

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>



February 2015

Volume 14 Issue 2

Marilyn's Musings

FEBRUARY!

It's February! February, also known as the seemingly longest month of the year. Funny, most Februaries only have 28 days, yet it seems like the month drags on forever, like weeks more! The word has a Latin origin, meaning the month of purification. The first words that come to my mind are detox and cleansing. I knew I hated this month for a good reason. It feels like there is nothing to do in NE Ohio in February except order seeds and wait for March. At least by then we can begin to see the light - literally because of the time change. By March can begin serious gardening thinking. Some years we can even begin cold vegetables planting. Isn't there an old saying about planting peas by March 15th?



February weather can be a real drag. There's little sun, one day ice and sleet, another blowing and drifting snow, cold drizzling rain, or maybe a down pour. Temperatures are all over the place, very cold to just a tease of warm things to come. Then there is the guy who celebrates Christmas for three months. Every neighborhood has one, the guy

who still has the outdoor Christmas decorations up, and worse yet, turns on the lights!! Then there are what I deem, stupid holidays. Ground Hog Day...who came up with this winner? Why? I'm as much of a romantic as the next, but Valentine's Day seems like forced 'romance' to me. I would much rather be completely surprised by a nice card or flowers on any old day than to know my hubby 'had' to go to the card store and find just the right Valentine's Day card for me. The price hike on flowers, outrageous! What's the deal with President's Day? I guess it's nice that we remember those two guys that did some great things for our country. However, we have had other pretty great presidents, why don't we celebrate them? We have also had some really lame leaders who really did more harm than good. Shouldn't we celebrate that we recovered from their rein?

So, as gardeners in zone five, we are left with, attending seminars and workshops, gazing at seed catalogs, ordering far too many seeds, dreaming of the best garden ever, or heading to sunnier places – I am soooo jealous!! Guess some of us are lucky; some of us just dream and wait for spring to finally come to our neck of the woods. Happy waiting! Up next, March-ing into spring!

Marilyn McKinley

OSU Master Gardener Volunteer
Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist

February MGV Meeting

Our February Master Gardener Volunteer meeting will be held at the OSU Extension office on Thursday, February 12th, at 6:30 pm.

Join us to enjoy a presentation by Jim Converse, entitled "Growing Our Future Gardeners." Many of you know Jim through his work with Common Wealth and the local food and farmers' market system. Jim is also currently developing a teaching curriculum and working with young people through Junior Achievement and the Akiva Academy to encourage growing food and an attitude of creating and sharing.



Jim has a PhD in the Sociology of Agriculture. He is a graduate of OSU and went on to teach at Cornell University, U.C. Davis, and Kansas State University. Jim states he wanted to experience how agriculture was managed around the country. Jim grew up on a farm in Columbiana.

Toni Beard
OSU MGV-VP

March OCVN Meeting

Our first Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists meeting for 2015 will be held at the OSU Extension office on Wednesday, March 18th, from 6:30 to 7:00 pm. Under our newly established format, we will have a presentation at 7:00 pm that is open to the public.

Our March Speaker will be Kathy Smith, the Forestry Program Director for OSUE. She will present *Invasive Species 101*. For more information see the brochure later in this newsletter.



January MGV Meeting

Our first Master Gardener Volunteer meeting was our annual organizational meeting where we discussed plans for 2015, including committees, meetings, field trips and programs.



Only You Can Prevent Your Anonymity

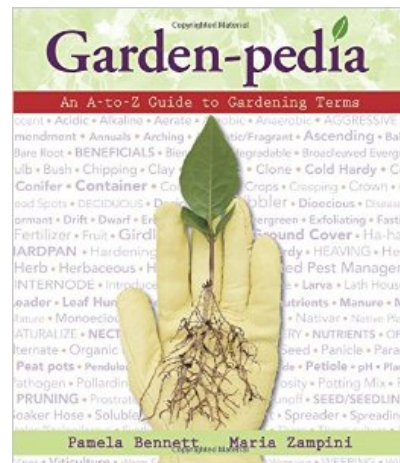
MGV Class of 2014 In Their Own Words

It appears that the Class of 2014 has run out of words. Please Help.



Pam Published

Pam Bennett, our Master Gardener Program State Coordinator, and Maria Zampini have coauthored a new reference entitled *Garden-pedia: An A-to-Z Guide to Gardening Terms*.



Volunteer Voice

SEEDS!

