We welcome and need your input. This is our newsletter. Let’s keep it going as strong as ever!

Remember, if you haven’t done so already, payment of dues are due by Friday, February 9th. Form attached to newsletter.

Please send any articles, pictures, etc. to MGVnewsletter@gmail.com. All items intended for publication MUST be submitted by the 25th of each month.
What a great ending to 2017! Many thanks to our banquet girls, June, Toni, Sara, and Peg for a wonderful night. It was nice to recognize all the hard work our committees accomplish and to welcome our new interns.

We said good-bye to Marilyn as our president, but I'm sure she'll still be very involved with all our projects.

Sheila gave a report on the programs that the OCVNS offered to the public. I was able to attend the program on owls and it very interesting and well attended and was informed the raptor program was a full house.

Dave's slide show on the "fun times" of the clinic proves the you can learn new things and have fun doing it.

And last but not least thanks to Margaret and June for bringing us the delicious cakes from Mocha House. We all know that calories don’t count during the holidays!

As you know January was our organization meeting and sheets for committees were passed around. We had a great number of members sign up, this allows us to continue being a strong and active group. We will have the committee sheets available at the Feb. meeting for the people who were not at the Jan. meeting.

COMING ATTRACTIONS:

2018 MG Class: We’ll be getting ready to start our new MG class, the date for our open house for people interested in taking the class is Feb. 12 at 1:00. We’ll discuss this more at our Feb. meeting.

Canfield Fair: We had some ideas for the Canfield Fair theme. Floral Gardens Farm to Table Organic Gardening Theme Gardens (knot herb beds, veggies) and Zinnia Mass Planting.. Pinky and Lil will expand on the idea of the zinnia mass planting at our Feb. meeting.

Spring Seminar: We’re also planning a Spring Seminar to be held in April 17th. Some ideas for topics for classes were: Water Gardens (taught by June) Horticultural Therapy (taught by Lil) Rain Gardens Garden Maintenance For Real Life Green Roofs (taught by Margaret?) How to Attract Birds to Your Backyard and Growing Unusual Edibles. So bring your ideas to our Feb. meeting for the fair and seminar and we can choose our themes and classes and move on with planning.

-Pam
If you are interested in horticulture therapy please contact Marilyn. Arrangements will be made to visit MGV in Cuyahoga County who have been doing this for years and are about to start a new program. Would like to try to do this soon. Please contact Marilyn by March 1st.

2018 Upcoming Events
February 10th—Beech Creek Botanical Garden Symposium 8am—4 pm
February 12th - MGV Open House1pm
February 26th—Coffee with the Master Gardeners Backyard Maple Syrup: Tap Those Trees
March 22nd—MGV classes start (If helping with class, please park across the street at the fairgrounds if you are able to without any problems)
April 14th—Spring Seminar—Details to follow at later date.

MGV 2018 Meeting Schedule
February 8 –Angie Bowman from Park’s: Creating a Habitat Landscape 6:30 p.m.
March 8—Lisa Chronister from East Liverpool: Artistic Gourds 6:30 p.m.
April 12 —Meet at MCTC—Mary June Emerson will talk on her horticulture program 6:30 p.m.
May 10—Plant Exchange and Potluck, OSUE 6 pm
June 14—Tentative garden tour at Pinky Steffen’s home

HONEY BEES DON’T HELP THE ENVIRONMENT
-Eric Barrett

As we continue to teach classes and respond to homeowner/resident questions about pollinators and bees, I would like everyone to be up-to-date on the topic. We talk about these things a lot, but we want to be sure we are clear with clientele on the difference between the non-native honey bee and our native bees here in the Mahoning Valley. While we support honey bees and honey production, we want to be clear that native bees are the preference for conservation and sustainability. Check out this great article from NPR in January:
January MGV Meeting

The January meeting of the Master Gardeners volunteers was opened by President, Pam Baytos on January 11, 2018 at 6:40 p.m. The pledge was given.

