

Blades and Blooms

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

Volume 23 Number 5 May 2016

Mark Your Calendar

- | | | |
|----|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| 2 | all day | Field Trip-Yew Dell & Bernheim |
| | 9-12 | Helpline |
| | 9-12 | P\$ workday |
| | 12-2 | Office Conference OSUE Staff |
| 3 | 9-12 | FT Work Day |
| | all day | Field Trip-Yew Dell & Bernheim |
| 4 | 9-12 | Garden Clean-up |
| 5 | 9-12 | Helpline |
| | 9-12 | Move FT plants to hardening off area |
| | 6:30-7:30 | Focus on Local Seekers Series |
| 6 | 1-3 | Wildflower Walk |
| | 3-6 | P\$ set-up |
| 7 | 9-1 | Plant \$ell-ibration |
| 9 | 9-12 | Helpline |
| | 1-3 | SPGA* in large conference room |
| 11 | 9-12 | Utzinger Work Day |
| | 4:45-5:30 | Perennial Com. mtg. @ SPGA* |
| | 6-8:30 | General Mtg @ SPGA* |
| 12 | 9-12 | Helpline |
| 13 | 9-9:30 | Fair Flower Show Comm. mtg. |
| | 9:30-12 | Fair Flower Show CE program |
| | 1-3 | Wildflower Walk |
| 16 | 9-12 | Helpline |
| | 6-7 | Seed Saving workshop at SPGA* |
| 17 | 9-12 | FT Prep Day |
| 18 | 9-11 | Fairgrounds Flower Bed Clean-up |
| | 9-12 | Field Trial Planting |
| | 12:30 | Plant \$ell-ibration Wrap-up |
| 19 | 9-12 | Helpline |
| | 9-12 | FT Work Day Greenhouse |
| 20 | 1-3 | Wildflower Walk |
| 23 | 9-12 | Helpline |
| 25 | 9-12 | Utzinger Work Day |
| 26 | 9-12 | Helpline |
| 27 | 1-3 | Wildflower Walk |

Memorial Day-office closed

* **SPGA - Snyder Park Gardens & Arboretum**



Many plants for our \$ale-ibration being prepared at the old McKennon's greenhouse on N. Limestone St. Photo from Tom Davidson.

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Presidents Message

To quote our mission Statement: “ We are volunteers who teach our community research based horticultural practices and have fun doing it”. In the early years as Master Gardener Volunteers, Fran and I really enjoyed learning, teaching and sharing gardening information with the public. The annual Gateway Garden Jubilee provided a free opportunity for the public to meet with Master Gardener Volunteers, stroll among learning gardens, attend presentations on a wide range of gardening subjects, and enjoy complimentary hot dogs and soda. Such a fun and satisfying **mission oriented** project conducted by Master Gardeners free to the public deserves to be held again.

Our passion for fund raising should be tempered by a view that volunteer service to the community is not-for-profit. The Board of Trustees (BOT) has a responsibility to Master Gardener Volunteers to avoid situations leading to public perceptions that we expect donations for our labor or that our gardening services are for hire. Occasionally the Trustees have returned donated funds to avoid public misunderstanding of our mission and the meaning of volunteerism. One case was for wreath making for cancer patients at Christmas. Recently a donation for maintaining a sensory garden for the blind and a children’s butterfly garden at Snyder Park was selected for return. The BOT is confident the image of MG Volunteers is best served by continuing these projects without accepting compensation/donations in return.

Years ago Fran and I visited the OSU Chadwick Arboretum and learning gardens at our State Master Gardener Conference. The mission statement of Chadwick was to provide an educational environment for all who visit. In keeping with that goal, Chadwick planted a learning garden called A GARDEN OF WEEDS. The collection of weeds was developed to help students, volunteers and home owners identify common weeds and learn about weed life cycles in order to implement successful control. The year we visited Chadwick the public had voted A GARDEN OF WEEDS the most favorite plant collection. Years ago the proposal to establish such a garden at the Gateway Learning Gardens met with instant disapproval since the thought of ragweed, pigweed or thistle seed invading the established beds was unthinkable. With proper management such a garden could be planted at Snyder Park Gardens and Arboretum. Oh My! Chadwick’s mission statement “to provide an educational environment for all who visit” is worth considering.

For the past several years, the Snyder Park Gar-

cont. on pg. 3

Pams Posies

It seemed like it took forever for spring to arrive and now that it’s here, it’s going quite fast! The weather has allowed me to get ahead in the garden a little bit - of course that won’t last long. We never catch up, right!

