

Blades and Blooms



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

Volume 30 Number 8 August 2023

Music in the Gardens



Mark Your Calendar

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------|---|
| 2 | 9 am - 12 pm | SPGA Garden Workday |
| | 6 pm - 8 pm | Night Weeders. Meet in peony bed. |
| 5 | 9 am - 2 pm | SPGA Jubilee |
| | 9.30 - 11:30 am | Helpline Diagnostic Workshop Walkabout |
| 8 | 8 am | Field Trip to Wegerzyn Garden & Marianist Environment Center. |
| 9 | 5:30 - 7:30 pm | BOT meeting - OSUE Lg. Conf. Rm. |
| | 6 pm to 8 pm | Night Weeders. Meet at barn parking lot by new sign. |
| 11 | 12 - 2 pm | Second Harvest distribution |
| 14 | 11am - 1pm | Fundraising Cmte. - Wingert Tossey Pavilion |
| | 7 pm | Music in the Garden - Springfield Symphony Jazz Group; Wingert Tossey Pavilion. |
| 16 | 9 am - 12 pm | SPGA Garden Workday |
| 17 | 11am - 1 pm | Publicity Meeting - Wingert Tossey Pavilion. |
| | 6 - 7 pm | Hops Program - Location TBD. |
| 19 | 10 - 11:30 am | Meet Me in the Garden - Public Garden Tour; SPGA clubhouse patio. |
| 21 | 7 pm | Music in the Garden - Kylene Downes; Wingert Tossey Pavilion. |
| 23 | 6 pm to 8 pm | Night Weeders. Meet at barn parking lot by new sign. |
| 24 | 11 am - 1 pm | Education Cmte. - Wingert Tossey Pavilion. |
| | 1 pm | Recognition Cmte.- Location TBD. |
| 26 | 1 am - 2 pm | Monarch Tagging. SPGA Landscape with Nature Garden. |
| | 10 am - 2 pm | All activities in SPGA LWN Garden. |
| 9/2 | 8 a.m. | Field Trip to Bob's Garden Fair; Meet at SPGA. |

Yoga in the Wingert Tossey Pavilion with be every Monday and Thursday at 9.00 am this month.



Brian Kerr on a rainy evening July 24th in the Wingert Tossey Pavilion.



Green County Community Band on July 10th in front of the SPGA Clubhouse.

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In the Gardens...

Greetings!!

It is great to see all the changes/improvements/growth in the gardens that happens with all the hands who make such great work, minds to design and implement, and souls to be passionate about our gardens, this gift to our community. I thank you all for your work.

At the June meeting, we presented for membership to accept changes proposed to the bylaws for Clark County Master Gardens. The measures did not pass but, after the initial disappointment that I personally felt about this, I realized I was happy to hear all the discussions and questions about the proposals. It was evident you all read the changes the board wanted to make and voiced opinions and alternative ideas for language changes and additions. These ideas are being incorporated and will be offered for a vote in the near future. Thank you for your interest and we look forward to the passage of these amendments.

SPGA Jubilee, Victory Garden, Music in the Garden, Springfield Feature Gardens, Yoga - Park Gardens and Arboretum; and the new meandering sidewalks which just seem to fit into the landscape so naturally, all add up to a beautiful and relaxing place to rest and rejuvenate. I appreciate all the beauty in the location and the diligence of all who participate.

Always thankful,
Sue Ann Dill



Container Trial plants in the barn enclosure area.

Pam's Posies

Dear Master Gardener Volunteers,

Wow, look at us! Take a minute or two and think about all that has been accomplished this year in Snyder Park Gardens & Arboretum. Holy Cow is all I can say. And thank you to all of you who have worked so very hard to get to this point. Each committee has worked their butts off. You are truly appreciated, and I hope that all who visit SPGA realize that this great accomplishment has been possible because of MGVs. THANKS for you passion to make Clark County a better place to live. It truly shows.

