

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>



November/December 2016

Volume 15 Issue 11

Marilyn's Musings

As I sat down to write a few words I realized that Thanksgiving, the Recognition Banquet, Fellows Tree, Wreaths Across America, Christmas, and New Year's will have passed before the next issue of *Flora and Fauna* is published. Like the 'old' people say, "where does the time go"?

2016 has been a very good year. We held classes for 18 Mahoning MGVS trainees, 8 Trumbull MGVS and 6 OCVNs. Outstanding! Eric was selected to speak at the MGVS conference this year – standing room only for his lecture. Our "Coffee with the Master Gardeners" series has been very successful. BOTO plant and garden art sale brought in over \$200.00 for handcrafted items. Many thanks to Pam Baytos for her crafty leadership! The Canfield Fair – nice weather, but for one evening, brought out record crowds. Thumbs up *VALLEY GROWS!* We entered a project for State MGVS Awards. Did not win – look out next year!

I am so proud of us! As I think back over the year, we had some good times, what a great group of volunteers you are. I want to thank everyone for your support. As I get to know more people from around the state I ask about their group of MGVS and OCVNs. Some of the stories of the difficulties that they

encounter are so petty, yet they cause so many problems. I tell them that Mahoning County volunteers work so well together, how we get things done. It makes me so proud to share some of our success stories and see mouths drop open, then hear the "really" – "how do you guys do it"? My answer is always the same – GREAT bunch of people, and we laugh a lot. I tell them that Eric is a force to be feared! They don't believe me, and if they know or know of him, they always comment on how lucky we are. I know we all agree, we are so very thankful for his leadership.

**THANK YOU
- EVERYONE -
FOR ALL YOU DO!**



**HAPPY THANKSGIVING
MERRY CHRISTMAS
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Marilyn McKinley
OSUE MGVS and OCVN

November MGVS Meeting

Our next Master Gardener meeting will be held on Thursday, November 10th at 6:30 pm at the OSU Extension office. The meeting will focus on preparations for our OSUE Master Gardener Holiday Tree at Fellows Riverside Gardens.

This year we will be creating an "Old Fashion" Christmas tree. We will be

using "candle like" lights, gingham, plaid, calico and burlap. Please contact Thresea Harris for instructions on what materials are needed for this year's display.

The tree decorating date and time will be announced at the meeting. Bring your scissors and prepare for fun.



Decorating 2015 courtesy of Judy Rodkey

November OCVN Meeting

We will have a November meeting on Wednesday, November 16th. Join us at 6:30 pm at the OSU Extension Office. Agenda for Discussion:

1. Schedule for 2017 – Meetings and Programs
2. Hours for 2016
3. Joining state OCVN group for 2017?
 - a. \$20 for active
 - b. \$50 for new (part of training fee)
4. Vindy Articles for Winter – The Love/Hate Relationship with Wildlife??

- Eric

MGV and OCVN Recognition Banquet

Hope to see everyone at the Recognition Banquet. Registration/check-in begins at 6:00 pm. Activities begin at 6:15 pm. Please be prompt, don't miss anything – food, entertainment, door prizes, awards, who knows what else?

Menu for the banquet: Swiss Chicken, Eggplant Parmigiana, Baked White Fish, Redskin Smashed Potatoes/Garlic, chives & sour cream, Italian Vegetables, Tossed Salad, Tomato, Pepper, & Onion Salad, Relish Tray, Rolls & Butter, Coffee, Tea, Ice Cream. We will also have 'dry snacks' - nuts, chips, etc. and a cookie table. **-MM**

Wreaths Across America 2016

Our annual wreath laying ceremony will be held at Ellsworth Township Cemetery (10750 W Akron-Canfield Road Ellsworth) on Saturday, December 17th at 10:00 am. If you wish to help with set-up, please arrive at 9:00 am.

This represents our annual effort to remember our fallen U.S. veterans, to honor those who serve and to teach children the value of freedom.



Ellsworth Set-up 2015

January 2017 MGV Meeting

Just a note about the importance of attending our January 12, 2017 MGV meeting. Seems a little early to remind you, but we won't have a newsletter in December. This will give you plenty of time to put the date on your next year's calendar. It will be an organizational meeting for the 2017 year which will include what our programs will be, when our new MGV class will begin, fair planning and anything else that will help us have a successful 2017 year.