Plans are still moving forward on our gardens at Snyder Park Gardens and Arboretum (SPGA). This phase is quite slow and painful - waiting on vendors to give an estimate. On the outside it may seem like we don’t have much going on at SPGA but we are moving forward. I ask for your patience during this phase. We are doing this right and working on an extraordinary garden, therefore, the planning phase is really important. We are purchasing a small utility vehicle to move tools, mulch, soil and us around the garden. This will be a huge help!



OSU Extension Master Gardener Volunteers Facebook cover photo

Once I have the estimate in hand for the irrigation, fundraising can begin. I expect this to be ready in May. In the meantime, the turf plots and the Early Ohio Settler’s Garden committees are making plans to install their gardens. The Victory Garden is in full swing with the committee focusing on a deer and ground hog fence. The Garden of Eatin’ received a grant from the Springfield Foundation to prepare the

site; this will be completed this spring/summer. See the article on the SPGA committee for the next meeting and agenda.

The new class has been diving in and helping with many projects. The greenhouse committee is doing an incredible job; the plants look fantastic. The plant sale committee has been working hard to prepare for our first event at SPGA. I am really looking forward to the format of adding educational programs for our attendees. The Fair Flower Show committee is already preparing for this year’s event and the fairgrounds 4-H Flower Bed program had a great planning session recently.

Rick McKinstry has the Horticulture Helpline working like a well-oiled machine answering gardener’s questions. Our Speaker’s Bureau members have been busy as well.

Our impact in the Clark County community is clearly felt by many. Look at the people you touch in your day to day MGV work. I can never thank you enough

cont. on pg. 3

Carolyn's Corner

New Gardens Going in this Spring

Spring is here and committees and projects are gearing up for planting and programs. Early Ohio Settler's Garden committee will begin working on preparing their area the first week of May. Bed preparation has been scheduled for Wednesday, April 27 weather permitting.

In addition to the Settlers' Garden, the Turf Plots will be going in also. Bed preparation will begin the first part of May with seeding to follow.

Keep checking your emails for more information on the preparations for both of these gardens.

Field Trials

The plants will be going outside to harden off in 2 weeks and then to Snyder Park for planting. Field Trail Preparation will be on Tuesday, May 17. The beds will be marked off as to where each plant will be sited. Then Osmocote will be put on that spot to mark the location. This will be done for each bed. Plant tags will be put in place for each cultivar in the trials. On Wednesday, May 18 the actual planting will take place.

Truckers are needed to pick up the plants from the greenhouse and haul to the gardens. There volunteers will be waiting to place the plants in the ground.

Lunch will be provided for all workers on Wednesday, planting day.

Adopt A Bed for the Field Trials

I have 4 beds that need a volunteer to adopt for the growing season. The volunteers visit their bed once a week to check the plants and see if they need to do any weeding. Beds must be kept as free of weeds as possible. Deadheading is not done except on certain varieties. Carolyn will tell you if you have some cultivars that must be kept deadheaded. The paths between the beds will be maintained by the summer intern.

If you notice anything unusual going on with the plant, please contact Carolyn.

This is an easy way to earn volunteer hours and you can choose when you want to do these hours.

May General Meeting

Just a reminder, the May General Meeting will be held in the clubhouse at Snyder Park on Wednesday, May 11, 2016. Social time will begin at 6:00 p.m.

cont. on pg. 6

Presidents Message cont. from pg. 2

dens & Arboretum committee has focused on completing a master plan for development of 25 acres at Snyder Park for multiple use by Parks and Trails, Hollandia, and Master Gardeners. Master Gardeners have a 5 acre portion of the 25 acres. This years goal includes planting annual field trials, planting a turf plot, and establishment of the Early Ohio Settler's Garden. After expenditure's exceeding \$50,000 and two years of master planning we are on the verge of actual planting and construction. There should be opportunity to make real progress this year. Get involved.

Hope to see all of you at the Perennial Plant \$ell-ibration. Maybe Marilyn will let me bring some weeds.

Tom Davidson

Pam's Posies cont. from pg. 2

for all you do. I only hope that you are personally satisfied with your efforts to extend our outreach. We truly have an outstanding group of volunteers and OSU Extension is very proud of all accomplishments.