The new entrance is incredible. Thanks to Missy Hawley and her committee for their efforts and special thanks to Drew Titone for his efforts in managing the building of the entrance. I would never have been able to do what he did. Thanks Drew.

The sidewalks have been expanded thanks to the Springfield Foundation funds and look fabulous. As we continue to raise money, we will continue to connect the gardens. In addition, we are hoping to get the rose research plots planted before Garden Jubilee; these will go along the sidewalk going to the Cultivar Trials. Eventually, this area will be planted with magnolias and other various flowering trees and perennials for a spring show. The area between the Wingert Tossey Pavilion and the new sidewalks will eventually be planted as well.

The benches have arrived, and we had a great crew to help put them together. However, we had a few glitches and had put this on hold until more parts come in. Therefore, we won't have all the benches out for the Garden Jubilee, unfortunately. The crew put some of those without backs together for the Springfield Foundation Feature Garden area. The picnic tables are also on the patio and the next step is to consider some type of umbrella for shade. Thanks to all the committee members for the effort to get this completed.

The stone pottery also arrived and has been planted on the patio area. These containers look fabulous and were custom-made, which is why they took a bit of time. Thanks everyone who had a hand in this and getting the perennial plantings completed. There are also six beautiful, large green bowls sitting on the Memorial Hall columns in the Garden of Eatin'.

All the other gardens are in great shape, and I feel like we have forgotten you with all the push to get the clubhouse area etc., completed. However, you are also appreciated for getting all the gardens in shape for the season.

This fall we will turn our attention to the interpretive signage throughout the area. Brad Boyer with

Pam's Posies cont. op pg. 3

WHAT'S GROWING ON



New picnic tables and planters on the patio area between the Wingert Tossey Pavilion and the clubhouse.



Benches on the south side of the SFFG and annual beds.



Recently planted annual beds.

Pam's Posies cont. from pg. 2

National Trail Parks and Recreation District is working on the wayfinding signs to be placed in and around Snyder Park. We will also complete the plant markers as well. The tree committee is looking at ways to identify and mark the new trees that were planted in the last two years. We are a busy bunch of people.

Thanks also to all who have pitched in to help Dennis and Jim. Beth figured it takes them a little over four hours a day to water, preventing them from doing some of the other tasks on our long list. We appreciate people stepping up to water and do some of the other tasks. Remember that it's crucial for all garden chairs to go through Beth to schedule work on individual gardens. Thanks for understanding this concept. And thanks to Dennis and Jim for working hard during the four hours that each are there. We are down one person working 40 hours a week this year and it puts a lot on our summer staff. Thanks to everyone for pitching in.

Enjoy the Garden Jubilee and the great words that people share with you about the gardens. You are to be congratulated for a quality garden in Springfield, Clark County, Ohio. Thanks for all you do for OSU Extension. I am truly grateful for all of you.

Pam

PS: On Wednesday July 19, we welcomed Ripken Gary Allen Ledford to our world of grandparenting! He was a big boy coming in at 8 pounds and 7 ounces, 21.5 inches in length. After Garden Jubilee I am taking time off to spoil this little one and the other four! Ain't it great!

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

August



*1st Linda Asebrook
12th Sandy Forstrom
27th Marianne Ober
27th Peggy Shank
29th Susan Newell*

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EARLY OHIO SETTLER'S COMMITTEE

Some of the Early Ohio Settlers were busy at work in the garden in July! It been growing like crazy, with beautiful Heirloom vegetables, herbs, and flowers. The weeds have been shown what we think of them as well – no roots for you! The outside of the picket fence has been treated with linseed oil to help preserve it, thanks to some Tom Sawyers encouraging everyone to pick up a paint brush or roller! We are planning an extra work day THURSDAY, AUG 3 at 8:30 am to make sure the garden is in top form for the Jubilee. We are looking forward to the Jubilee, to show the public our interesting garden.