The fair isn't until the end of August and

it may seem early to get plans together. The 2017 fair will have a completely different set up from the past. We will need all of you to make this the best fair yet. We want to make vegetables a major part of our display. We will have stations (perennials, pollinators, bugs, herbs, trees, shrubs and vegetables), where you can choose to volunteer and share information about your specialty. We all have a subject, near and dear to our hearts, which we are more comfortable sharing information about.

Remember - mark your calendars - MGV organizational meeting Jan. 12, 2017.

Barb Delisio

October MGV Meeting

Our own Sara Scudier presented an entertaining and informative program on *Pollinators* with a special emphasis on bees



The minutes from the October 13th MGV meeting that followed Sara's talk were recorded by Peg Zeleznik and are attached to this newsletter.

MGV Class of 2016 In Their Own Words

Merabeth "Pinky" Steffen

I grew up in Austintown on farm property purchased by my great-grandfather in 1885. As a child, I enjoyed exploring that acreage and surrounding area on my horse. We ate fruit from the property including apples, cherries, pears, rhubarb, and peaches, and Dad's gardens provided us with fresh vegetables and strawberries every summer. In the winter, we ate what Mom and Dad froze or canned.



I graduated from Fitch HS then continued my education at Mount Union College where I received a degree in Science Education. I taught eighth grade science at East Liverpool Middle School for thirty years. I also have a Master's in Education from YSU. I have been retired for ten years, and have never been bored.

In addition to my father's vegetable gardening, my mom grew flowers, both perennials and annuals from seed. In later years, she made the weekly altar arrangements for church from her cutting garden, and continued to do so past the age of ninety. She had perennials in her garden transplanted from her mother's garden, some of which are now in mine, so the gardening desire goes back at least three generations on both sides of my family.

My husband and I purchased our 1840's farmhouse on five acres in Rogers 23 years ago, providing room for plenty of gardening opportunities. Our property includes a continually running spring, a good source of fresh water for the dry summer months, and a creek. My first plants were perennials, transplants from

a gardening friend and my mom. I continue to add new ones each year. My plants include many natives, but I have a weakness for anything new or unusual. I also have a raised bed built from salvaged sandstone that I use for my cutting garden and herbs. I am now adding shrubs to my perennial beds, making them more attractive and interesting. Two years ago, we added raised beds for vegetables, and plan to add two more this year for a total of six.

One of the problems I am now experiencing is the growth of trees, turning previously sunny areas into shade. I will need to move plants or do some serious pruning. We have wet, stony clay in some places that has required a lot of amending with compost. An additional annoyance is the beaver that feeds on some of our trees. Chicken wire solved that problem!

I have known about the Master Gardener Class for many years, and am very pleased that my sister-in-law encouraged me to enroll. I have learned so many new things, and I will never be able to remember all of it. I hope I took good notes, but I now know where to look if I did not. My husband is probably tired of listening to the recitation of all my newly acquired knowledge each week. The biggest change I plan to make is soil testing.

My husband and I enjoy spending time with his daughter and granddaughter and our son, a civil engineering student at the University of Mount Union. (Now there is a football team worth watching!) We love to travel, including several trips west and a trip to China. I am a bird watcher and dog walker, and sew, read, and refinish furniture in my spare time.

The Master Gardener Class has more than exceeded my expectations, and the only thing I can ask myself is, "Why did I wait so long to take it?"

Pinky Steffen
OSUE MGV



Notice: Ohio Pollinator Health, Protection and Conservation Plan: Stakeholder Input.

Many of you know I am taking a yearlong course, offered by OSU. I am learning so much about our pollinators and the problems they are encountering. As MGV's and OCVN's we are all aware of the many issues. Groups around Ohio are working hard to educate people on the problems and the solutions.

Please take a few minutes and take the survey at the link listed below. Your input and comments will help educate the public and in turn help our pollinators survive. **-MM**

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

The Ohio Pollinator Health, Protection and Conservation Plan is a communication tool and guide for action to improve the health and survival of pollinators across Ohio. Your input is vital to the success of this plan. Please answer the questions to offer your thoughts on: • The threats facing Ohio's pollinators • Ohio's strengths to impact these threats • Action steps Ohioans can take to help pollinators. This should take about 10 minutes. **OHIO RESIDENTS ONLY, PLEASE! The survey closes on November 11th, 2016.**

Notice: MGV Online Recertification

OSU required online recertification will begin soon. This is when you again agree to continue to adhere to the standards of behavior, abuse-reporting policy, and pesticide policies. More information provided later. **-MM**

