

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>



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Marilyn's Musings

SPRING! Just the word makes me giddy! Green grass, flowers popping up, trees blooming and becoming green again, animal babies, birds hatching – truly a new beginning. I feel fresh and ready to start over again. To be sure, it won't be too long before I will bemoan about how wet or dry it is, how hot or cold, how the weeds are taking over, the humidity, the bugs, but for now **SPRING** – Bring it on!



WELCOME!

Doesn't that sound upbeat and cherry? I wrote this little paragraph about spring a couple of weeks ago, when it was warm and felt like spring, then BAM! Once again Mother Nature shows us who is really in charge. Nearly record cold weather - snow - come on! Not unheard of in April, but sure unexpected! I know we all are keeping our fingers crossed for apples, peaches, perennials, etc. My poor daffodils, heads all bent over, my

weeping cherry had nice blooms but one day, but the saddest of all the magnolias. Time to accept, regroup, and move on - it is what it is.

Our new OCVN and MGV trainees. We are teaming up with Trumbull County for training this year. What a class! You will be getting to know more about them over the next year or so via their autobiographies, which will appear in this newsletter. They are intelligent, articulate, outspoken, fun, eager to learn, and seasoned volunteers for all types of organizations. I believe they will all be an outstanding addition to our MGV /OCVN family. They will complete their classroom training on May 4th. Why not come and visit that day and hear their presentations. It should be quite interesting and educational.

Marilyn McKinley
OSUE MGV and OCVN

April MGV Meeting

Our next MGV meeting will be held on Thursday, April 14th, at 6:30 pm, at the OSUE office. Our featured speaker will be Eric Barrett who will describe the kits available to MGVs and OCVNs to assist them in presentations throughout the community.



April OCVN Meeting

Our next OCVN meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 20th, at 6:30 pm. No further information has been confirmed to date.



March MGV Meeting

At the March MGV meeting, our own June Nolasco gave us the scoop on *Chartreuse Perennials*. These bright plants can make any dark area of your garden shine.



March OCVN Meeting



OSU Extension OCVN and MGV, Stephanie Hughes presented *Knowing, Identifying and Controlling Invasive Organisms*.

MGV Class of 2016 In Their Own Words

Marshall Winkler

My name is Marshall Winkler. I was born in Pittsburgh, PA (Mt. Lebanon, to be more precise) but my family moved west when I was very young, all the way to Poland, OH, where I grew up. I graduated from Poland Seminary High School and continued my education at Wake Forest University, where I received a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics.



After working for the Department of Defense in the Information Technology (IT) field (it was called "Data Processing" back then), I eventually

moved back to Youngstown, and ultimately returned to Poland. Over the years I held many positions in IT with several companies, including Youngstown Steel Door, Youngstown Hospital Association, General Motors and Electronic Data Systems (EDS), until my retirement several years ago.

My first memories of gardening were from my mother and her father, my grandfather. Both were avid gardeners, primarily flowers, and some of my earliest memories were of my parents constructing a rock garden where my mother planted any number of flowering plants. She cherished this garden until she was well into her 80's.

Upon his retirement, my grandfather escaped the Pittsburgh winters and relocated to sunny Ft. Lauderdale, FL, where we visited nearly every year over the Christmas break. I vividly recall he and my mother walking his property, which was a veritable botanical garden, replete with every flower imaginable, dwarf palms, banana and orange trees. I can still see the delight in their faces as they ambled along, my grandfather explaining each specimen to my attentive mother.

During my years in college, I worked at Poland Concrete Products during the summers. There I met a lifelong friend who had access to a large family vegetable garden and was also blessed with a green thumb – a winning combination! He spoke of the joys of gardening with great passion and beamed with satisfaction at the fruits of his labor. Well, at that point, I was hooked. After all, what could be better than having fun – and growing your own food!

Soon after, I purchased my first home at the ripe old age of 21, (a duplex in the South side of Youngstown) where I planted my first garden. As I recall, I grew a couple tomato plants, cucumbers and green beans. My yield reflected my

gardening experience, but no matter, I was off and running. I have had a garden virtually every year since. I suppose time and trial and error has taught me a little, as I now actually have something to harvest!