Sincerely,

Pam

Pamela J. Bennett

*State Master Gardener Volunteer Coordinator
Extension Educator, Horticulture
Ohio State University Extension*

SNYDER PARK GARDENS AND ARBORETUM COMMITTEE

The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 9 at OSU Extension office to review the final master plan and to prepare for the next phase, raising the money and implementation. During this meeting we will also develop the additional committees (donations acceptance policy, signage, overall garden policies, etc.) needed for our project. Plans are still on target to implement Phase 1 this spring.

Jo's Notes:

Thoughts and Prayers

Kris Webb's son had an accident and in the hospital. Her address is 4831 N. Hampton-Donnelsville Road, Springfield, OH 45502.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

PLANT SALE-EBRATION

It is almost here! Our plant sale is May 7th from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Snyder Park Clubhouse.

A great crew of MGVs have been busy since February growing a huge variety of herbs, veggies, annuals, and perennials in the greenhouse. We have had lots of offers of plant donations from your yards! It is going to be an amazing plant sale!! (You should see how beautiful the heirloom tomatoes look! Almost everything has started to bloom!) Tell everyone you know. We have lots of plants to sell! They will be able to get their Mother's Day shopping done, get great garden ideas, see the new plans for the garden, and kids will be able to take a garden gift home to their Mom's.

Signs will be going up this weekend. An ad will be placed in the garage sale section of the Spfld News and Sun (cash & check only). Jo has sent articles to all the media in the surrounding area. 1000 book-marks are just about gone. We need to focus now on social media, so please send a message, tweet and twitter, Facebook, etc. to all your social media buds and spread the word. We hope to sell 1000's of plants that day so that we can fulfill the wish lists of our projects this year. How great will it be to buy tools, garden carts, an ATV to help with all the work at Snyder? To offer more garden classes and demo's? We will use this money for lots of great things for CCMG's!

This is our plan for the sale:

- On Friday May 6th, we need help trucking the plants from the CRSI greenhouse. We are guessing that we have 24 loads of plants to move. If you can help, let Loretta know so she can coordinate the logistics for the move. Meet at the greenhouse at 1 p.m. We need enclosed trucks, vans or trunks of cars. These plants have not been hardened off.
- Set up at Snyder Park Clubhouse will be on Friday afternoon 1-5 p.m. Lots to do! We have both the building and shelter house reserved. The sale is going to be on the lawn between the shelter house and clubhouse.
- We need wheel barrows, bags & wagons (and encourage our customers to fill those wagons up!) We have lots of boxes, but could always use a few more.
- Sign up on VMS to work. It is going to be a great, fun day in the garden! Get some volunteer hours and do some shopping! There are a variety of jobs that will need done. Let Loretta know if you have a preference on what you want to do.

- On Saturday, May 7th, wear your red polo shirt and name tag. Bring a chair, hat, sunscreen & water bottle. Dress for the weather. Be there by 8:15 a.m. for last minute chores. Group meeting at 8:30 a.m. to run through the logistics of the sale and answer any questions you have.
- Water and snacks provided for MGV's (as always at any Master Gardener event)
- Parking - either along the drive leading back to the Victory Garden (behind the shelter house) or park in the main parking lot by our red barn.
- Cross your fingers for perfect weather! And hug Loretta for all the hard work she has put in to make this sale a success!!!!

Marilyn Hinderer and Loretta Blazer



HELPLINE

So far This spring, Helpline has been slow. Only 2 to 3 calls each day, sometimes less. This gives us (MGV and staff time) time to chat and get caught up on what each of us is doing and many other topics. This is the time to sign up for Helpline. Very little heavy work, no sun burn and just sitting around and chatting. We have many Thursdays open through out the summer. Sign up on the volunteer system or call me (Rick 324-5344). This is an easy way to earn 3 to 4 hours for each day that you volunteer. Below is a chart that shows you who has signed up for days in May and what days are open.

MONDAYS		THURSDAYS	
May 2	Lola Walston & Shonil Datta	May 5	Cynthia Valente & OPEN
May 9	OPEN & OPEN	May 12	OPEN & OPEN
May 16	Shonil Datta & OPEN	May 19	OPEN & OPEN
May 23	Lola Walston & Jean Ann Baker	May 26	OPEN & OPEN

Remember that Ed or Rick will also be there on Mondays and Thursdays.

Also remember: "What a man needs in gardening is a cast-iron back, with a hinge in it."

- Charles Dudley Warner

Unless you are working The Helpline.

