

Blades and Blooms

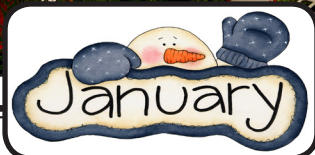


Master Gardeners of Clark County
PO Box 158, Springfield, Ohio 45501-0158

Volume 30 Number 1 January, 2023



Two beautiful swags being displayed by Karen Titone and Tuffy Haverkos.



Mark Your Calendar

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------|---|
| 3 | 10 am - 12 pm | Perennial Committee - Zoom meeting
(to be rescheduled) |
| 4 | 12 pm - 2 pm | Tree Cmte Presentations - OSUE Lg
Conf. Rm. (to be rescheduled) |
| 9 | 10 am - 12 pm
1 pm | Publicity Cmte. - OSUE Lg Conf. Rm
SPGA Cmte. Meeting - OSUE Lg
Conf. Rm. |
| 10 | 1 pm - 3 pm | Docent Meeting - OSUE Lg Conf. Rm. |
| 11 | 5:30 pm | General Meeting - First Christian Church |
| 13 | 6:30 - 8:30 pm | Basic Beekeeping - OSUE Lg. Conf. Rm. |
| 14 | 9 am - 3:30 pm | Basic Beekeeping - OSUE Lg Conf. Rm. |
| 16 | 10 am | Fair Flower Show Cmte. location TBD |
| 17 | 1 pm - 3 pm | Plant Sale Cmte. Meeting - OSUE Lg
Conf. Rm. |
| 18 | 1 pm - 3 pm | MGV Help Line Cmte. - OSUE Sm
Conf. Rm. |
| 19 | 9 am - 11 am | Greenhouse Training - OSUE Lg. Conf. Rm. |
| 20 | 1 pm - 3 pm | Policy & Procedure Cmte. - OSUE Sm.
Conf. Rm.
Reports submitted to B & B |
| 26 | 11 am - 1 pm | Education Cmte. - OSUE Lg. Conf. Rm. |
| 27 | 9 am - 11 am | Garden of Eatin' Cmte. - OSUE Lg.
Conf. Rm. |
| 28 | 10 am - 12 pm | Perennial Cmte Education Program |
| 31 | 9 am - 12 pm | Greenhouse Cleaning - Mitchell
Greenhouse. |



Kim Bachman and Terry Reid tie as winners in the Ugly Christmas Sweater contest.

WELCOME 2023

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*"Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow."*

- Robert Frost, Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

Happy New Year Greetings Fellow MGVs,

January brings cold, snow (I love it!), and the desire to hibernate with a warm blanket, a roaring fire, a good book and hot cocoa. I still love to bundle up and go for my walk each day, and sometimes find myself in my flowerbeds and garden beds afterward. And...what do I always see? Yes, WEEDS! How can they just keep growing through the worst of growing conditions? Alas, that is the million-dollar question. Anyway, I digress, but my point is that even the dead of Winter is a good time to get as many weeds out as possible to make your Spring weeding easier.

I also spend much of my time feeding hungry songbirds (and the neighborhood squirrel gang). My two finch feeders are so loaded with birdies that they remind me of The Tiki Room at Disney World! Don't forget to feed our fine feathered friends who stick around for Winter, please.

Since you might find yourself looking for a good book or two to relax for awhile, I'm switching gears a bit to share a few of my favorites from 2022:

Tapestry by Beth Duke

Wish You Were Here by Jodi Picoult

The Giver of Stars by Jojo Moyes

The Midnight Library by Matt Haig

The Kaiser's Web by Steve Berry

A World of Curiosities by Louise Penny

Enjoy, and I will see you soon,
Deb Brugger



Pam's Posies

Pam is under the weather and will be back next month. Here are some Pam pictures through the year 2022.



WHAT'S GROWING ON

Beth Brooks and "What's Growing On" will not be with us this month, but we do have some picture she has sent of the activities going on at SPGA in December.

