

Flora and Fauna

The Mahoning County ANR Volunteer Newsletter
Ohio State University Extension – Mahoning County
490 South Broad Street
Canfield, Ohio 44406
330-533-5538
<http://mahoning.osu.edu>



Volume 17 Issue 5

May 2018



Please send any articles, pictures, etc. to MGVnewsletter@gmail.com. All items intended for publication MUST be submitted by the 25th of each month.

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

MAY BIRTHDAYS:

5/5 Toni B.	5/17 Lawanda R.
5/5 Carolyn F.	5/19 Cathryn J.
5/9 Jane P.	5/27 Maggie W
5/11 Kelly P.	

Flag Placement Volunteers needed on Saturday May 19th, 2018 at 9 AM at Oak Hill Cemetery located at [344 Oak Hill Ave. Youngstown, Ohio 44502](#) (across from old Southside Hospital). Meet flag placement volunteers at the service building, located in the back of the cemetery

The group led by Bill Broadhead and Steffon Wydell Jones will be placing Memorial Day Veteran flags this day. For more information, contact Mr. Jones at 330-259-2091.

Note this will not go toward Master Gardener Volunteer hours, but it is a chance to do community service.

President Pam's Perspective

I'd like to thank everyone for their hard work at our Spring Seminar. The weather was wonderful this year and I think the attendees enjoyed our selection of classes. It was nice that we were able to offer some class selections that I haven't seen at other mg seminars.

May's meeting will be our pot-luck and plant exchange. We'll be starting at 6:00 pm instead of 6:30. Make sure your plants are labeled with their name, we'd like to have a limit of three plants for the exchange, but if you have extra plants to share bring them along. We'll draw numbers to know the order of choosing your plant. We're inviting the 2018 class members to join us at this meeting. For those of you who haven't been to the office on a Thursday to meet our new class, this will be your opportunity. Let's make them feel welcomed and be open to answering questions they may have.

Our state awards committee has finally finished the paperwork to be sent to Columbus! We're nominating the Canfield Fair as our Project of the Year, Parks Garden Center as our Friend of Master Gardener and Marilyn McKinley as Master Gardener of the Year. The State Conference will be held in the Cincinnati area this year.

Be On The Lookout!!! Changes are coming to our VMS system. OSU has given us new Impact Areas that our projects will be fit into. We'll be sending out an e-mail (for you to print) that will show which impact areas our projects will be under when you add your hours. This change is still in progress so when we get things set up and ready to start using, we'll go over everything with you. Having a couple of classes might make things easier. We'll keep you posted as we go.

David Sprague came to me with an idea to add a new section to our newsletter for book suggestions. Something small where people can suggest books they've read with a few sentences on what they liked, learned or found interesting about the book. Let's start making our lists of favorite reads to share with our master gardeners. David has offered to give the first "book report".

Title: The Hidden Life of Trees

Author: Peter Wohlleben

I found this book to be very enlightening and entertaining. While it includes scientific research, it's written in an easy to read, conversational style. The book describes trees as social creatures who help each other through their lives. The book talks about the ways they communicate, share resources and provide for their common defense. For instance, I learned that trees use their roots and cooperating fungi to send signals to each other. That trees live on a different time scale than we do. A small tree, with a one or two-inch diameter trunk, you may find on a walk through a forest might already be a 100 years old, with potentially many centuries ahead of it. Groups of trees can create their own local environment, that regulates the temperature and moisture around them. And nut producing trees can control the population of nut consuming animals in an area by producing more or fewer nuts on different years. The goal, for the trees, is to have fewer animals around, increasing the likelihood that more nuts will survive to germinate. I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in trees, forests, the environment, or ecology. It's a first-rate book that packs a lot of insight into a couple of hundred ges. The author, Peter Wohlleben, has been a German forester for many years.

ODD and Ends

May 10—Plant Exchange and Potluck, OSUE 6 pm

June 14—Garden tour at Pinky Steffen's home

July 12—Third annual MGV's Flower show, categories to be announced. Should we add garden photography to the show?

August 9— Finalize plans for fair . Tentative meeting at Peg Zeleznik's house

September 13 –TBA

October 11—Sheila Cubick will present a program on her July 2017 trip to and tour of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

November 8—Fellows Christmas Tree Preparation

December 3—ANR Volunteer Banquet to be held at LaRiccia Pavilion. Rotary Room in Boardman Park from 6pm to 10 pm

December 8—Veteran's Wreaths 11 a.m.

