

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>



September 2016

Volume 15 Issue 9

Marilyn's Musings

Nothing Like It!

The Canfield Fair! Everyone has stories about attending the Canfield Fair. My husband and I are relatively newbies here in the Valley, but we are building Fair memories. This old farm gal loves everything about a county fair. Takes me back to when I was a kid in 4-H. I want to see it all. The animals, - those draft horses are such majestic animals, the fine arts exhibits, the honey bees, the smells – from barns to fair food – the old farm machinery, I love it all. I used to love the rides; those days have passed. I think this year's fair memory will be sitting in the rain with trash bag ponchos and plastic bags on our heads during the *Happy Together* concert. Best of all we enjoyed the concert with high school friends from Indiana.

Once again the MGV/OCVN booth is an oasis in the midst of craziness. Great job – thanks to all who made it happen. It's a lot of hard work, but oh so worth it when just one person shows up with a question or for one of the talks.

To the MGV's/OCVN's who manned the booth, presented talks, and did demonstrations. Thank you so much! Your willingness to share your knowledge and expertise is such a great community service.

To those who entered flowers and food for judging – congratulations job well done!

Some Thoughts

BOTO – Thanks to Mike and a bunch of volunteers this year's BOTO was a success! Lots of people, some unusual plants. The Garden Art Sale brought in over \$200.00. Thanks to all who helped make this project a success.

Are you entering your hours on VMS? Please plan accordingly, don't wait until Oct 31st.

Several interns have passed the 50 hour mark. Date for a class on how to enter hours online will be announced soon. All MGV's are welcome to attend.

This has been a strange summer. So hot – record breaking temps in August and no rain. Now plenty of moisture. Just another reminder, Mother Nature is always in charge, we are just along for an exciting ride.

Hard to believe it's time to start thinking about preparing for the winter. We will have some more really warm summer like days, but towards the end of the month here's some end of summer chores.

- Bring in vacationing houseplants, check for any hitchhikers. * Cutback and done blooming flowers – leave some standing for

the birds. * Take cuttings to overwinter indoors. * Watch for frost warning!

- Take pictures and record the good, the bad, and the ugly. * Divide & move perennials. * Dig, dry, and store tender bulbs – may want to wait until just after first frost. * Purchase and start planting bulbs for spring blooms. * Harvest remaining vegetables. * Pick up fallen fruit. * Pick herbs for drying and freezing – smallest leaves are best. * Get rid of any diseased or pest infected plants. * Reseed any bare spots in the lawn.

State MGCV convention is this month. Our own man about town – Eric – will be one of the featured speakers. We have entered a project – *Vindy – Valley Grows* in a statewide contest. Keep your fingers crossed. Even if we do not win, *Valley Grows* has and continues to be a great thing, a real community service.

Although enrollment is closed for this year I encourage you to consider attending the state conference next year. Meeting and chatting with other MGCV's from around the state is so interesting. Sharing ideas, successes and the not so successful is a learning experience. I have met and talked to lots of people from all over Ohio. I have said it before, but I truly believe that because of you and with Eric's leadership we have one of the best MGCV groups in the state. You should be proud!

Marilyn McKinley
OSUE MGCV and OCVN

September MGCV Meeting

Our next MGCV meeting will be held on Thursday, September 8th at 6:30 pm at the OSUE office. Our featured speaker will be Kim Lewis from the Mahoning County Green Team to present the *Green Teams Compost Seminar*. You

must have registered in August to receive the \$10 special compost bin.

The program flyer is attached to this newsletter.

September OCVN Meeting

The next OCVN meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 21st at the Beaver Township Nature Preserve.

You will receive further information by email.



BOTO 2016



A fiery group, with the speed of light, a cloud of dust and a hearty hi yo Silver – BOTO rides again

The 2016 version of Bring One....Take One was a great success. The plant selection was excellent; the participants were plentiful and anxious to exchange. From the arrival of plants to the bell from our starters, it was an exiting day. Included this year was a Garden Art Sale.



Our Starters

Garden Art



***MGV Class of 2016
In Their Own Words***

Kary Shively

Hello friends. My name is Kary Shively. I was born in Alliance, Ohio and moved to Austintown at the age of 11. For my entire life I have enjoyed the outdoors and remember building hideouts with my friends in the woods or making paths in the fallen leaves that led to secret spaces.



My parents propagated vegetable gardens both in Alliance and our home in Austintown. When I moved into my first home, and I realized I had my own yard, I was very excited to begin starting a flowerbed!!! At this time my mother was my biggest influence and teacher and showed me how to amend the soil that I had, since it wasn't too healthy. I worked on it for a few years and it developed into beautiful loam. I started with some basic annuals, which soon led to a perennial bed in my backyard. I haven't stopped since.

