WEEDS!

The war against weeds begins! Long before we can do much outside, except clean up, here they come – those nasty ‘winter’ weeds. As hard as I try to deal with them in the fall, I still get a great crop of weeds every spring. Did you know this? Weed seeds can survive in the soil for years! Check this out- Annual Rye grass- up to 9 years, Quack grass 4 years, Mustard – many decades, hundreds of years!! Lambs Quarters – 40 years, Canada thistle – 20 years. Well no wonder we don’t stand a chance.

So according to some guy from Oregon State whose specialty is weeds, they do have some value. He states that, weeds with strong persistent, penetrating roots bring nitrogen, minerals, and trace elements from the deep subsoil back up to the surface where other plants, fungi, microbes, and worms can use them. Thus weeds help build the soil by feeding those fungi, microbes, and worms. It’s those organisms working together that build humus. Weeds store additional nutrients in their stems and leaves, when those weeds are cut and used as green manure, those essential nutrients are added back to the surface soil. Weeds also create ‘waterways’ in the soil, until enough humus is built by worms and microbes to do the job, then the weed population decreases. Most people believe the weeds rob cultivated plants of needed moisture but just the opposite is true. When the soil surface is bone-dry down just a few inches, the roots of weeds are growing in the subsoil bringing up moisture by capillary action.

Certain weeds are predictors of soil health. Goldenrod prefers well drained soil, dandelions rich soil, chickweed likes previously cultivated sites, and burdock grows in soils high in iron and sulfate, and low in calcium and manganese.

I’m not sure I’m sold on this idea, however, it does make me feel that perhaps, once again, maybe Mother Nature knows what she is doing! Maybe there is some good in everything! the lesson is – be prepared for anything!

Marilyn McKinley
OSU Master Gardener Volunteer
Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist
April MGV Meeting

Our next MGV meeting will be held on April 9th at 6:30 pm at the OSU Extension office. Our featured speaker will be David Sprague who will present an Overview of Phenology.

May MGV Meeting

The May MGV meeting will take place on May 14th at 6:00 pm at the OSU Extension office. The meeting will be our annual member plant exchange and covered dish dinner. The meeting will also feature Hugh Earnhart’s State MGV Committee Update. Eric Barrett has offered to lead us on an Extension grounds walk-about. The May meeting has also been designated as a Bring-a-Friend meeting, where friends and relatives with an interest in gardening are welcome.

May OCVN Meeting

Our next Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists meeting for 2015 will be held at the OSU Extension office on Wednesday, May 20th, from 6:30 to 7:00 pm. Under our new format, we will have a featured speaker from 7:00 until 8:30 pm that will be open to the public.

Our May Speaker will be Dennis Clement, Coordinator for Ohio EPA Office of Environmental Education. He will present Project WET and Healthy Water, Healthy People. For more information see the brochure later in this newsletter.

March MGV Meeting

Our March MGV meeting included a presentation by Bill Snyder on Labels, with special emphasis on the informative as well as the legal aspects of pesticide labels.

March OCVN Meeting

Under our new meeting policy, our first Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists meeting for 2015 was held March 18th, from 6:30 to 7:00 pm. This was followed by a program opened to the public.

Our March Speaker was Kathy Smith, the Forestry Program Director for OSUE. Her presentation was entitled Invasive Plants 101 and featured a wealth of information about Ohio’s most problematic invasive plants.

Volunteer Voice - Joyce Karsnak

Spring Peas

After last month’s review of the Winter Seminar featuring Peter Hatch, the former Director of Gardens at Monticello, this is the second in a series of snippets from “A Rich Spot of Earth” about Thomas Jefferson the gardener. What does that have to do with us master gardeners? Keep reading and maybe we’ll find some common ground between 21st and 18-19th century gardening.

Do you think we’ll get to plant peas this year? An article in the University of Illinois Extension says peas thrive in cool, moist-weather, produce best in cool, moderate climates and can be planted whenever the soil temperature is at least 45 degrees F. and the soil is dry enough to till. Hmm, no pea planting yet around here, unless maybe you have those nice raised beds (and
maybe an electric blanket too.)

Moderate climate, that’s what Jefferson had in Virginia and so multiple pea plantings, began in February. The English or garden pea *Pisum sativum* were his absolute favorite vegetable and he planted great quantities and varieties. He didn’t just record when they were planted and harvested. He noted when they sprouted from the ground, when they blossomed and the day when the season’s first pod formed. We could use a “Jefferson” in our phenology beds, couldn’t we?