Kim Lewis from the Green Team is doing a special composting class that is **ONLY** for MGV's and OCVNs. The program will be held on Thursday, September 13thth from 1pm—3pm at the OSU Extension Office.

If you are a Mahoning County resident, please bring \$10 if you would like a composting bin. They are black, about 28" tall and round. There is an example by the shed at the office under the tree if you want to check it out. This is only for Mahoning County residents due to the Green Team's funding.

To register, please call the office and put your name on the list. The \$10 **IS NOT PAYABLE** to us. You will need to bring the \$10 to the class on September 13th and pay Kim Lewis directly.

April MGV Meeting

The April meeting of the Master Gardener Volunteers was held at MCCTC on April 12, 2018. The President, Pam Baytos, called the meeting to order. The pledge to the flag was led by Al Leonhart.

Pinky Steffen introduced our speaker for the evening, Mary June Emerson, horticulture teacher at the school (also a MGV). She spoke on the history of the horticulture program at the career center and the new changes in the direction of the curriculum for the next school year. Those attending also toured the greenhouse.

Marilyn McKinley announced two upcoming educational events: 4/18/18 "Bees of the Great Lakes Region" webinar and 5/17/18 "All About Vegetables," Medina County.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Local Flavor: Thresea Harris. Schedule is almost complete.

Clinic: B. Borman (in absence of David Sprague). Clinic up and running on Monday and Thursday from 9am to 12 noon.

Canfield Fair: Peg Zeleznik and Rhonda Harris. Theme announced, "Grandma's Backyard Garden." Next committee meeting will be 4/23 in boardroom. More space has now been allotted for the display.

Building and Grounds: Clean up will be on 4/21 at 9:00am.

Hospitality: Peg Zeleznik announced that there are still open slots for providing food and refreshments for the MGV class. There will be food safety on-line training on April 16 in the clinic at noon.

Junior Master Gardeners: Kary Shively stated that the first meeting was April 3. The group will meet every other Tuesday at St. Pat's Church with the next meeting on April 17 at 5:30.

Newsletter: Peggy Griffith encouraged the group to send in articles to mgvnewsletter@gmail.com.

2018 Garden Art Series: Pam Baytos provided the revised schedule: Living wreath on June 11; Alcohol ink on yupo paper on Oct. 15; and holiday container on Nov. 26.

Community Outreach: Judy Rodkey announced opportunities for programs for May and October at the Boardman Library. See her if interested in presenting.

State Awards: Marilyn McKinley announced three nominations, which will be sent to the state convention to be held in Cincinnati in September. MGV Projects: Canfield Fair 2017; Friend of MGV: Tim Parks of Parks Nursery; and Outstanding MGV: Marilyn McKinley.

Spring Seminar: Eric Barrett passed out the sign up list for review and announced the set up on Friday and time to arrive on Saturday.

MGV Training continues with 20 class members. A sign-up sheet for mentors was passed around. MGVs are encouraged to stop in and visit the class.

The next MGV meeting will be held on Thursday, May 10th. It's our casserole dinner and BOTO event.

Becky Borman—MGV

April OCVN meeting

OCVN -MCMP Public Meeting
2/14/18

If you missed the OCVN-MCMP Public meeting on the Ice Ages, you missed one of the best programs I have heard in quite a while. Mr. Dale Gnidovec, Curator and Collections Manager from the OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY, School of Earth Sciences Ohio Orton Geological Museum was a dynamic speaker with a wealth of knowledge. He spoke about the turning of the Earth on it's axis that caused Ice Ages, why we have different soils, the finding of fossils, and climate change accelerated by us.

I look forward to him coming back to speak on Dinosaurs.

Nancy Brundage—MGV/OCVN

Trumbull County Master Gardener 2018 Free Garden Programs

May 16th—Ephemerals

May 30th—Planning and Planting a Vegetable Garden

June 13th—Creative Containers

June 27th—Native Plants

July 11th—Hostas

July 25th—Care of Garden Tools

August 8th—Blooming Hydrangeas

August 22nd—Geraniums—
Propagating Over Winter

September 5th—Stink Bugs

September 19th—Growing House-
plants

October 3rd—Healthy Soil

All the above garden programs are held on Wednesdays in the Garden at 6 pm
Bring your own lawn chair.

