

Flora and Fauna

The Mahoning County ANR Volunteer Newsletter
Ohio State University Extension – Mahoning County
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MGV State Conference 2015

This month we are fortunate to have three narratives from three of our volunteers who attended the 2015 OSUE MGV State Conference. It was held on August 28th and 29th at Maumee Bay State Park near Toledo.

-Bill



2105 MGV State Conference by Marilyn McKinley

Three of your fellow MGV's from Mahoning County, Karen Santee Sara Studier, and myself recently attended the Sate MGV conference. Interesting topics, interesting field trips. As much as I enjoy the field trips and attending the learning sessions my favorite part of the conference is meeting other MGV's from around the state and talking with them about their organization, their projects and basking in their knowledge of so many things that I am interested in also.

Some facts and figures from Pam Bennett about the state of our state MGV's. According to 2014 state records

there are 3021 active OSU MGV's, 476 Interns, and 34 state volunteer coordinators. This transfers to 200, 900 volunteer hours (reported – it is believed that many, many hours do not get reported). The importance of reporting ALL hours was stressed and discussed. 46,699 continuing education hours were recorded. We were strongly encouraged to make more use of Instagram and Facebook with a focus on Instagram. We were told that a new MGV manual would be available by the first of the year and we should be teaching new MGV classes from that manual.

Once again, Mahoning County was awarded, along with 26 other counties, the Platinum Award for Standards of Excellence. This year we were presented with a nice plaque, not just a paper certificate. 12 counties were awarded the Gold Award.

I took a close look at projects and talked to some of the MGV's who were awarded special awards for their service. There are several categories, judged by people from other states. These awards include recognition as well as money for the winning local group. I must tell you, what you do in Mahoning County needs to be recognized by the state! We are a strong organization that does such a variety of things for a diverse population. We are so far removed from being a

'beautification' organization, as too many local MGV groups are. I would encourage every MGV to go online (<http://mastergardener.osu.edu>), look around the website, and see what other groups are doing. It will make you proud of our group and so very thankful for our leadership. What Eric does and what Bill has contributed, in the way of supporting our group goes way over and above what happens in most counties. We are so lucky to have such leadership here. It appears Eric has a reputation state wide.... and get this, it's a good one!

Marilyn McKinley

OSU Master Gardener Volunteer

2105 MGV State Conference by Sara Scudier

Stewards of the Earth was the theme of the 2015 OSU MGV Conference. Day one (Friday) presented a choice of three different tours. I choose the Globally Rare Oak Openings Region. We first went to the Oak Opening Preserve, a part of the Toledo Metro Parks District. We enjoyed a box lunch and then toured the Kitty Todd Preserve, managed by the Nature Conservatory. The tour was extremely interesting, as the ecosystem is very different from that of our Northeast Ohio surroundings. Oak Openings is the remains of the Great Black Swamp. It is the basin of glacial Lake Warren, which is now Lake Erie. It is a variety of wet and dry areas with a good deal of sand and gravel. The settlers eventually drained much of the swamp; only a few areas remained undisturbed.

After hiking five miles on Friday, Saturday was a day for lectures. The keynote speaker, Linda Chalke-Scott, PhD, is a Washington State University assistant, extension urban horticulturalist, and an author of several books. She gave a great presentation on garden myths, and reliability of sources being used when teaching

garden practices. Her focus was on separating university based research from other information found on the internet. She discussed what she calls the CRAP test to evaluate gardening information. C= Credibility of the source, R = Relevance to urban landscapes and gardens, A = Accuracy, and P = Purpose. She discussed the importance of assessing products and practices, misapplied science, over extrapolation of results, biased reporting, and cautioned about correlation vs. causation.

The breakout sessions were equally interesting. I attended 'Greening the Garden', 'Sustainable Landscaping', 'Landscapes for Beneficial Insects', and 'The Wonders of Wildlife Management'.

In all, it was a really good and informative conference.

Sara Scudier

OSU Master Gardener Volunteer

2015 MGV State Conference by Karen Santee

I only attended day one of the conference, Friday, the day of the tours. First stop, Toledo Zoo Gardens. We were met by tour guides who showed us around various garden areas. My guide (Marilyn was on the same tour) was very down to earth and practical in how she approached garden design and maintenance. As we can all appreciate, she chose plants that were easy keepers and accessible. Her design areas had that WOW! factor and the "I can do that" appeal. The gardens were formal, informal, and eclectic, something for everyone. Here are plants which she recommended for home gardens: *Verconia* – late bloom – purple, *Indigofera tinctoria* – True Indigo – pink, *Hydrangea piniculata* – BoBo, and *Smoke Bush* – Young Lady – a dwarf variety.

Next stop, the Toledo Botanical Garden.

A farm was donated to the city of Toledo by George P. Crosby in 1964 and has continued to grow through the years. There is an artist village, a uniquely designed herb garden, and a large garden. I was in awe of the formal hidden gardens and the open areas. I personally felt very good when the guide admitted they have some weak areas, just like everyone else!

