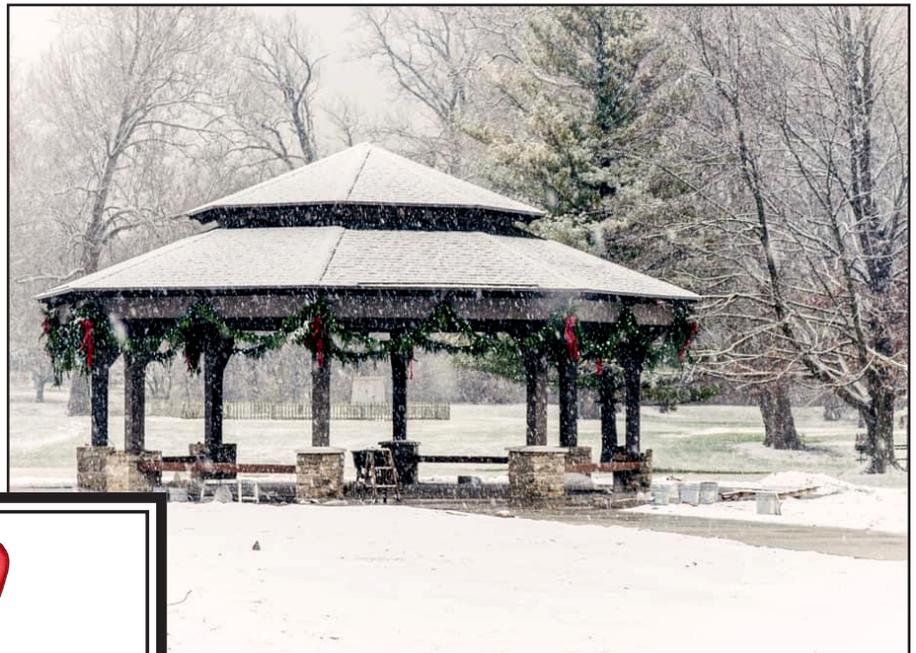


Blades and Blooms



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

Volume 28 Number 2 February, 2021



*Wingert Tossey Pavilion in the snow.
 Photographer, Andy Grimm.*



Mark Your Calendar

2	9-12	Mitchell Greenhouse cleaning - Postponed because of weather
	4-6	Springfield Foundation Feature Garden Committee Virtual
3	1-3	Garden and Plant Sell-a-bration planning meeting - Virtual
10	6-8	MGV Board of Trustees meeting - Virtual
16	10:30-12:30	Pollinator Garden Committee Meeting - Virtual
	4-6	Springfield Foundation Feature Garden Committee Virtual
17	1-3	Garden and Plant Sell-a-bration planning meeting - Virtual
20		B & B articles due
22	3-8	MGV Intern Graduation Celebration

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wow! Wow! Wow!

The Master Gardeners of Clark County are not allowing COVID to take Center Stage anymore!

There have been so many Zoom meetings these past few weeks that we can finally get this party started!

Copious amounts of plans have been made for this upcoming garden season. We are exhibiting each beautiful garden at Snyder Park twice this 2021 by sharing all of our knowledge to the public. More details to follow.

The entire area around the Wingert Tossey Pavilion needs completely redesigned and revamped to provide the gorgeous gardens for the arboretum. So many plans and many MGVs to fulfill those plans!

The Early Ohio Settlers Garden, Garden of Eatin', Victory Garden and the peony/hydrangea/Fallen Log gardens have started their plans.

Garden and Plant Celebration and SPGA Jubilee will return this year (depending on COVID). Stay tuned for details about sidewalks, signage and use of the pavilion.

We are so fortunate to have the 2020 Intern class who are sharing their skills, knowledge and passion for gardening. Watch out for a Zoom invitation to the Intern Celebration on February 22 @ 6pm.

2021 will be a joyous year for the Clark County Master Gardeners! I am extremely excited about this year and all that we will accomplish as a team!

In the Spirit of Master Gardener Volunteers,
Connie Mitchell - President



Pam's Posies

Dear MGVs,

The craziness of Covid 19 continues! I have just about reached my limit of winter, Covid 19 and working at home and not seeing you all! About a week ago I didn't think I could take it any longer so I took a few hours, went down to Snyder Park Gardens and Arboretum and just walked around for a little while. Being outside did wonders! The problem is I need to do this almost every day now to keep my sanity!

I hope that many of you are at the point of either having gotten or are getting your vaccines! Rich and I want you to be safe and comfortable if you decide to volunteer this spring. We also understand if you are not comfortable. Work with Rich on alternative activities that keep you engaged while staying at home.