For more information or to attend these programs, contact:

**Agriculture and Family Education
Center**

520 West Main Street, Suite 1

Cortland, OH 44410

330-638-6783

Upcoming 2018 OCVN Events

Jr. OCVN Program will be held by the park this summer.

The OCVN State Conference will be held June 8 & 9, 2018 at the Lake MetroParks Environmental Center in Concord Township in Northeast Ohio. The topic of the conference is At the Edge, Restoring, Protecting and Interpreting Ohio's Ecosystems. Information can be found by Googling OCVN. Registration will open in March. Field trips will be held on Friday and seminars on Saturday. We are fortunate to have the conference held in Northeast Ohio



So you want to compost indoors

Here's what you'll need:

- 5-gallon bucket with lid (and drill if the lid doesn't have holes)
- Hand shovel
- Mixed "greens": Food waste or plant scraps
- Mixed "browns": Wood chips, leaves, sawdust or newspaper
- Small bag of potting soil



1. Drill air holes in bucket lid about 2 to 3 inches apart.

2. Place 1 to 2 cups potting soil in your bucket.

3. Layer "browns" on top of potting soil, then layer in "greens." Alternate back and forth.

Note:

Cut food scraps into smaller pieces to allow air flow. For example, cut watermelon rinds into 1-inch sections. With more surface area, the material breaks down faster.



Add a small handful of wood chips if the mix seems to be getting too compact.

4. Mix every one to two days to improve air flow and keep water from building up at the bottom.

5. If the mix starts to smell, add more wood chips or newspaper. Check to make sure it's not too wet, and stop adding new material.

6. As the container gets about three quarters full, mix only the top half or two thirds of the compost to allow the bottom portion to finish composting.

7. Once it's done, take out the bottom portion and continue composting the top portion.

8. Be patient: It's a science and an art.

When's it done?

Ohio State's Mary Wicks recommends waiting about three to four weeks after allowing the bottom layer to "cure" and then checking it. When it's finished, it will have a crumbly texture and look and smell like the light humus on a forest floor.



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Each week, Ohio State Insights provides you with a series of topics from trusted researchers and thought leaders at The Ohio State University. We cover everything from health and wellness to sustainability to politics and policy.

Since 1870, The Ohio State University has excelled at academic achievement and pioneering research and innovation. As one of the nation's top-20 public universities, Ohio State is further recognized by a top-rated academic medical center and a premier cancer hospital and research center.



So you want to compost outdoors

Here's what you'll need:

- A spot to put a pile
- Lumber, rock or any material to make a three-sided enclosure of 3-feet by 3-feet
- Mixed "greens": food waste or plant scraps
- Mixed "browns": wood chips, leaves, sawdust or newspaper
- Bucket or wheelbarrow
- Four-prong hoe/cultivator
- Spade
- Watering can



1. Construct your three-sided structure. It doesn't have to be elaborate — just something to keep your pile from spilling out.

2. Lay down a pile of wood chips to allow air flow under the compost pile.

3. Mix "greens" and "browns" in a bucket or wheelbarrow. Your goal is a 50/50 ratio.

4. Loosely shake the green-brown mix on top of the wood chips, allowing for air to circulate.

5. As you accumulate new vegetable scraps and yard waste, dig into the top of your pile. Pour in the new material, and cover it up with existing material.

6. Turn your pile over from time to time and dig down to check on the moisture levels. It should feel like a damp sponge.