Winter drags on. Decision time; what am I going to plant in my garden this year? I do mostly perennials and herbs, but love the bright colors and continuous flowering of the annuals, and want to have fresh flowers for cutting all season. I plant a few vegetables, just to mix it up a little. But I have problems, the thought of spending a fortune every spring on plants that are going to die in a few short weeks seems wasteful to me. So you would think that planting annual flower seeds would be the answer. I used to think so too, until I finally concluded and shamefully admitted, I am not good with seeds! Sowing outside, tiny seeds are so hard to handle. I have mixed them with sand, tried to use one of those automatic seeder things, and tried the sprinkle lightly on the soil technique. So many



issues here, the wind, the seeds sift through my fingers, or the birds eat them. Inevitably I get nothing, or I get a clump of little seedlings, nothing closely resembling a row emerges. Then what does survive needs to be thinned. I just can't bring myself the 'thin and pinch'. I feel like I am committing mass murder. I can't decide which poor little seedlings I should pull out. Are the ones that I select to pull really the strongest of the bunch? Might they have been the most beautiful? Maybe they are the ones that would have made it through that violent thunderstorm! Why is it that some of my

favorite perennials have the tiniest of seeds? They reseed and proceed to try to take over. Why is it that reseeding annuals, like petunias have tiny ground pepper like seeds and the pop up somewhere almost every year? I am thinking that just maybe Mother Nature is trying to tell us (for sure me!) we should not mess with tiny seeds.

Another problem, the larger seeds, which often require stratification or scarification. That means I have to either pre-chill to break the dormancy, aka another thing I have to identify in the fridge at a later date. Or hold each seed in my clumsy, arthritic hands and 'nick' or file it. All too much work leading only to disappointment. Lastly there's the germination %. I can accurately predict that if 85 % of the seeds are supposed to germinate I will get less than 20 %!

I have tried starting seeds indoors. Of course I have issues with that too. The lights, the seed mat, the misting, the white flies, on and on. The seeds either don't come up at all, or they come up only to become limp and floppy. Even 'big' seeds sown indoors have betrayed me!

But, alas, I have found a technique that works for me. It's called milk jug planting. If you haven't tried it you are missing out on one of the easiest ways to start seeds very early. I love getting a jump on the season. As soon as the soil is warm enough I want to see plants in my gardens. I could go into how to do milk jug planting here, but I suggest you Google it and get some good, easy instructions with pictures. I have used this method for the last two years with good results. I love seeing my greenhouse jugs all lined up on the deck because I know good things are coming soon.

Marilyn McKinley
OSU MG/OCVN

Volunteer Voice

Valentines Day By The Numbers

February is the month when lovers celebrate cupid's holiday, "Valentine's Day". So exactly how did this celebration get started and how do we Americans celebrate the holiday?



The history channel states that the ancient Romans celebrated "Lupercalia", a fertility festival in mid-February and from 200-300 A.D., at least two Christian clerics, who were known as "Valentine" became martyrs. In the late 400's, Pope Gelasius declared February 14 as the day to honor Saint Valentine. It wasn't until the 1300's that Saint Valentine's Day became known as a day for love and romance.

The Europeans were the first to embrace the holiday in the 1600's and were the first to start the tradition of exchanging valentines. 1840 was the first time the United States sold "mass-produced" valentines.

With a little bit of the holiday explained, now comes some mind-blowing numbers of how the United States celebrates the holiday for lovers.

- Only 62% of adults admit they celebrate Valentine's day
- The Candy manufactures are busy this time of year as some 448 million dollars are spent on candy the week before the holiday
- 58 million pounds of chocolates are bought during the week leading up to the holiday
- 36 million heart-shaped chocolate candy boxes are also sold for the holiday

- 150 million valentine cards and gifts are given or sent each year
- 8 billion "Sweetheart" candies are produced each year. That is enough candy hearts to stretch from Rome, Italy to Valentine, Arizona (who knew such a place existed) and back again 20 times
- Valentine's Day is the bubbliest day of the year after New Year, Christmas and Thanksgiving with approximately 8.6 million dollars spent on sparkling wine. 174,000 gallons of sparkling wine is sold the week of the holiday

So who are the biggest spenders on this holiday? I hate to admit it, and I'm sorry ladies but, the men outspend us. The average male spends \$150 on the holiday compared to our average of \$74. On the bright side, I guess the men likes us more than they care to admit at times!

We have the how the holiday came about and who spends the most, so what are the things that are purchased? 23% of adults say the purchase flowers or plants and of this amount, 61% are males compared to 39% women (the men outdid us again!). And the most top flower shop picks?

