

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>



March 2015

Volume 14 Issue 3

Marilyn's Musings

March!

March! So much going on this month.



The month when we start to have hope about the upcoming gardening year. We may well have every possible type of describe (not sure that's even a word!) weather in the month of March. Cold, windy, snowy, sleet, tornados, sunny, warm, etc. The first day of spring, Passover, and sometimes Easter. We get St. Patrick's Day, and March Madness. We might get to start working in the garden and yard. Remember, was it 3 or 4 years ago, it was over 80 on St. Patrick's Day. We worked in the yard (in shorts!) and cooked out. Mother Nature was as confused as we were.

So, I guess the lesson is – be prepared for anything!

Marilyn McKinley

OSU Master Gardener Volunteer
Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist

March MGVS Meeting

Our March MGVS meeting will be held at the OSUE office at 6:30 pm on Thursday, March 12th. Bill Snyder will present a brief overview of *Pesticide Labels*. In response to requests from our Plant and Pest Diagnostic Lab volunteers, we will examine the wealth of information that can be obtained from these both informative and legal documents.



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.



February MGV Meeting

Our February Master Gardener Volunteer meeting featured a presentation by Dr. Jim Converse. He spoke about *Growing Our Future Gardeners*, a discussion of some of the youth programs in the Valley with which Jim has been involved.



Volunteer Voice – Peggy Griffith

Winter Diversions

This winter, like the previous one has been brutal! By this time of the season, I begin to wonder if spring will ever arrive and also feel like hunting a famous ground hog for telling me that we have six more weeks of this madness.

While dreading going out in subzero temperatures again and getting notification of yet another winter storm warning on my phone, I began to wonder what I could do to beat the winter blues while itching to get out and start my garden and flower beds. I searched and searched the internet and found some ideas that are practical and fun for all ages. Here are a few suggestions.

If you haven't done so already, make sure all your tools are clean and sharp so that when the snow melts, you are ready to run out the door and start playing in the dirt again. Start planning what your space will look like. Make a list of what worked and didn't work and what else you might like to see in your space, peruse seed catalogs and daydream of how your garden will be the envy of your fellow gardeners.

Now is a good time to take care of houseplants and give them a little extra TLC. You can divide, transplant and cut roots in order to make them healthy for when they might be getting a little neglected once the warm weather comes. If you haven't already done so, start an indoor herb garden to compliment your fresh veggies. March is also a good time to start your annual and vegetable seeds and get them ready to be planted.

If you decide to brave the cold and snow and venture outside, some fun things you can do is visit every flower shop you can think of to get inspiration. You can also get together with fellow gardeners and have a seed swap.

For the creative type, some whimsical things to do would be, paint cute little flowers on the snow so that when you look out, you see bright, colorful flowers. Another thing you can do during these frigid temps is to take a balloon and fill it with colored water and let it freeze. Once it freezes, remove the balloon and voila, you now have colorful balls to decorate your yard.



Peggy Griffith

OSU Master Gardener Volunteer



SPRING GARDEN CHORES

When it's finally time to get out into the garden – I tend to feel a bit stressed and overwhelmed! I so enjoy being out there and have such high hope of what might be. Even so, I always wonder am I doing this in the right sequence. Are there other things that are more important that I am not paying attention to? So I decided to do some reading and came up with a few tips.



1. Walk around your gardens with pen and pencil in hand, take notes, and sketch things out. You might have several sheets in your notebook labeled say shrubs, trees, trimming, perennials, etc.
2. After your garden walk around and lists are completed sit down and add to your list seasonal things that need to be done, like fertilizing, weed-n-feed, etc.
3. Next establish a completion deadline date for these projects.
4. If you have mail ordered plants pull out that list. Make note of when these are scheduled to arrive, so you can get those babies in the ground soon after they arrive.
5. Test soil, if not done for at least 3 years.
6. Analyze your list, consider color coding, to establish what is in need of attention right now. You must establish priorities. Maybe red starred items are the most pressing, orange a bit less so, yellow for medium importance.