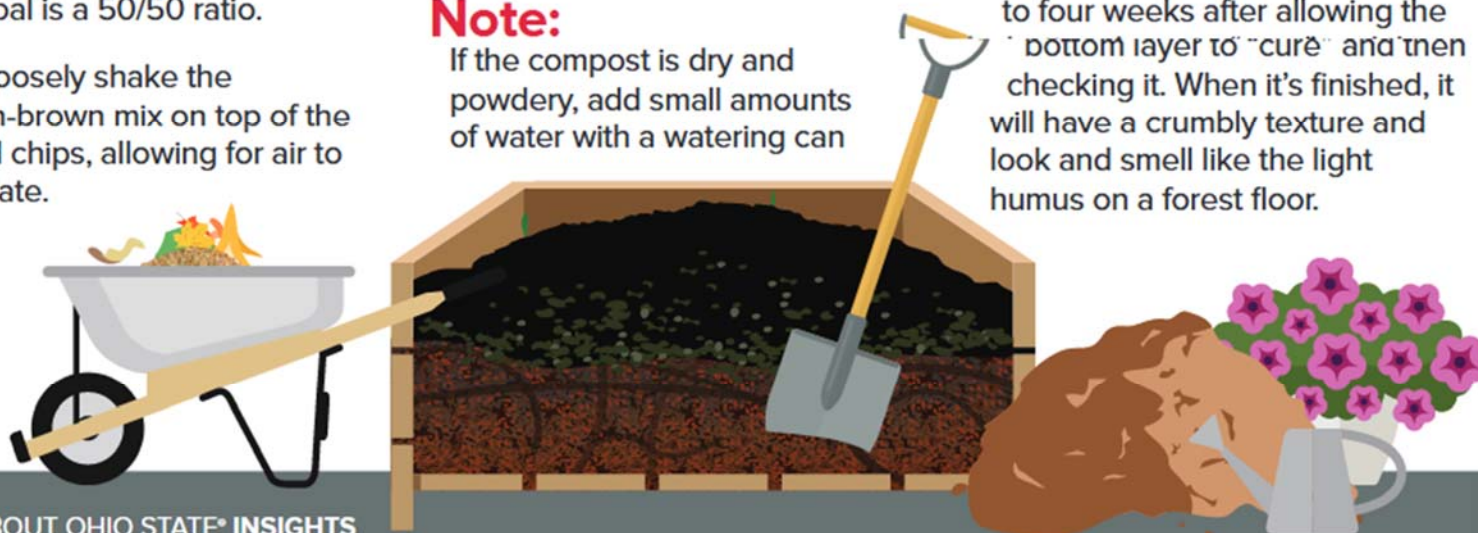
Note:

If the compost is dry and powdery, add small amounts of water with a watering can

and mix. If water drips out of it when you pick it up, or it starts to smell, it's too wet. Rake it out of the pile, allow it to dry for a day or two, then pile it up again. You can also mix in some sawdust to absorb water.

When's it done?

Ohio State's Mary Wicks recommends waiting about three to four weeks after allowing the bottom layer to "cure" and then checking it. When it's finished, it will have a crumbly texture and look and smell like the light humus on a forest floor.



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Our Heirloom Perennials

Bonnie Twaddle—Class of 2003

Bonnie is another MGV we do not see nearly enough of. She quietly does her thing, gets her hours, but what an impact she is having on so many. Here's her story.

I was born and raised in Alliance, Ohio, still live here and will probably die here. I went to school K-12 through the Alliance City Schools. I'm so old that my elementary and middle schools have been demolished for years!

● My introduction to gardening was when, as an early elementary age child, I began admiring the beautiful flowers in Mrs. Aebi's yard that was cater-cornered across the street from our flowerless yard, except for the dandelions and white clover in our grass. I remember Mom asking me if I wanted to go over and meet Mrs. Aebi (I must have been sitting on the curb lawn drooling with desire watching this dear old soul pattering in her yard). I walked a little behind Mom, holding her hand as we walked across the street. That initial meeting with Mrs. Aebi led to many summers of helping her in her yard, which I often chose over playing with the neighborhood kids.

She was a soft-spoken, slender, gray-haired lady who was thankful for my help and patient with my mistakes. That's how I began to learn the difference between weeds and flowers (I'm sure that lesson came about because I didn't pull just weeds). After a couple of summers, my Dad approached me and said, "You know, Bonnie, you can plant flowers here at our house." OH! That thought NEVER occurred to me, because we just never had any besides those in our grass! I remember that first trip to buy seed packets...so many to choose from! There was one large seed packet that had a picture of a young boy and girl surrounded by many different flowers in a garden that said, "Surprise Garden." OH! That was just what I wanted at my house! I planted those seeds in a straight line in front of the big picture window that faced the west. I checked that row EVERY day! When I first saw emergence of green, I thought, "Is that a flower or a weed?" That was the beginning of learning to identify the first 2 true leaves of different flowers. And here I am at 63 years old, still excited to watch the germination of seeds, and having employment that allows me to share that excitement and be a patient teacher for young elementary students (allowing for mistakes) to hopefully instill a lifelong passion for gardening, just as Mrs. Aebi did for me.

