

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

I love being an OSU Mahoning County MGCV. I have made so many friends, and learned so much from each and every one of you. People who you enjoy being around AND who share your passion equal a recipe for happiness. Not being a native of this area, making new friends was high on my list of things to do when we moved here six years ago. I hit the jackpot with this Master Gardeners group. I truly believe that 'garden people' are the best people. Oh sure, most of us that qualify for the p.i.a. award on occasion, but far and away people who love the outdoors, the beauty that surrounds us, hard work, and are up for challenge and adventure year after year are the heart and soul of the best our great county has to offer.

I often wonder how we can pass this love on to our children and in turn to the generations to come. I always thought my boys could care less about gardening, and nature...period. Then out of the blue, one called and to ask about putting up a blue bird house, another, what kind of green beans did grandma always grow, and what the name of those flowers that Uncle Carl grew? You just never know! You might be the person that influences a child. Maybe because of you they want to grow vegetables or flowers. Perhaps

because of you they are interested in conservation, stewardship, and sustainability. What a gift, a real legacy.

On Being a Volunteer. Most people who volunteer for anything, do volunteer work for more than one organization. It is so easy to quickly become overwhelmed with all the activities. The majority of MGCV's have reached the golden years of retirement. Those years we looked forward to and worked so hard to achieve. We dreamed of years of less stress, less commitment, sleeping a little later or taking an afternoon nap, being able to just pick up and take off on vacation or to go see the kids and grandkids whenever we wanted. So, put those two things together – volunteering and retirement – then throw in aching backs and knees - and what do you get – a bunch of wonderful people who want to volunteer, when they want to, when they feel like it, and do not want to be 'pinned' down. That's great! However, when you volunteer for an organization that has volunteer leaders a problem arises. It's in every organization, church, social, you name it. Few 'mature individuals' want to be responsible on a regular basis. Our MGCV group is great when it comes to committees. For us, whether it's for the fair, local gardens, you name it, we all really step up to the plate and make such a difference.

Our biannual election of new officers is coming up soon. Hey, remember, you are the kind of person who likes a challenge, you like change. Won't you please consider accepting a nomination for an office, if not this time around, we will be looking to you for the next time. But alas, when it comes to being approached about accepting an office all eyes are downcast, voices silent, yet screaming "not me"! The Mahoning MGV's are a dynamic group, filled with doers. I have truly enjoyed serving as your president the past almost two years. I have learned so much. I admit, it takes a little time, but it is time I really enjoy.

Marilyn McKinley

OSU Master Gardener Volunteer
Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist

October MGV Meeting

Our October MGV meeting will be held on Thursday, October 8th at 6:30 pm at the OSU Extension office. I have been assured that the meeting will be **Fun and Informative**.



We will be accepting nominations for MGV officers for 2016 – 2017 during our October meeting.

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.



September MGV Meeting

Our September MGV meeting was a gastronomic delight. The program featured Barb Delisio and her assistant, Dan. They prepared an herbal dinner that was a pure delight.



The menu included rosemary lemonade, green bean pate' with basil, bagel rounds, basil pesto with spinach linguini, herbal bread, herbal butter and barrios tea breads.

Notice: OSUE Grounds Cleanup Day

Bob Schulick has set the date for an OSUE grounds cleanup day for Wednesday, October 14th from 3 – 5 pm. Call (330) 533-5538 to confirm your participation or just show up for the gardening fun.



Notice: MGV Volunteer and Education Hours

Don't forget to enter your volunteer and education hours into the state system <https://ohio.volunteersystem.org/UniversonlineLogin.cfm> by October 31st.

Twenty volunteer hours and 10 continuing education hours are required annually for MGVs.

Notice: Recognition Banquet

The 2015 Volunteer Recognition Banquet will be held on Thursday, December 3rd at Al La Carte beginning at 6:00 pm. Details will be forthcoming.

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.



Volunteer Voice – Pam Baytos

CRAZY CONTAINERS: Plant outside the "pot"

Taking a walk through any garden shop or big box store you'll find a wide variety of plant containers, but they all have the same basic shapes of round or square. Why not be adventurous and plant outside the "pot". I love using unexpected and unusual containers for my potted plants. You just have to make sure whatever container you use has proper drainage, a good potting soil meant for container plantings and a diluted fertilizer each time you water.

Some examples of containers to use outside your kitchen door, try hanging a colander, three-tier vegetable basket, funnel, an old coffee or teapot. Any of these make an excellent place to plant a variety of herbs that allow you to just go out and snip off what you need. I also use new paint cans painted a bright color with an added oval of chalkboard paint. I hang them on my deck rail planted with herbs with the plant names written on the chalkboard oval. By making your own hyper-tufa containers your shape and size is only limited by your imagination for molds.

We made a life-sized clay pot woman

who sits in a chair by our back door. She sports a lovely planted head of "hair" with a fancy pair of pumps planted with hen and chicks. My husband gets nervous when I take an interest in his work boots. He knows it's time to break in a new pair. Pink is my favorite color to paint them before they're planted.



Old furniture containers could include the seat of an old chair, old sink, washtubs, old suitcase, trunk, and an old dresser with the drawers planted. Try hanging an old purse, bicycle basket, old music instrument or buckets from a fence. A wheelbarrow, wagon, tree stump, birdbath, or wooden crates with flowers cascading over the sides is an eye catcher.

