

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 2015

Volume 14 Issue 11

Marilyn's Musings

I just returned from another MGCV conference. Cuyahoga County held their fall seminar today. All day, held in a nice place, some of it was very interesting, some of it was stuff I had heard before. This seminar was open to the public, so I expected not to be wowed by the latest and greatest information that I had not heard about before. The conference was held at the Embassy Suites in Independence. Decent lunch, nice sound systems, tables to sit at, nice door prizes, but all I could think about was the \$\$\$\$\$ and the hours they must have spent putting all this together.

I think it would be wonderful for Mahoning County to have a seminar. Nothing too elaborate. But where, how much to charge, what about food, who could we get to speak that would be a draw and not cost a fortune, etc. etc.? I challenge each of you to give this some thought. I would think that a year's worth of planning would be necessary. Anybody think this is a committee in the making?

Is your garden winter ready? Not mine, millions of leaves to mulch, millions more to come down from pin oaks. Still have bulbs to plant, things to put away. I always



think I will never get it all done. I do or I stop trying, that simple.

I have some suggestions for websites you might want to check out. The first one would be Ohio MGCV web page. Take a look around, read other counties newsletters. One of my favorite websites is www.empressofdirt.net. Guys, this is not all girly type stuff. Lots of DIY ideas, just a fun scroll. How about checking out All-American Selections, (www.allamericianselections.org)? Here you can find the newest and best vegetables and flowers. If you have never visited www.pollinators.org, please do, an amazing site. The Xerces Society is a great place to look around. There is so much fun and research based information out there...enjoy. If you have a favorite 'garden/wildlife type' website please share.

Volunteer hours. I have taken a look at everyone's hours. I feel that some members are not posting all their hours, especially continuing education hours. We get perks from the state based on hours recorded so please be diligent about entering all your hours under both education and volunteer services. Remember in most cases you can count one volunteer hour and one educational hour for each monthly MGCV meeting attended. Another thing. If you do not have a calendar dedicated to MGCV / OCVN please get one ASAP and start

recording in November each and every hour are serving or learning.

Lots of stuff coming up. Making decorations for the Fellows Riverside Gardens tree. Decorating the tree. The Recognition Banquet. Please join your fellow OCVN and MGVS for a nice evening out. The Veteran's Wreaths Across America wreath laying ceremony is also coming. If you have not participated in this activity please join us this year. This is a moving ceremony, a way to honor those who gave so much so we can remain free. The families are so grateful. You will walk away with a "proud to be an American" feeling in your heart.

Please be thinking ahead to next year. What worked this year what didn't? Any suggestions for committees, etc. for 2016?

Election of officers will be held at our next meeting (Thursday, November 12th, 6:30 pm).

Marilyn McKinley

OSU Master Gardener Volunteer
Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist

November MGVS Meeting and Election of Officers

Our next Master Gardener meeting will be held on Thursday, November 12th 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.

Please bring glue guns, glue, pinecones, and dried hydrangeas. All other materials needed for making decorations will be provided.

The tree decorating will take place either Dec. 1st or 2nd, and will be announced at the meeting.



Election of officers for the coming year will take place at the November meeting.

Candidates

President: Marilyn McKinley

Vice President: Pam Baytos

Secretary: Peg Zeleznik

November OCVN Meeting

The next OCVN meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 18th from 6:30 – 7 pm at the OSUE office.

Under our new format, a program will follow the meeting from 7:00 until 8:30 pm that will be open to the public.

Our featured speaker for November will be Marne Titchenell, the OSU ENR Program Specialist for Wildlife. Marne will present *Nest Boxes for Wildlife - Attracting Woodland Wildlife*.

For more information see the brochure attached later in this newsletter.



2015 MGVS & OCVN Recognition Banquet

The 2015 Volunteer Recognition Banquet will be held on Thursday, December 3rd at A La Cart Catering (429 Lisbon Street, Canfield). We will begin promptly at 6:00 pm; please be on time.

The menu includes:

Pre dinner snacks, Swiss Chicken, Eggplant Parmesan, Pasta and Meatballs, redskin mashed potatoes, green beans & garlic, salad, tomato, pepper, & onion salad, pickled beets, roll, relish tray, & desert. Bring wine if you wish.

Reservations must be received in the office by Friday, November 20th.

See the flyer attached later.

Wreaths Across America 2015



Our annual Veterans wreath ceremony will be held on Saturday, December 12th, beginning at 10:00 am at Poland's Old Church Graveyard, located at 2 Poland Manor in Poland. Afterwards, we will proceed to Ellsworth Township Cemetery, on Route 224 in Ellsworth for our second ceremony.

All are welcome to attend and participate. Volunteers should plan to arrive at the Poland site at 9:30 am.