I just about had myself talked out of planting peas this year, but I’m getting a craving for some Sugar Snap. I like those best because the pods are so sweet. Garden peas are good too – the ones you shell. And when I look at the price of snow peas in the produce section, I should plant those also. Maybe it’ll dry out and warm up enough to get some in.

My little plot will be a far cry from that of the pea patch at Monticello. The garden was divided into 18 sections identified by Roman numerals. An entry in Jefferson’s garden journal described that “beds I-V, about 130 long and 10 feet wide, were planted with two quarts of Frame peas, set in 44 rows, perhaps 3 feet apart. Square III was planted with 11 rows of Leadman’s Dwarf, and the two quarts of seed were spaced a half-inch apart in the row, the rows about 3 feet apart.”

That’s a lot of peas.

Anyone interested in a spring pea competition? Jefferson held one annually with his neighbors that became quite legendary. But considering NE Ohio spring weather, the race to the first tomato is probably a better rivalry here.

President Thomas Jefferson was born on April 13, 1743 and documented 58 years of garden statistics, success and failures with the first entry in his journal on March 30, 1766 at the age of 23, writing “Purple hyacinth begins to bloom.” So when MG President Marilyn recommends keeping a garden journal, do it!

Joyce Karsnak
OSU Master Gardener Volunteer

**Volunteer Voice - Marilyn McKinley**

**WHAT THE COLORS IN YOUR GARDEN SAY ABOUT YOU!**

The Psychology of Color

(The following article is intended for entrainment purposes only – no psychoanalysis attempted!)

For some unknown reason over the past few years there has been a great deal of research carried out pertaining to the psychology of color. What does color preference say about you and your personality. Just for fun, I thought you might be interested in what the colors you plant in your garden tells the world about you. Even more fun, when you visit another’s garden now you can speculate what they are saying without them speaking a word! Here goes.

*Green* is the number one choice for a ‘relaxing’ garden….duh! Green is created by chlorophyll which is vital to life, in nature it indicates a presence of water, thus reassurance. Think of our lawns and grass. *Red* implies
assertiveness, considered to be a ‘masculine leaning’ color, used for maximum visual impact, may be used to downplay the feminine side. Red also displays physical strength—oh please! Blue, the boy color, and of course a color that has been determined (by boys I suspect) to be the color of intellect. By subliminal, not overt suggestion, blue is soothing and calming, think of the sky. Yellow focuses on the emotions, ego, and self-esteem. The color of spring and sunshine. Pink is an expression of femininity and reproduction. Violet is the color of someone who is peaceful and prefers to be left alone, this is a gardener who labors for him (her) self, not concerned about what others consider achievements. Lastly we consider Orange. Orange is sexy because of its associations with physical pleasure and fiery passion, creates a feeling of physical comfort and sensuality.

So now the real question! Are you really messed up or really well balanced if you have all these colors in your garden? I say take the whole article any say “who gets paid to come up with this stuff” — and why? Then go plant your favorites and enjoy!

Marilyn McKinley
OSU MGV/OCVN

**Notice: MGV/OCVN Training**

The next OSU Extension class for training Master Gardener Volunteers and Certified Volunteer Naturalists will begin on **Wednesday, March 9, 2016**. Applications will be accepted throughout 2015.

**Notice: MGV/OCVN Programs**

When attending programs at a reduced fee, MGVs and OCVNs must pre-register and pay before any listed deadline.

**Lost & Found**

This container was probably left last August at the BOTO event on the Canfield Fairgrounds. It is available in the Diagnostic Clinic for pick-up.

**Volunteer Voice - Marilyn McKinley**

**Themed Herb Gardens**

How about planting a culinary theme herb garden in containers or right outside the back door.

**ROMAN HERB GARDEN**

For a Roman garden suggested herbs are: Anise, Basil, Bay, Mint, Coriander, Dill, Garlic, Hyssop, Parsley, and Savory.

**MEXICAN HERB GARDEN**

Try these herbs for a Mexican theme culinary garden: Cilantro, Lime Basil, Garlic Chives, Oregano, Marjoram, and Nasturtium.

**SEAFOOD THEME GARDEN**

Fresh herbs with fish, yummy! Try growing these: Lemon Thyme, Chives, Lime Basil, Dill, Savory, Parsley, French Tarragon, Lemon Balm, Marjoram, Lemon Grass, and Lemon Verbena.

**A TEA GARDEN**


**ITALIAN HERB GARDEN**

As opposed to a Roman Garden, an Italian Garden has different herbs.
Basil, Chives, Parsley, Oregano, Rosemary, Marjoram, Sage, and Thyme.

