

# Blades and Blooms

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

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## Mark Your Calendar!

### January 2016

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 1  | New Year's Day, Office Closed                                       |
| 4  | 10-12 a.m. OSUE Office Conference                                   |
| 5  | 10:30-Noon Recognition Committee Meeting, Small Conference Room     |
| 10 | PLANT Seminar   |
| 12 | 1-3 p.m. Garden Fling, Small Conf. Rm.                              |
| 13 | 4:45 -5:30 p.m. Perennial Committee<br>6 -8:30 p.m. General Meeting |
| 18 | Martin Luther King Day, Office Closed                               |
| 20 | 10-11 a.m. Field Trip Committee<br>B&B Articles Due                 |
| 26 | 9-12 a.m. Field Trial/Greenhouse Training                           |
| 27 | 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. MGV Training                                  |

## President's Message:

Seed catalogs are arriving, the days are getting longer, and spring is on the way. Only 10 days left of 2015, and we start the new year. Reflecting on 2015, there have been accomplishments and challenges for Clark County Master Gardeners. The challenges include loss of some valuable Master Gardeners on the Board of Trustees (BOT) including the president and secretary and other key Master Gardener Volunteers. The Board has reduced from 13 to 9 members.

An accomplishment of the BOT in 2015 was to persist with OSU Extension to complete the purchase started in previous years of T-shirts for the membership. The resulting purchase of polo shirts increased pride and appearance at the Clark County Fair, Farm Science Review, and other community projects. The BOT voted to absorb the additional cost associated with polo shirt versus T-shirt purchase.

The BOT has reduced the annual cost of remaining a Master Gardener Volunteer by approving reimbursement for future fingerprinting expenses up to \$35 per individual. The Trustees also voted to pay the \$10 annual fee to the Ohio State University Master Gardener fund paid by each renewing volunteer. As a result, our fee for renewing in Clark County is reduced to \$20 rather than \$30. **Please renew!**

On December 11, the BOT **approved all** committee chair **funds requested** for 2016. Projected expenses are \$52,323 and projected revenue is \$46,913.28. Earlier this year, the Board voted to commit up to \$80,000 toward the Snyder Park Gardens and Arboretum project in future years. In 2015, Master Gardener BOT paid \$10,000 to CYP for architecture expenses performed without a contract and reimbursed \$3,000 to a Master Gardener who paid for tree cutting at Snyder Park.

The BOT has approved additional expenditure of \$23,875 from the \$40,000 provided to OSUE by the Clark County Commissioners. The \$23,875 should pay for architecture plan completion and site preparation at Snyder Park. Completion is anticipated early in 2016. There remains \$16,125 of the \$40,000 from the commissioners. Let's find a way to buy some seeds, plants, and bulbs, and start a few new gardens for volunteers and the public to enjoy in 2016.

Happy and safe gardening in the new year.

Tom Davidson

## Pam's Posies

Dear Master Gardener Volunteers,

Happy New Year to you and your family. I hope that your holidays were filled with joy and time with family. Mine was---especially the time spent with my new grandson, Emerson (oh yea and of course the rest of the family!). Many of you told me how great it is to be a grandparent and you are all exactly right. Wow --- who knew!

We have much work ahead of us this year but I know with your dedication and commitment to the MGV program, we can get this done! We should be seeing the final draft of the master plan early this month and begin work this spring. I can't wait.

We also have a new class starting at the end of this month. I am looking forward to training new volunteers. I am also looking forward to working on an option to have community volunteers help with our gardens at Snyder Park Gardens and Arboretum.

Happy New Year and as always, I am so grateful for each and every one of you and the time you give to OSU Extension. Your generosity goes beyond. Thank you and may your new year be healthy and prosperous.

Pam

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



# Carolyn's Corner

## 2016 Exciting Year

This is going to be an exciting year for all volunteers. We will be planning, installing, and creating gardens at the Snyder Park Gardens and Arboretum. I hope all of you are looking forward to this as much as I am. We will learn a lot about design and implementing the gardens. It will be a busy year but with many rewards.