One of my hobbies is cooking and so it is only natural that I grow many herbs and garlic. The wet June last year decimated my garlic crop, but undeterred, I raised the bed slightly and put in another crop this past October. I also can and put up about 70 quarts last season, primarily tomatoes, but also peaches and peppers. We downsized four years ago and our new property included a field of blueberries, blackberries and raspberries. They have been untended for many years, and will require much attention, but I am looking forward to bringing them back to life.

The Master Gardener course is something I have wanted to do for several years and this year I finally made the personal commitment to enroll. After only two classes, I can say with complete certainty that it was a wise decision. In this short time I have already gained valuable information and knowledge that I can apply to everything from vegetable gardening to lawn care. Almost as important is the insight as to where and how to look for information and the knowledge of the many programs and services the OSU Extension provides.

My wife and I have four children and five grandchildren, most of whom we see regularly. I am an avid sports fan (sadly a longtime Browns follower). Other activities include golf, bird watching, carpentry and home remodeling. I am an elder and past president of Poland Presbyterian Church. Recently I have been dabbling in meteorology and have started to do a little fishing. I am not sure where either of these endeavors may lead, but one never knows?

I would strongly encourage any of you

who are considering taking the Master Gardener course to make the commitment and enroll. You will not be disappointed.

Marshall Winkler

OCVN Class of 2016 In Their Own Words

Gail Bable

My name is Gail Bable and I grew up in a small town in western Pennsylvania called Chippewa Township, just outside of Beaver Falls, PA. My father was in the Army when I was born and we lived in rental homes so, I wasn't introduced to gardening until I was about 4 years old when my parents bought their first home. My mom loves flowers and their half-acre lawn was filled with beautiful gardens. My mom especially loved irises and peonies. They did have a small vegetable garden growing mostly tomatoes, onions and green peppers. My grandparents on both of my parent's side grew much larger gardens and my mother's parents had a very nice orchard with pears, plums, apples and cherries.



I live on a small farm with ten acres. In the past we have raised chickens, ducks, cows, horses and alpacas. My husband is retiring next October, so we have rehomed all the animals and now just have a small vegetable garden for the two of us. We love the usual tomatoes and peppers, zucchini, eggplant, onions, and Brussels sprouts. Of course, we also have cucumbers and pumpkins, too. I have gardens for flowers completely surrounding our home and pool, our front stonewall and along the driveway. Most of my plants are perennials, mainly hostas of many different kinds. I have a few herbs,

purple coneflowers, black-eyed susans, and many kinds of day and tiger lilies. The gardens have done very well except for the constant battles with slugs and Japanese beetles. I have planted bulbs in the past that didn't do so well due to all the chipmunks we have. The Leslie Run Creek which runs into Beaver Creek just beyond our home causes a lot of problems with erosion in our yard, so I'm always trying out new plants to try to save the banks.

I have learned in the class so far that I have been watering our garden incorrectly. I've always just watered it standing in front of the garden spraying from above. I will be purchasing a drip hose before our planting season starts this year!

I have many other hobbies besides gardening. I love to knit, spin yarn, sew, go canoeing, hiking and fishing. My favorite hobby is camping. I live from Spring to Fall at Beaver Creek State Park as a Campground Host. I also do some gardening at the campground and have been putting in several perennial beds. It is very shady there so most of the plantings are hostas. I have put in a few beds of mums last fall and when I last checked on them they had survived the winter. I hope to add more types of hostas and other plants this spring. I'm so excited to be in the Naturalist class and hope to learn much more during the class to help benefit our parks.

Gail Bable

Volunteer Voice – Marilyn McKinley

The “Truth” About Plant Catalogs

Taken from: Green Prints

Imagine you are a non - gardener given the task to describe plants in a way that will sell them to seasoned and novice gardeners. You have a thesaurus full of adjectives nearly jumping off the pages, begging to be used. Your mission is to

market these plants and move them off the shelves. Old time gardeners may be 'hip' to your jargon, because they have fallen for it, most more than once. Maybe, just maybe, some of them will bite again, forgetting their past stupidity. Maybe you will get newbie gardeners that will really buy into your lame descriptions. You can hardly wait to start the 'sucker' game!