Adding fresh herbs to any dish is sure to ‘kick it up a notch’. Often the fresh herbs used by fine restaurants is the prime reason for why we love their food so much.

Marilyn McKinley
OSU MGV/OCVN

Upcoming Events

April 12 - Eagle Watch, Sunday, 8 – 11 am. Search for and observe eagles with Jeff Harvey of Wild Birds Unlimited. Choose one hour-long session. Register at Ford Nature Center by 4/11. No walk-ins. Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary. Choose a time: 8 – 9 am, 9 – 10 am, or 10 – 11 am.

April 12 - Mahoning Valley Dahlia Society Tuber Sale, Sunday, 10 am – 5 pm. The Mahoning Valley Dahlia Society will hold a sale with unique varieties that will add to the diversity of your dahlia collection. Fellows Riverside Garden.

April 18 – Birding the Sanctuary, Saturday, 8 – 9:30 am. Search for birds with Jeff Harvey of Wild Birds Unlimited. Boots required. Register at Ford Nature Center by 4/17. Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary.

April 18 - Birds and Blooms Hike, Saturday, 2-4 p.m. Join Naturalist Adam Zorn on a walk through the Nature Center’s preserve to search for and observe ephemeral wildflowers and migratory birds. Participants should be prepared for a moderately strenuous hike. Binoculars suggested; cameras welcome. Registration is required and closes April 16. Huston – Brumbaugh Nature Center, 330-823-7487.

April 24 - Botanical Mornings, Friday, 9 – 10 am. Explore the budding spring in the Gardens with Lynn Zocolo. Fellows Riverside Gardens. Register/pay by 4/22. $5.

April 24,25 & 26 - Daffodil Weekend. Discover the delights of daffodils! See over 200 different species and cultivars on display at the Gardens during a special guided walk each day. Take a stroll through Daffodil Meadow in Mill Creek MetroParks. Participate in the Daffodil Show in the Davis Center that highlights the diversity and beauty of daffodils.

Daffodil Show Details: Friday, April 24 – Entries accepted: 3 – 5 pm; Saturday, April 25 – Entries accepted: 8 – 10 am, Judging: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm, and Show: 1 – 5 pm; and Sunday, April 26 – Show: 9 am – 5 pm.


April 28 - Audubon Society/Mahoning Valley, Tuesday, 7 – 8 pm. Stephanie Hughes of the OSU Extension Master Gardeners and Volunteer Naturalists will present “Knowing, Identifying and Controlling Invasive Organisms.” Mill Creek MetroParks Farm.

May 2 & 9 - Spring Bird Walks, Saturdays, 8:30 - 10 am. Search for both residents and spring migrants. Led by lifelong birder Gary Meiter. Bring binoculars. Call Ford Nature Center for details. Easy, less than 1 mi.

May 8 - Spring Plant Sale, Friday, 10 am – 6 pm. Unique quality plants for the home garden will be available. Perennials (sun & shade), annuals, herbs, fruits and vegetables, roses, trees, shrubs, and more will add to your garden's beauty. Fellows Riverside Gardens.


May 17 - Catching Bugs, Sunday, 2-3:30 p.m. Explore the diverse and extraordinary world of insects through catch and release. Join our staff for a guided bug-catching session on the preserve. Bring your favorite bug net and jars or borrow ours. No registration required. Huston – Brumbaugh Nature Center, 330-823-7487.

Historical Keen Observation

Bettyann Nagy
2009
Master Gardeners
2015 Meeting Schedule

April 9 – Phenology Overview, David Sprague. OSU Extension Office, 6:30 pm.

May 14 – Member Plant Exchange and Covered Dish. Update on State MGV Committee, Hugh Earnhart. Walk-a-bout, OSU Extension Office, 6:00 pm. Bring a Friend Meeting.

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.

Peggy Puzzles
Submitted by Peggy Griffith

AERATE
BOLTING
DEADHEADING
DIVIDING
GIRDLING
GROWING SEASON
LEACHING
LOAM
PERENNIAL
PEST
PRUNING
ROOTBALL
STRATIFICATION
TENDERPLANTS

BUD
COMPOST
CUTTINGS
DORMANCY
EVERGREEN
FROST
HYBRID
HYDROPONICS
ORGANIC MATERIAL
POLLINATION
ROOTBOUND
SOIL
STAKING

www.WordSearchMaker.com
Fruit Tree Pruning Clinic
Saturday, April 11, 2015 1-4pm

Learn how to prune fruit trees, (apples, peaches), as well as blueberries and brambles. The class will be held rain or shine. Dress warm for outdoor activities (rugged shoes or boots). Bring a lawn chair if you would like a seat. We will have home fruit production and other gardening publications for sale. Demonstration and program by Eric Barrett, OSU Extension Mahoning County and Dave Hull & David Hull, White House Fruit Farm.