Ms. Baytos stated the policy 1.50 form (working with minors) needs to be signed. This needs to be done by the 25th to record your hours.

The forms for COMMITTEE SIGN UP were passed around and the OPEN HOUSE for prospective Master Gardeners will be held on February 12, 2018 at 1 p.m.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS were named:

- BOTO will be chaired by Carolyn Fankhauser, Lil Quaranta and Pinky Steffen
- WREATHS FOR OUR VETERANS will be Co-chaired by Mike Beaudis and Margaret Biroschak.
- PHENOLOGY David Sprague will continue chairing
- NEWSLETTER will be Peggy Griffith
- HOSPITALITY will be chaired by Peg Zeleznik

A discussion was held on the theme for the Canfield Fair. The planning needs to begin soon. Some ideas were:

- A perennial garden
- Farm to table
- Organic
- Flowers with a trellis
- Zinnias

Chair and Co-chair are still needed for this committee.

Also discussed was a Spring Seminar to be held on possibly April 14, 2018 if the rental is available. This year there will be heaters!

Ideas given for classes were:

- Water gardens
- Landscaping
- How to Over Winter Tropical Plants
- Horticulture therapy
- Rain Gardens
- Planting for birds
- Natural dyes for yarns
- Growing unusual edibles.

Presenters will have 45 minutes to present their topic.

We currently have 47 on the list for the new Master Gardener class and there are 22 manuals.

Eric Barrett was on WKBN radio and the OCVN training begins soon. The Junior naturalist program has a 60 page manual. This program will be for grades 9 through 12. If you bring foods to the various programs, it is recommended that you take the Quality cook course.

Pinky Steffen is currently finding speakers for the meetings.

If you are working with children, YOU
Finally, MCCTC is cutting their horticultural classes. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

MGV Class of 2017
In Their Own Words
Lisa Kennedy

I've been wanting to join the master gardeners forever! But kept missing the proverbial boat, or... should I say, Wheelbarrow? Well last year I finally did it, and it was just as enriching as I had hoped.

The only “gardening experience” I had from my family was picking up sticks in the yard when we went to visit my Grandma, so I had to turn to the neighbors for help on that one. Seeing them growing food in their own backyard was so astounding to me; Because My back yard was full of rocks!

As I looked to my neighbors for the magic that was growing in their back yards, there was plenty of strawberries and tomatoes, and then some beautiful flowers, Roses, and Bleeding Hearts, that always drew my attention.

When I was old enough, I made the case for a garden of my own. Once my mother conceded, I went straight to my “tool shed” erm... garage, & took out the only tool we had,..... a pick axe! And proceeded to dig. Yep... with a pick axe.

My Mother had allotted me a 6x8 foot space to dig a garden, which was about 5 ft north of a tree. That’s right, roots galore, that rocky back yard, and the unyielding shade of an old maple tree. She might as well have given me a 3x6 grave plot, because everything I planted, Died! : ( 

These days my garden is a bit bigger, with a raised bed on the south side of the house, where it flourishes. I love to grow and use herbs on a daily basis, stepping outside and snipping some fresh herbs for a recipe is such a delight. I have a special place in my heart, and garden, for Heirloom Tomatoes, and as far as flowers go, Dahlias have been my favorite so far, The bigger the Variety the Better!

When I’m not tending to my garden or my grandchildren (my own little gardeners, who just love to harvest their own snacks of fresh strawberries and basil), I spend a lot of time at Mill Creek Park, where I take my 89 year old Mother to enjoy The Rose Garden, & The Dahlia Garden. Picnics and outings, at the park with the rest of my family are enjoyed on a regular basis.

I also love Biking & Spinning. And try to attend at least one Art Retreat a year.

And I’d like to take this time to Thank All The current Master Gardeners, for all of their Volunteer work and Welcoming of The New Trainees this past year. All the hours you put in to teach us and welcome us has meant a lot. Thanks again to each and everyone of you, and I am looking forward to your kind hearts and expertise again this year. : )

Sincerely, Lisa Kennedy MGV
Our Heirloom Perennials
By Marilyn McKinley
Pam Baytos

Our president, Pam, has been around awhile. She took the training in 1999, in Trumbull County. Pam is one of the most creative people I have ever known. She sees a picture, hears an idea, and away she goes, creating yet another masterpiece.