5. Plants
4. Other flowers
3. Other roses
2. Red roses (hmm...I would have thought that was the number 1 pick)
1. Mixed flowers

For those who love this holiday, there are towns, other than Valentine, AZ with loving names, such as, South Heart, ND, Valentine, NE and Valentine, TX. You also have, Loveland, OK, Rose City and Romeo located in Michigan, Darling, MS, Lovejoy, GA, Loving, NM and last but not least, Love Valley, NC.

I guess whether you celebrate the holiday or not, Valentine Day is definitely the day we show our loved ones just how much we adore them.

<http://www.history.com/topics/valentines-day/history-of-valentines-day/interactives/valentines-day-by-the-numbers>

Peggy Griffith

OSU Master Gardener Volunteer

SEARCHING FOR INFORMATION on OHIOLINE: NYET!!!!!!!!!!

When we took the MGV class we all learned to use OhioLine. We thought that all our garden answers could be found there. Well, news flash!!!! OhioLine is **OUTDATED!!!!** Further, I have heard it is going to go away. I say bye-bye ASAP!!! You will find much more useful and current information if you simply put (Whatever you are searching for) in the goggle search line, followed by "university extension". For example; I wanted to look up diseases of zinnias. I searched OhioLine and came up with, well nothing. There was an article that mentioned powdery mildew on zinnias. I already knew that, and it was not helpful at all. However, when I put "diseases of zinnias university extension" in the search, I got lots of hits. Penn State popped up first, with a chart of many problems that affect zinnias. So much more valuable information! And, that's not all; there were hits from many other university extensions. Check this out; if you put "diseases of zinnias Ohio State university extension", the same Penn State info pops up!!!! Try it! You will never ask OhioLine anything again! Use of Ohio State university extension gets much, much better results.

You can use any university extension. Just keep in mind that if you put in "blah, blah, university extension" you may get

a hit from Arizona State and that info is not really applicable for Ohio. Being a Hoosier at heart, I find Purdue extension a great place for info, Penn St., Illinois, Iowa, Michigan St and Cornell are all very good sites.

Happy researching, try it you are gonna love it!

Marilyn McKinley

OSU Master Gardener Volunteer

Announcements

David Sprague has announced two **Clinic Training Classes**. The first will be on February 23rd and the second on February 27th. If needed, a third class will be scheduled in March. For more information call 330-533-5538.

Barb Delisio reminds you save garden magazines and books for the March Workshop.

A Great Opportunity: A local gardener has grown red and black raspberries for 65 years. She wants to get rid of one patch of black raspberries to reduce her gardening maintenance. The variety is "Black Jewel." Interested persons need to call her to schedule a time to come dig your own . . . bring own containers and shovel." For further information call 330-533-5538.

>>>> Check out the gardening calendars provided by the Cuyahoga Master Gardener Volunteers at:

<http://cuyahogamg.org/MGGardenInfo/MGGardenInfo.html>

**<<\$10 MGV State Dues are Due
As Soon As Possible>>**

Upcoming Events

February 14 - **Coffee With The Birds**, Saturday, 9:30 – 11 am. As part of the 18th annual Great Backyard Bird Count, join Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist Nancy Brundage to watch birds while sipping coffee (or tea). Please bring your favorite mug. Limited space; call to register. Chose one session: 9:30 - 10:15 am or 10:15-11 am. Ford Nature Center.

February 14 - **Bluebird Box Workshop**, Saturday, 1 - 3 pm. Learn about Eastern Bluebirds and make a nest box to help their population. Afterward, hike to the bluebird trail along the MetroParks Bikeway. \$15 R; 18 NR per nest box. Register/pay at Ford Nature Center by 2/8. MetroParks Farm.

February 15 - **Winter Botany**, Sunday, 2 -4 pm. Learn to identify trees in winter using twigs, bark and growth form with Dr. Chuck McClaugherty. Participants will collect twigs and learn to use dichotomous keys for identification. Portions of the program will be indoors and outdoors. No registration required. Huston - Brumbaugh Nature Center, 330-823-7487.

February 18 - **Orchid Clinic**, Wednesday, 2-4 pm. Stop by with your questions for our orchid experts, Dave Miller and Jackie Land. Bring any problem orchids you may have and they will help you get them back on track. Orchid bark mix and orchid pots will be available for sale for a nominal fee. Fellows Riverside Gardens.

February 20 - **Botanical Mornings**, Friday, 9 - 10 am. Appreciate the structural beauty of the Gardens during this wintertime stroll with Lynn Zocolo. Look for Witch Hazels and perhaps some early blooming bulbs. \$5. Fellows Riverside Gardens.