My preferred plants are perennials and annuals because of the huge diversity available. Some of my "favorites" are purple coneflower, garden phlox, lobelia, astilbe, impatiens, verbena, zinnias, lantana, geraniums and coleus. I could go on and on because I have not met many plants I dislike. My least liked, though, is poison ivy.

The only thing that tops gardening for me are my three grandchildren, ages 9, 7, and 2. I include them as often as I can in seed planting, harvesting seeds in the fall, which they love, and also picking the harvest in the vegetable garden. I am a lover of animals and currently have one dog and one cat,

both rescues. My dog is an avid gardener herself and can't contain her joy when I get out my wheelbarrow and gardening tools as she knows it will be a full day in the yard. Ahhh, life is good!!



Kary Shively
MGV Intern

***MGV Class of 2016
In Their Own Words***

Katie Shipka

I have been gardening as long as I remember, beginning with my father in our backyard on Youngstown's north side. His garden was much larger than mine, as I live in a condo with limited space.



Two years ago I removed the arborvitaes in the back to make room for a butterfly garden. I planted native plants and thought it would take at least a couple of years to grow to a decent size, so I also added annuals, mostly tall zinnias. To my surprise, I had a full, very busy garden visited by Eastern Tiger Swallowtails, Cabbage Whites, Fritillaries and small moths. Last year I added the common milkweed to my garden to attract Monarchs, and did notice a few on my plants, but no eggs were laid. Hopefully this summer will bring more Monarchs that will think my plants are perfect for raising the next generation.

I also have a small vegetable garden with five tomato plants, a few pepper varieties and beets. Last year I had no beets, possibly due to rain washing the seeds away, but three times?? I think I also had some bad seeds! My major

garden problem has been and continues to be pesky rabbits - fencing is the only way to keep them away, and I've even threatened to make rabbit stew but it doesn't faze them. Another ongoing problem has been the impossible to control thistle! Digging them out without breaking the rhizomes is next to impossible, so I'm usually 'pruning' them!

I graduated from Ursuline High School and Youngstown State University, and taught in the Youngstown City Schools before marriage, and was also a substitute teacher. We have two children, Anne Louise White and Drew Shipka, and one grandchild, Brian, who lives in Poland. I retired four years ago from St. Elizabeth Health Center, now Mercy Health, having worked in the medical library for 29 years. Interestingly, the Pest & Plant Clinic researches information much the same way the medical library does through the National Library of Medicine.

As an OCVN since 2008, I volunteer at Mill Creek MetroParks with their various programs, and as a trolley docent and kayak instructor. Twice a month I volunteer at the Midlothian Free Health Clinic. I belong to two book clubs, one of which is at Mill Creek MetroParks. I am currently on the board of the Audubon Society and monitor bluebird houses at Austintown Park. After hearing of the Master Gardener program through friends who are Master Gardeners, I decided to participate and educate myself about using best practices.

I have met so many interesting people through these classes and look forward to continuing my learning and experiences with very special people – the Master Gardeners!

Katie Shipka
MGV Intern and OCVN

Volunteer Voice – Joyce Karsnak

My Dahlias Didn't Dance

Hugh Earnhart is... where do you begin to finish this sentence? Hugh's accomplishments are impressive – farmer, professor, author, historian, leader, horticulture judge, master gardener, competitor, winner. It's the competitor I watched while he prepped dahlias for judging years back at the Canfield Fair. His van, customized for hauling his prize-winning blooms, was parked away from the other entrants. He set up a table and methodically emptied the fair provided vases (bottles) of water and re-filled them from his own water jugs. "They like mine better than theirs," he offered with a smile. You knew not to press him further. But what made his water better?

Hugh gave a presentation on growing and storing dahlias to the master gardeners, and I was *all ears* to see if he'd share some of his secrets.

I'm not a dahlia grower but last year decided to try some of the 3-4 foot size. Armed with my *Brent and Becky's* catalog, I ordered a good type for cutting and arranging. They had rather silly names like Corona, Naomi and Yin Yang.

They bloomed quite pretty. In the fall I tried to remember Hugh's lesson. Cut them back leaving several inches of stem, but wait to dig them up. One or two "eyes" will form on the stem usually within a week; then dig. All the potato-like appendages are not going to bring a new flower, only the tuber by the "eye" is good and that's all you need to store. The stem is hard and dry by spring so to avoid injury from a knife, Hugh recommended dividing in fall. But uncertain as I examined my tubers, I decided to leave them intact and table dividing until spring.