Notice: 2016 Recognition Banquet

The 2016 ANR Volunteer Recognition Banquet will be held on Wednesday, November 30th at A La Cart Catering

(429 Lisbon Street, Canfield). We will begin promptly at 6:00 pm. I hope to see everyone at the Recognition Banquet. Registration/check-in begins at 6:00 pm. Activities begin at 6:15 pm. Please be prompt, don't miss anything – food, entertainment, door prizes, awards, who knows what else? **-M.M.**

Notice: 2017 Ceremony Site for Wreaths Across America

We are seeking input from MGVS and OCVNs to select a new cemetery location for next year's Wreath Across America ceremony.

We need to get the new site registered as soon as possible after the first of the year. **- Mike Beaudis**

Notice: MGVS Committees

MGV's - please be thinking about what committees you would like to be a part of next year. Remember all volunteer hours are committee driven. There will be some changes for next year. That will all be explained at the January MGVS meeting. Committee sign-up sheets will be available at the Recognition Banquet. **-M.M.**

Notice: New MSU Bulletin

From Michigan State Extension: *Protecting and Enhancing Pollinators in Urban Landscapes – for the US North Central Region*. Twenty-nine pages packed with information. OSU's David Herms from OSU Dept. of Entomology is a contributor. I have heard him speak – amazing! This publication covers it all from pesticides, to what to plant where, shrubs, perennials, trees, bulbs, phenology, when they bloom, what they attract, on and on. It is a great handbook for those interested in our pollinators.

-M.M.



ED Note

Search:

"PDF North Central bulletin E3314"

Notice: MGVS State Support Fee

Attached to this newsletter is your invoice for the State 2017 Master Gardener Volunteer Support Fee. This \$10 yearly fee supports the program at the state level. The money is used for the state conference, the volunteer management system and several other worthwhile causes. This fee is payable by MGVS who have completed the required hours for certification. **- Lori**

Notice: 2017 MGVS/OCVN Training

Our next class has tentatively been set to begin on Tuesday, March 14th at the OSU Extension office. Please inform those who have expressed interest in joining our groups.

Upcoming Events

November, December and January - **Events at the Huston – Brumbaugh Nature Center** can be found in the Fall/Winter 2016 newsletter at <http://go.osu.edu/HB-F-W16>

November **Events at the Mill Creek Metroparks** can be found at <http://www.millcreekmetroparks.org/events/2016-11/>

BEFORE November 11 – **Ohio Pollinator Health, Protection and Conservation Plan: Stakeholder Input.** Please take a few minutes and take the survey at <http://go.osu.edu/pollinatorsurvey> Your input and comments will help educate the public and in turn help our pollinators survive.

November 21 – **Holiday Pots and Arrangements - Bring your 12" and smaller pots to learn about style & design!** Coffee with the Master Gardeners Program, OSU Extension – Mahoning County office, Monday, 9:30 am – 12:00 pm. OSU Extension MGVS, Margaret Biroshak and Pam Baytos. Join Margaret and Pam to look at turning your pots into holiday masterpieces! They'll cover form and style, along with finding and using several kinds of greenery, berries and other cuttings from your landscape. Go beyond the filler, thriller and spiller to turn your pots and planters into stunning displays for the holiday season. NOTE: Bring up to a 12"

diameter pot to fill during the class to get a leg up on your holiday designs. Visit <http://go.osu.edu/holidaypots> The program flyer can be found attached to this newsletter.

November 30 - **2016 Agriculture & Natural Resource Volunteer Recognition Banquet**, A La Cart Catering, 429 Lisbon Street, Canfield. Wednesday, 6:00 pm. As Mahoning County MGV's and OCVNs, you are cordially invited to attend the Annual Recognition Banquet. At this event, we will recognize our dedicated volunteers for their service throughout the Mahoning Valley in 2016 and their dedication to OSU Extension programming. \$15.00/person. The banquet flyer and registration form can be found attached to this newsletter.

December **Events at the Mill Creek Metroparks** can be found at <http://www.millcreekmetroparks.org/events/2016-12/>

December 17 – **Wreaths Across America – Wreath Laying Ceremony**, Ellsworth Township Cemetery (10750 W Akron-Canfield Road Ellsworth). Saturday, 10:00 am (9:00 am to assist with set-up). Our annual effort to **REMEMBER** our fallen U.S. veterans, to **HONOR** those who serve and to **TEACH** children the value of freedom.