7. Now start another page or two. Write down all red star items. If you have more than 10 red starred items, maybe you need some help, especially if you are pressed for time. There is no sin in getting help for early spring chores!
8. So let's say all totaled you have 100 spring chores. (this is a detailed list!). Where to start? Two methods may be incorporated and help you stay focused. Gardening by area or gardening by action.
9. Gardening by area is pretty easy to understand. Work a quadrant of your yard at a time. Complete all needed tasks in that area before moving on to the next part. Warning: this may require dragging every tool out of the shed!
10. Gardening by action requires more self - discipline. Making lists again will be a great help. Actions will be rather general, but grouped by tasks.
11. Slow down!! Every other gardener out there is in the same boat; this is supposed to be fun and relaxing. Through planning you may be able to enjoy the fruits of all your labor and the beauty you have created.

Marilyn McKinley
OSU MG/OCVN



Provided by Bob Schulick

Clip it, Save it, Find It.

For years I used to take a pair of scissors and cut out gardening articles from newspapers and magazines that contained information I wanted to save. I still have a folder with articles from Adrian Higgins, the Washington Post's gardening editor I brought with me from Virginia. But I no longer save articles with a pair of scissors. And if you are still using scissors to save articles, I have a suggestion for you - try Web Clipper from Evernote.

Web Clipper is an extension from Evernote



that works with your browser to allow you save any articles you find on the web. Web Clipper can save entire articles, parts of articles or just the URL (web address). Once saved in Evernote the article never goes away even if the original web site is taken down.

To get started using Web Clipper you will first need an Evernote account. An Evernote account is free and gives up to 60 megabytes of storage per month. Evernote also a premium account for \$5.00 a month that gives you up to 1 gigabyte of storage. But I've never run up against the 60 meg per month limit and sometimes I use Web Clipper quite a bit.

Once you have your Evernote account you can download and start using Web Clipper. Web Clipper will work with just about any browser. It's what they call in geek speak a "cross platform" application. It works with Internet Explorer, Safari, Chrome and Opera browsers and supports iOS and Android on mobile devices. After Web Clipper is added to your browser all you have to do to save an article you are looking at is click the elephant and tell Web Clipper what you want to save (The elephant is the logo for Evernote because elephants

never forget). Web Clipper will also ask, or suggest, what "notebook" you would like the article save in. In Evernote notebooks are just folders for saving things in. For example I save the Valley Grows articles in a notebook I called Gardening.

Well that's about all there is to Web Clipper except for what I find to be the most useful part: Evernote is searchable. Remember the newspaper folder I mention? Anytime I want to find information I've saved there I have to manually go through the folder and look at each article until I find what I am looking for. A very time consuming process. Once you've clipped an article to Evernote you can then use Evernote's search features to find it. Just type in the word or words you are looking and Evernote pulls up everything it has that matches your search request. For instance, I use Web Clipper to save the Valley Grows articles into my Evernote account. Then if I want to find something I know was in a Valley Grows article I can use Evernote's search capabilities to find it faster than scrolling through the Vindicator's web site looking for the right article. I find Web Clipper to be a cool little application.

FYI. There are more features in Evernote than Web Clipper, such as: note taking and writing, work collaboration and presentations capabilities. And if you're wondering if Evernote, and hence Web Clipper, will be around in the future the answer is most likely yes. Evernote went live in 2008 and currently has 100,000,000 users world wide including many businesses.

For more on Evernote Web Clipper: <https://evernote.com/webclipper/guide/>

For more on Evernote: <https://evernote.com>

David Sprague
OSU Master Gardener Volunteer

Heritage Gardening

The 10th annual Winter Seminar on Feb 21st at Fellows, sponsored by the Men's Garden Club of Youngstown featured Peter Hatch, former Director of Gardens and Grounds at Monticello, and author of *"A Rich Spot of Earth": Thomas Jefferson's Revolutionary Garden at Monticello.*

Having spent 35 years at Monticello, Mr. Hatch easily drew his capacity audience into Mr. Jefferson's time, his love for the land, his fascination with nature and his tenacity for recording in his garden diary. Called his Garden Book, Thomas Jefferson made entries for over fifty-eight years. Because it exists, Monticello is one of the most historically accurate garden restorations in America.