So here are some of your 'tricks' – exposed.

CHOICE: We know what 'choice' beef is, but with flowers we are not talking marbling. So 'choice' is a signal that they are overstocked on that item and are desperately trying to move that item to any unsuspecting soul. But wait! "Rare and Choice": means they can't find enough space for them, they gotta move A.S.A.P.

COMMON: These are the plants of our childhood. The plants that bloomed with virtually no care whatsoever. Now plant dealers don't sell 'common' plants. They sell things that are 'much improved' over its ancestors. If they think they can make a buck from a common plant it will be tagged 'durable'.

EXCLUSIVE: Gotta ya! A breeder was paid a goodly sum so he won't let anyone else sell it – at any price. What to do? Wait until next year, it will be priced for at least half as much. If it's a mail order 'exclusive' check the shelves at the local Walmart or K-Mart, they just might have a lot of it dying on their shelves.

LIMITED SUPPLY: Ha! They sold out the day before the catalog came out OR they are hoarding the handful they do have for favorite customers or family.

MAY BLOOM FIRST YEAR: NOT in your garden!

HARDY: Will live through a winter, probably not at your house! Hardy to zone 5 means hardy to 6, and so on. Hardy with protection – coddling a flu stricken husband will require less care!

LIGHT FRAGRANCE: Cram it up your nose, you might get a slight whiff.

VIGOROUS GROWER: This might be a plant that will devour your home in a matter of weeks, or burst up through blacktop 30 feet from where it was planted. Or the other extreme....it dies!

PROVIDES WINTER INTEREST: Problem? In spring, summer, and fall, it is boring and ugly!

OLD FAVORITE: aka 'Victorian favorite'. Much better varieties have been developed. It will succumb to every malady know to plant land!

TOLERATES LIGHT SHADE: Sure, it won't die, just will get leggy and never bloom.

A CHALLENGE: It will die!

SPECTACULAR: Tasteless and gaudy, probably aggressive too!

FOR THE DISCERNING GARDNER: Blooms one day, with tiny little ugly flowers, or priced at twice what it's worth.

I hope you feel better now, yep we have all fallen for these 'adjectives' and probably will do so again and again. Happy Gardening!

Marilyn McKinley
OSUE MGV and OCVN

Notice: Sharpening your garden tools

There is a place on the Green in Canfield that will sharpen your tools for almost nothing! It's a hair salon: Mr. Herbert's 80 N. Broad St. (Commons on the Green) – just west of the post office. 330-533-6230.

Notice: Have you joined the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge?

Please go to
millionpollinatorgardens.org.

And remember: **SHARE:**
Simply, Have, Areas,
Reserved, for the Environment.



**Volunteers are not paid,
not because they are worthless,
but because they are priceless.**

Upcoming Events

April and May Events at the Huston – Brumbaugh Nature Center can be found in the Spring 2016 newsletter at <http://go.osu.edu/HB-Spring16>

April Events at the Mill Creek Metroparks can be found at <http://www.millcreekmetroparks.org/events/2016-04/>

April 18 – **Landscape Pruning**, Coffee with the Master Gardeners Program, OSU Extension – Mahoning County office, Monday, 9:30 am – 12:00 pm. Eric Barrett will answer your pressing questions about landscape pruning. Information and a registration form are available at <http://go.osu.edu/april2016coffee> The program flyer can be found attached to this newsletter.

April 23 – **Fruit Tree Pruning Clinic**, White House Fruit Farm, Saturday, 1 – 4 pm. 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. Information and a registration form are available at <http://go.osu.edu/fruitprune2016> The program flyer can be found attached to this newsletter.

April 27 – **Asparagus & Other Perennial Edibles**, Agriculture and Family Center (520 W. Main St., Cortland), Wednesday, 6 pm. Part of the Trumbull County Master Gardeners 2016 Free Garden Programs.