We will be using the clubhouse for many events and meetings. Some of them will be February 3---Tool Sharpening Class; March 16--- Pruning for the MGV Training Class with Erik Draper. Some of our general meetings will also be held at the Clubhouse.

## Mentors for 2016 MGV Training Class

Volunteers, I am searching for some mentors for the new class. Do any of you have time to guide our new interns through the process of becoming a Master Gardener? This would involve taking them to general meetings, going with them to some committee meetings, and introducing them to other volunteers. Maybe it could include even joining them for lunch during their training and making them feel welcome in our organization.

If you could be a mentor for one of our new interns, please email or call me, and I will try to match you up with one of them. I try to pair volunteers and interns with some similar interests. We will have a short meeting before the first class, and then I will introduce you to your mentee, and you can get acquainted during lunch.

## Monitors for Training Classes

Volunteers, if any of you would like to act as monitors for one of the training classes, please check the class schedule on the VMS under Newsletter/Documents titled "2016 MGV Training Class Scheudle". Then send me an email with your available dates or call me, and I will get you scheduled.

The morning monitor duties include helping set-up the conference room, getting coffee started, passing out handouts, and for some speakers, operating the lights. For the morning session, arrival time is 7:30 a.m. and ending time is 12:30 p.m.

The afternoon monitor tidies up the kitchen, cleans the coffee pot, and collects any papers that have been submitted. Arrival time for the afternoon monitor is 12:30 p.m. and ending time is 4:00 p.m.

I schedule a monitor in the morning and another monitor for the afternoon. These sessions count as volunteer time.

## Continuing Education Credits

Here are some opportunities for getting an early start on your 10 hours of CE Credits. More opportunities are available in the early part of the year than the last months of the year. Please keep that in mind so you don't get to the end of the year and have to really search for the credits. Look for more information on the following events on the VMS Calendar and in the Blades & Blooms.

January 7, Focus on Local Series, Huenke Family Farms, "Just Jams."

January 10, Perennial Plant Symposium at Columbus Convention Center.

February 27, Wildlife Workshop at Heritage Center, Springfield, Ohio.

March 3, Perennial Flower School at Hollenbeck Bayley, Springfield, Ohio.

March 19, Backyard Vegetable Workshop at Springfield High School, Springfield, Ohio.

April 2, Garden Fling at Kenton Ridge High School, Springfield, Ohio

April 14, Seed Saving at Snyder Park Clubhouse.

## 2016 MGV Officers

Congratulations to the new 2016 MGV Officers:

President: Tom Davidson

President-Elect: Jean Rickards

Treasurer: George B. Simon II

Secretary: Linda Asebrook

## Jo's Notes:



## New Email Address

Natheta Mercer has a new email address. It is [emercer2016@twc.com](mailto:emercer2016@twc.com)

# COMMITTEE REPORTS:

## PERENNIAL

Happy New Year! The Perennial Committee is looking forward to 2016 as we finalize programming ideas and get closer to the time to start our actual installation of the perennial display gardens. We also hope to welcome some new MGV trainees to our committee!

Heads up: This year we will conduct at least three of our meetings at the **shelter house** closest to the clubhouse at Snyder Park so pay special attention to the location in May, July, and September. Note that the General Meetings will be in the clubhouse those same months.

Kathy McConkey and Dot Burkholder

## GARDEN FLING

A Garden Fling meeting will be held on January 12, 2016 in the small conference room at 1:00 p.m. All activity chair personnel and interested Master Gardener Volunteers are asked to attend.

Ed Wozniak/Jean Rickards

## FIELD TRIP

Terry Reid and I would like to invite anyone not on our fun field trip committee to join us.

Our group loves to talk about places in and around Ohio that they would love to visit: public gardens, private gardens, nurseries, arboretums and more.