Did you know that Monticello means "little mountain"? Peter Hatch explained that Jefferson's strategic design and placement of his 1000 ft. vegetable garden on the little mountain protected it from the cold, a microclimates of sorts. But he did not develop a watering system and that was a serious obstacle to the consistent success of the garden. Hatch quotes Jefferson as telling James Monroe after a very bad season that "in the lotteries of human life... farming is but gambling."

The seed for bringing Mr. Hatch to lecture was planted in our master gardener and men's garden club member Lynn Huffman's mind when Eric Barrett shared photos of his visit to Monticello at an MG/OCVN meeting.

Thomas Jefferson liked vegetables and eagerly procured the newest introductions to plant in his garden. With that in mind, the seminar luncheon included a number of his favorites: kale and beet salad with a tarragon wine dressing, roasted sweet potatoes and

okra.

Participants received a beautiful illustrated and informative program compiled by Lynn, a tote bag, catalogs and seeds. On each table was a group of unassuming green plastic four inch pots with a covering of Spanish moss and sprigs of hemlock and cones. I admit I thought, "Couldn't they find anything blooming on yet another snowy day?" And so I dismissed the pots as a bit of an anomaly... but that was a mistake...

Other seminar speakers also well received were Marta McDowell who spoke on the correlation of authors Beatrix Potter and poet Emily Dickinson writings to their love of gardening; and local heirloom tomato grower Jay Coy of North Jackson.

As the program drew to a close, our attention was directed to the 4" pot centerpieces, one for each of us. We look under the moss and find the emerging tips of *Convallaria majalis* Lily of the valley. And with it, a story from Kreidler Gardens that read:

"During the late 1980s we judged a national convention of the American Daffodil Society in Tyson's Corners, Virginia, sponsored by the Daffodil Society and the Garden Club of Virginia. One of the elderly ladies with whom we judged had a grandson or maybe a nephew who had interned at Monticello that summer. Part of the convention was a tour of Jefferson's home and as we toured she told us of a bag of Lily of the valley she had in her daffodil cooler. The intern had saved them from a parking lot expansion for employees behind some out buildings and she had some left after giving them away to anyone who wanted them in her many garden clubs. The last day of the convention she gave us a small garbage bag full of roots which we brought home and they bloomed in June of that year. The patch has grown into a large area in the thirty years we have had them in Homeworth, Ohio. We figure there is a good chance that they date from President Thomas Jefferson's time."

It is recorded that Jefferson thought lily of the valley was suitable for naturalizing in “the open ground on the west” and that he ordered roots in 1809 from a Philadelphia seedsman. Unlike other bulbs that were taken up and divided for replanting, his instructions were that the lily of the valley was “to be left” as it is well suited to care for itself.

It was a perfect an ending to an inspiring day. Little “pips” of American history for us to nurture, just as President Thomas Jefferson nurtured, not only in his garden, but also his country.

The drab little pots held a treasure.

Joyce Karsnak
OSU Master Gardener Volunteer

Notice: MGV/OCVN Training

The next OSU Extension class for training Master Gardener Volunteers and Certified Volunteer Naturalists will begin in March **2016**. Applications will be accepted throughout the coming year.



Upcoming Events

March 13 - **Botanical Mornings**, Friday, 9 – 10 am. Explore the budding Spring in the Gardens with Lynn Zocolo. Register/pay by 3/11. \$5. Fellows Riverside Gardens.

March 14 - **Sounds of Spring**, Saturday, 7 pm. Dr. Spiro Mavroidis (assistant professor of biology at Mount Union) leads an evening hike to listen and identify breeding anurans (frogs and toads). Multiple species breed during the spring in Northeast Ohio and each has its own unique call. Enjoy the sounds of spring with Dr. Mavroidis while learning to identify various frog species. Registration is required and closes on March 13. Huston – Brumbaugh Nature Center, 330-823-7487.

March 21 - **Birding The Sanctuary**, Saturday, 8 - 9:30 am. Jeff Harvey of Wild Birds Unlimited will lead this walk at the Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary. Boots are required. Register at Ford Nature Center by 3/20.