If you have not visited Pam’s yard, well you need to. It is filled with beautiful flowers, Pam made garden art, a wonderful veggie garden, a pool, and a hot tub! How cool would it be to live out in the country, garden a while, then go jump in the pool to cool off? What a life! Pam’s yard is a whimsical place. It takes time to realize and absorb just how much stuff is there!

Pam is a busy and active person. Over the years Pam has been involved in and volunteered for many community projects. Always a leader, she has given many classes at Fellows Riverside Gardens, been in an herb guild, the list goes on. Pam has done a lot of research and written many articles.

Pam and her man Stan, are proud old self-proclaimed Hippies. If you hang around them for very long you are gonna hear some fun stories from the days gone by. Hobbies are gardening (of course!), traveling – has been to China - and old car shows.

If you are looking for Pam – try Columbus. Pam and Stan are the proud grandparents of twin boys, born last December. Much to Pam’s dismay, the boys live in Columbus where their parents live and work! Being the mother of twin boys myself (now 46 years old!) I speak from experience, there will be days when she will indeed be thankful she is their grandma, not their mom! I have grandsons too, have to admit – they are the best!

When I talked to Pam about this article she told me “it will be a short article, I haven’t done much”. Baloney!

The Mahoning County MGVs are so lucky to have a person like Pam as our president. She will bring fresh ideas, fun things to do and learn, and along the way, you should plan to laugh – a lot!
BRING ON THE SUN!

Marilyn McKinley

Today something bright appeared in the sky, the sun – a rare occurrence in NE OH, especially in the winter. Get this, our area has only 160 days a year of ANY sunshine. Do the math, that’s 205 days without! Compare that to Phoenix with 85% of the days in a year filled with sunshine. No wonder I am craving sunshine!

We usually plan to go somewhere in January or February to get a sunshine fix. This year I decided to go to Spain, Monaco, France, and Italy. Now, the sunshine and warmth quota are not that of FL or AZ, but days were sunny, temps in low 60’s. Good enough! I saw lemons on trees the size of grapefruits, olive trees with olives you could pick and eat. On the French Rivera I saw the beautiful blue Mediterranean Sea, green mountains, flowers, and yachts in Monte Carlo that were truly amazing. Where do so many people get so much money? Barcelona, Spain was so cool, all the Gaudi architecture. If you are not familiar with his works, please Google him, just amazing stuff.

So, here I am, back in mostly cloudy NE OH, impatiently waiting for spring. How do I deal with it? I attend as many gardening seminars as I can afford, leaf through my seed catalogs, today I’m going to take advantage of the SUN and go for a walk.
INVOICE

January 2, 2018

Please pay the 2018 Support Fee by Friday, February 9th.

2018 Master Gardener Volunteer Support Fee

State dues must be paid to be reactivated in the VMS System.

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MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE:
Ohio State University Extension
Mahoning County
490 S. Broad Street
Canfield, OH 44406-1604
Monday, February 12, 1pm
490 S. Broad St. Canfield, OH
Questions: 330-533-5538

Open House
Master Gardener Volunteer Program

Join us for some social time to talk about the program, enjoy refreshments and fellowship with current volunteers. We’ll share details about our upcoming training and help you with any questions about joining. Classes start March 22nd.

The OSU Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program provides intensive training in horticulture to interested Ohio resident who then volunteer their time assisting with educational programs and activities in Mahoning County. Volunteers are not required to have gardening skills or knowledge; a passion for learning about gardening and sharing this knowledge with others is a must!