Many of the counties in Ohio are hosting gardening programs. There are lots of online trainings that you can attend to help pass the winter months. Be sure to take advantage of the Zoom's that Rich is hosting for members. I know that many are tired of Zooming but it really is great to see each other's faces – even if it's through Zoom. Keep in mind that any meetings as well as training programs that you attend all count as volunteer hours in VMS.

Speaking of VMS, you have heard me talk that it's going away. I am in the midst of working with a group of people to create the new system. It's going to be great – after a few months of using it! Yes, there will be a learning curve and some growing pains but once we get used to it, you'll find that it's way better than VMS and has the potential to allow us to track others who volunteer for our programs. Stay tuned. Once I let the County MGV Coordinators know that VMS is going to be shut down, Rich will let you know when to stop using it.

We had a great Program Planning committee meeting last week and have quite a few programs lined up for this year. The Education Committee is also working hard at developing programs. Hopefully we will be able to have face to face programs by the time SPGA Garden Jubilee comes around.

The Annual Central Ohio Perennial School will be held but in a slightly different format. We are going to host the Zoom program on March 4th and 5th from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. I am still working on the line up. We are also going to have the Vegetable Garden

Pam's Posies cont. on pg. 3

RICH'S REMARKS

Wow! January draws rapidly to a close and it seems like the New Year began just moments ago! With the flurry of activity already buzzing, we can expect a busy, exciting, and productive season! Final touches are being applied to projects completed last year while new projects are already in the fast-track planning stages. We can expect a season of amazing growth at Snyder Park Gardens and Arboretum in 2021!

WINGERT TOSSEY PAVILION

The holiday decorations that graced the Pavilion so beautifully for all of December and most of January have completed their mission and were retired by some of those "elves" that respond so wonderfully to last minute requests. Thank you Karen and Drew Titone, Mark Finnegan, and Donna Myers. With less than a 24 hour notice, they arrived before the designated time and removed, trashed or stashed everything in an hour! Great job and thank you! The very next morning, Stull Woodworks returned to complete encasing the power line on one of the columns that was delayed until the stone bases were completed. Wow! I am looking forward to all our projects and events lining up so precisely and productively!

SPGA

Walks are complete from the driveway to the Wingert Tossey Pavilion – 10 ft. wide X 210 ft long; as are perimeter walks around the outside of the Pavilion floor. Early this coming spring, construction will resume to complete a walk from the Wingert Tossey Pavilion to the Clubhouse, 10 ft wide X approximately 180 ft. long, terminating at the existing paver walk along the west side of the Clubhouse; a walk 10 ft wide X 100 ft. long travelling west from the pavilion; and another walk 10 ft. wide X 100 ft. long traveling south, toward the Early Ohio Settlers Garden. The walk travelling west will provide access (eventually) to the new site for the Field Trials.

Entrance Garden

Laura Burchfield, Landscape Architect, has completed preliminary and conceptual design for the Entrance Garden that will span the 10 ft. wide concrete sidewalk and include part of that walk's length from the driveway to the Wingert Tossey Pavilion. It will include and feature stone salvaged from the Crowell Collier Building and from Memorial Hall. As we learned from the excavation needed for the construction of the Pavilion, there will be considerable engineering and excavation needed

Rich's Remarks cont. on pg.7

Pam's Posies cont. from pg. 2

Workshop on a two evening Zoom (March 18-19 from 5:30-8:00 p.m.) Rich will send out details for both programs when they are ready!

Wildflower Walks will start up again in March, either on the 5th or the 12th. I will let everyone know in advance the starting date and location. I can't wait to get out on the trails again.

Thanks as always for all you do for OSU Extension and the MGV program. We are so fortunate to have incredible volunteers to support our mission.

Pam

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



Happy Birthday's

17th *Judith Finnegan*
17th *Marty Harley*
18th *Fran Davidson*
22nd *Cynthia Valente*

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PERENNIAL COMMITTEE

I think I speak for all on our committee when we welcome Kathy back. We are so incredibly happy that she will be helping lead our team again. Yeah!! And what a year it is going to be. The chairs and the committee have met several times since December to begin planning our path for 2021. Our primary focus for this year is: 1.) All our emphasis and energies will be on the planning, installation and maintenance of the Springfield Foundation Feature Gardens. 2.) We will be working closely with the Planning and Design Committee. 3.) We are exploring the possibility of adding a Maintenance sub committee to help maintain the gardens. 4.) We are exploring opportunities to partner with local businesses and service organizations to help prepare, install and maintain the Springfield Foundation Feature Gardens. 5.) Lastly, but of no less importance, we will learn, teach and share our knowledge.