Kim Bachman, Judy and Mark Finnegan, co-chairs



New concrete walkway from the clubhouse area to the Early Ohio Settlers Garden.

NIGHT WEEDER'S COMMITTEE

By the time you read this newsletter, the Night Weeders will be down to their last two weeding sessions of 2023 on August 9 and August 23. We weed every other week from May through August from 6 to 8 pm. If you've been thinking of giving us a try, you still have time. You won't regret it. We are a fun bunch and evenings are a wonderful time to weed. Hope to see you in the gardens!

Susan & Tom Miller - Cochairs



Many of the Early Ohio Settler's Committee take up paint brushes to protect the picket fence with linseed oil.



Night Weeder's Committee cleaning up the peony beds

FIELD TRIP COMMITTEE

A field trip is planned for the Master Gardeners for Tuesday August 8th. We will be meeting at SPGA at 8:30am and will car pool to 2 different gardens (and I am checking on adding a 3rd garden stop at the Grotto). The first stop will be to Marianist Environmental Education Center. It is a 147 acre garden whose mission is to protect, propagate and educate the community on the benefits of native plants. They have over 350 species with 12 on the threatened list. They host a Native Plant Sale each June and present various Native Plant Education programs and conferences. Their gardens include a nature trail, a labyrinth, a sacred Embrace Earthwork and a Meditation Garden. We have a 10am tour scheduled and some time beforehand to wander around.

We will leave here and stop for lunch and then travel across town (6 miles) to Wegerzyn Gardens. This garden has 10 formal gardens, including an English, victorian, and rose garden. It also has a children's garden, a woodland trail, a swamp forest boardwalk trail and community vegetable gardens. We have a guided tour scheduled for 2pm thru the formal gardens. You will have time to wander around this garden before and after our tour. We should be back to SPGA by approximately 4pm.

I would like to have a count of those who will be going so I can let our tour guides know how many to expect. RSVP Please text, call, or email me : **Marilyn Hinderer (937)478-5919, or mkh1324@aol.com.**

If you would like to research these gardens and see their websites:

Marianist Environmental Education Center 4435 E. Patterson Rd., Dayton.

Wegerzyn Garden 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave, Dayton.

VICTORY GARDEN COMMITTEE

The Victory Garden has started delivering potatoes, onions, and cabbages to the Second Harvest. Potatoes, tomatoes and sweet corn will be the major veggies harvested the rest of the season. The latest storm flattened a 40-foot diameter corn area which cannot be reestablished. We deal with this every year and hopefully this won't happen again. We have established Aug. 11th as the date Master Gardener Volunteers pass out vegetables to the residents of Springfield. On 11 Aug at 11:00 am - 1:00 pm Master Gardener Volunteers will be set up at tables at Second Harvest to pass out produce we have grown and harvested at our garden. We will also tour the facility and be presented with an overview of the operations. The people are very grateful and we receive a lot of kind comments and thank yous. We will meet at our regular time on Tuesday the 8th and also at 9:00 am on Friday the 11th.

Ed Wozniak, Drew Titone, Mark Finnegan



Many of the dedicated MGVs at the Victory Garden ready to dig veggies for the Second Harvest Community Food Bank.



Pictures from the 2023 Clark County Fair

LAWN & GARDEN HELPLINE COMMITTEE

Flower of the Month for August: Gladiolus
August is National Watermelon Month and National Picnic Month

The Lawn & Garden Helpline Committee has been busy answering questions received through the OSU Extension Office receptionists and at events in the community and at SPGA.

On Saturday June 3, 2023, and Saturday July 1, 2023, we hosted diagnostic walkabouts at SPGA which resulted in discussion on a variety of plant and gardening inquiries. Plant samples were brought by some in attendance to have concerns about potential problems answered. If you have not attended a diagnostic walkabout we encourage you to do so next year. We schedule them on the first Saturday in June and July. At Garden Jubilee,



Participants at the July 1 walkabout in SPGA. A little rain didn't stop us.

we will have a table and be able to discuss garden issues with those in attendance. It is always an enjoyable venture.