2017:

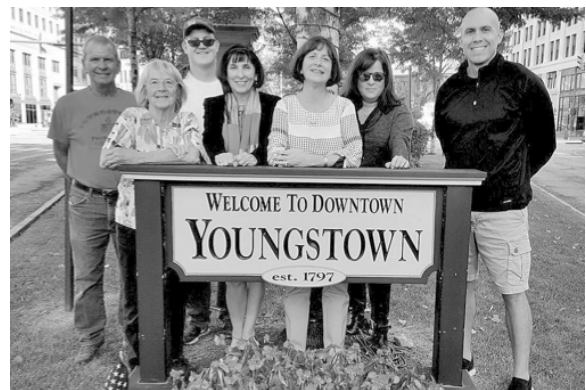
January **Events at the Mill Creek Metroparks** can be found at <http://www.millcreekmetroparks.org/events/2017-01/>

February 18 – **The Men's Garden Club of Youngstown Annual Winter Seminar**, "Great Gardens Start Here," Fellows Riverside Gardens, Saturday, **Save the Date**. For continuingly updated information, visit: <http://www.mgcy.org/Pages/WinterSeminar.aspx>

Keen Observation Vindy Stars

Recent editions of the Youngstown Vindicator have featured photographs of our MGVs/OCVNs. Judy Rodkey was featured (9/30/16) as a member of the Austintown Junior Women's League. Becky Borman was included (10/1/16) as a part of a knitting for veterans project, Made with Love by the knitters

of St. James Episcopal Church in Boardman. Bob Schulick was shown (10/26/16) as a member of Youngstown CityScape.



Our volunteers are everywhere.

Coffee with the MGVs

Marilyn McKinley had a record crowd for her October program *Fun with Herbs*.



The entire program will soon be available in the office on Blu-ray disc.



BYGL BYTES

Bits from the Buckeye Yard and Garden Line

Fall Clean Up for a Healthier Spring Landscape!



Fall is an important time in landscape maintenance. Many pest problems and diseases encountered this season may survive until next season on or in plant debris. Cultural practices completed prior to the beginning of winter will ensure a healthier landscape for next spring.

Some of the fall crops can still be left in the garden for a while, however warm season vegetables are about done for the season. Remove all annual vegetable plants from garden beds in order to prevent overwintering insect and diseases. Diseased plants should not be composted unless the compost pile reaches temperatures that kill the pathogen; bag this material and place in the trash. Compost should be added to improve garden soil for next spring.

Take advantage of the autumn sunshine and spend some in your annual and perennial beds. Annuals should be pulled out of the ground with the roots included. Dead stems and foliage should be pruned on most perennials and wildflowers. Of course, this task is garden specific, as some people prefer to leave certain herbaceous ornamentals such as tall grasses uncut to enjoy their winter interest. Seed heads of achillea (yarrow), echinacea and rudbeckia and other perennials are also important food sources for many of our overwintering bird species. Fall is also a great time to divide perennials and plant new perennials. Applying 2" of organic mulch to these newly planted perennials will

help retain the soil temperature to encourage root growth and prevent heaving of plants over winter's freeze and thaw cycles. Tender bulbs and tubers such as tuberous begonias, cannas and dahlias should be dug up and stored after the first frost.

Be sure to take advantage of other great sources of organic material abundant this time of the year. Rather than disposing of fallen tree leaves just run the lawn mower back and forth mulching the leaves into the lawn. You can also put the shredded leaves directly into your garden or compost bin.

Fall is also an excellent time to do corrective pruning of your trees and shrubs. Corrective pruning encompasses removal of dead, damaged, or diseased branches and the elimination of limbs that may be causing structural problems. Structural problems include branches that may be rubbing, those that are growing back to the center of the tree, and those with abnormally narrow crotch angles. As leaves drop from deciduous woody plants, it is easy to inspect and identify defects in your trees and shrubs. When not obscured by foliage it is easier to see canker formations, rubbing branches, splits or cracks in wood.

Putting your garden to bed this fall is just as important as any other growing chore you perform throughout the season.

Julie Cook

BYGL, October 27, 2016

<http://bygl.osu.edu/node/626>

MGV 2016 Meeting Schedule

November 10 - We will work on the Fellows Christmas Tree decorations. OSU Extension Office, 6:30 pm.

November 30 - *Annual Recognition Banquet*, A La Carte, 6:00 pm.