Beth will return in February.



City Foresters working to plant the new sweet gum trees in the area to the north of the clubhouse.



A quick note from your newsletter editor. Since we have a new class of MGVs, I haven't had a chance to ask if any of you would like to be included in our monthly birthday recognition.

If you would like your birthday listed please let me know. Just send me an email to ljwmccann@gmail.com and I will start including you.

Linda McCann



Happy Birthdays

4th Jody Frisby
8th Diane Catenacci
8th Pam Thullen
8th Vicky Ross
16th Susan Kogler
17th Mary Ellen Martin
26th Fabenne Brandenburg
26th Eydie Cox
26th Fred Miller
26th Lola Walston

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HOLIDAY SWAG PROJECT/ CANCER CENTER

Imagine an early morning in December as an energetic crew of elves (MGVs) enters a large empty retail space carrying many tubs of assorted fresh evergreens and holly, boxes and bags of Christmas ornaments, garlands, pinecones, dried natural elements, silk flowers and handmade bows of ribbons in bright hues. Tables are brought in and set up, wire, wire cutters and donated wire clothes hangers laid out.

The smiling elves work in two shifts throughout the day, creating beautiful and fragrant door swags for holiday season decorating. No two swags are alike, but each one is as beautiful as the next. As they work, the elves share snacks and talk and laugh amongst themselves while Christmas music plays in the background. The swags are bagged individually and boxed for delivery.

After the required number of swags are made, and each elf has made their own swag to take home, the large room is emptied of all the tubs, boxes of bows, ribbon, tools, and sparkling baubles—saved for next year—, the room is swept and left as clean and empty as when the hardworking elves entered to begin the day.

The boxed swags were loaded in a van provided by Woeber Mustard and delivered to the Springfield Regional Cancer Center (SRCC) for distribution. On Thursday, December 8th, all 142 handcrafted swags were given to patients with appointments on that day; each patient selected a swag of their choice with delight, appreciation, and joy. Smiles and sometimes tears were exchanged between recipients and MGVs (who received the wonderful blessing of sharing and giving). No wonder this Holiday Swag Project was selected as the Outstanding MGV large project at this year's Master Gardener State Conference!

The SRCC generously donated \$497 to Clark County Master Gardeners; the funds are earmarked for a memorial bench to be placed at SPGA. The committee would like to take this opportunity to honor Wendy May, who is stepping down as chair of this project. There are no words to describe what an inspiration Wendy has been in her organization, creativity, community outreach and exceptional leadership during the changes required by Covid restrictions to continue to benefit the cancer patients. Thank you, Wendy!

Karen Titone, Judy Finnegan and Mark Finnegan

MITCHELL GREENHOUSE COMMITTEE

The Mitchell Greenhouse training will be held on Thursday, January 19th from 9:00 am to 11:00 am in the large conference room at the OSU extension. Master Gardener Volunteers that have signed up for the Mitchell Greenhouse committee **should** attend, so you can sign up for work days and know the procedures to follow in the greenhouse. An email will be sent in mid-January as a reminder.

Also, the greenhouse cleaning date is Tuesday, January 31st from 9 until noon at 1515 Mitchell Blvd. Please join us at the Mitchell greenhouse to clean and to get it ready for all of our 2023 All-America Selection seeds/plants. Any Master Gardener Volunteer is welcome to help prepare the greenhouse for the 2023 season. Bring your own **rubber gloves** and hand weeding tools. Kneeling pads might be needed too. There may be weeds in the aisles that need to be cleaned out. We have rags and scrub brushes.

Contact Theresa Gregory at mstgregy@woh.rr.com or text 937-206-7879 with any questions.

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



Karen Titone getting ready to box up swags for the SRCC with Wendy May and Deb Brugger looking on.