Rick McKinstry and Ed Wichael

SEEDS Community Garden Program

SEEDS Community Garden Program has, as of now, 30 community gardens in Springfield and Clark County, which is up from 25 community gardens last year! The committee has been seeding and transplanting and watering at the Wittenberg Greenhouse and the plants and seeds will be ready to go to all the community gardens by Monday, May 16th.

Beth Bridgeman from Antioch and I had our last seed saving workshop April 14th at the Snyder Park Clubhouse. We had 18 people in attendance and we enjoyed swapping seeds. We hope to do more seed saving programs in the future.

Mad Sweet Heat was featured at our Focus On Local Speaker Series, Thursday, April 21st. Our last presentation will be Thursday, May 5th at 6:30 p.m. in the large conference room at OSU Extension. Baker's Vegetable Market & Greenhouse will be featured. Brian & Loretta will talk about their farm and the products they produce. The Bakers are active at the Farmer's Markets in Springfield and Yellow Springs and supported the Focus On Local Food Summit last year. I hope all can come and learn more about this local food business and earn continuing education credit.

Watch the VMS for the date of the next SEEDS Committee meeting..

Susie Broidy

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The May General Meeting will be held on May 11, 2016. The Theme for the May Meeting is "Memorial Day: We Remember", and we would like Food donations based on Fondly-remembered recipes. Ah, the Good Ol' Days when Grandma cooked our favorite meals, or the Church suppers and Ice Cream Socials. Then there were the Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, Passover, Bah Mitzvah, 4th of July celebrations... (Perhaps I have celebrated a bit too much over the years!). Anyway, you get the idea. So far, we have LaDonna Lowe bringing a dessert and Connie Kersey bringing a family-cherished dish. Any other volunteers, please contact Deb Dean (937-605-7402) duck6012@yahoo.com or a VMS message. Natheta will be AWOL from the computer for the next two weeks 24/7 doing everything that it is possible to do for Master Gardeners (and then some...)!

Thanks! Deb Dean and Natheta Mercer

GARDEN FLING

Thanks to everyone who participated in a very successful Garden Fling on April 3, 2016. A total of 156 people came through the doors yielding a profit of \$1,943. The classes were all filled and in many cases maxed out so thanks to all the presenters. A special thanks goes out to Fred Miller who put in a major effort assisting the vendors moving their items through the doors.

Jean Rickards / Ed Wozniak

VICTORY GARDEN

Installation of the fence and irrigation system around the Victory Garden will begin on April 25, 2016. This includes digging a 10" trench around the garden, putting chicken wire in the trench to keep out the ground hogs and setting up an 8' netting to keep out the racoons and deer. The park service will assist with the trenching which will include a hookup into their irrigation system for the newly planted trees along the levee.

Seed planting [corn, beans and squash] will begin late April or early May and the tomatoes and peppers will be planted when they have reached the proper size at the greenhouse. I'll put out an email for help on all the above activities.

Rick McKinstry/Ed Wozniak

FAIR FLOWER SHOW COMMITTEE

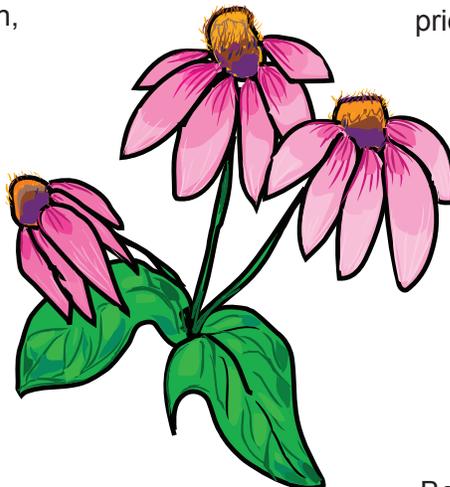
The Fair Flower Show Committee will meet on Friday, May 13, 2016 at **9:00 a.m.**

Please note the time change.

We will meet for approximately 30 mins. prior to the CE program.

Important Note: If you have signed up as part of the Committee on the VMS and do not plan to participate in the meetings but would just like to volunteer for workdays at the Fair, please remove your name from the Committee on the VMS. I will offer the schedule to the membership at the CE meeting and again at the May General Meeting and the July General Meeting.

Becky Menozzi, Chair



FIELD TRIALS/GREENHOUSE COMMITTEE

We are heading for the finish line! The greenhouse is showing great color and all your hard work has paid off.

