

# Blades & Blooms

<http://osu.edu/topics/horticulture/blades-blooms-newsletters>.

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Master Gardeners of Clark County

PO Box 158, Springfield, Ohio 45501-0158 Volume 21 Number 5 May 14



## President's Message:

### Mark Your Calendar!

#### May

- 1 9-12 MGV Helpline
- 2 1-3 Wildflower Walk  
3-6 Plant Sale Set Up
- 3 9-1 Perennial Plant and Barn Sale
- 5 9-12 MGV Helpline  
10-12 OSUE Staff Office Conference  
1-3 Field Trip Meeting
- 7 9-12 Garden Clean up
- 8 9-12 MGV Helpline  
9-12 Utzinger Garden Clean up
- 9 9-12 Fair Flower Show meeting  
9-12 Field Trials Trucking  
1-3 Wildflower Walk
- 10 8-12 Downtown Springfield Clean up
- 12 9-12 EOSG garden clean up & paths  
9-12 MGV Helpline  
9-12 Victory Garden Planting
- 13 9-11 Fairground Entrance Bed Planting  
9-12 Victory Garden Planting
- 14 5-6 PP&B Sale follow up meeting  
5:30 MGV Tour of new offices  
6-6:30 Social  
6:30 General Meeting
- 15 Herb field trip all day  
9-12 MGV Helpline
- 16 1-3 Wildflower Walk
- 19 9-12 EOSG planting  
9-12 Helpline
- 20 Blades & Bloom articles due
- 21 9-12 Field Trial prep
- 22 9-done Field Trial planting  
9-12 MGV Helpline
- 23 1-3 Wildflower Walk
- 26 Memorial Day - OSUE office closed
- 28 9-12 Utzinger Garden Clean up  
9-12 MGV Helpline
- 29 3-8 100 Yr. Celebration and Open House
- 30 1-3 Wildflower Walk

If April Showers bring May Flowers what does an April Snow bring? And just when we were all ready to put our hands into the "soil" and get started on the clean ups at Gateway Learning Garden and our own flowerbeds! Proves that in Ohio if you do not care for the weather wait a few minutes!

Congratulations go to Ed Wozniak, Frank Demma and all the MGVs who worked at the Garden Fling. Once again, it was a big success. It was great to see the number of Interns who "jumped" right into the frenzy, worked hard and had some fun. Thanks and gratitude to all.

There does not seem to be a day in May when there isn't an opportunity to volunteer. Perennial Plant & Barn Sale is May 3. If you can not work please come to buy some great plants. Marilyn and her committee have been very busy, and the prices are great! Then there is greenhouse work, field trial prep and plant, Early Ohio Settlers garden work, Utzinger, Fairgrounds bed work, (ok Rick this is for you) Helpline, Victory Garden, and all the committee meetings we could possibly schedule. Please check the calendar on the VMS. The May General Membership Meeting will be held for the first time at Springview on May 14<sup>th</sup>. I have also heard that there will be an Open House to celebrate 100 years of Extension in Ohio, and to show off the new offices. Please check "Pam's Posies" for date and time.

Now, I must go back outside and check to see if that Mother Robin has re-built that nest again on the downspout on the porch. You would think that she would get the hint after having the nest disappear 4 times. Baby Robins and German Shorthair Pointers do not make a good combination!

Personal Note: By the time you read this Rodger and I will have met again with the surgeon and have the date for my surgery. Thanks to all for the good thoughts, prayers, phone calls and cards. This group of amazing people not only can make a garden 'sing', but can make a gardener smile.

Becky Menozzi, President

## *Pam's Posies*

Phew, moving is so much fun! Well, the moving part isn't all that fun but the new offices are great and we are finally settling in. Thanks to all of our volunteers who helped with the move (packing, unpacking, carrying, etc.). We truly appreciate all that you did. The biggest challenge for me is just figuring out what box has what stuff. I haven't quite completed the unpacking part. We are all still getting used to the configuration of the office suite as well!



We will be giving a sneak peak of our new offices to our Master Gardener Volunteers right before the May General meeting on May 14th beginning at 5:30. Come a little early and take a look around. We'll be on hand to make sure you don't get lost. You'll see what I mean when you come to visit! If you see any of the County Commissioners, thank them for providing such a quality, professional office for OSU Extension and our volunteers.