The MGV training provided me an additional layer of education and confidence to initiate the development of a Children's Hands-On Gardening program at the Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center of the University of Mount Union, where I am employed. This intensive program for 3rd and 4th graders is now in its 14th year!

Besides coordinating and helping to facilitate the Children's Hands-On Gardening program, other duties of being the Community Outreach Coordinator include going out into

- the community with our display to make ourselves known to the public,
- coordinating Volunteers, trail
- guiding thematic hikes for school groups and groups with special needs, weekend manager at the Visitors Center, monitor and collect data from our nest boxes during the nesting season for Project NestWatch through Cornell University, resident honey bee keeper, pollinator educator with a focus on native bees, and whatever else that needs done.

The one piece of wisdom that impacted me the most from my MGV class was – you DON'T need to know EVERYTHING about gardening to educate others. You DO need to know what RELIABLE RESOURCES are available to you to research the answers of questions that you cannot immediately answer. Do not be afraid

to say, "I'll get back to you on this," and do it in a timely manner.

What I wish MGV's would do more of is take cut flowers to shut-ins. Most shut-ins are towards the end of their lives and don't need more "stuff" to hang on the windows and sit on shelves. The cut flowers are a temporary gift of the out-of-doors and are easy to dispose of once the blooms are faded. Most of us have more vases than we need, so deliver them in a vase that you can leave behind. Be prepared to ask the shut-in if they have a vase they would prefer to use; chances are they have many vases also and don't need to add to their collection.

Also, if MGV's like to eat, then create more pollinator habitat for the bees, so we can continue to enjoy the variety of fruits and vegetables that their pollination service provides.

My gardening goals will continue to be the same as previous years – Less lawn to mow and create more pollinator habitat.

Marilyn McKinley MGV

I Did It!And You Can Too! **By Becky Borman MGV**

I'm patting myself on the back! I'm playing the Rocky theme, dancing around with arms in the air, and shouting out, "I did it!" I have completed the Occasional Quantity Cooks Online Volunteer Training from the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences of The Ohio State University!

Peg Zeleznik had announced at the last several MGV monthly meetings, that the training was available and we could take it online in our own homes and then be able to help the Hospitality Committee when food for events was needed. She has encouraged us to take a little time to do the course and then sign-up for proving food for the MGV class. Well, like many of us, I have thought about sitting down at the computer to log in on the site; and I have thought about what day I would be free at home to log in; and I have thought about logging in as soon as I checked my email or Instagram, but I never went past the "I thought" stage. By not going past the "I thought" stage, I have not been able to help the Hospitality Committee and in turn earn some of those always needed (and wanted) volunteer hours! Did you know that planning, shopping and preparation of food all count toward volunteer hours?

Peg announced at the last MGV monthly meeting that she would meet with anyone who might need help on Monday, April 16th in the clinic after the PPC had closed at 12 noon. So, today was the day for me....I would already be there for clinic time and I'd just stay and "git er dun." I thought maybe I'd be the only one, but thankfully, I was not. Carol, Johanne, and Patty joined me. The hardest part was logging onto the site, but once that was accomplished, we all got started and in about an hour and half we were finished. The class is a series of six short videos, a pre-test and a post test. Peg was wonderful, patient, and encouraging. Thanks, Peg!

Now it's your turn. Make this the day you log on or contact Peg to get started!