OCVN 2016 Meeting Schedule

November 16 – *Organizational Meeting*, OSU Extension Office, 6:30 pm.

November 30 - *Annual Recognition Banquet*, A La Carte, 6:00 pm.

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

Mahoning County MGV Meeting Minutes - October 13, 2016

Opening

The regular meeting of the Mahoning County MGV was called to order at 6:30pm on October 13, 2016 in Ohio State Extension Office by Marilyn McKinley.

Program

Sara presented a very informative and interesting program on bees. Questions came up concerning the difference between bumble bees and carpenter bees. Sara referred everyone to an OSU Fact Sheet on carpenter bees.

Committee Business

PPPD Clinic—Clinic will finish for the year at the end of October. Dave sent out a big thank you to the newest MGV's for all the work they did at the clinic this year! There will be a clinic review meeting on Monday, November 7th from 11-1. RSVP's are required as lunch will be provided. Clinic will open again the 1st. Monday in April.

Coffee w/Master Gardeners—Margaret has asked for greens, dried items (grasses and other natural items that would look good in Christmas arrangements), pines branches and evergreens for the November class. Participants should bring containers no larger than 12" in diameter.

Recognition Banquet—Will be held on November 30th at Ala Carte. Please note: It is o.k. to bring wine but no hard liquors. We can also bring dry foods such as chips and cookies but no dips, etc.

Wreaths Across America—Ellsworth Cemetery on Dec. 17th. A sign-up sheet will be sent around for volunteers.

Christmas Tree at Mill Creek Park—Thresea has done all the research on theme for this year's tree. We will be making ornaments and decorations for the tree at November's meeting.

Open Issues

Need writers for newsletter—if you have an interesting gardening item, send Bill an article. Also, please read your newsletter to keep up with all MGV activities and news. Articles are due the 1st of the month.

New Business

Pam is working on a new program—Sip & Paint that sounds like lots of fun. The cost would be around \$25.00

Announcements

Danita will be going to Ecuador as a volunteer Master Gardner from February 3rd-10th, 2017. Hopefully, she will be sharing her experiences with us sometime next year!

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm by Marilyn McKinley. The next general meeting will be at 6:00pm, November 10th at the Extension office.

Minutes submitted by: Peg Zeleznik



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences

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Mahoning County
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Canfield, OH 44406
Phone 330.533.5538
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mahoning.osu.edu

INVOICE

November 10, 2016

2017 Master Gardener Volunteer Support Fee

	Cost Per	Total
Year State Dues for Active Service in OSU Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program	\$10	\$10
Total		\$10

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE:

Ohio State University Extension
Mahoning County
490 S. Broad Street
Canfield, OH 44406-1604

Coffee with the Master Gardeners

Holiday Pots & Arrangements

Bring your 12" and smaller pots to learn about style & design!

OSU Extension Master Gardener Volunteers

—Margaret Biroschak & Pam Baytos

Join Margaret to a look at turning your pots into holiday masterpieces! She'll cover form and style, along with finding and using several kinds of greenery, berries and other cuttings from your landscape. Go beyond the filler, thriller and spiller to turn your pots and planters into stunning displays for the holiday season. NOTE: Bring up to a 12" diameter pot to fill during the class to get a leg up on your holiday designs.

This program is **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**.

Date: November 21st **Location:** 490 S. Broad St.

9:30 am—Coffee, Donuts,

Canfield, OH 44406

and refreshments

Cost: \$15/person

10am-12pm—Program

Details: Register ASAP – Seating is limited

Contact Phone: 330-533-5538



REGISTRATION INFORMATION. Registration includes the program, coffee and a light snack, 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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2016 Agriculture & Natural Resource Volunteer Recognition Banquet

Wednesday, November 30, 6pm

A La Cart Catering, 429 Lisbon St., Canfield

As MGV's and OCVNs, you are cordially invited to attend the Annual Recognition Banquet. At this event, we will recognize our dedicated volunteers for their service throughout the Mahoning Valley in 2016 and their dedication to OSU Extension programming.

THANKS
TO
YOU

A buffet-style dinner will be enjoyed, along with awards, singing and much more!

Volunteer Name _____ Guest _____

Total Attending_____

Amount Enclosed \$_____ (\$15.00 per person)

Reservations **MUST** be received by **Monday, November 21st** at noon.

Please make checks payable to:

OSU Extension—Mahoning County, 490 S. Broad St., Canfield, OH 44406



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