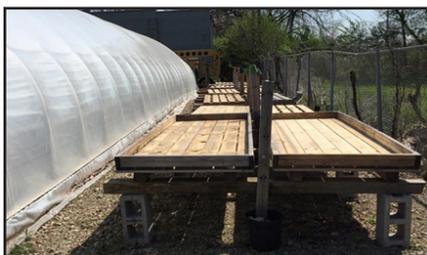
- Thanks to those who over three days washed, sanitized and inventoried all of our pots, trays, and equipment last fall in preparation for this season.
- Thanks so those who attended the three-hour training in late January to be part of the Greenhouse team.
- Thanks to the early February cleaning day team who scrubbed walls, benches, and fans.
- Thanks to those who laid the ground cloth under our benches. (No more backbreaking work of pulling weeds weekly and our pest population is at an all-time low!)
- Thanks to the faithful volunteers who cleaned and wrote hundreds of plant stakes.
- Thanks to the faithful Tuesday and Thursday teams who patiently seeded hundreds of seeds and transplanted over a 1000 plugs.
- Thanks to the incredible watering team who visit the greenhouse seven days a week and will continue to work to the end of May.
- Thanks to the folks who have helped repair our equipment. This includes both MGV's and spouses!
- Thanks to Carolyn who provides her wisdom, encouragement and oversight of this massive undertaking.

Please mark these two important dates on your calendars:

Thursday, May 5: 9-12 noon we will be moving our stock out of the greenhouse to our newly revamped hardening off area just outside the greenhouse. Though that sounds like a simple task it takes lots of hands to make it run smoothly and efficiently. Sign up on the VMS if you can help that day.

Wednesday, May 18: 9-12 noon we will be transporting our stock to Snyder Park to be planted in the field trial beds. Contact Wendy or Linda if you have a truck, van, or SUV to help with transport.

Wendy May and Linda McCann



Rebuilt sun and shade areas for our trial plants

Carolyn's Corner cont. from pg. 3 **Diagnostic Workshop**

The first diagnostic workshop will be held in Lebanon, Warren County, Ohio on June 10, 2016. These workshops are held in four areas of the state to keep Master Gardener Volunteers up-to-date with any pests that might be attacking our plants. The morning sessions are programs given by OSU Extension Educators on different plant problems. The volunteers spend the afternoon identifying what is happening on specimens brought in by the presenters. This is worth 6 hours of continuing education credit.

I have put the registration form on the VMS under the Document Session.

New Master Gardener Volunteer

Linda Himes is a former Master Gardener Volunteer that is returning to active status. Her interests are perennial gardens and garden design. She lives on Morris Rd. Many of you might have visited her gardens a couple of years ago as her gardens were on the Wasso Tour of Homes. She loves weeding. Welcome Linda to our group.

PERENNIAL COMMITTEE

Perennial Committee will meet at Snyder Park at the shelter near the Clubhouse for the May meeting. Turn in any plant ideas for the future perennial beds if you have them. Remember our goal is for multiple season interest. See you at the Park on May 11 at 4:45-5:30; just before the General Meeting. All are welcome to attend.

Kathy McConkey & Dot Burkholder



CE Opportunity Presented by the Fair Flower Show Committee

The Fair Flower Show will present a Continued Education Program on "Flowers" that should be exhibited at the Clark County Fair.

The program will be held in the large conference room at OSU Extension, on **Friday, May 13, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. and will be approximately 2.5 – 3.0 hours.**

The Committee is asking those who plan to attend to bring a flower that has bloomed in your yard to the meeting. We will discuss the types of flowers and if they are a round, spike, or spray as well as giving hints on some of the do's and don'ts to exhibits.

Hope to see everyone there on May 13 at 9:30 a.m.

Clark County Fair Flower Committee

Becky Menozzi, Chair, Joyce Studebaker & Nancy Best, co-chairs.



5th *Laura Foley*
5th *Ann Kaup-Fett*
10th *Jean Ann Baker*
10th *Edward Michael*
11th *Carol Hanusik*
16th *Donna Myers*
20th *Tom Davidson*
25th *Jan O'Neill*
28th *Virginia Mattimore*

HUGE THANK YOU FOR HELPING WITH DOWNTOWN SPRINGFIELD CLEANUP!!!!

On April 23rd, the following people met in downtown Springfield to participate in the downtown cleanup:

Lois O'Keefe, Jean Rickards, Dennis Latimer, Terry Reid, Peggie Elsnau, Kathryn Elsnau, Linda McCann, Janet Hannel, Sue Ann Dill, Peggy Shank, Jan O'Neill, Teresa Gregory, Fabenne Brandenburg, Joyce Studebaker, Claudia Jones and Natheta Mercer. If I missed naming anyone, I sincerely apologize.