Lastly we toured Hoens Green House Inc. This is a family operation in Holland, Ohio; the owners have Youngstown and Boardman connections. We roamed freely and almost everyone made a purchase or two. They had a nice selection of miniature plants for teacup and fairy gardens, with all the tiny items to personalize your creations. They have a Meyers Lemon tree in the greenhouse, and (get this) it produces nearly 3,000 lemons a year! They are full size and taste great. Dwight, my husband, bonded with Mr. Hoen and was treated to a lemon. The family also sells produce from their fields.

The Toledo Field trip was a fun and educational excursion. I came away with some ideas for my home and my work. I am looking forward to 2016's MGV conference.

Karen Santee

OSU Master Gardener Volunteer

**** Mark your calendars!!!! The 2016 MGV Conference will be held on Sept. 16th and 17th, sponsored by Summit County, and held in Cuyahoga Falls. ****

September MGV Meeting

Join us for some post Fair fun at the next MGV meeting on Thursday, September 10th at **6:00 pm**.

For this meeting, please RSVP to the OSU Extension Office ASAP!

The program will be *Cooking with Herbs Program and Dinner*, Presented by and herbal dinner prepared by Barb Delisio.

Please note the starting time of **6 pm** and the location, the **Mill Creek MetroParks Farm**.

Menu: Rosemary Lemonade, green bean pate' with basil, bagel rounds, basil pesto with spinach linguini, herbal bread, herbal butter, barrios tea breads.

Please bring \$5 to help with the cost of food.



Just call the OSU Extension office to let us know you are coming – 330-533-5538. Also, there is a sign-up sheet at the front desk.

See you there! **-Eric**

November OCVN Meeting

The next OCVN meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 18th from 6:30 - 7PM 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 in the October *Flora and Fauna*.

August MGV Meeting

The August MGV meeting was held in Pam Baytos's magnificent gardens at her home in Berlin Center.



Pam's Place

It was one of the most relaxing and enjoyable MGV meetings in recent years.



Master Gardeners know how to vegetate

Notice: October Newsletter

The October issue of *Flora and Fauna* will feature coverage of the 2015 Canfield Fair.

Here is a great opportunity for you to contribute to your monthly newsletter. Submit a short description of something that you observed or experienced at the Fair. There are no limits on how small or large your contribution should be.

If you took a photo at the Fair and would like to share it with your fellow volunteers, send it to me with a short caption.

In order to succeed, we need all of your input.

-Bill

Notice: MGV Officer Nominations for 2016-2017

You have what it takes to be a leader with the MGVs! If you are interested in running for president, vice president, secretary or just being on the MGV Executive Board, simply email Eric or give him a call. He can explain what is involved from time commitment to duties. Step up to the plate and help the group!

Notice: MGV Volunteer and Education Hours

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

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.



BYGL Bites

Teach Your Children Well

Curtis Young reported witnessing what could have been an event that could have had a very tragic outcome. While walking his dogs, several young children between the ages of 4 - 7 years of age approached him from a neighbor's gathering wanting to pet his dogs. One of the youngest children caused Curtis to be alarmed when he saw that her hands, cheeks and lips were stained with the juice of purple berries. Curtis knew that the most likely source of the purple staining fruit was from the **POKEWEEDS** (*Phytolacca americana* = *P. decandra*) growing in a couple of weedy areas bordering the properties

where the children were playing. Curtis reported to the parents and grandparents of the child that she had eaten the berries of a potentially poisonous plant and recommended that take precautionary actions to deal with the potential poisoning.



Pokeweed (*Phytolacca americana*) Developing Fruit - Dark Purple Fruits are Ripe, Green are Still Ripening

Pokeweed is a native plant of the Eastern US. Pokeweed has numerous common names used in different parts of the US including American cancer, American nightshade, American spinach, bear's grape, cancer-root, coakum, garget, inkberry, inkweed, pigeonberry, poke, pokeberry, pokeroot, red-ink plant, skoke berry, and Virginia poke. The entire plant is known to contain toxic compounds. The primary toxic compounds are thought to be oxalic acid, saponins (phytolaccotoxin and phytolaccigenin) and an alkaloid (phytolaccin). The distribution and concentration of these compounds increase as the plant matures and are unevenly distributed through the plant. Roots are the most poisonous, leaves and stems are intermediate in toxicity, and berries are the least toxic, but still can cause significant problems. However, the most severe poisonings are the result of people consuming the large taproot of the plant when it is mistaken for horseradish or Jerusalem artichoke roots. Still two big concerns in the situation that Curtis had witnessed were that the child who had eaten the berries was very young and small in body size and she had eaten an unknown number of the berries. Although, based on the amount of staining on her hands and face, it suggested that she had handled quite a few of them.