For limited space make a tipsy tower by installing a section of rebar into the ground. Place your first large flowerpot down over the rebar, fill and plant. Continue by stacking and planting reduced size pots at an angle back and forth up the rebar. A standing line of clay tiles at different heights planted with succulents can edge or be used as a divider inside a bed.

We've even made a water feature by using an old claw footed bathtub from our house complete with a flower showerhead, water plants and goldfish.



So go forth and let your imagination go wild. Hey, if it's not nailed down plant it!

Pam Baytos
OSU Master Gardener Volunteer

Gardening Words of Wisdom

Despite the gardener's best intentions, nature will improvise.

Weeds are nature's graffiti.

Compost pile: A heap containing soil and garden plants that were supposed to yield vegetables and flowers, but they all died while under the gardener's care.

D_r_t: The offensive four-letter word used by non - gardeners instead of "soil". They do this because they think soil is something to be avoided since it makes them d_r_t.

Garden Center: A store where gardeners go to spend \$5 for things they don't need, but end up spending \$105 for things they don't need.

Garden: An equal opportunity employer of the earth's most eccentric people, who together produce enough vegetables and flowers to feed all of the world's insects, groundhogs, rabbits, raccoons, and deer.

A Weed: a plant that is not only in the wrong place, but intends to stay there.

A Trowel: a tool made for gardeners who move plants from the left side of the garden to the right side, and back again, sometimes every year. They are constructed to last at least 10 years, but only last one or two because gardeners either loose them or use them as hammers.

From: *Garden Lunacy* by Art Wolk

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

Upcoming Events

October 6 - **Living Wreath: Succulents**, Fellows Riverside Gardens, Tuesday, 6:30 - 8:30 pm. Create a lovely addition to your outdoor or indoor garden space with Pam Baytos. Using succulents and sphagnum moss, this wreath will be easy to grow and requires little water. All materials provided. Register/pay by 10/4. \$40; FFRG \$34.

October 7 - **Gardening Basics: Fall Gardening**, Fellows Riverside Gardens, Thursday, 10 - 11:30 am. After the blooms of spring and summer, gardeners often start to pack up their tools and think about next spring – but wait! In this class, Garden Designer Bridget Beck will teach the benefits of fall gardening, covering: basic garden care, plant care, and plants with interesting autumn characteristics. Register/pay by 10/5. \$12; FFRG \$10.

October 10 - **Autumn Bird Walk**, Newport Wetlands, Saturday, 8:30 - 10:00 am. Search for feathered migrants with lifelong birder Gary Meiter of Lanterman's Mill staff. Bring binoculars. Easy. Less than 1 mi.

October 11 and 25 - **Vanishing Acts: Trees Under Threat Guided Tours**, Fellows Riverside Gardens, Sundays, 1 - 2 pm. Enjoy a tour through our Vanishing Acts outdoor exhibit by one of our Garden Guides. Explore why trees are under threat around the world and here in Ohio. Phone: (330) 740-7116.

October 23 - **Botanical Mornings**, Fellows Riverside Gardens, Friday, 9 – 10 am. Enjoy discovering the change of seasons this autumn with one of the Gardens staff members. Register/pay by 9/16. \$5. Phone: (330) 740-7116.

October 24 - **Birding the Sanctuary**, Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, Saturday, 8 - 9:30 am. Jeff Harvey of Wild Birds Unlimited will lead this walk at the Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary. Boots required. Register at Ford Nature Center by 10/23.

October 27 - **Audubon Society - Mahoning Valley**, MetroParks Farm, Tuesday, 7 - 8 pm. Trish Guenther, board member of Audubon Society/Mahoning Valley, will lead a presentation titled "Little Brown Jobs." Thirty-five species of

Volunteers in Action

Canfield Fair 2015

sparrows, aka “Little Brown Jobs” or LBJs, are found in North America. Trish will provide ID tips to distinguish these very similar looking birds such as field marks, habitat, season, song/call notes, and behavior. Open to the public. Phone: (330) 533-7572.

November 7 - **Birding the Sanctuary**, Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, Saturday, 8 - 9:30 am. Jeff Harvey of Wild Birds Unlimited will lead this walk at the Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary. Boots required. Register at Ford Nature Center by 11/6.

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 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.



All the comforts of home



Home with a hidden stash of cooling fans



Decorative fountain or foot washing station?
(Some of our visitors were not clear on the difference)



Good times for all
Photos by R&T Baird



A whole new meaning to flower bed



Joyce Karsnak scored a trifecta for Rudbeckias, white, red and blue ribbon winners (left to right)



Sara Scudier won a best in show for bread (Judges get a D- for spelling)



Theresa Semchee was awarded a blue ribbon for her photography.



Julie and Al found a great teaching opportunity

Master Gardeners 2015 Meeting Schedule

October 8 – *Fun and Informative Meeting*, OSU Extension Office, 6:30 pm.

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

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

OCVN 2015 Meeting Schedule

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

Keen Observations

Bob's Monarch adventure continues:

"I now have three chrysalises on my cellar windows."

Bob Schulick



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

Perennials: Fall Care, Creating a Blooming Chart , Herbs, Bulbs & Much More!

**OSU Extension Master Gardener Volunteer
—Marilyn McKinley**

Join Marilyn for a NEW session on perennials as she goes beyond the basics. She'll cover creating a blooming chart for your garden to guarantee color all through the growing season and beyond. Learn what to do NOW to make your perennial garden the best it can be.

Everything from bulbs to perennial herbs will be covered as great additions to your garden. Learn about winter observation to ensure your plants look great!

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

Date: October 21st

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 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

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Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist Volunteer Program

Mahoning County