I am going to work with LeAnn Castillo (Director, National Trails Parks and Recreation Director) to schedule a meeting in early May for our MGVs to tour the general area of the Snyder Park Golf course so that we can get an idea of what space we might have to work with in terms of a design. We'll send the information out via the VMS. The next step is to have landscape architects provide a price quote on what they would charge to create a landscape design for the area. After the Gateway Learning Garden Committee selects an architect, we will begin to meet with this person to lay out our future master plan for the site.

Don't forget that we still have an incredible teaching tool in the Gateway Learning Gardens and must keep them in top shape all season for our guests and tourists. It's been a little slow getting started this spring but we will eventually get there. Carolyn, Kathy and I will continue to go to the gardens daily to keep on top of what's happening.

Thanks for all that you do for OSUE. I am especially thankful for our volunteers in Extension during our 100th anniversary - 100 years of volunteerism is something to brag about.

Pam

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

## **Open House and 100th Extension Anniversary Celebration**

On May 29th from 3:00 - 8:00 p.m. OSU Extension is hosting a Buckeye Tailgate party at the new offices. We are going to show off our new offices as well as celebrate the 100th year of

Extension in the United States. We need some help from our volunteers in order to pull this off. Below are the activities/events that we need your help with - if you can spare a few hours. Please contact Carolyn and let her know if you can help. Each program area will have displays showing off their work. We will have an Ask a Master Gardener/ Helpline display, a Master Gardener Volunteer display, SEEDS community gardens, as well as a horticulture history of Clark County display. If you would like to help with any of these displays, contact Kathy for the first one and Carolyn for the latter two. We will also be giving a vegetable plant (tomato or pepper) to each family in attendance and will have Plant Docs on hand to answer gardening questions. In addition, since it's a tailgate party, we will be serving tailgate foods- hot dogs from the grill, chips, snacks, etc.

If you can help with any of the below activities, please let the appropriate person know! Thanks for any help you can provide.

Horticulture Displays (1-2 people to help create each display)  
Ask a MGV/Helpline - contact Kathy McConkey  
Horticulture History in Clark County - contact Carolyn Allen  
Master Gardener projects and programs - contact Carolyn Allen

AaMGV/Horticulture Helpline/Plant Doc staffing for the event - two volunteer per time slot - contact Kathy McConkey  
3:00 - 4:30 (two volunteers)  
4:30 - 6:30 (two volunteers)  
6:30 - 8:00 (two volunteers)

Handing out vegetable plants to families (two people per time slot) - Contact Carolyn Allen  
2:30 - 4:30 (two volunteers) (preparation, get a few potted up ahead of time)  
4:30 - 6:30 (two volunteers)  
6:30 - 8:30 (two volunteers) (clean up)

Cooking - four volunteers per time slot, including preparation and clean up - Contact Pam Bennett  
1:30 - 4:00 (four volunteers)  
4:00 - 6:00 (four volunteers)  
6:00 - 8:30 (four volunteers)

## Carolyn's Corner

### Field Trials

It is almost time to bring the plants out of the greenhouse to harden off at Gateway Learning Gardens. We will put the plants under the arbor on the east side of the barn. No plants will be on the patio.

Thanks for signing up to help with this project. I have the following volunteers working on trucking day (Friday, May 9).

Truckers: Becky Sirons, Steve Shelton, Pat Emory-Sullivan, Ron Kurth, and Gloria Sparks. Please be at the greenhouse at 9:00 am to load.

Volunteers helping to load: Wendy May, Terry Reid, Linda McCann, Loretta Blazer, and Natheta Mercer. Be at the greenhouse by 8:45 a.m.

Volunteers waiting at Gateway to unload trucks: Ruth Ann Rahim, Lois O'Keefe, Karen Duncan, Kathy Mark, Mary Ellen Martin, and Connie Kersey. Be at the Gateway Learning Gardens by 9:00 a.m.

I cannot believe it is time to do this.

The following volunteers have signed up to "Adopt a Field Trial Bed" for the growing season.

Nancy Hobbs, Sonya Ryhal, Missy Hawley & Loretta Blazer, Wendy May & Deb Dorsey, Dianne Champney, Rita Dalton, Connie Kersey, Nancy Adams, Mindy Foley & Jan O'Neill & Laura Foley, Shonil Datta, Mary Ellen Martin, Jerry Laub, and Pat Emory-Sullivan.

I have three beds left to adopt. The volunteers do maintenance all season to keep the beds weed free: do a weekly visit and weed if necessary, report any insect or disease problem you suspect, certain beds will have to be deadheaded. Volunteers may do the weekly visit anytime they have free: a.m. or p.m., weekday or weekend.