In addition to the above activities, we have participated in a "Plant Doctor" series at Mercy Health - Springfield

Regional Medical Center. The first date was well received, and we had numerous inquiries about plant issues. The six committee members that participated were kept busy. It was a rewarding experience. The next date for the "Plant Doctor" program is Thursday August 17, 2023.

Lawn and Garden Humor

A couple were having a picnic in a jungle.

Suddenly a crocodile appears and attacks the husband. He cries "Shoot it, quick." "I can't!" says his wife. "I've run out of film!"

Q 1: When do you go at red and stop at green?

Q 2: Why did the cantaloupe jump into the pool?

Q 3: Why was the teacher suspicious of the Watermelon during the exam?

Answers at the end of article.



Lawn & Garden Helpline committee members Roz Soles, Kathy McConkey, Lola Walston, Jill Pfister, Linda McCann and Fabenne Brandenburg answer question from staff and visitors to the Spring Regional Medical Center.

on it. He just looked a little seedy.

Kathy McConkey & Lola Walston, Co-Chairs

My son asked me to take him on a picnic.

I told him, "I really don't like eating under those trees." "But why, Dad?"

"They just seem kinda shady."

A 1: When you're eating a watermelon.

A 2: It wanted to be a watermelon.

A 3: She couldn't really put her finger

USS Recognize Steve and Lola Walston with Excellence in Leadership Award

USS had another successful Senior Day Luncheon to celebrate Older Americans Month! We are so grateful to the 225+ attendees, staff, and volunteers who helped celebrate several deserving nominees. Nominees included Debbie Farmer, Margaret Grubb, and Dannie Mapp. Reiko Bowers (front left) received the Area Agency on Aging Outstanding Senior Citizen Award, Judy Livingston (back left) received the USS Inspirational Service Award, and Steve & Lola Walston (right) received the USS Excellence in Leadership Award. All award winners are pictured with Maureen Fagans, CEO (center). Everyone had a great time and we cannot wait to celebrate again next year with everyone!



LANDSCAPE WITH NATURE COMMITTEE

Exciting events are and will be happening at LWN at SPGA!!

On June 28 we were presented with a beautiful Monarch chair transformed by Avery Colvin, a Global Stem School Art Teacher. Avery worked her magic by turning an ugly rusted chair into an amazing Monarch Butterfly. In May, thirty Global Impact Stem Academy students and teachers volunteered to help weed Field Trial Beds for a research program at Snyder Park Gardens and Arboretum. Global Impact Art Teacher Avery Colvin talked to Master Gardener Volunteers at lunch that day. They discussed an old wrought iron butterfly chair the Landscape With Nature Garden committee wanted painted to look like an actual Monarch Butterfly. We are grateful to Avery Colvin for sharing her time and talents to complete the project. The finished work will have a home in the Butterfly Buffet in the Landscape With Nature Garden in SPGA, after its return from the Clark County Fair.



Our co-chair Tom Davidson also brought 5 gal buckets of Weeds and Pollinator Plants there for display in The Arts and Crafts Building from July 21-28 for the Fair Flower Show managed by the Master Gardeners Clark County for Community Education.

The Pollinator Plants and Weeds will then be transferred to The Landscape with Nature for our annual Jubilee being held Saturday August 5 with the Community invited to our gardens.



Continuing on, our excitement grows for on Saturday August 26 from 1-2pm, there will be a Monarch Tagging at SPGA at

the Landscape with Nature Garden. You will have the opportunity to visit educational tables to learn more about milkweed and other Native Plants from 10am - 2pm. This free program is held in partnership of MG of Clark County and NTPRD. Deadline is Aug 24 to register at NTPRD.

Our next work and planning meeting of the LWN is Aug 23, 9 am -12 pm

Cochairs: Jani Malowney, Donna Meister, Tom Davidson



MGV Tom Davidson with his Weed and Polinator Plants display.