Master Gardener Volunteers provide such educational services to their communities as: answering gardening questions from the public; conducting plant clinics; gardening activities with children, senior citizens, or disabled persons; beautifying the community; developing community or demonstration gardens; and other horticultural activities.
Coffee with the Master Gardeners

Backyard Maple Syrup
Who doesn’t love fresh maple syrup on their pancakes in the morning? If you want to learn how to collect your own maple syrup, join us for some coffee!

Speaker: Carolyn F., Master Gardener Volunteer

Monday, February 26
9:30 am—Coffee, Donuts, Refreshments
10 am–12 pm—Program

Location: 490 S. Broad St. Canfield, OH
Cost: $15/person
Details: Register ASAP – Seating is limited
Contact: 330-533-5538

Registration Information. Registration for Coffee with the Master Gardeners includes the program, coffee and a light breakfast, and handouts. Please mail to 490 S. Broad St. Canfield, OH 44406, fax (330-533-2424), or drop off the registration to the OSU Extension Office. The program is filled on a "first come, first served basis."

Name: _________________________________
Address: _______________________________
Email: ________________________________ Phone: ________________________________
Number Attending (x $15): __________________________ Amount Enclosed: __________________________

The Ohio State University
College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information: go.osu.edu/cfaesdiversity

mahoning.osu.edu
**Symposium Registration**

Deadline: February 3 (after the 4th, add $5.00)

Enter the amount below for which you are including payment:

- **Symposium $46.00** $__________
  - (non-member of Beech Creek Gardens)
- **Symposium $41.00** $__________
  - (member of Beech Creek or horticulture student)
- [ ] Join or Renew w/Beech Creek Gardens
  & save $10.00 on the Symposium!
- **BC Individual Membership $30.00** $__________
- **BC Family Membership $50.00** $__________

Optional: Lunch $8.00 $__________

Select one:
- [ ] Roasted Turkey
- [ ] Honey Baked Ham
- [ ] Mediterranean Veggie
- [ ] Chef Salad

Workshop Supplies $20.00 $__________

(add per person after Feb. 4)

Total Enclosed $__________

Name_____________________________________

Address_____________________________________

City__________ST__________Zip__________

Ph.________________________

Email_____________________________________

Mail your registration & payment to:
Beech Creek Gardens
11202 Beach S1NE
Alliance, OH 44601

Copy both sides for your records.

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**Keynote Address**

One hundred years of Front Yards: The Evolution of the Foundation Planting

When we think of the foundation planting, one word usually comes to mind: yuck. And yet, this style of landscape persists in cities around the country. Through the past 100 years, the way homeowners designed their front yards changed, often with historical events, often as house styles changed. This presentation will showcase the changes that have taken place in Ohio cities from the 1920’s through modern times, and inspire you!

*Dr. Laura Deeter,* is currently a Full Professor of Horticulture at Ohio State ATI in Wooster, OH teaching a multitude of horticulture classes including: Woody & Herbaceous Plant Identification, Landscape Design, Sustainable Landscaping, Plant Health Management, and Landscape Construction to name a few.

She was awarded the... ATI Distinguished Teaching Award twice, the OSU Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching, the Perennial Plant Association Teaching Award, the American Horticulture Society Teaching Award, and the Perennial Plant Association Service Award.

She travels extensively around the country speaking on a variety of topics ranging from taxonomy and horticulture to shade gardens, design, color, and specialty gardens and plants.

Dr. Deeter received her PhD in horticulture from The Ohio State University after studying root salt tolerance in herbaceous perennials under Dr. Steve Still.

At home she gardens on her tenth of an acre with her lab, two kids and three dogs, 100 pink flamingos and counts her 300+ species of perennials as dear friends.