### May 14th General Meeting Plant Exchange

There will be no plant exchange this May at the general meeting. Everyone has donated plants to the Plant sale and we will be in new office space and we know you will want to see our new home.

### Continuing Education Hours

Keep checking your emails for upcoming events in the area where you might earn CE hours. Jo sends out information on all programs happening in nearby counties. If one interests you, get a couple of MGVs and attend. You can also attend programs at local garden centers. Keep working on getting those 10 hours, do not wait until the last minute. A lot of programs are going on now but in the fall the number of programs dwindle.

### VMS Tip of the Month

Volunteers should each put a picture on their profile page. This helps interns learn the names of the experienced MGVs and vice versa.

Just follow these easy steps:

1. Click on Edit My Profile
2. Page down to Upload Photo and click on browse.
3. A list of places where your pictures might be appears on your screen, double click on the picture you want.
4. Page down and click on Save Information.

**★Have a safe★  
Memorial  
Weekend!**

### Jo's Notes:

Our offices have moved.  
Our new address is:

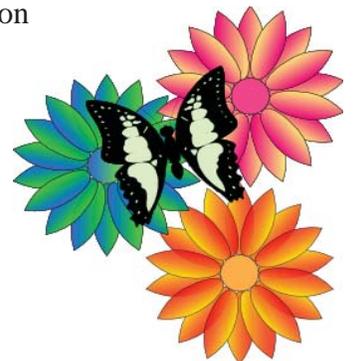
Ohio State University Extension  
Clark County  
3130 East Main Street  
Springfield, OH 45505

Phone and fax numbers are  
the same.

Phone: 937.521.3860

Fax: 937.328.4609

We are located on the Ground Level (G) in the 4  
story building.



# Committee Reports:

## PERENNIAL PLANT & BARN SALE

Our 5<sup>th</sup> “Perennial Plant & Barn Sale” will be Saturday May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9-1 p.m. at the Gateway Learning Gardens!

The team effort of putting on our sale is amazing! MGV's have created signs & bookmarks for print, created excel spreadsheets so we can have a resource list on sale day, done media releases, promoted the sale on social media, dug up, divided and potted plants, cleaned the barn, dropped off boxes & bags, and have been very generous not only with their time but with donating plants from their gardens and items for the barn sale! Which all together, makes a great fundraiser.

We have a great variety of plants again! We have plants from the Learning Gardens, plants from many of your own gardens, plants we have been raising in the greenhouse all winter and plants the MGV's have been buying and collecting all year to bring to the sale. You should see the Astilbe in the greenhouse 'Ice Cream'. It is beautiful!

Things still to do to get ready for the sale:

- \* Make sure your yard sign is UP!
- \* Keep giving out those bookmark reminders!
- \* We still need boxes for carrying plants home that day
- \* We need wagons for shopping carts, so they can fill them up!

I want to thank everyone in advance for all your help in making this such a wonderful fundraiser! I hope to see all of you at the sale – encouraging others in their love of gardening and . . . shopping for that next garden project of your own!

Marilyn Hinderer



## HELPLINE

April Helpline started off with a few calls, 8, and about 6 days incognito because of the move to new digs. The month of May has all Helpline dates taken by our great Master Gardeners:

MONDAYS		THURSDAYS	
MAY		MAY	
5th	Sue Ann Dill	1st	Dianne Champney
12th	Sheila Drennen	8th	Kris Webb
19th	Sheila Drennen	15th	Kris Webb
		22nd	Kris Webb
		29th	Steve Shelton

Ed and Rick thank you all. All Helpline dates are open for June and July, so sign up now before the best dates are taken. ( Monday and Thursday mornings)

And REMEMBER: “The best way to garden is to put on a wide-brimmed straw hat and some old clothes. And with a hoe in one hand and a cold drink in the other, tell somebody else where to dig.”

Ed Wichaël and Rick McKinstry

## EARLY OHIO SETTLERS GARDEN

The settlers got together on Monday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014 for our organizational meeting. There were six of us present at the meeting. We talked about our new seeds for this season. We will be growing Kentucky pole beans and strawberry spinach from 1612 for the first time. My husband, Bud, will be doing fence repairs for the winter was very hard on the fence this year. Becky Menozzi will be getting us straw for our paths and scarecrow. Phil Young will be tilling our beds and we will weed and do our paths on Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup> starting at 10:00. We will be planting on Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:00. I will send out emails by the VMS for help in the gardens. We usually work on Mondays. We also talked about our future plans at Snyder Park and what we may need to change or add to our gardens. We also started a list of plants we plan to dig up in the fall to save for our new garden at Snyder Park. Our wrap up meeting will be Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014 from 10-12.