Hugh said to identify the tubers as you pack them and there are different

methods of storage in peat or vermiculite. He used little plastic bags but I thought onion bags would work. It's a balance of moisture – not too wet, not too dry and you should check on that periodically. I decided to winterize the dahlia tubers when I boxed my cannas.

What to store them in? Hugh recommended a Styrofoam ice chest and a thermometer to monitor the temperature. They like it quite cool (40-45 degrees F.) Too warm and they'll dry out. Hugh said he keeps moving his foam coolers to the garage, to the breezeway, to the house – frequently, if the temperature fluctuates.

The "Dahlia Dance" I thought. All winter long. If you are a serious dahlia grower you dance with your dahlias.

My dahlias didn't dance.

The dahlias were forgotten, left in a small plastic tote in the dark on the floor in the unheated section of the cellar. Mid-winter, rummaging for something I saw the tote. What's that? Oh geez. Should I pack them now? Peat moss is outside in the cold, forget that. Maybe some water? I thought of Hugh by now, dancing with his dahlias. What would he think of me?

A few sheets of newspaper over them to absorb the splashes of water were all the care the sad tubers got.

At a spring MG meeting, Hugh reminded us dahlias better be planted by April 1. So I got some pots and took a look – dividing was not happening to these shriveled remains. Naomi fell into two sections – excellent, that counts as dividing - two pots of Naomi.

Weeks went by and no sign of life; I'd pretty much given up, and then one after another, little green leaves popped through. I searched for the *Brent and Becky's* catalog to recall their colors. No more were they silly names, I knew these tubers! All came back but one; Yin Yang didn't make it. The others are

hitting their peak bloom now that it's cooled off a little.

I promise them better care come fall, but sorry Hugh; I still don't think my dahlias are going to dance.

Hugh Earnhart has given many hours of his time in support of Extension and the Master Gardeners. He's served on state and county advisory committees. He organized our dwindling ranks during a time when the program was floundering a bit. He has been diligent in efforts to secure and maintain funding. When the position was vacated, he advocated for the retention of a county AGNR Educator in Canfield at a time when OSU was restructuring into regions which meant not all counties were able to have one. He was most vocal in efforts to recruit our Eric. He was vital to securing our weekly news page "Valley Grows". Our participation in "Wreaths Across America" was his passion in which he's led us. His "Hugh-mobile" has traveled miles for our group, full of whatever needed hauled – wreaths, set ups, or hydrangeas for a program giveaway.

Our friend Hugh keeps many irons in the fire; he's a busy guy. We haven't seen him lately and those of us who know him



respect and miss him; those of you who haven't had the opportunity to get to know him don't know what you're missing.

Joyce Karsnak
OSUE MGV

Volunteer Voice – Susan McMann

With Autumn right around the corner, and summer coming to a close, I have been reflecting on my experiences in the summer of 2016.

This season, my husband Jim and I visited several botanical gardens, including the United States Botanical Gardens in D.C., The Cleveland Botanical Gardens, OSU's Sequest Arboretum, in Wooster, Oh., Holden Arboretum, in the Cleveland area, and of course our own Mill Creek MetroParks's, Fellows Gardens.



Cleveland Botanical Children Gardens

What has really caught my attention, in most all of these public gardens is the growing emphasis on children's gardens! Naturally, being a grandmother of a preschool boy (Jace) and a first grade girl (Alivia), I became very interested. In fact, I have taken my grandchildren to visit many of these gardens.

As most of you know, I am a Registered Nurse. Therefore, when I noticed several children's gardens I visited had/have sections titled "sensory gardens", I became very interested. After all, I have spent many hours of my careers caring for people who suffered from neurological conditions and sensory deficits. Consequently, I decided to investigate this topic a bit and do some research. Some of my questions... What exactly are sensory

gardens? Aren't all gardens sensory? How do children (and others) benefit from sensory gardens?

At this time, I will share what I found through my research. I also have volunteered, and I am scheduled to give a presentation on this topic at this year's Canfield Fair.

In short, sensory gardens are designed to use plants and other elements with the intention of providing heightened vision, hearing, smell, taste, and touch experiences. Well-designed sensory gardens often are devoted specifically to one sense, such as a fragrance garden. Other sensory gardens may focus on several of the senses. Sensory gardens can be created in spaces that are small (containers) or large, in private, and/ or public.