MGVs Deb Brugger, Deb Dean and Donna Myers at the information table.

Backyard News

It's morning on July 7 and I am in the garden weeding. Mother Nature must have heard all of our prayers. For weeks we anxious gardeners and farmers watered and prayed, and then the heavens opened. In recent days I have had a devil of a time getting into my garden when it is not raining.

I'm working under the figwort (*Scrophularia marilandica*). It has just started blooming and it is covered in bees and other insects. You could take a picture of a figwort flower and use it to describe the term 'insignificant bloom'. To us humans it is nothing, but to pollinators it is everything delicious - chocolate, ice cream, pizza. They can't stay away from it. Every plant in my yard attracts pollinators, but none as much as the figwort. I sit for awhile and enjoy the buzz. At this moment, there are many honey bees, perhaps visiting from Joyce and Gary's hives, or maybe they're from the feral hive in our barn. There are some nifty looking bees or wasps that have white butts, and zillions of tiny, tiny bees.



Honeybee buried in flower of figwort.

By now we've all heard that we should not cut our plants down in the fall. We should leave them up because many native bees use them to lay their eggs and overwinter. A few years ago when I first started getting this message I stopped cleaning up in the fall. What a mess I had in the spring.

A year or two later a friend sent an article that suggested cutting back plants to about 15 inches. That was room enough for stem nesting bees. Phew. I left my spent plants up long enough to let the birds eat seeds, then I trimmed them back to 15 inches.

The next year I wondered, how long should I keep the stems in place? Just when did these stem-nesting bees finish with the stems? This summer I found my answer at the Wright Patt Pollinator Expo. This wonderful expo brings together "organizations from across the state <that> highlight local pollinator

initiatives". There were enough friendly people with tables full of information to keep a Master Gardener Volunteer happy for a long time. I found a wonderful handout that shows the whole life cycle of nesting bees!

It turns out in the late winter or early spring we should cut back hollow stemmed or pithy plants to a height of 8 to 24 inches. The bees find these stems in the spring. They start building the nest by filling it with pollen balls and eggs. The bee larvae develop over the growing season and hibernate through the winter. They emerge in the spring and the cycle starts over again. You know what this means. It's important to just leave the dead stems in place. Bees will use them for a year. By the time they are done with the stems, they are pretty decomposed.

Now that I understand the life cycle of stem-nesting bees I'm happy to leave the stems up. 8 to 24 inches of stem will soon disappear behind new growth, and the stems might help support my newly emerging plants. I have a lot of bees and pollinators in my yard already. Even so, I can't wait until next spring to welcome a whole new batch of bees!

Happy Gardening!
Susan Miller



Native plants in the Mish Mash bed. I hope the bees like them!

Gatherings about Gardens

REMEDIAL WEEDING by Becky Rupp
in *The Weeder's Reader* 2017

Last week, while driving home from the library at four o'clock in the afternoon, I blocked the driveway of our local Dunkin' Donuts restaurant. I didn't mean to block the Dunkin' Donuts restaurant; there was a panel truck in front of me and somewhere ahead of that a traffic light had inopportunistically turned red, leaving me stranded in front of a bubblegum-pink sign that said ENTRANCE. These things happen.

This might have been all right—small-town Vermont is a reasonably laid-back environment; most of us can wait out a red light in relative tranquility—except for a woman in a gray Chevrolet who wanted to turn into the Dunkin' Donuts driveway now. She honked, and then honked again, louder and longer. I made apologetic faces, indicative of my inability to budge; and she rolled down her window, screamed unprintable names, and made finger gestures.

Ten seconds later the light changed. She roared into the Dunkin' Donuts. I went home and weeded the lettuce. Sometimes the thing I like best about the garden is that there's nobody in it.