Minutes October 8th MGV Meeting

Eric gave an overview of the various kits available to our MGVs for use in presentations for Outreach (speakers bureau). They consist of Soil Kits, How to Grow Vegetables (Local Flavor) Kits, Top 10 Ways to Improve Your Garden Kits, Pruning Kits and Potting/Planter Kits.

Committee Reports:

Fellows Holiday Tree – As usual, we will use our November meeting to prepare decorations for the MGV Fellows Holiday Tree. The theme is "Winter Celebration – The Forest." Bring pinecones, dried hydrangeas, acorns of any size, buckeyes and anything interesting from the woods.

Veterans Wreaths – Mike Beaudis reported that the ceremony this year will be on Saturday, December 12th.

Volunteers should arrive at Poland's Old Church Graveyard (behind the Poland Presbyterian Church) at about 9:30 am. After the ceremony, we will proceed to the Cemetery on Route 224 in Ellsworth. We will present 35 wreaths at Poland and 62 at Ellsworth.

Recognition Banquet – The event will be held on Thursday, December 3rd starting promptly at 6:00 pm at A La Cart Catering in Canfield.

New Business:

Marilyn made a plea for MGVs to enter hours at the State website before October 31st.

Officer Nominations for 2016 – We will be voting at the November 12th MGV meeting.

Secretary: Peg Zeleznik
Vice President: Pam Baytos
President: Marilyn McKinley

A plea was also made for MGVs to write articles for our newsletter and the Vindicator.

Copies of the new *Mahoning County Master Gardener Volunteer Handbook* were distributed.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

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.



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

Volunteer Voice – Joyce Karsnak



The Raspberry Patch



In this season of giving thanks, there's a special master gardener amongst us (she's an OCVN too) who we are most blessed to have in our organization. Year in and year out, giving her time, her energy and sharing are what she does, whether it's with her sprayer aimed at thistles, contributing to our displays or managing her cheese basket fundraiser for 4-H at the fair, Doris Puerner is the definition of a volunteer.



Before the grounds committee at the extension office was formed, Doris was the committee. She kept the beds in bloom, most times all by herself. She bucketed water from inside as the outside plumbing was inoperable and then as well as now, digs up from her own garden to plant at the office. And while osteoporosis has tried to get the best of her, not broken bones, knee braces, nor off-season surgical repairs keeps her from doing her thing.

A visit to Doris' garden is inspiring. An invite will start with a question usually, "Do you have lettuce? I've got lots. Stop over and pick some." Her husband Richard built her tall waist high raised beds but her plantings spill over to the yard too. When you arrive, she'll back her golf cart from the garage and ride you out to the garden. The back of the cart usually has some produce she's already picked that day and she'll ask, "You need tomatoes? How about zucchini? Beans?"

What Doris shared with me a little over a year ago, as she had in years past, were raspberries. Wonderful raspberries growing in a patch bordered by a

wooden fence. But last year, Doris wasn't sure she should offer the berries. She knew my mom liked to make jam with them, but was in fragile health, and so didn't know if she was up to it. But my mom asked me if there were berries, so Doris said, "Come on over, we'll pick."

As soon as I got home with the raspberries, my mom settled at the table and began to sort them: biggest ones for eating the others for jam. Quite a few disappeared during sorting, and they topped her vanilla ice cream that evening. The next day, her jam turned out perfect. She left one jar out for sampling, the rest she sealed with paraffin and dated them 9/14/14.

Two months after, a small basket of her canning, including the raspberry jam were nestled in a kitchen towel embroidered with "Helen's Hungarian Kitchen," and photos including a picture sampling the jam, memories set out at the funeral home. Mom passed away November 13th at 92.

Doris came. I asked if she has seen the jam and the picture. "Yes, I saw them," she said. "Did she get to have some?" I nodded.

With tears in her eyes, she simply said, "Good."

From all of us, thank you, Doris, for all you do. From me, thank you for the raspberry patch.



My mom,
Helen

Joyce Karsnak
OSU Master Gardener Volunteer

Volunteer Voice – Marilyn McKinley

Since this is the last newsletter until January 2016, I would like to thank each and every Master Gardener and Naturalist for very successful 2015. So much was accomplished. Take a moment and think back over the year. We are a busy and productive bunch of people!

This can be a hectic time of year for all. I wish for all my gardening and naturalist friends, a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends, a very Merry Christmas, filled with love a good cheer to all, a Happy New Year, filled with the promise of a new start.

- See you at Recognition Banquet, an enjoyable evening is in store for all.
- Please make every effort to attend the January MGV meeting. This is an important meeting. New officers, new committees to sign up for, etc.
- Your suggestions, input, and ideas are always welcome.