Whether we carpool or take a bus depends on how far we'll travel and for how long.

So, if you like to travel and see new places and learn about new ways of gardening, please join us at our next meeting January 20 @ 10 a.m. in the small conference room at OSU Extension.

We hope to see you there and bring your ideas of places you'd like to visit.

Sally Day and Terry Reid

## SEEDS

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Please mark your calendars for the following upcoming events/programs. Remember you can earn continuing education credit for these.

January 7 from 6:00-7:00 p.m.: Our Focus on Local Speakers Series will start off the new year featuring Huenke Family Farm – Home of Just Jams! Jody Huenke will give a presentation about her family farm and how she got into making her homemade jams. The meeting will be held in the large conference room at OSU Extension. Please spread the word – bring family and friends and support our local producers!

SEEDS is partnering with Antioch College and sponsoring four Seed Saving Workshops. All who are interested in saving their own seeds or seed sharing, please come and bring friends. The dates are January 28, 6:00-7:00 p.m., in the large conference room at OSU Extension; February 25; March 24; and April 14.

SEEDS is sponsoring our 2<sup>nd</sup> Backyard Vegetable Gardening Workshop on Saturday, March 19, at Springfield High School. Like last year, programming will consist of something of interest for everyone, whether you are a new or experienced gardener. We hope to see you there.

Watch the VMS for more information and upcoming events.

Susie Broidy

## HELPLINE

Helpline will start the first week in April and continue thru September and takes place Mondays and Thursdays 9:00 to Noon. Many Master Gardener Volunteers have already signed up on the VMS for the dates they want to help. If you are having trouble using or need instructions on how to use the VMS, please call me (Rick 324-5344).

Remember: A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other.

Source: <http://www.jokes4us.com/holidayjokes/newyearsjokes.html>

Ed Michael & Rick McKinstry

# **GREENHOUSE CLEANING WORK DAY**

**Tuesday, February 2**  
9 AM – 12 noon  
1515 Mitchell Blvd.

Supplies: rubber gloves, scrub brushes and toothbrushes, kneeling pads, rags, garden rakes, hand rakes, and buckets. Sanitizer provided.

We tend to grow more than just plants during our greenhouse season from February through May. Not only do we produce lovely field trial specimens, but we also find unwelcome visitors to include bacteria, fungi, insect populations and organic debris.

“Many hands make light work”— never is that more true than on this fun-filled morning. As we disinfect, we scrub benches, clean fans, wipe walls, rake gravel, plus a host of other chores to get the greenhouse ready for action. There’s a job for everyone. Open to all MGV’s. You don’t need to be on the Greenhouse Committee to help.

Wendy May and Linda McCann



## **Field Trials/Greenhouse Training**

Tuesday, January 26, 2016

9 A.M.-12 noon

OSU Extension, Large Conference Room

If you have not yet signed up to volunteer in the greenhouse, check the November Blades and Blooms for details. This training is required for all greenhouse workers. Questions---contact Wendy May (mays1918@gmail.com) or Linda McCann (linda@mccannco.net) for details.

Wendy May and Linda McCann

## **SOCIAL**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone! The Social Committee decided to let you all have a little breathing space over Christmastime, but it’s December 26, so breathing space is being limited once again! Just kidding, but the January meeting is coming up rapidly so we are soliciting help with food.

The January 13, 2016 meeting theme is SANDWICH, SALAD, AND SOUP night. Any of those which you would like to donate in ANY quantity would be greatly appreciated. As usual, there will be several items to be discussed on the agenda, and we will need our strength.

Lola Walston has graciously signed up on the Roster page. If you would like to contribute, you can go to the Event’s page of the Calendar, click on January 13 “General Meeting,” and there is a comments section where you can sign-up, or, as usual, call or email Natheta Mercer (937)-325-5202 or Deb Dean (937) 605-7402 or [duck6012@yahoo.com](mailto:duck6012@yahoo.com).