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**Garden Vendors**

- Books
- Live Plants
- Local Honey
- Garden Art
- Ceramic Pottery
- Handmade Soaps
- Garden Supplies
- Home-made Food
- Jewelry & More

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**Box Lunch from "Honey Baked Ham"**

Choose (include beverage, chips, soda, #1, 2, 3 or #4)

1) Roasted Turkey
2) Honey Baked Ham
3) Mediterranean Veggie
4) Chef Salad

Lunch is optional - cost is $5.00

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**15th Annual Beech Creek Garden Symposium**

February 10, 2018

at R.G. Drage Career Center
6005 Richville Dr. SVMarion, OH

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**Session Topics**

- 32 Weeks of Bloom & Color
- Small Space Vegetable Gardening
- Nature’s Course: Permaculture Garden
- Creative Container Beauty
- Gardening w/Native Plants
- Hands-on, Make & Take Workshop:
  - Art in the Garden River Rock Ram Chain

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**Keynote Address**

by Dr. Laura Deeter

One Hundred Years of Front Yard Gardening

330-823-7050 info@beechcreekgardens.org

beechcreekgardens.org
Small Space Veggie Gardening

Want to grow food but have little space? Learn design tricks and plant varieties that are suitable for small spaces and containers. This informative session will teach you techniques to grow intensively, to extend your season and plan succession crops. Garden preparation, maintenance and harvesting will also be covered. Don’t let a small space keep you from having fresh foods just outside your door!

Lynn Gregor, has nearly 25 years of horticulture experience, specializing in urban agriculture & education. Lynn worked with community gardeners in Cleveland for 10 years with OSU Extension. There she established the market garden program and co-founded City Seeds. She is the co-author of A Place To Grow: Hope and Danger of Urban Gardening. Currently she works with the non-profit, Green Sprout, on developing school garden programs and other local food system development projects. She is also the co-owner of Seed + Sting, a vendor at the Haymaker Farmers’ Market in Kent that sells heirloom seeds and handmade color planter boxes.

Workshop ~ Make & Take Art in the Garden: River Rock Rain Chain

Transform your plant garden downtown into a pleasing water feature. From the soft tinkling of individual droplets to the soothing rustle of white water, rain chains are a treat to listen to. Using a combination of river rock and recycled colored glass — your beautiful rain chain will guide rain water visibly from the roof to the ground artistically. All supplies included, supply fee $10.00.

Melinda Carmichael, is Associate Director of Beech Creek Botanical Garden & Nature Preserve. She has worked as a Manager & Administrator in the horticulture profession for 38 years. Along with her organizational skills, Melinda is a florist and loves sharing this creativity with others. She has taught thousands of people a variety of topics including wreath making, floral arranging, basket weaving, and more.

52 Weeks of Bloom & Color

Did you know there is something blooming with interest in the garden every week of the year? Join us for a year in review as we take a photographic journey through the seasons, discovering all of the hidden gems of the garden. We will discuss trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals and all of the aspects that make a garden shine throughout the year.

Michelle Riley, is owner of All About You Signature Landscape Design, Inc., founder of NVGding.com. She is certified through the Ohio Department of Agriculture, and member of the Ohio Landscape Association. Michelle has designed, landscaped and maintained gardens, estates and commercial landscapes throughout Ohio, Cleveland and the surrounding area for over 20 years. In addition, she has completed landscape design in Chicago, Wisconsin, as well as Champaign, New York. Michelle is a Landscape Contractor that is passionate about your landscape experience. Her designs disclose her ability to "tune into" the customers' needs.

Taking Nature’s Course: The Permaculture Garden

Focus falling on pesticides, why is gardening often approached as a battle against nature? Yet, if we observe healthy natural systems in their own right, they are both productive and resilient - all without human intervention. This disconnect between how we often operate in the world and how nature operates, gives rise to what is known as permaculture. From principals to practicalities, this session will introduce gardeners to the benefits of gardening with nature as our teacher. No matter your level of expertise, participants will find the exciting and innovative techniques offered by permaculture to be a refreshing approach to gardening.

Jonathan Hall, is a permaculture educator, designer, and consultant. After receiving his Permaculture Design Certificate (PDC) in 2006, he co-founded Green Triangle, a Cleveland area network of permaculture educators and designers. He has also taught a diverse range of workshops on topics such as soil restoration, bio-char stove construction, site mapping and home weatherization. An avid researcher and experimenter, he is dedicated to making permaculture accessible to everyone.