March 24 - **Audubon Society/Mahoning Valley: Bees**, Tuesday, 7- 8 pm. Learn about the fascinating and important lives bees led. Sister Jean Thurin, education manager for Villa Maria Community Center in Pennsylvania, will give us an insight into these creatures. Mill Creek MetroParks Farm.

March 27 - **Gardening Basics: Garden Design Theory II**, Friday, 10 am – 12 pm. Garden Design Theory II class builds on the material from the first Design Theory class and expands the student's ability to look at gardens through the eyes of a designer. Bridget Beck, garden designer, will introduce students to some famous and not-so-famous gardens and examine why they “work” in terms of their design. Then, examine current gardening projects and brainstorm ideas and solutions as a group. Please bring materials from home that you are currently working on. Register/pay by 3/12. \$14; FFRG \$12. Fellows Riverside Gardens.

March 29 - **Signs of Spring Hike**, Sunday, 2-4 pm. Join this guided walk with Dr. Chuck McClaugherty to search for signs of the spring season. Please dress appropriately for spring weather and trail conditions. Cameras are encouraged. No registration required. Huston – Brumbaugh Nature Center, 330-823-7487.

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 16 - **Nature in Bloom**, Thursday, 8:00 am - 8:30 pm. Spring boasts a variety of colorful blooms from trilliums to daffodils to bluebells. Explore these delicate beauties in the wilds of western PA. Visit the Wildflower Reserve at Raccoon Creek State Park, then hop on over to the brand new Pittsburgh Botanic Garden and their woodlands. Enjoy spring inspired meals and a special stop to visit Joe Hamm's daffodil delights. This trip includes walking several miles along easy to moderate trails. Hiking boots, or waterproof footwear, are required. Deadline March 27. \$155; FFRG \$110

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

Master Gardeners 2015 Meeting Schedule

March 12 – *Pesticide Labels*, Bill Snyder. OSU Extension Office, 6:30 pm.

April 9 – *Update on State MGV Committee*, Hugh Earnhart and *Phenology Overview*, David Sprague. 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*.



**Activity in the Plant and Pest Diagnostic Clinic is a sure sign that
SPRING is near.**

Coffee with the Master Gardeners

Starting Seeds

Master Gardener Volunteer Barb Delisio

The Ohio State University Master Gardener Volunteer Barb Delisio will discuss the process of starting your garden from seed. Germination, plant propagation, and transferring are all vital to the success of a garden from seed.

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

3rd Wednesday of Every
Month

Date: March 18th

9:30 am—Coffee and Donuts
10am-12pm—Program

Location: 490 S. Broad St.
Canfield, OH 44406

Cost: \$10/person (\$5/Mahoning
County MGVs/OCVNs)

Details: Register by March 16th

Contact: Katie Wears at 330-533-
5538 or wears.13@osu.edu

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, March 16th** to reserve a spot for the program.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Number Attending: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____



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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



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Outreach/Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist/
Mahoning County

Landscape Pruning Clinic

Monday, March 23, 2015, 6-8pm

- Join Eric Barrett for an hour discussion on proper pruning techniques and tools to keep your landscape looking its best.
- We'll take a **Walk-About** around the gardens to try your skills at pruning. (dress appropriate and bring a chair if needed)
- Learn to prune for **maximum flower potential**, to **minimize disease**, **regenerate shrubs** and to make **great shapes** in your landscape.
- Class held rain or shine.
- Horticultural publications will be for sale to assist you with your landscape.



Location

Held at the OSU Extension Office
490 S. Broad St, Canfield OH 44406
Information 330.533.5538 <http://mahoning.osu.edu>



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AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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**

**Landscape
Pruning
Clinic**



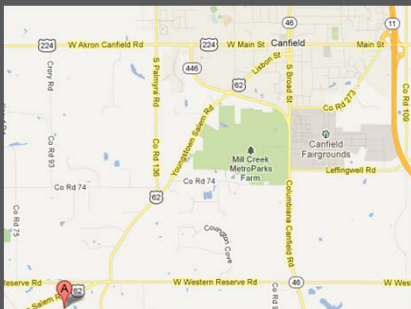
Fruit Tree Pruning Clinic

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>



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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.

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**Fruit
Pruning
Clinic**