We are looking forward to seeing everyone in the New Year!

Natheta Mercer and Deb Dean



# CHRISTMAS DOOR SWAG MAKING A FANTANSTIC SUCCESS!!!

On Dec 3, 2015, Master Gardener Volunteers made 120 beautiful Christmas door swags and presented them to cancer patients at Springfield Cancer Center. These are a gift to the patients from the Cancer Center and Master Gardener Volunteers. Last year, we thought we were pretty good to make 81, but we sure beat that record. The secret to making 120 swags in one day was having 2 prep work parties and enough help. Wendy and Howard May were so gracious to welcome us to use their beautiful workshop to make ribbon bows and paint pine cones. We wired them together with other pretties. All that we had to do at the Cancer Center was wire various greenery together, wire on the assembled bows, and anything else we wanted to add. Patients picked them out in the lobby where we had set-up. Every swag was different, unique, and beautiful.

We also had plenty of beautiful greenery so the last swag was as beautiful as the first. We cut greenery at Hrinko's and at Pam Thullen's house. Several Master Gardener Volunteers were very generous to cut greenery at their homes and donate. Many MGVs donated ribbon and pine cones and other pretties. Thank you all for your generosity.

A special thanks to Wendy and Howard May. Not only did they open up their workshop, they also provided us with beautiful snacks, coffee, tea, & hot cider. Delicious! Wendy is a PINTEREST queen!

Master Gardener Volunteers that worked at the prep party, donated greenery, cut greenery at Hrinko's or at Pam Thullen's or worked at the Cancer Center are Wendy May, Loretta Blazer, Pam Thullen, Diane Catenacci, Jean Rickards, Peggie Elsnau, Susie Anderson, Rita Young, Carol Hanusik, Fabenne Brandenburg, Virginia Mattimore, Kathryn Frazier, Kathy Marks, Linda McCann, Peggy Shank, Laura Foley, Missy Hawley, Connie Kersey, Linda Asebrook, Ruth Ann Rahim, Lois O'Keefe, Janet Heater, Ed Wozniak, Kathy McConkey, Pam Bennett, Marilyn Ryan, Nancy Best, Rita Dalton, Donna Myers, Debbie Dean, Catherine Zernechel, Jo Brown, and photographer Carolyn Allen, and myself. Many people worked many long hours, doing several of the jobs for which we are eternally grateful. I have said it many times: this is a great organization with many generous, talented people, and I thank you all from the bottom of my heart for making this such a successful event.

We made a lot of people in our community know we care and helped brighten up their lives. As one couple said, "It was the highlight of their week." It was a highlight on my week also. I am so proud of you all.

With love, peace and gratitude,

Natheta Mercer



## **Approach Of Winter**

by William Carlos Williams

The half-stripped trees  
struck by a wind together,  
bending all,  
the leaves flutter drily  
and refuse to let go  
or driven like hail

stream bitterly out to one side  
and fall  
where the salvias, hard carmine -  
like no leaf that ever was -  
edge the bare garden.

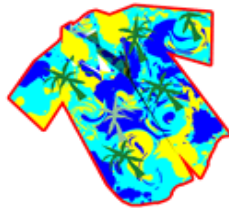
poem from [writerfox.hubpages.com](http://writerfox.hubpages.com)

## RECOGNITION CELEBRATION

Be sure to watch for your invitation to the Recognition Banquet on February 1, 2016. Our theme is tropical, so wear your bright tropical colors. Our silent auction will be "Anything in a bottle". Last year people were very creative! Hope to see you there.

Aloha!

Judy Niggemeyer



## RECIPE

The sandwiches below were served at the Board of Trustees and Committee Chairs potluck.