Sensory gardens are popular and beneficial to children, adults and those with sensory processing issues. At this time, I am focusing on children. I may in the future write a blog about adults with sensory issues and sensory gardens.

Children with sensory processing issues benefit from sensory gardens, as these provide a therapeutic and safe way to explore their senses without becoming overwhelmed. Kids with sensory processing issues tend to have extreme reactions to sensory stimulation and often become either over stimulated or under-stimulated. A sensory garden can be created to be a calming, gentle place where hyper-reactive children can relax. Further, a sensory garden can be created to stimulate the senses in children who tend to be under-reactive to sensations. Warm colors, such as red, orange and yellow tend to promote activity. In contrast, colors, such as blue, purple and white tend to be soothing and promote tranquility. Textures, materials, sounds, smells, and tastes all can be added to encourage sensations.

For children who do not have special

needs, a sensory garden is a fun, helpful, educational tool that allows kids to learn about their senses and the natural world in a non-threatening way.

When visiting the sensory gardens, children should be encouraged to touch, smell, taste, listen, and see the different stimuli and to interact with the environment. By doing so, children can be taught to use their five senses to understand their world. An objective with a children's sensory garden design is for kids to interact with the plants and other elements, directly, by breaking off leaves to smell and/or taste. Therefore, plants which are poisonous, allergenic, or have been sprayed by a pesticide should be avoided. Some plant species can serve multiple roles in a sensory garden. For example, mint can be used for both sent and taste.

Seasonal themes can be used to create fun and memorable sensory experiences. Popular themes include pizza gardens, rainbow gardens, salsa gardens, holiday gardens, seasonal gardens, etc.

Here in Mahoning County, we are very blessed to have a children's garden available for us to visit. Mill Creek Fellows Riverside Children's Garden has a very fascinating sensory display. My grandchildren, who live out of town, have visited the garden on many occasions and are totally amazed each visit. Both of my grandchildren love entering the gardens through the big black tunnel! Further both children enjoy



Children's Garden at Fellows Riverside Gardens

using their imaginations when playing in the "fairy garden". My grandson, Jace, absolutely loves playing in the "digging garden". My granddaughter, Alivia, is totally amazed with garden's "working bee hive"! Now, Alivia, is hooked on honey and insists on putting it on chicken, and other foods, whenever she sits down for a meal!!

Susan McMann
MGV Intern

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. Banquet details will be forthcoming. -M.M.

Upcoming Events

September **Events at the Huston – Brumbaugh Nature Center** can be found in the Summer 2016 newsletter at <http://go.osu.edu/HB-Sum16>

September **Events at the Mill Creek Metroparks** can be found at <http://www.millcreekmetroparks.org/events/2016-09/>

September 14 – **Tips for Fall/Winter Gardening**, 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 "Cultivating Passion" conference will feature two keynote speakers: Michael Dirr, author of "Manual of Woody Landscape Plants", will present "In Praise of Noble Trees" and "Flowering and Evergreen Shrubs: An Alphabet Soup." Doug Tallamy, author of "Bringing Nature Home," will present "Treasures Among our Natives." Visit <http://u.osu.edu/mgv2016/> for more information.

September 19 – **Get Your Lawn in Order.** Coffee with the Master Gardeners Program, OSU Extension – Mahoning County office, Monday, 9:30 am – 12:00 pm. OSU Extension Educator, Lee Beers, discusses everything from fall fertilization to mower height and more – learn to have the best lawn on the block! Fall is the best time for fertilization – learn what you should be doing! Lee will share the fundamentals of lawn care. We'll start with soil basics – the building blocks of a healthy turf. Then, we'll cover fertilization plans and on to tips and tricks for caring for your lawn year round. <http://go.osu.edu/falllawn> The program flyer can be found attached to this newsletter.

September 21 - **Preserving The Harvest – Dehydrating Fruits and Vegetables**, Home Canning & Food Safety Series, OSU Extension – Mahoning County office, Wednesday, 10 - 11:30 am. Join Beth Stefura to learn about the best and most safe methods for canning the fruits of your labor this summer. Cost is \$15.00 per person. Contact: 330-533-5538. Details: <http://go.osu.edu/canning2016> The program flyer can be found attached to this newsletter.

September 28 – **Garlic**, Agriculture and Family Center (520 W. Main St., Cortland), Wednesday, 6 pm. Part of the Trumbull County Master Gardeners 2016 Free Garden Programs.