We are excited to begin our newest project at SPGA and the Springfield Foundation Feature Gardens. It will take many hours of planning, hard work and dedicated volunteers to accomplish this major project. Therefore, we would like to encourage our volunteers to jump on board our committee or just lend a hand whenever possible. We could use the extra hands, but together we know we are up to the task! Our rewards will be boundless! Hurry up Spring, we are anxious to begin.

Jerri Taylor, Kathy McConkey and Fabenne Brandenburg - Tri Chairs, Perennial Committee

Greenhouse Training Session

Rich Pearson and the Greenhouse Committee are working on a Greenhouse Training Sessions possibly on February 16th and 18th in the large conference room at the Extension office. There is a maximum of 15 people at each of these sessions. Currently we are working on whether that meets all of our guidelines. **Please stay tuned on this.** There will be emails sent out to everyone when you will be able to sign up for these session.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Have you seen the Wingert Tossy Pavilion at SPGA? Have you seen the winter picture of the "Beautiful" Wingert Tossy Pavilion? I wanted to say thank you to Missy Hawley and Loretta Blazer for sharing the picture with me. Also, thanks for sharing that it would make a beautiful Christmas card for Christmas 2021.

Thinking outside the box. Stay tuned. Like all of us, hopefully, soon we will be out working together.

Fabenne Brandenburg, Chairperson

RICH'S REMINDERS:

By now many if not all have heard that VMS is slated to be replaced sometime later this season. The exact date is not yet determined so please continue to access VMS for entering your completed hours information and checking for links to meetings and even for access to recordings. We will make every effort to give everyone as much advance notice as possible. We will also work on effective training as that new system comes online.

That said, I am still learning helpful things with VMS and am using it to our advantage right up to the end. I am now posting upcoming committee meetings, general meetings, and programming titles, dates, times, and links on the VMS Home Page and trying to remove passed event notices as quickly as possible. Further, I am learning how to record Zoom meetings that I host and loading the links for you to tune in and watch later.





Over the Garden Gate

by Wendy May

Janet Hannel

As a former school librarian, educating the public is dear to the heart of Class of 2004 member Janet Hannel. Describing herself as an avid environmentalist, she has converted her small neighborhood lot to native plantings, a small pond, and very little grass. Utzinger was her favorite volunteer site and she looks forward to the development of the pollinator garden at SPGA.

As a lifelong learner she has also trained as an Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist. Tending the birdfeeders and prairie plantings at the Polo Club brings great enjoyment in a beautiful setting. Young Woman's Mission which has operated the Nearly New Shop since 1952 has seen Janet's touch over the years.



The Splendid and the Vile: A Saga of Churchill, Family, and Defiance During the Blitz by Erik Larson has been the topic of a recent book club study. Though she has missed getting together with friends for lunch or other group activities,

this book brings into perspective that despite suffering and great losses, we too will survive.

Connie Kersey

In her role as a National Sales Trainer for Century 21, Connie Kersey, Class of 2012, enjoyed traveling in her professional life and now follows that passion participating in trips and tours. Describing a weeklong trip to Ecuador as a "very humbling experience" she highly recommends it to other gardeners. Having visited Chicago, London, and many Ohio sites, she relates, "Master Gardeners make the absolute best traveling companions for a day or weeks; they know how to have fun!" Once traveling as a group is again possible she looks forward to the Field Trip Committee offering more events which she describes as a "relaxing way to gain knowledge and enjoy the camaraderie of MGVs."



She and her husband, Stan have a blended family of 8 children, 17 grandchildren, and 11 great grandchildren with #12 & #13 on the way. Though family has high priority, so do Old English Sheepdogs which they have raised over the past 35 years.

Singing the praises of physical therapy Connie is feeling 100% after being sidelined this past gardening season and is ready to get her "hands back in the dirt" this spring.

Backyard News

The Blades and Bloom would like to introduce a new columnist to our monthly newsletter. Her name is Susan Miller, a 2020 intern that is eager to be involved in all the things that Clark County Master Gardener Volunteers has to offer. Here is a little about her and her first column.

I've been gardening since I was a kid, growing everything imaginable, although I have a special fondness for annuals. I first heard of Master Gardener Volunteers when I read an article about it when I was about 30 years old. A couple decades later, my husband Tom and I were at one of our favorite Springfield festivals, the Monarch Butterfly Festival. The Master Gardeners of Clark County had a table set up, and we found out a new class was forming! We signed up and became members of the class of 2020.

The training was fabulous and spending time with fellow gardeners was grand. Covid 19 ended our last few classes, but we gardeners are a resilient bunch. We've been profoundly grateful for the effort and creativity that has gone into keeping the Master Gardener Volunteers connected and learning.