### **Turkey/Ham Sliders**

24 Sweet Hawaiian Rolls

½ lb. turkey

½ lb. honey ham

½ lb. provolone cheese

½ lb. swiss cheese

Leave rolls attached. Slice horizontally. Put on cookie sheet. Layer meat and cheese, alternate. Place tops on. Bake at 400°F for 12-15 minutes. Bake for about half the time, take out and brush on below topping. Continue baking. Watch—don't let the rolls get too dark before inside is hot and melted.

The topping could be used for 36 rolls so there is a lot. Might want to cut topping down a little.

### **Topping**

1 stick melted butter

1 Tablespoon poppy seeds

4 Tablespoons sugar

2 Tablespoons onion flakes

1 Tablespoon honey mustard

Recipe courtesy of Amy Snyder

## THE HISTORY CORNER

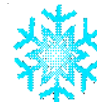
Another year begins in 2016. It is hard to believe that the year 2015 is over, and we are embarking on a new year with new and old ideas, as well as a class of new Master Gardener Volunteers. We were so busy in 2015 that the year was over before we knew it.

The Snyder Park planning sessions were amazing; the wine fest was wonderful, Victory Garden, Research Garden, and SEEDS workshop were great.

Moving forward into 2016 with excitement to see just how much we can accomplish. Get out your books, magazines, paper and pens, and start planning your gardens. Sign-up for one of the Master Gardener Volunteer programs.

Happy New Years to All,

Betty Grimes



# PLANT OF THE MONTH

## CALLA LILY

ZANTEDESCHIA (zan-the-DES-kee-ah)

This is the time of year we start receiving all those garden catalogs, plan and plant lovely gardens (at least in our heads) without all the sweat and hard work.



Planting calla lilies has been on my bucket list for a number of years. Maybe this is the year it will actually get done. They can add a touch of elegance with their simple, classic flowers, and large shiny leaves. I really should plant these tubers.

There are two types of calla lilies – those that prefer wet soil and those that like it a little drier and better drained (although still moist). Make sure to plant them in the soil they like.

**WET-SOIL CALLAS:** These are what most of us consider “traditional” white calla lilies. The usual size is about 24 – 30 inches high with arrow-shaped, solid-green leaves. Look for *Z. aethiopica* in the name or parentage, and you’ll have a good calla lily for a bog or pond’s edge.

For a change from white, try “Pink Mist” which is pale pink with a darker pink eye. The colored, showy part of a calla isn’t really a flower – it’s a *spathe*, and the yellow, pointy part in the middle is a *spadix*.

Wet soil callas won’t grow in deep water. If planting this type away from a pond, keep them well watered and the soil always damp to the touch. They’ll bloom for 3 – 4 months with plenty of water and fertilizer.

**MOIST-SOIL CALLAS:** This group includes several other species. Colors in this group range from burgundy to pink, yellow, and oranges. These

Colorful callas usually have a shorter bloom time than wet-soil types. The foliage is still pretty even when not blooming.

Callas bring texture to any planting with their glossy leaves and waxy looking flowers. Try contrasting them with red-leaved coral bells or lacy astilbe. Create a bold look by planting near hosta or ligularia.

Callas root systems are small and shallow. A 12 inch wide pot can hold 5 callas. Planting in containers makes it easy to overwinter them either in the pot or in dry storage. Most of us have to take callas indoors over the winter.

Callas don’t like soil below 60 degrees so wait for warmer weather before planting outside in full sun to part shade.

Dot Burkholder



**4th**

**Jody Frisby**

**8th**

**Diane Catenacci**

**8th**

**Pam Thullen**

**15th**

**Sherri Summers**

**16th**

**Susan Kogler**

**17th**

**Mary Ellen Martin**

**26th**

**Fabenne Brandenburg**

**26th**

**Fred Miller**

**26th**

**Lola Walston**

**31st**

**Gene Clifton**







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COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
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Carol Hanusik, Janet Heater, Rita Young, Marilyn Ryan and Pam Thullen at Cancer Center making swags.

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<http://clark.osu.edu/program-areas/master-gardener-volunteers/blades-blooms-newsletters>

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