Jean Rickards

## FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

The fundraising committee will have a meeting March 20, from 10:00am to 12:00am in the small conference room. Please come with ideas for raising funds for our organization. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to come.

Ruth Ann Rahim

## RAIN GARDEN COMMITTEE

On Monday May 12, 2014 at 8:30 a.m., plugs will be planted at a wetland/prairie Stormwater pond located at the City Service Center at 2100 Lagonda Ave, Springfield, OH 45503. The site is in the back behind the building. The planting is the last step in changing the pond from a dry bottom facility that provided no water quality benefit to a wetland/prairie. The bottom of the pond is designed to hold a few inches of water, so if you intend to help please dress appropriately. Below is a picture--the planting will be at the bottom in the wet areas.



Anyone interested in helping to plant this area, please contact me by Thursday, May 8, 2014 at [lwalston@woh.rr.com](mailto:lwalston@woh.rr.com) or (937) 323-9976 so I can let Sky Schelle, the City of Springfield Stormwater Coordinator, know how many people will be coming to help.

Lola Walston, Rain Garden Committee Chairperson

## UTZINGER GARDEN

Hopefully by the time you read this article we will have had our first work day of 2014 at Utzinger Garden, the first two have been cancelled due to bad weather. I've been doing some preliminary evaluations and we do have winter damage on several plants, roses in particular and possibly several other shrubs and perennials. Everything is so late this year, maybe most will come though yet. Several of the split rail fence posts have rotted off and fallen over but the FSR crew are going to replace all the fencing anyway, probably in July. They have asked for our thoughts on the layout of the new fence, so give it some thought soon so we are on record when FSR starts laying it out and purchasing materials.

Phil Young, Chairman

## PERENNIAL COMMITTEE

Whew!!! As of this writing, Perennial Beds are coming along but with the office move to Springview and the weather throwing wrenches into our schedules, we are feeling behind schedule. I (Kathy) am delinquent on "chore list" duties. Look for it in the green shed; look left hanging on a nail. Hopefully, this is already rectified. Weeding is always on the list. By the time you are reading this, mulch will be available and should be down by mid- May. Thanks to all you faithful MGVs for your continued help.

Special welcome to you interns! We are glad for any of you who have a special interest in perennials! We hope you have clicked on Projects, then Perennial Committee, then "Volunteer" way at the bottom.

Kathy McConkey and Dot Burkholder

## FIELD TRIP COMMITTEE

Our next Field Trip committee meeting will be May 5 at 1:00 p.m. in the large conference room at our new offices. Hope to see you all there!

Sally Day and Terry Reid





## FAIR FLOWER SHOW COMMITTEE

### HERB COMMITTEE

Have you ever been curious about how a particular herb can be used? If so, plan to attend the next scheduled herb committee meeting on Wednesday, May 14 at 10:00 AM in our new small conference room at the Springview Center. During our recent meeting, Ruth Ann Rahim challenged us to research an herb and share some well-known and perhaps not so well known facts at the May meeting.

We were happy to welcome interns, Jean Ann Baker, Sherri Summers, Danielle Gillam and Peggy Shanks to the April meeting.

We are striving to make this a research-based year to explore our options in planning the new garden site. We have scheduled two field trips to date. The first is to Mill Creek Nursery. We will be meeting at the Gateway Learning Gardens at 10:00 AM, Saturday, April 26. We will tour the nursery and then meet for lunch at Der Dutchman in Plain City.

Although we will not be changing the gardens much in their final year, we do have the annual herb-shopping day scheduled for Thursday, May 15 at McClish's Plants Plus Greenhouse in Washington Court House. They offer a wide range of plants. Following the shopping, we will have lunch at the Willow Restaurant.

Ruth Ann Rahim and Cindy Schneider

The Fair Flower Show Committee will meet on Friday May 9, 2014 at 9 a.m.

We will be at the new offices at Springview in the small conference room.

A special thanks goes to Pam Thullen who presented an excellent training session on what the flowers that the exhibitors bring should look like. Round, spike, spray, and all the other flowers were discussed. Thanks Pam!