February 24 - **Audubon Society/Mahoning Valley: NAS Priority Species & Habitats**, Tuesday, 7 - 8 pm. Mandy Smith will present a program about the National Audubon Society's priority species and habitats. Mandy previously worked for Audubon-Maryland-De. MetroParks Farm.

February 25 - **Gardening Basics: Botany For Beginners**, Wednesday, 9:30 - 11 am. Have you ever been stumped by a botanical name? Are you confused by the differences between a xylem and a phloem? If you answered yes to either question, then perhaps a refresher in botany with Mandy Smith is just what you need. \$8. Fellows Riverside Gardens.

Master Gardeners 2015 Meeting Schedule

February 12 - *Growing Our Future Gardeners*, Jim Converse. OSU Extension Office, 6:30 pm.

March 12 - *Phenology*, Bill Snyder. OSU Extension Office, 6:30 pm.

April 9 - *Update on State MGVC Committee*, Hugh Earnhart. OSU Extension Office, 6:30 pm.

May 14 - Member Plant Exchange and Covered Dish. OSU Extension Office, 6:00 pm.

June 11 - *Visit to Western Reserve Village*, Herb Guild Members. Meet at the OSU Extension Office, 6:30 pm.

July 9 - *DJ's Greenhouse Visit (Grounds Tour and Picnic)*, 6:30 pm. Meet at OSU Extension Office at 5:30 pm or Meet at Poland Library at 5:45 pm.

August 13 - *An Evening in Dan Burn's Garden*, Details TBA.

September 10 - *Cooking With Herbs*, Barb Delisio. Mill Creek MetroParks Farm, 6:30 pm. There will be a charge of \$5 per person for groceries.

October 8 - *Winery Visit*, Details TBA.

November 12 - *Holiday Tree Prep Meeting* OSU Extension Office, 6:30 pm.

December - *Annual Recognition Banquet*.

OCVN 2015 Meeting Schedule

March 18 - 6:30 - 7PM OCVN meeting.
7 - 8:30 PM, Program with Kathy Smith, the Forestry Program Director for OSUE on Invasive Species

May 20 - 6:30 - 7PM OCVN meeting.
7 - 8:30 PM, Program with Dennis Clement, the Coordinator for Ohio EPA in the office of Environmental Education on ProjectWET and Healthy Water, Healthy People

July 15 - 6:30 - 7PM OCVN meeting.
7 - 8:30 PM, Program with Vincent Messerly, PE, President of The Ohio Wetlands Foundation, on the Wetland and Stream Mitigation Program for the Youngstown Area.

September 16 - 6:30 - 7PM OCVN meeting. 7 - 8:30 PM, Program with Kathi Vrable-Bryan, the Mahoning SWCD District Administrator, on 4R Tomorrow Project

November 18 - 6:30 - 7PM OCVN meeting. 7 - 8:30 PM, Program with Marne Titchenell, the OSU ENR Program Specialist for Wildlife, on Nest Boxes for Wildlife/Attracting Woodland Wildlife

December - *Annual Recognition Banquet*.

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



Coffee with the Master Gardeners

Working from the Soil Up

Dr. William Snyder

The Ohio State University Master Gardener Volunteer, Dr. William Snyder will discuss the importance of utilizing a solid foundation to acquire a healthy and large-producing garden. Soil testing to know what your soil already has, and what it still needs is key to a great gardening season!

In this short session, we will explore soils, enjoy coffee and donuts with our Master Gardener Volunteers and have an opportunity to take home handouts and win door prizes. This program is **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**.

<p>3rd Wednesday of Every Month</p> <p>Date: February 18th</p> <p>9:30 am—Coffee and Donuts 10am-12pm—Program</p>	<p>Location: 490 S. Broad St. Canfield, OH 44406</p> <p>Cost: \$20/person (\$10/Mahoning County MGVs/OCVNs)</p> <p>Details: Register by Feb. 16th</p> <p>Contact: Katie Wears at 330-533- 5538 or wears.13@osu.edu</p>
---	--

REGISTRATION INFORMATION. Registration includes the program, coffee and donuts, handouts, and door prizes. Please mail to 490 S. Broad St. Canfield, OH 44406, fax (330-533-2424), or drop off the registration and payment by **Monday, February 16th** to reserve a spot for the program.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Number Attending: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

Know Your Backyard Aliens

Invasive Species 101

Kathy Smith, Forestry Program Director—OSU Extension

Kathy Smith, the Forestry Program Director for The Ohio State University Extension will join the Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists to discuss invasive species that can be found in your backyard and why they are residing in Ohio. Kathy will also discuss how to identify species and how/when you should report them.