October **Events at the Mill Creek Metroparks** can be found at <http://www.millcreekmetroparks.org/events/2016-10/>

October 1 – **Beautiful Blooming Bulbs & Branches**, 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

October 12 – **Art in the Garden**, Agriculture and Family Center (520 W. Main St., Cortland), Wednesday, 6 pm. Part of the Trumbull County Master Gardeners 2016 Free Garden Programs.

November 5 – **Greens Workshop: Make your own Swag**, 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

Keen Observation

Thanks to Cynthia Foust for submitting this gem:

*Are you green and growing
or ripe and rotting?*

-Ray Kroc

MGV 2016 Meeting Schedule

September 8 – *Green Team Composting 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.

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

OCVN 2016 Meeting Schedule

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

October 19 – *Amphibians*, Gregory Lipps

November 16 – *Deer*, Marne Titchenell

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

Look in the October 2016 Flora and Fauna for a special "Photos from the 2016 Canfield Fair" feature.

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



**The October issue of the *Flora and Fauna* will contain a special
“*Stories and Photos from the 2016 Canfield Fair*” feature.**

This is the perfect opportunity to participate in the creation of your newsletter. If you have an anecdote or a short story or even a lengthy one, you can email, snail-mail or deliver it to the Extension office by September 30, 2016. If you have taken any Fair related photos of which you are particularly proud, send them by the same method by the same date.

We are particularly interested in your personal experiences at our fair booth or anywhere else at the 2016 Canfield Fair. Please consider sharing your experiences with your fellow volunteers.

Flora & Fauna Needs You!





Get Your Lawn in Order

From Fall Fertilization to Mower Height and More – learn to have the best lawn on the block!

Lee Beers, OSU Extension Educator

Fall is the best time for fertilization – learn what you should be doing! Lee will share the fundamentals of lawn care. We'll start with soil basics – the building blocks of a healthy turf. Then, we'll cover fertilization plans and on to tips and tricks for caring for your lawn year round.

Date: September 19

Location: 490 S. Broad St.

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

Cost: \$15/person

Details: Register ASAP Limited Seating

Contact: 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. This program is filled on a “first come, first served” basis.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Number Attending (x \$15): _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

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Preserving the Harvest



A Monthly "How To" Home Canning Series
July-September 2016

Many new research-based recommendations for canning safer and better quality food at home are available today. It is critical that home canners, beginners and experienced, are aware of and follow the latest USDA guidelines. The advantages of home canning are lost when inappropriate and unsafe procedures are used. Armed with sound information and safe equipment, the harvest of the season is yours to enjoy long into the winter season.

If you're the type of person that likes to develop new recipes this is NOT the time to do it! Canning is not the place for experiments. Always use a tested recipe and we have plenty of them to share. Another thing to remember is that dial gauges on pressure canners should be tested yearly for accuracy.



*Join us for one
or all three of
the Food
Preservation
Programs!*

Home Canning & Food Safety Series

It's home canning time again! For those planning to preserve food at home this summer season, it's also time to check out your equipment. Canning can be a safe and economical way to "put food by" as well as a source of enjoyment and pride for many.

But, there are some basic rules of thumb worth remembering that will help ensure a safe, quality preserved product. When canning low acid vegetables, meat or a combination of vegetables (like spaghetti sauce), a pressure canner is the only way to preserve these foods safely. High-acid foods such as fruits, pickles, salsa, jams and jellies can be safely processed using a boiling water bath canner. It is also recommended that the acidity level of low-acid foods such as tomatoes be raised by adding an acid to the product. This can be accomplished by adding lemon juice or citric acid to the jars.

Learn about how to safely home preserve food using a boiling water bath and a pressure canner. This class is geared to teach those who are new to home canning the basics and provide a refresher to experienced home canners. Participants may also have their pressure canners tested for safety and dial gauge pressure canners tested for accuracy before the programs.

Program Series Details

Date/ Topic:

Monday, July 18– Canning Tomatoes 1:30-3:00 pm

Wednesday, August 10– Canning Basics 10:00-11:30 am

Wednesday September 21– Dehydrating Fruits & Veg. 10:00-11:30 am

**** Cost is \$15.00 per session. Classes are open to the public.**

**Location: OSU Extension Office
490 S. Broad St., Canfield, Ohio 44406
Phone: 330.533.5538**



Registration Form

Classes held at OSU Extension Office
490 S. Broad St.
Canfield, OH 44406

Canner testing is available. Call to schedule. No charge for canner testing.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

I plan on attending:

July 18

Canning Tomatoes

August 10

Canning Basics

September 21

Drying Fruits and Vegetables

Drop off or mail registration to:

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

Or call 330-533-5538

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Family & Consumer Sciences Educator