It will be time for the "sign-up" sheets to be available for MGVs to work at the Fair. Committee members will have the chance at the May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting and all members will have the opportunity to sign up at the May General meeting and again at the July General Meeting.

The Fair Book is now on line and should be available soon in paper.

See you at the Fair!

Becky Menozzi, Chair, Polly Cooper and Madge Morris, co-chairs

**HELP NEEDED!!** Help clean up downtown Springfield, May 10th at 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Breakfast and lunch served.

Friends and family can come with you. Bring gloves & soil knife if you want. If it is warm enough, wear your Master Gardener tee shirts. Park on the south side of Heritage Center & follow signs. We will all meet up & sign in.

We usually all work one area together. We have fun doing this, city of Springfield appreciates it and Springfield looks so nice when all is done. Other organizations, businesses and individuals are involved in this project. Let's have a big turnout and show them the Master Gardeners are a great organization!!

Call Natheta Mercer 325-5202 or e-mail emnm1960@att.net so we can advise the city how much food to prepare. Thank you

PS. Natheta also mentioned if we have soil knives, brooms or shovels to bring them along, in case we need them. - Editor

Jean Hardin was asked to share the recipe below:

#### Dave's Dump Cake

1. 2 or 3 cans of fruit and syrup. (peaches, apples, cherries, blueberries, pineapple or raspberries)
  2. 1 pkg. white or yellow cake mix, dry-right from box.
  3. 1 cup coconut
  4. 1 cup chopped pecans
  5. 2 sticks melted butter or margarine (pour over last)
- Layer ingredients in a 13 x 9 pan as listed and bake 55-60 minutes at 325°F.

# PLANT OF THE MONTH:

## TUBEROSE

*Polianthes tuberosa*

The tropical fragrance of tuberose on a warm summer evening is a good reason to grow these bulbs. You will also get an added bonus of beautiful white flowers. It is said they were cultivated by the Aztecs in pre-Columbian times, then sequestered in a monastery in France until they were released for wider cultivation. Sharing the secret has been a boon to centuries of gardeners ever since.

Tuberose grow from bulbous rootstocks with a rosette of leaves, centered by a flowering stem that is surrounded by tubular flowers of exquisite fragrance. Flowering stems are from 1 to 2 feet tall. Both single and double varieties are planted. These bulbs are not hardy, so you will have to dig them up in the fall and replant them in the spring.

Grow tuberose in full sun, in rich, well-drained soil that is high in organic matter. Plant in the garden after all danger of frost is past and the soil is warm. The bulbs need to be planted 2 inches deep and 6

inches apart. Water them thoroughly in dry weather.

You can propagate these bulbs by offsets. Smaller bulbs will have formed when you dig them up in the fall. They can be replanted the next year and will bloom the second year. If you want earlier plants, you can start them indoors 5 to 6 weeks prior to planting in the garden.

The white flowers on long stems combine well with any garden plants. To get the most benefit of their fragrance, plant groups of them where people pass by or congregate. You can also plant them in containers. They also make a good cut flower.

An all-time favorite is 'The Pearle' with unique pink and green buds opening into double white flowers during the summer. They will grow about 24 – 36 inches tall and bloom in July-August. You may want to plant these behind shorter bulbs to give an added dimension to your garden.



Image from Wikipedia

I must admit that I have never grown tuberose. I almost ordered some bulbs this spring but decided I had probably already ordered more than enough plants to keep me busy. I like to try growing something new each year and these plants are still on my bucket list.

Dot Burkholder



- |    |                |    |                    |
|----|----------------|----|--------------------|
| 5  | Laura Foley    | 20 | Tom Davidson       |
| 5  | Anne Kaup-Fett | 20 | Fred Rufener       |
| 10 | Jean Ann Baker | 25 | Carolyn Gillam     |
| 10 | Edward Wichaël | 25 | Jan O'Neill        |
| 11 | Carol Haunsik  | 25 | Marcia Roberts     |
| 12 | Rosalind Mader | 27 | Claudia Massie     |
| 16 | Donna Myers    | 28 | Virginia Mattimore |

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# THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



**GARDEN CLEAN UP  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 7  
9 AM - NOON**

The Master Gardener “Blades & Blooms” is a publication of the Clark County Extension Office, 4400 Gateway Boulevard, Suite 104, Springfield, Ohio, 45502, 937-521-3860. The Master Gardener. Advisor is Pam Bennett.

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