Wednesday, March 18
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Location: The OSU Extension office
in Mahoning County

Cost: FREE

Details: Due to limited space, please
call the Extension office by Monday,
March 16th to reserve a spot.

Contact: Katie Wears, Program
Assistant, ANR/4-H at 330-533-5538
Ext. 105

www.mahoning.osu.edu



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Outreach/Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist/
Mahoning County

NEW THIS YEAR

- Separate Landscape & Turf Tracks
- Worker Training for OSHA
- Severe Weather & Emergency Preparedness
- 2014 Plant Issues & Solutions

AGAIN THIS YEAR

- Vendor Displays
- Networking Opportunities
- Pesticide Credit

This event sponsored by



Visit our website ~ MVLNA.org



**THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY**
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



Directions



GPS COORDINATES +41.099375, -80.676356

FROM NORTHWEST (CLEVELAND/AKRON)

Depart Ohio Turnpike exit 218; travel east on I-80 to Youngstown; then follow I-680 to Belle Vista Ave. (exit 3B)-a total of 9 miles from turnpike; turn right, travel south to Mahoning Ave.; turn left and continue to McKinley Ave.; turn right and follow signs to Gardens

FROM SOUTHEAST (PITTSBURGH)

Depart Ohio Turnpike exit 234 onto I-680 north to Youngstown; travel 12 miles and exit Glenwood/Mahoning Ave.; turn right onto Edwards St. at stop sign; turn left at traffic light onto Mahoning Ave.; travel 1/2 mile to McKinley Ave.; turn left and follow signs to Gardens.

2015 MVLNA

Mahoning Valley Landscape
& Nursery Association

Spring Clinic & Trade Show

**For Landscape/Turf
Professionals & More!**

Wednesday, March 11, 2015
8:00 am - 2:30 pm



Hosted at:
Fellows Riverside Gardens
Mill Creek MetroParks
123 McKinley Ave
Youngstown OH 330-740-7116

Sponsored by:
MVLNA, Ohio State University
Extension & Mill Creek MetroParks

2015 Spring Clinic Schedule



8:00am-8:30am

Registration ~ Coffee, Juice & Donuts

8:30am-9:30am

Welcome & Introductions - MVLNA Board

Quick & Free OSHA Trainings You can do at Your Business -Eric Barrett, OSU Extension
Soil Sampling For Improved Customer Service - Dr. Bill Snyder

Landscape Track

Turf Track

9:30am-10:30am

Intro & ID: Ornamental Weeds

Erik Draper, OSU Extension
1 hr credit ODA, Commercial (6c)Ornamental Weeds

The Dream of a Perfect Lawn

OSU Extension Turf Expert
1 hr credit ODA, Commercial (8)Turf

10:30am-11:00am

Sponsor Talks & Vendor Break: Meet with Vendors

11:00am-12:00pm

**Landscape Weed Control +
Understanding Landscape Fertilizing**

Erik Draper, OSU Extension
1/2 hr credit ODA, Commercial (6c)Ornamental Weeds

2014 Turf Issues

Jacqueline Kowalski, OSU Extension
1 hr credit ODA, Commercial (8)Turf

12:00pm-1:00pm

Lunch & Visit with Vendors

Hearty Lunch by The Georgetown

1:00pm-1:30pm

Planning for Severe Weather: Using Technology & Making a Plan

Paul Wetzel, WKBN Meteorologist & Eric Barrett, OSU Extension

1:30pm-2:30pm

Staying Legal with Equipment

Keith Kerns, PUCO Enforcement Division

2014 Plant Issues & Solutions

Bill Snyder & Eric Barrett, OSU Extension



Lots to Learn & Do!

- * Equipment displays-inside & outside
- * Plenty of time to meet the vendors
- * Free Pesticide Recertification Credit

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Owners of Small & Emerging Businesses
Crew Leaders & Foreman
Landscape Maintenance Companies
Design Build Firms
Applicators & Turf Managers
Recruiters & Office Staff
Anyone who wants to learn & improve their Business

Registration

fees include lunch, refreshments, pesticide credits & great networking!

Pre-registration (MVLNA, FFRG, Garden Club Members & Master Gardeners) **\$45 per person**

Registration - after March 2th \$55 per person

Non-Members \$75 per person

(Fee can be applied toward new member application)

Students \$20 per person

REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s) _____

Business Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

#ofreservations _____ @ _____ = _____

Make checks payable to: MVLNA and mail to:

Mary Jan Perdulla, MVLNA Treasurer
P.O. Box 14223, Poland, OH 44514

Questions please call 330-757-0884

Registration Deadline is March 2, 2015