ORGANIC INSECT CONTROL

By Eric Barrett

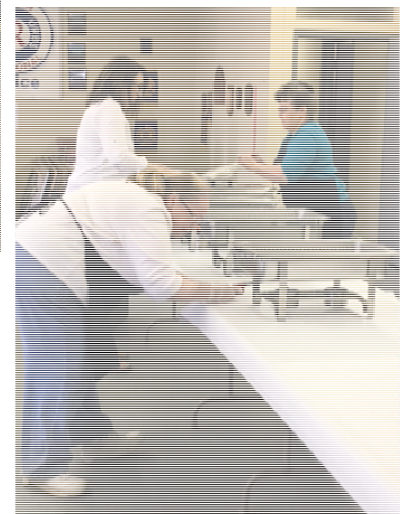
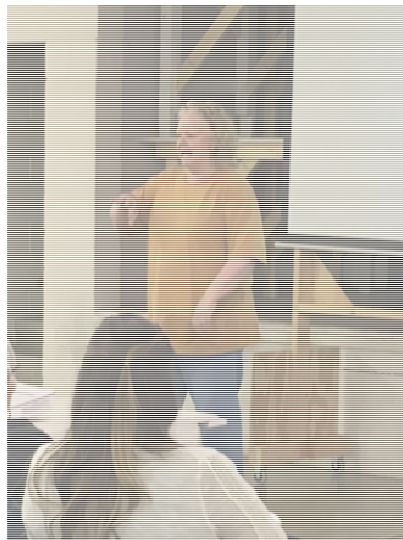
We still get questions like, "What can I spray on these bugs?" Please remember that we use the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) methods to determine if a control is needed for an insect. When control is necessary, we first discuss physical methods (picking off bad insects or using traps like cardboard for slugs. Then we talk about cultural methods, biological and so on. Chemical control (organic or conventional) is usually our last resort when other options do not work or are not good options. When chemicals are listed as control options, be sure to remind others to read and follow all label directions. And, be sure we are

not giving 'home remedies' as research-based advice. An example would be making sure gardeners use real insecticidal soap, not dishwashing liquid to control soft bodied insects. Insecticidal soaps are organic and they are labeled for use on plants. Dishwashing liquids are not labeled for use on plants, and can even damage plants. There was a great article (infographics based) that OSU just posted in April. Check it out to gain a good understanding of organic control methods (also known as the control methods other than chemical – organic or conventional).

Here is the link:

<http://go.osu.edu/organicbugcontrol>

Master Gardeners in Action at the Spring Seminar



HOLBORN HERB GROWERS GUILD

Spring Plant Sale

5/19/18 9am-3pm

Canfield Fairgrounds –
Pumpkin Barn

Herbs, perennials, and
twice loved perennials



**Bees in Your Backyard:
Spotting, Collecting and Identifying Native Bees**



June 1 - 3: weekend [Bee Course option](#) at the gorgeous [Arc of Appalachia](#), Saturday or Sunday, or register for the full weekend!

June 1 - 3: weekend [Bee Course option](#) at the gorgeous [Arc of Appalachia](#), Saturday or Sunday, or register for the full weekend!



Monday, June 4th: [Stratford Ecological Center in Delaware](#)

Tuesday, June 5th: The [Dawes Arboretum in Newark](#)

Thursday, June 7th: [University of Mount Union in Alliance](#)

The cost for June 4, 5 and 7 is \$65 per person, and includes lunch and handouts. Sessions run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Olivia Carril will also give a free lecture and book signing at The University of Mount Union in Alliance on June 6th at 7PM.

Sponsored by the The Dawes Arboretum, The Ohio State University Bee Lab, Stratford Ecological Center, the Arc of Appalachia and The University of Mount Union.

Questions? Please [e-mail Denise](#)

We hope to see you and the bees in June!

Denise

Denise Ellsworth
Ohio State Extension, Department of Entomology
ellsworth.2@osu.edu

Coffee with the Master Gardeners

Prairie Gardens

What is a prairie Garden? We will discuss how to choose and prepare a site, plant selection, and maintenance for your home prairie garden.

Speaker: Peg Zeleznik & Kary Shively, Master Gardener Volunteers

Monday, May 21

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: _____



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go.osu.edu/cfaesdiversity

Coffee with the Master Gardeners

Herbs for Pollinator Conservation

What is your role in Pollinator conservation? Learn what types of herbs to plant that can attract pollinators and ensure they will stick around for generations.

Speaker: Marilyn McKinley, Master Gardener Volunteer



Monday, June 18

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

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Coffee with the Master Gardeners

Totally Tomatoes!

Beefsteak, roma, and cherry are just a few varieties of tomatoes, join us on Monday the 16th to learn more about this Ohio staple.

Speaker: Eric Barrett, OSU Educator



Monday, July 16

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

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