Backyard News

On December 9th I found myself working in my vegetable patch, pulling up parsnips. The day was December dreary, grey and monochromatic, but the temperature was a brisk 47, a beautiful day to be outside. I like to leave my parsnips in the ground for awhile after the weather turns cold. We Master Gardeners know that the cold weather helps sweeten the flavor. I had tried to dig them up earlier, but the ground was frozen in my raised bed.

No matter. You can leave parsnips until spring if you want. I love parsnips, so I had waited long enough.

Last year's parsnips were a mixed bag. If you recall, I had sumptuous leaves all summer, and those leaves provided food to many swallowtail caterpillars. That's magic for me. When I dug the parsnips up in late fall, the roots were pretty puny.

All the parsnip energy went into those leaves. This summer I periodically cut the leaves back. I didn't cut them back all at once, and I checked for swallowtail caterpillars, which again visited a lot.

I'm happy to report that my parsnips are gorgeous! Yummy! When I dug those things up the first thing I thought was "I can't wait to eat these things!" The second thing I thought was "I can't wait to grow more next summer!" That's the beauty of gardening, isn't it? Reward and anticipation.

You don't need a lot of room to grow parsnips. I grow two rows in my four-foot wide raised bed. That's enough for up to two dozen parsnips. I thin the plants to about three inches apart, and keep the rows at twelve to eighteen inches. The raised bed is about twelve inches off the ground. You can see from my parsnip picture that some of them grew a bit longer than twelve inches, but a twelve-inch parsnip is a darned nice parsnip. I always put a board on

top of the seeds to help with germination. This helps maintain moisture. Once those seeds germinate, they are easy to grow, as long as you water regularly, especially if they are in a raised bed.

If you've never tasted a parsnip, you are missing out. They are delicious! They taste sweet and nutty, like a nutty cross between a carrot and a potato. They are delicious boiled, or boiled and mashed. They are terrific in vegetable soup or stew or alongside a roast. And they are wonderful roasted with other root vegetables, like carrots, sweet potatoes, and onions.

This fall when I cleaned up my potatoes, I found a chrysalis hanging on the side of a cement block I use for the potato bed (see chrysalis picture). The potatoes grow next to the parsnips, so I know what that caterpillar was eating before it formed its chrysalis – parsnip leaves! I have gently arranged some garden debris around the chrysalis to give it some winter protection. I can't imagine wintering in a chrysalis in Ohio, but who knows? I await the spring!

Happy Gardening,
Susan Miller



Parsnip Bounty!



Swallowtail Chrysalis

Gatherings about Gardens

GARDENING KEEPS ME YOUNG by John Hershey
excerpted from GreenPrints 2021

I got my start in a community garden, where elders were revered as repositories of the knowledge we beginners needed to succeed. So, I've always respected senior garden mentors. I even grow elderberries. In a culture designed to appeal to the 18-35 cohort and glorify attractive young athletes, entertainers, and bachelorettes, the garden is one of the last places in our society where age is honored.

It takes years to figure out the nuances of soil fertility, crop rotation, vacation planning, and all the other factors of horticultural success, and the garden gives us regular reminders that we never know everything. Last year my corn shot up beautifully to knee-high, then just stopped growing, as if it thought the Fourth of July was the finish line rather than an intermediate checkpoint. I have no idea why, so I obviously still have much to learn. This is one of the things I have in common with Thomas Jefferson, who put it this way: "Though an old man, I am but a young gardener."

As I get closer to being an old man, I'm holding on to Jefferson's concept of remaining a young gardener in other ways. Certainly the exercise, fresh air, and healthy food rejuvenate us. And I used to feel young relative to the other gardeners. When I started gardening, it seemed like a hobby reserved mainly for older people. At the time of life when I started to feel older than everyone—not just sports stars, but my doctor, the adolescent TV newscasters, the other people in line at the dispensary—I was happy to find a place where I was the naïve yet ambitious upstart. (I'm just kidding about the dispensary.)