April 30 & May 1 – **Gardening Seminar and Native Plant Sale**, Wilderness Center in Wilmot, Ohio, Saturday and Sunday, 9 am – 5 pm. For more information phone 330-359-5235 or visit <http://www.wildernesscenter.org/native-plant-sale-2/>

May Events at the Mill Creek Metroparks can be found at <http://www.millcreekmetroparks.org/events/2016-05/>

May 5 & 6 – **Master Gardener Volunteer Days, Secrest Arboretum**, Thursday, 12 – 4 pm and Friday, 8 am – 3 pm. All Master

Gardener volunteers are invited to attend! Secrest Arboretum is located on the campus of the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center. Participants have will have the opportunity to learn from experts in the horticultural field and help make Secrest a better place. For more information visit <http://u.osu.edu/secrestmg/>

May 7 – **Trees: Ornamental and Edible**, 4-H Building, Lake County Fairgrounds, Saturday, 10 am. Part of the Lake County MGVs' Meet Us in the Garden discussion and interactive demonstration series. Free Event but registration required. Phone 440-350-2206 or email MGAdmin@lakecountyohio.gov

May 11 – **Let's Talk Roses**, Agriculture and Family Center (520 W. Main St., Cortland), Wednesday, 6 pm. Part of the Trumbull County Master Gardeners 2016 Free Garden Programs.

September 16 & 17 - **2016 Ohio MGV State MGV Conference**, Cuyahoga Falls, Friday and Saturday. The conference will feature two keynote speakers: Michael Dirr, author of *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants* and Doug Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home*.

Visit <http://u.osu.edu/mgv2016/> for more information.

MGV 2016 Meeting Schedule

April 14 - Our fearless leader, Eric, will cover the available kits for master gardeners to use when presenting programs. OSU Extension Office, 6:30 pm.

May 12 - Plant Exchange and Pot Luck Dinner, OSUE office, 6:30 pm.

June 9 - A trip to Kreidler's Gardens in Homeworth. Owner Barry will give a presentation on New and Unusual Plants. Times for carpooling TBA

July 14 - *1st. Annual Master Gardener Flower Show*, details TBA

August 11 - A Home Garden Tour to be held at Eric's where we will also hold our Fair Planning meeting.

September 8 - Tentative Hypertufa Class OSU Extension Office, 6:30 pm.

October 13 - TBA

November 10 - We will work on the Fellows

Christmas Tree decorations OSU Extension Office, 6:30 pm.

December - Recognition Banquet TBA

OCVN 2016 Meeting Schedule (VERY Tentative)

April 20 – *Coyotes*, Stan Gerht ??

May 18 – *Bald Eagles*, Jim Kavelatis

June 15 – *Millcreek Trolley Cohasset Express Field Trip*

July 20 – *Quail Hollow Park* – Field Trip

August 17 – *Fair Preparation*

September 21 – *Beaver Township Nature Preserve Field Trip*, Scott Conway

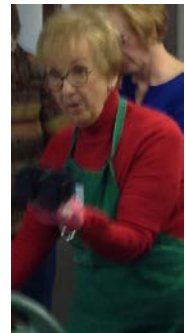
October 19 – *Amphibians*, Gregory Lipps

November 16 – *Deer*, Marne Titchenell

December - Recognition Banquet TBA

Volunteers in Action

Barb Delisio was our featured speaker for the March Coffee with the Master Gardeners. Barb presented "*Can't Wait for Spring? Try Starting Seeds Indoors!*"



Barb's presentation was great therapy for gardeners who are longing to get out into the soil.

Keen Observations

Bessie Anderson submitted this photo that sums up our spring attitudes.



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

Landscape Pruning

Learn to make the right cuts at the right time for a beautiful landscape!

-Eric Barrett, OSU Extension Educator
Agriculture and Natural Resources



Monday, April 18th

9:30 am—Coffee, Donuts, Refreshments

10am-12pm—Program

Location: 490 S. Broad St. Canfield, OH

Cost: \$15/person

Details: Register ASAP – Seating is limited

Contact: 330-533-5538

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 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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Fruit Tree Pruning Clinic

Saturday, April 23, 2016 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**

Fruit Pruning Clinic