Jean Paul Sartre, in a disillusioned existential moment, said that "Hell is other people," and he may not be far wrong. People are aggravating. They shove; they yell; they call you on the telephone in the middle of supper and solicit things. They borrow books and never give them back. They tailgate.

And sheer numbers of people are intimidating. Daniel Boone, who had a strong sense of self-preservation, used to get restless the minute he could see the smoke of a neighbor's cabin. There's a lot to be said—at least in measured doses—for solitude. John Milton who had marital troubles and three rebellious daughters, called solitude "the best society." "I have never found the companion," wrote Henry David Thoreau, "that was so companionable as solitude." You can imagine him saying it as he pottered about—peacefully solo—in his bean patch.

I have friends who, in emotional extremis, favor bubble baths, five-mile jogs, psychotherapists, or bottles of gin. I, however, have always favored weeding, solitary weeding. Gardens, along with vegetables and zinnias, dispense calm, comfort, and perspective. There's something soothing about green and dirt; as you crawl about by yourself, pulling up invasive stuff in the cucumbers, the jagged disruptions of even the most dreadful days, begin to smooth themselves over. A garden exemplifies placid



common sense. Give it a chance and it takes you outside yourself, reminding you that—for all your petty fretting—the planet is still spinning along.

And there's an unmistakably remedial aspect to weeding. It's a cathartic activity—even, properly practiced, a sort of vengeful voodoo.

Yank up crabgrass, knotweed and horsetail; tear out (cautiously, with gloves) horrible thistle; obliterate hawkweed and ragwort. Each pestilential handful, metaphorically speaking, is a stumbling block in your daily path. Yank up the bureaucrats, the traffic jams, the nightly news, and that nutcase down the road who writes those appalling Letters to the Editor.

Weed long enough and you'll feel better. In fact, you'll even start to come around on the people thing. Some people, after all, are your loved ones: your spouse, your children, your dearest friends, people without whom your life would be sad and dull, devoid of laughter, conversation, hugs, and shared peanut-butter toast. We need each other. No person is an island; and, after an hour or so interacting with chickweed and dandelions, this begins to look once again like a positive proposition.

Which brings me back to the woman in the gray Chevrolet. I'll doubtless never know what drove her to the point of shrieking at a perfect stranger inadvertently blocking the Donut lane. It could have been whining children, a delinquent babysitter, nasty neighbors, a surly husband, or a tyrannical boss. She probably thought she needed a doughnut.

But I can tell you what she really needs.

She needs a garden.

PICKING CORN by Harvey Silverman in *The Weeder's Reader* 2017

One of the things I miss most about my dad is his wonderful and slightly quirky sense of humor. I often think of my dad when I eat sweet corn.

You see, Dad enjoyed sweet corn, but he insisted it be fresh. Given the opportunity, he would happily explain that as soon as the corn was picked the sugar in the kernels began to be converted to starch and that his conversion continued until the corn was cooked and the enzyme responsible for the conversion deactivated. (This is less true of many varieties today.)

When I was a boy, we had a small vegetable garden in the backyard. We grew all the usual

Gatherings about Gardens cont. on pg. 10

Gatherings about Gardens cont. from pg. 9

things—radishes, cucumbers, tomatoes, and the like. We also grew sweet corn.

We normally picked our vegetables and gave them to my mom to prepare for dinner—but not with sweet corn. When it was time to get some sweet corn, my dad would first place a large pot of water on the stove and heat it to boiling. Then he and I would go out to the garden, pick and peel the corn and head straight back into the kitchen to place it in the boiling water so that it was cooked as fresh as possible.

After I grew up, my folks moved to a new home where they had no garden. My dad still enjoyed sweet corn, so he bought it at a local farm stand where it would be fresher than in the grocery store.

One afternoon on the way home from work, he stopped at the local farm stand and asked for fresh sweet corn.

“I have some right here. It was just picked this morning,” said the farmer.

“This morning?” Dad said, “Have anything fresher?”

“Well, I have some here that I haven’t put out yet. You can have some of that. It was just picked an hour ago.”