The weather was much better this year than in the past. We worked hard, had some good food and fun, getting to know each other better. Some of us even won door prizes! We are worried though, is Lois O'Keefe's winning streak over??

When we were done, the area around the city building looked much better with the fresh mulch we had put down.

To those who missed this year, there is always next year, and we hope you can join us. Thank you all again!!

Natheta Mercer



spring cleanup



On This Memorial Day

© Emily Toma

Published on June 30, 2014

Remember those who served before.
Remember those who are no more.
Remember those who serve today.
Remember them as we eat and play.
Remember our protectors-
who are not home today.
Remember them all on Memorial Day.

Plant of the Month

ARUM (air-UM)

Arum, lords and ladies

I was trying to describe this plant to my daughter. I told her if you saw a picture of this plant in the fall, it would look like a bunch of orange-red peas clustered together and glued on a stick.

With its arrow-shaped, dark green leaves with cream to gray veins, Italian arum (*Arum italicum*) will grab your attention. Arum leaves appear in the fall and remain attractive through the winter. The flowers, each composed of an upright yellow stem called a spadix surrounded by a greenish white hood called a spathe, appear in the spring. As summer approaches, the leaves and flowers yellow and die back, which leaves the spadix covered in bright orange-red berries.

This plant can tolerate full sun in a wet or evenly moist location, it prefers partial shade. It thrives in woodland locations with humus-rich

soil and mulch to keep it cool. It needs plenty of moisture from fall through spring so you can enjoy the winter foliage.

You can buy Italian arum as potted plants or as dry tubers. Potted plants can be planted any time. If you start with tubers, fall is the best time to buy. Plant about 6 inches deep.



Arum italicum - lords and ladies.
Picture from about-garden.com

Italian arum multiplies readily if it is happy. After it's established, you can harvest a few leaves for a cut-flower arrangement.

The plant is leafless in summer and is at its best from fall through winter, after the white-marbled leaves emerge. Combine with plants that fill the summer gap, such as astilbes, hardy begonias, and epimediums.

Slugs can chew holes in the leaves of this plant, so you will need to use a barrier to keep slugs away.

Some longtime MGVs may remember seeing this plant under the arbor at Gateway Learning Gardens. This plant also drew lots of comments from people touring the gardens.

Dot Burkholder

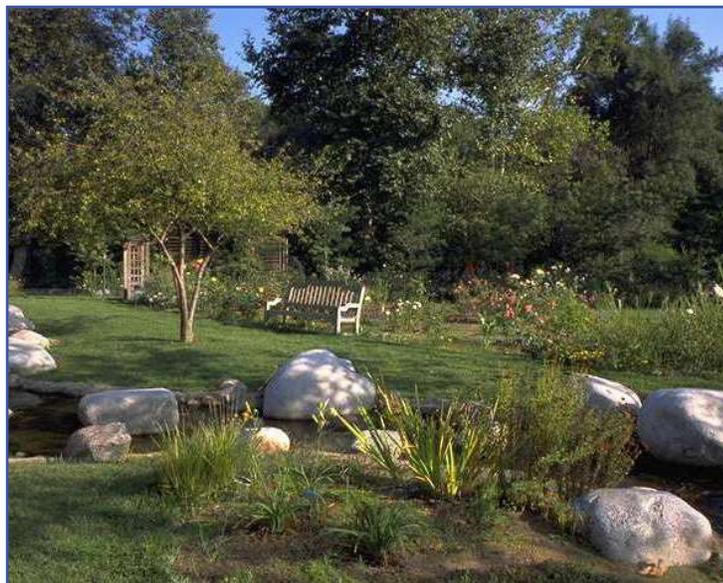
The Gardener's Morning

The robin's song at daybreak
Is a clarion call to me. Get up and get out in the
garden,
For the morning hours flee.

I cannot resist the summons,
What earnest gardener could?
For the golden hours of morning
Get into the gardener's blood.

The magic spell is upon me,
I'm glad that I did not wait;
For life's at its best in the morning,
As you pass through the garden gate.

- Howard Dolf





THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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Garden Clean Up
May 4th
9 a.m. to Noon

The Master Gardener “Blades & Blooms” is a publication of the Clark County Extension, 3130 East Main Street, Springfield, Ohio, 45505, 937-521-3860. The Master Gardener Advisor is Pam Bennett.
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