Marilyn

The Night Before Christmas (Gardeners Version)

'Twas the night before Christmas and all around the yard, not a plant was left standing, the ground was so hard. The tools were hung in the garage with care, a well-deserved rest now that the garden was bare. The bulbs were all nestled all snug in their beds, while visions of spring-time danced in their heads. I in my Snuggie, my husband with our cat had just settled down for a long winter's chat. When out in the hydrangeas there arose such a clatter, I dropped my seed catalogs to see what the matter was. Away to the front door I quickly dashed, half expecting to see the yard had been trashed. When I

opened the door, it was suddenly clear, there stood a sleigh and eight tiny reindeer. With a little old gardener so lively and quick, I knew in a moment it must be Gardener St. Nick! More quickly the crabgrass his coursed they came, he whistled and shouted and called them by name. Now Holly, Now Ivy, Now Daisy and Rue, On Rose, On Petunia, Fern and Lily too! To the top of trellis, to the top of the wall, now dash away, dash away, dash away all! So up to the housetop the reindeer they flew, with a sleighful of gifts and Gardener St. Nicholas too. I closed the front door and was turning around, when he slid down the chimney, hitting the grate. He was dressed in red with Sloggers on his feet, the poinsettia in his cap made him look oh so neat. He stood up quickly and went straight to work, with a composter for Cathy and a Dutch weeder for Dirk. There were asters for Ann, a pine tree for Paul, a garden design book, for the use of us all. Next came the rain barrel that was for Rob, and for me, a ginkgo key fob. The laying a trowel aside his nose and giving a nod, back up the chimney he rose. He ran to his sleigh and gave a quick whistle, away they all flew like the seeds of globe thistle. But I heard him exclaim as he drove out of sight. "Merry Christmas to all gardeners and to all a good night"!

By: Karen Geisler – with many apologies to Clement Clark Moore.



Upcoming Events

November 14 - **Myths and Truths about Holiday Plants**, Fellows Riverside Gardens, 10 - 11:30 am. Some holiday plants ARE poisonous...but it isn't the poinsettia you should be concerned about. Learn with Ellen Speicher about the hidden lives of the plants we bring inside our homes during the holiday seasons. We will also discuss how to care for holiday plants and what to do with them when the holidays are over. Register/pay by 11/12. \$14; FFRG \$12.

November 18 - **Gardening Basics: Plants for Winter Interest**, Fellows Riverside Gardens, Wednesday, 10 - 11:30 am. In the midst of winter, it is often so refreshing for gardeners to take a walk in the garden, look around and observe. What to look for? Bridget Beck, Garden Designer, will lead students on a classroom winter garden "walk" and discuss some winter-garden must-haves. Register/pay by 11/16. \$12; FFRG \$10. Phone: (330) 740-7116.

November 20 - **Botanical Mornings**, Fellows Riverside Gardens, Friday, 9 - 10 am. Discover the change of seasons this autumn with one of the Gardens staff members. Register/pay by 11/18. \$5/class. Phone: (330) 740-7116.

November 21 - **Coffee With The Birds**, Ford Nature Center. Saturday, 9:30 - 10:15 am or 10:15 - 11 am. Watch birds with Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist Nancy Brundage while sipping coffee (or tea). Bring your favorite mug. Limited space; call Ford Nature Center to register in advance. Phone: (330) 740-7107.

November 21 - **Bread Making 101**, Fellows Riverside Gardens, Saturday, 12 - 4 pm. Grab your apron and come learn the basics of turning flour, water, salt and yeast into a scrumptious loaf of bread with Sara Scudier. The class will feature the how and why of prefermenting some of the flour, plus kneading, shaping and baking. Register/pay by 11/19. \$24; FFRG \$20.

November 24 - **Audubon Society - Mahoning Valley**, MetroParks Farm, Tuesday, 7 - 8 pm. Stephanie Dyer, Environmental Program Manager with

Eastgate Regional Council of Governments, will take us on a virtual tour of a watershed in search of understanding how a watershed functions, connects us all, and requires us all to become responsible water quality stewards. Open to the public. Phone: (330) 533-7572.

November 29 - **Evergreen Wreath Workshop**, Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center, Sunday, 2 - 4 pm. Evergreen wreaths have been on display for hundreds of years and are a symbol of growth and everlasting life. Join us and create your own natural evergreen wreath. There is no fee and all materials will be provided. If you have something of your own to add to your wreath, please bring it along. This workshop will involve some tools and techniques that will be difficult for children. We are asking that the participants be 12 years of age and older. **Registration is required and opens on November 2. Attendance is limited to 16 participants.** Huston - Brumbaugh Nature Center, 330-823-7487.

December 6 - **Holiday Decorations Workshop**, Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center, Sunday, Sunday, 2-4 pm. Drop in between 2 and 4 pm to make beautiful holiday decorations from natural and recycled materials. No registration required. Huston - Brumbaugh Nature Center, 330-823-7487.