“An hour ago? Don’t you have anything fresher?”

By then the farmer was becoming just a bit annoyed with my dad. He took him out into the field just behind his farm stand. He picked some corn, handed it to my dad and said, “Okay, is this fresh enough for you?”

My dad looked at him, paused, and said, “I don’t know. You’re picking kind of slow.”

GRINS AND GROANS:

What’s the funniest landscape? Hill areas.

(Thinking of Pam’s daughter) ...Did you hear about the retired Sheriff who started a landscaping business? He called it “Lawn Order.”

From a farmer: I put up an electric fence around my field last weekend. My neighbor is dead against it.

Another farmer: I hear lots of jokes about sheep. I’d tell them to my dog, but she’d herd them all.

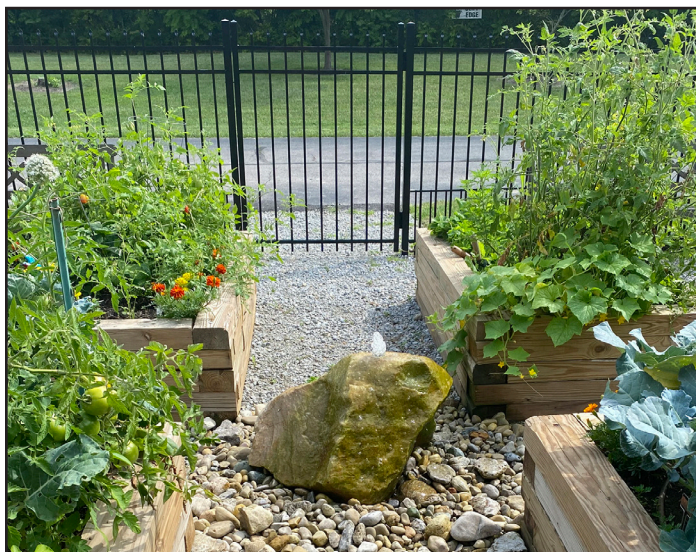
An oldie, but still funny... Q: What does a nosey pepper do? A: It gets jalapeno business.

AND LASTLY: “What a man needs in gardening is a cast-iron back, with a hinge in it.” ~~Charles D. Warner

Til next time, Judy Finnegan

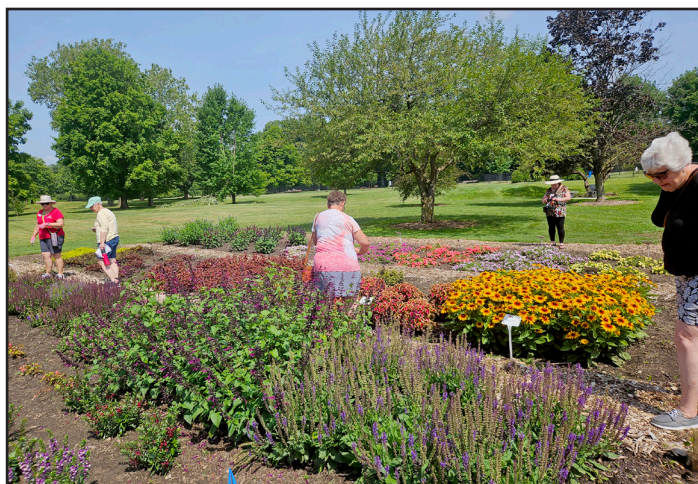


Springfield Foundation Annual beds in front of the Wingert Tossey Pavilion.



Springfield Regional Medical Center Community Garden. Above MGVS Rosalind Soles enjoying the raised beds that many of the hospital departments care for.

MGV's Docents hosting a visit from the Oakley Garden Club (from Cincinnati area).





THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

EXTENSION

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



One side of the new entrance to Snyder Park Gardens & Arboretum.

**SPGA Garden
Clean Ups are
August 2nd & 16th
9 am - 12 pm**

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