Now the garden fork has been passed to a new generation. Many young people, passionate about environmental and food issues, are getting into gardening. The new interest in gardening among the young gives me hope for the world, and hope that my clumsy efforts might still pass my love for growing healthy food to my own kids. Perhaps I have planted seeds that will germinate in them years later.

With all these 20-somethings sharing their garden skills on YouTube, I'm clearly moving into senior status myself. This shocking realization hit home when my wife listed my hair color as "gray" on my online fishing license application. Apparently "silvery blond" was not on the drop-down menu.



But I'm OK with this. In the garden, we don't mind getting older so much, because it's a place where we can feel wise and productive our whole lives. Aging is inevitable, but the garden is a good place to do it. It's even my retirement plan: I'm planting plum trees now so they'll start bearing plenty of fruit just when I enter my prime prune-eating years.

"There are two seasonal diversions that can ease the bite of any winter. One is the January thaw, the other is the seed catalogues."
~~Hal Borland

"To shorten winter, borrow some money due in spring."
~~W.J. Vogel

Til next time,
Judy Finnegan



BASIC BEEKEEPING

Presented by : Master Gardeners of Clark County

(MGV CE Credits = 7 hrs)



Fran and Tom Davidson Master Beekeepers



Tom demonstrating hive insulation

Join Fran and Tom Davidson for a 7 hour course about the amazing hobby/ business of beekeeping. The multi media course is a fascinating exploration of honeybee biology and the challenging relationship between the honeybee and the modern beekeeper. The course is designed for beginning beekeepers to successfully install and raise bees the first year and beyond. Tom and Fran are certified Master Gardeners and UFIFAS certified Master Beekeepers. They maintain 46 bee colonies in Clark county and have operated 'Golden Queen Honey' as a successful local beekeeping operation for 13 years.

When: Friday evening, January 13, 6:30-8:30 p.m. and
Saturday, January 14, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Bring or locally buy your own Lunch Saturday (1 hour break 12 -1 PM)

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

Cost: \$40 per person with textbook: "Bee-Sentials" by Connor & Muir.
\$25 without textbook (includes comprehensive notebook)

Register by: January 10, 2023

Please mail registration and payment to:
Basic Beekeeping, 10131 West National Road., New Carlisle, OH 45344
(Make checks payable to: Master Gardeners of Clark County)
Registration Checks will be returned if class capacity is reached.

Questions, contact:

Tom Davidson (937) 271-4023 Fran Davidson (937) 609-0956 or steady72@aol.com

Name: _____ \$ _____

Name: _____ \$ _____

Name: _____ \$ _____

Address _____

E-Mail _____ **@** _____ **Phone** _____



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Pictures from greenery cutting to community gardens.



Pam Bennett leading an impromptu CE session on different kinds of evergreens.



Greenery separated and waiting to be made into beautiful swags.



Karen and Drew Titone loading totes of greenery into truck to transport to SPGA so that they will be ready for the swag making.



Pam facilitating Community Gardens discussion in November.



Kim Bachman summarizing.

More pictures from swags to holiday pot luck.



Loretta Blazer and Judy Finnegan packaging up the SRCC Holiday Swags.



Many of the food items for the Holiday Food Drive collected at our MGV Holiday Pot Luck.



Pam Thullen and Mindy Hartley displaying some of the holiday decorations to be added to the swags for the cancer center.



MGV all trying to win the Ugly Sweater Contest at the Holiday Pot Luck.



Ornaments, ribbons, dried pods and pinecones to adorn the SRCC Holiday Swags.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

EXTENSION

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



MGV greenery cutting team with two four legged helpers at Karen Parson's home.

Happy
New Year
2023

The Master Gardener "Blades & Blooms" is a publication of the Ohio State University Extension, Clark County, 3130 East Main Street, Springfield, Ohio, 45505, 937.398.7600. The Master Gardener Advisor is Pam Bennett. <http://clark.osu.edu/program-areas/master-gardener-volunteers/blades-blooms-newsletters>

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