December 11 - **Astronomy Night**, Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center, Friday, 6-8 pm. Join Nature Center staff for an exploration of the night sky. A "new" moon should provide plenty of dark sky to pick out winter's constellations. Meet at the Visitors Center before heading to the observation area located in the East Meadow. Bring a flashlight and dress appropriately for winter weather. Canceled in the event of overcast skies or inclement weather. **Registration required.** Huston - Brumbaugh Nature Center, 330-823-7487.

December 12 - **Coffee With The Birds**, Ford Nature Center, Saturday, 9:30 - 11:00 am. Watch birds with Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist Nancy Brundage while sipping coffee (or tea). Bring your favorite mug. Space limited, register by 12/11 (9:30 am - 10:15 or 10:15 - 11 am). Free.

December 13 - **Geminid Meteor Shower**, Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center, Sunday, 6-8 pm. Unlike most other meteor showers, the Geminids are associated not with a comet but with an asteroid - the 3200 Phaethon. The shower owes its name to the constellation Gemini from where the meteors seem to emerge from in the sky. The Geminids are considered to be one of the more spectacular meteor showers during a year, with the possibility of sighting around 120 meteors per hour at its peak. Meet at the Visitors Center before heading to the observation area located in the East Meadow. Bring a flashlight and dress appropriately for winter weather. Canceled in the event of overcast skies or inclement weather. **Registration required.** Huston - Brumbaugh Nature Center, 330-823-7487.

December 19 - **Christmas Bird Count**, Saturday, According to Audubon.org, prior to the turn of the 20th century, people engaged in a holiday tradition known as the Christmas "Side Hunt": They would choose sides and go afield with their guns; whoever brought in the biggest pile of feathered (and furred) quarry won. Frank Chapman of the American Museum of Natural History in NYC tried to change this in 1900 by starting the Christmas Bird Count. Our area has been participating since 1904!

National Audubon Society administers the CBC and chapters organize local counts. Volunteers are invited to help census birds within the count circle, which encompasses the Greater Youngstown Area. All abilities are welcome. Devote as much time as you want. Focus on your back yard if you wish. Contact CBC Coordinator Gary Meiter: 234.564.7900

MGV 2015 Meeting Schedule

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

December 3 - *Annual Recognition Banquet.*
A La Carte, 6:00 pm.

OCVN 2015 Meeting Schedule

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

December 3 - *Annual Recognition Banquet.*
A La Carte, 6:00 pm.

MGV 2015 Meeting Schedule

January 14 - Organizational Meeting, OSU Extension office, 6:30 pm.

February 11

March 10

April 14

May 12

June 9

July 14

August 11

September 8

October 13

November 10

December - Recognition Banquet TBA

OCVN 2016 Meeting Schedule

January 20 - Organizational Meeting, OSU Extension office, 6:30 - 7:00 pm.
7:00 - 8:30 pm Program TBD.

December - Recognition Banquet TBA

Volunteers in Action 2015



Photo by Toni Beard



Photo by Ralph Beard

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

Holiday Pots & Arrangements

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

OSU Extension Master Gardener Volunteer
—Margaret Biroschak

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 18th

9:30 am—Coffee, Donuts,

and refreshments

10am-12pm—Program

Location: 490 S. Broad St.

Canfield, OH 44406

Cost: \$15/person

Details: Register ASAP – Seating is limited

Contact Phone: 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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Ohio's Woodland Wildlife

Creating Nest Boxes & Attracting for Winter Months

Wednesday, November 18th, 2015

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Featured speaker:

Marne Titchenell

OSU Extension Program Specialist for Wildlife

Marne will discuss the best ways to attract wildlife in your backyard while creating a safe environment for our woodland friends. She will also present different types of nest boxes and how to create one yourself.

Winter months are hard on Ohio wildlife, Marne will show you how you can help!

Location: OSU Extension, Mahoning County
490 S Broad Street, Canfield, OH
Across from the Canfield Fairgrounds

Cost: FREE

Details: Due to limited space, please call the Extension office by Friday, November 13th to reserve a spot.

Contact: 330-533-5538

www.mahoning.osu.edu



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AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist Volunteer Program

Mahoning County

Mahoning County MGV and OCVN Recognition Banquet

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 2015 and their dedication to the Ohio State University Extension programming.

Thursday
December 3
6pm

At A La Cart Catering
429 Lisbon St., Canfield

Sign along with
holiday tunes with
Washington County
MGV – Mona Barrett



A buffet-style dinner will be enjoyed.

Name _____ Guest _____

Total Attending _____ Volunteers _____ Guests _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ (\$15.00 per volunteer and \$20.00 per guest)

Reservations **MUST** be received by **Friday, November 20th, 2015**

Please make checks payable to:

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