Saturday Afternoon Agenda
1:00  Introduction and Overview of Tools
1:30  Pruning New Fruit Trees
2:15  Pruning Established Trees
3:00  Pruning Brambles and Blueberries
3:45  Questions, Evaluations, Door Prizes
4:00  Adjourn

Location
White House Fruit Farm
9249 St Rt 62 (Youngstown-Salem Rd.)
Canfield, OH 44406

Sponsor & Registration
Ohio State University Extension
Information  330.533.5538
http://mahoning.osu.edu

Pre-Registration Required. A $20 registration fee per person includes a set of hand pruners or folding pruning saw and handouts explaining the pruning process.

Name(s) ____________________________________________________________________________________
Address _____________________________________________________________________________________
City______________________________    State ______   Zip __________    Day Phone ___________________
E-mail _______________________________________________________________________

Complete Registration, Detach and Return with $20 check. Make check payable to OSU Extension and mail to: OSU Extension Mahoning County, 490 S. Broad St. Canfield, OH 44406
Coffee with the Master Gardeners
Totally Tomatoes!
Eric Barrett, OSU Extension Educator
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Join OSU Extension Educator, Eric Barrett, as he discusses everyone’s favorite garden plant: Tomatoes! What are the best varieties? How do you keep the disease away? What are the best growing methods? All of these questions and more will be covered in this two hour presentation to help you be successful tomato growers!

In this short session, we will explore tomatoes, enjoy coffee and a light breakfast with our Master Gardener Volunteers and have an opportunity to take home valuable information. This program is OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

3rd Wednesday of Every Month
Date: April 15th
9:30 am—Coffee and Breakfast
10am-12pm—Program

Location: 490 S. Broad St.
Canfield, OH 44406
Cost: $10/person ($5/Mahoning County MGVs/OCVN)
Details: Register by April 13th
Contact: Katie Wears at 330-533-5538 or wears.13@osu.edu

REGISTRATION INFORMATION. Registration 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 and payment by Monday, April 13th to reserve a spot for the program. The program is filled on a “first come, first served basis.”

Name: ________________________________
Address: ________________________________
Email: ________________________________ Phone: ________________________________
Number Attending: ________________________________ Amount Enclosed: ________________________________
First Detector Training & Certification

Help us protect our farms and natural areas from exotic, invasive species!

Monday, April 27, 2015  12:30-3:30pm
@ Mill Creek MetroParks Farm
7574 Columbiana Canfield Rd, Canfield, OH 44406
Across from Train at Canfield Fairgrounds
Participants will receive certificate at end of program

First Detectors are part of the National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN) and the Ohio Plant Diagnostic Network (OPDN). First Detector training in Ohio promotes awareness and detection of new or emerging plant pest threats to Ohio’s rural and urban agricultural or natural systems.

Presenters
Nancy Taylor
Ohio State University’s C. Wayne Ellet Plant and Pest Diagnostic Clinic
Eric Barrett
OSU Extension Mahoning County

Prem-Registration Required. A $5 registration fee per person includes materials and handouts.

Name(s) ____________________________________________________________
Address ______________________________________________________________________
City ___________________________ State _______ Zip _________ Day Phone ___________________
E-mail ______________________________________________________________________

Ohio State University Extension
Information Call:  330.533.5538 http://mahoning.osu.edu

Pre-Registration Required. A $5 registration fee per person includes materials and handouts.

Name(s) ____________________________________________________________
Address ______________________________________________________________________
City ___________________________ State _______ Zip _________ Day Phone ___________________
E-mail ______________________________________________________________________

Complete Registration, Detach and Return with $5 check. Make check payable to OSU Extension and mail to: OSU Extension Mahoning County, 490 S. Broad St. Canfield, OH 44406
Hydrangea School
Learn about types, care and all season blooms
Join Eric Barrett to learn more about hydrangeas for your landscape.