Backyard News

Last summer I tried a parsnip called Harris Early Model. Black Swallowtail caterpillars (*Papilio polyxenes*) loved them! I had the privilege of watching Black Swallowtails develop through their various instars all summer. It was a delight. Eventually, as the season wound down, they disappeared.

The day after Thanksgiving I was picking those parsnips and happened upon another caterpillar. I knew it couldn't make it through the winter, so I brought it into my house with a bunch of parsnips leaves. Over the next week that caterpillar devoured those leaves, to the point where I started to worry about running out. I needn't have worried.

The caterpillar turned itself into a chrysalis and is spending the winter in my refrigerator. We both dream of spring.

Next summer I will tuck Harris Early Model Parsnips in beds all over my yard, just for the Black Swallowtails. I must add that the parsnips themselves were rather woody, so I will also be trying another variety. Will the swallowtails like the new variety? Will the Harris Early Model Parsnips be less woody next year?



Black Swallowtail caterpillar in summer

Stay tuned,
Susan Miller



Black Swallowtail caterpillar ready to turn into a chrysalis



Black Swallowtail caterpillar chrysalis

Rich's Remarks cont. from pg. 3

to safely secure these stone pieces in this garden. This engineering component is very necessary for the safe and durable installation of many pieces of stone planned for this garden, but has necessarily added extra time to the planning and design process. Stay tuned for updates, we are expecting to begin construction on this project this season.

Springfield Foundation Feature Garden

We have a significant donor, Springfield Foundation, funding the Feature Garden. This is planned to be an expanded "mixed border" style garden focused in the area between the Wingert Tossey Pavilion and the Clubhouse, providing boundary definition to the north and south sides of the lawn area on either side of the above-mentioned walk with a multiple season display of herbaceous and woody perennials and high impact annuals. A group of volunteers began the design process in early 2020 and were forced to pause due to COVID restrictions. We subsequently and recently, reconvened with additional volunteers from the Perennial Committee. I presented a re-cap of the design process experienced previously with a power point presentation and we have developed a plan for completion of the design, sourcing the plant material, amending and preparing the beds, and planting the garden(s) before May 01, 2021. We will meet regularly to review design work previously completed, revise it to fit some new parameters, and forge ahead: complete design by end of February; source and order plant material by end of March; receive plant material and install by end of April/early May. Bed amendment and preparation will proceed through January and February as weather and temperature permit. We have a very ambitious timeline proposed but we know it will all work out fine, right?! If you would like to check out the progress and direction of this great committee, go to the "Newsletters/Documents" tab on VMS and then click on "Feature Garden" for access to the current and rough concepts, site plans, resource documents, and the aforementioned Power Point presentation. Stay tuned for great things!

Committee Chairs Planning Meeting

Scheduled for Monday, January 25, this was a working meeting leading to a product of identifying, refining, recording, and calendaring the events of the year to come, relative to any restrictions and exemptions related to the COVID Pandemic. Discussions and consideration are underway for Perennial School, Plant Sell – A – Bration, SPGA

Jubilee and more. Stay tuned for updates via VMS email or other postings.

Committee activities

- The **Greenhouse Committee** Co-Chairs have met and are planning the new season.
- The **Perennial Committee** is surging forward with the new addition of a sub-committee: **Springfield Foundation Feature Garden** and are actively engaged in finalizing the design, sourcing and ordering plants, bed preparation, and scheduling and completing planting.
- **Early Ohio Settlers Garden** is planning and organizing for the new season, including organizing a group of Co-Chairs.
- **Garden of Eatin'** is planning and will be working with the Greenhouse Committee to arrange space for producing their needed transplants.
- There is the emergence of a new committee with 4 Co-Chairs planning a garden to begin implementation this coming Autumn, **The Pollinator Garden Committee**.

There are many more committees activating and planning for the coming season. My apologies for not mentioning all in deference to my deadline here!

I am looking forward to another great, productive, learning and growing season and working with each and every one of you extraordinary Master Gardener Volunteers!

Thank you ALL for the positive differences you make!

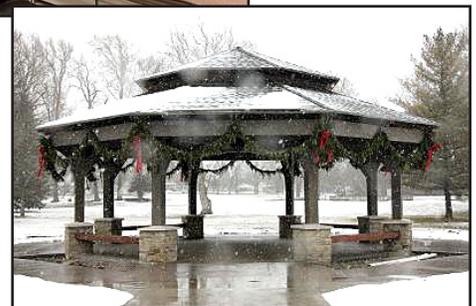
Rich

Look How Far We Have Come



*Wingert Tossey Pavilion
February 2020*

*Wingert Tossey Pavilion
February 2021*





THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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Wingert Tossey Pavilion. Picture taken by Deb Brugger.

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