this time in letting others do for me what I should have done with my own hands."~~Ralph Waldo Emerson

Do you remember back in childhood How we loved the first of May? When we hung flower-filled baskets On doorknobs, then ran away?

Do you remember how the sweetest basket Was for the one we loved the best,
And in it went the blossoms
That were farer than the rest?

Such a beautiful and gracious custom
Somehow lost along the way
But the memories still linger
As we welcome in the May.~~Milly Walton

HAPPY MAY!!!
Til Next Time, Judy Finnegan

## Some Pictures From Our New Entrance.















## MGV Working at SPGA and Around the Community.



Planting potato and onions.



Clean up in the peony beds.



MGVs helping during the Great American Clean Up.





SRMC's new Associate Garden.





Packaging seeds for Springfield Community Gardens.

## Publicity Flyer for the Summer Activities at the Snyder Park Gardens & Arboretum

## **CFAES**

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

**2023 Master Gardener Volunteers** of Clark County Present:

## Meet Me in the Garden

this Summer at

## **Snyder Park Gardens & Arboretum**





Snyder Park GARDENS & ARBORETUM

### **Garden Programs**

Victory Garden Educational Tour Thursday, June 1st- 6:00 PM -7:30 PM

#### Savor the Flavor of Herbs

Thursday, 15th - Garden of Eatin' - 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

#### Pioneer Perennial Plants-

Thursday, June 29th - Early Ohio Settler's Garden 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

#### Seed Saving Program

Thursday, September 21st- Garden of Eatin' 6:00 PM- 7:30 PM

Regularly Scheduled Guided Tours of SPGA (Meet at Clubhouse 10-11:30 AM) Saturdays - June 17th, July 15th, August 19th

#### September 11th - German Sauerkraut Band

Music in the

Wingert Tossey Pavilion

May 8th - Celtic Music by the The Mclan's

June 12th - Kylene Downes -Guitarist/Singer

July 10th - The Xenia Community Band

August 14th - The Springfield Symphony Jazz Group

Bring your lawn chair and join us for some great local music groups. Donations will be greatly appreciated.

## Yoga in the Wingert Tossey Pavilion

June - Mondays & Thursdays @11:00 July - Mondays & Thursdays @2:00

August - Mondays & Thursdays @9:00

Bring your own mat and water, to enjoy yoga in this lovely outdoor setting! Donations will be accepted with a recommended amount.

#### Garden Workshops at Snyder Park Gardens & Arboretum

Helpline Garden Diagnostic Workshop Walkabout June 3, July 1 & August 5 - 9:30 AM-11:30 AM

#### Insect Hotel Workshop

Saturday, June 10th- 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

### Hydrangeas Program

Saturday, June 24th - 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

#### Tree ID for Kids!

Saturday, September 9th - 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

#### Tool Sharpening Workshop

Saturday, September 16th- 9-11:00 AM

#### All Things Landscape-

Friday, September 29th- 8:00 AM-3:00 PM At the Derby at Windy Knoll Golf Club

#### clark.osu.edu

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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## Interested in Passing the Hat at a Summer Arts event?

If any MGVs are interested in passing the hat at the Summer Arts event on Wednesday June 21st 8:00 PM for the Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers tribute band. Contact Mark at mfinnegan.woh.rr.com.







Early spring blooming flowers.



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



SPGA Garden Clean Ups are May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> 9 am - 12 pm

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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