Monday
May 11
6-8pm

Held at: Mill Creek MetroParks Farm
Canfield, OH
Across from the Canfield Fair
330-533-5538
http://mahoning.osu.edu

Registration Form
Please complete and return with check or Money order to:
OSU Extension, Mahoning County,
490 S. Board St, Canfield, OH 44406  330-533-5538

Name: ____________________________________________________________
Address: __________________________________ City: ______________ State: __________ Zip: ________
Phone: ___________________ Email: ________________________________ County of Residence: __________

Registration includes handouts and a hydrangea plant to take home for your landscape.
$30 per person to register  $ __________
Total Enclosed  $ __________

Please describe below if you are in need of handicap accessible services: ________________________________________

Questions: Please contact Eric Barrett barrett.90@osu.edu 330-533-5538
Project WET
And Healthy Water, Healthy People

Dennis Clement, Coordinator for Ohio EPA
Office of Environmental Education

Dennis Clement will be here to present the Ohio EPA’s Project WET and Healthy Water, Healthy People. Project WET is a water education program geared toward promoting awareness of water and empowering communities to solve complex water issues.

There will be a sampler activity provided, along with a program.

**Wednesday, May 20**
**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 Friday May 15th to reserve a spot.

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

www.mahoning.osu.edu
Participating will gain an appreciation of plants and an understanding of food production.

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EDUCATION

Good Natured Garden Partners

Participants will gain an appreciation of plants and an understanding of food production.

Registration Deadline: May 21, 2015

Mail to:
Ohio State University Extension
Mahoning County
490 S Broad St
Canfield OH 44406
Phone: 330-533-5538
Fax: 330-533-2424

• Submit the Garden Partners Registration Form by May 21st.
• Come to the Kick-Offs, June 1st and June 8th, and one additional Local Flavor Event.
• Find a Garden location and inform the Extension office.
• Care for plants all summer long.
• Enter your produce at the annual Garden Party on August 24th.

Other Opportunities:
• You may attend any session of the other Local Flavor Series between June 1st and August 17th.
• Soil testing available for first-year gardens is FREE—all others pay $20. Bring in a cup of dry soil to our office by Thursday, May 21st.
• Partners are encouraged to enter their produce and flowers in the Canfield Fair. For details and other local Flavor Series between June 1st and August 17th.

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

Team Name

School / Youth Organization

Garden Site Location and Size

Garden Site Location and Size

Team Leader

Phone

Zip

Group Size

Team Address

Team Size

Gardens, plot or container

Finding a Garden

Responsible for

Teams are responsible for finding a garden plot or container gardens.

A “Growing Challenge”

Teams will compete for prizes and recognition in one of several categories:菜

■ Vegetable Categories

■ Floral/Herb Categories

■ Display Categories

Teams will compete for prizes and recognition in one of several categories: 菜

■ Vegetable Categories

■ Floral/Herb Categories

■ Display Categories

A “Growing Challenge”

Youth to pair up with an adult to form a team.

Teams could be sponsored by community organizations. These teams will plant a garden and then compete for prizes and recognition at the end of the summer.

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Bring One... ↔ ...Take One

Flower & Seed Exchange

Saturday, August 15, 2015
9:00am-10:30am

Bring plants @ 9:00am for ID and to view selection
Plant Exchange starts exactly @ 10 am
Location: Canfield Fairgrounds next to the Pumpkin Building

Bring either a plant, seeds or bulbs to share...
Label each plant so the new owner will know the name, planting Instructions, color, bloom seasons, etc. Houseplants are welcome! Rules to allow for fairness are on the reverse side of this flyer.

Containers, Tools & Garden Art Exchange...
If you have extra shovels, gardening tools, aprons, ceramic pots, unopened soil & fertilizer and garden decorations bring them along and see what you can exchange for it! These items must be in good condition, clean and useable.

Name that Plant!
Master Gardener Volunteers and staff will help you with plant identification and labeling. We’ll get you the common and botanical name. No invasive plants permitted.

Bring Your Gardening Questions
Have your gardening questions answered by Master Gardener Volunteers at the event.
Rules for the Exchange:
To maintain fairness for all participants:

1. Each person bringing an item will be asked to obtain one plant, bulb or seed package at the ringing of the bell;
2. If additional items remain, each person will be asked to obtain a second item at the next ringing of the bell
3. If additional items remain, each person will be asked to obtain a third item at the next ringing of the bell
4. And so on until all items have been distributed fairly.

Come enjoy the morning with fellow gardeners in and around the Mahoning Valley.

*Plant Tip:* Transplant perennials in early spring just after growth starts or in early September. To relocate perennials during the main growing season, remove all flowers and cut back foliage. Water frequently as needed for good establishment.

**2015 Bring One...Take One**
August 15, 2015 - Saturday
Canfield Fairgrounds at 9am
South of Canfield on SR 46
Plant Exchange starts exactly @ 10 am

*Plant Tip:* Avoid selecting plants in bloom unless you must be assured of a specific color. Remove any flowers at planting time to promote root establishment.