Even if the pokeweed berries are not extremely poisonous, the main take home message here is to teach young children not to eat wild berries without involving an adult in the decision making process before the wild berries are eaten. At this time of the year, numerous wild plants and ornamental plants are displaying ripening fruit that could be very enticing to a young child to eat them. Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and even babysitters need to be aware of what plants might be displaying fruit to young children when they are outside. If a child does eat potentially poisonous fruit, contact your local poison control center or if that is unknown, contact the national poison control center at 1-800-222-1222 for help.

Curtis Young

BYGL, September 3, 2015

Upcoming Events

September 13 – **HHGG Tea Party**, Sunday, 2 – 4 pm. Holborn Herb Growers Guild will hold their annual TEA PARTY in the Western Reserve Village at the Canfield Fair Grounds. A tea cup to take home, tea sandwiches, cookies and tea cakes, tea and lemonade, a hat contest, and entertainment await those who attend. Tickets are \$10.00, free for children 8 and under. Children, bring your Teddy Bears for the Teddy Bear parade. HHGG Herbal cookbooks will be available for sale (\$15.00 or 2 for \$25.00). For information you may contact Gail @ 330-533-2926. Use gate 5 entrance please.

September 13 - **Return to Lincoln Park**, Sunday, 2 – 3:30 pm. This beautiful City of Youngstown park is home to the famous Council Rock, the legendary site of an 18th century native American Indian gathering. Meet at Lincoln Park Pavilion. Moderate, 1.25 mi. Register at Ford Nature Center by 9/12.

September 18 - **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/class.

September 19 - **Birding with Jeff**, Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, Saturday, 8 - 9:30 am. Jeff Harvey of Wild Birds Unlimited and Audubon Society/Mahoning Valley will lead this walk. Boots required. Meet at Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary. To register, call FNC by 5 pm the day prior to the walk.

September 19 - **Gardening Basics: Care of Houseplants**, Fellows Riverside Gardens, Saturday, 10 - 11:30 am. It's time to bring your houseplants back inside! Learn how to keep your indoor plants looking their best with Ellen Speicher. We will cover proper watering, avoiding brown tips, pest control, repotting and much more. Register/pay by 9/17. \$14; FFRG \$12.

September 20 - **Hike with Jim**, Ford Nature Center, Sunday, 2 - 3 pm. Hike with Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist Jim Thornton to Lily Pond and back. Moderate, 2 mi.

September 24 - **Fall Garden Lecture: Doug Oster**, Fellows Riverside Gardens, Thursday, 7 - 8:30 pm. Join Doug Oster, an Emmy Award winning producer, television host and writer, as he shares techniques on how to extend your garden season. Doug will discuss cool weather crops including: root vegetables and greens; plant protection; harvesting and more. Sponsored in part by the John S. and Doris M. Andrews Memorial Lecture Series. Registration requested but not required.

September 26 - **Birding with Jeff**, McGuffey Wildlife Preserve, Saturday, 8 - 9:30 am. Jeff Harvey of Wild Birds Unlimited and Audubon Society/Mahoning Valley will lead this walk. Boots required. Meet at McGuffey Wildlife Preserve. To register, call FNC by 5 pm the day prior to the walk.

September 26 & 27 - **Autumn Plant Sale**, Fellows Riverside Gardens, Saturday and Sunday, 9 am - 5 pm. Ornamental cabbage, gourds, pumpkins, chrysanthemums, plus a large variety of spring blooming bulbs will be for sale at Fellows Riverside Gardens.

September 27 - **Leave it to the Beavers**, MetroParks Farm, Sunday, 2 - 4 pm. After a short indoor presentation, we'll hike the Mindy Henning Trail and search for signs of

North American's largest rodent. Wear boots. Moderate, 2 mi.

October 3 & 10 - **Autumn Bird Walks**, Newport Wetlands, Saturdays, 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 4 - **Relax and De-stress Event**, Huston Brumbaugh Nature Center, Sunday, 1 - 5 pm. Everyone needs to manage their stress these days. Take advantage of some relaxing activities such as a free 10-minute shoulder massage, a stroll through the peaceful woods, walking the labyrinth, relaxing by the pond, listening to live music, and more. Come alone or bring the family - there is something for everyone! No registration required. Huston - Brumbaugh Nature Center, 330-823-7487.

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.

The October issue of Flora and Fauna will feature our participation in the 2015 Canfield Fair



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

Volunteers in Action

BOTO 2015

The 2015 version of the MGV “Bring One, Take One” plant exchange took place on Saturday, August 15th on the Canfield Fairgrounds.



A lot of participants “brought one.”



The experts identified and labeled.



Mike Beaudis was in complete control.



As always, “take one” is most exciting.

Keen Observations



Monarch caterpillars on my butterfly weed

Bob Schulick

Master Gardeners 2015 Meeting Schedule

September 10 – *Cooking With Herbs*, Barb Delisio. Mill Creek MetroParks Farm, 6:30 pm. There will be a charge of \$5 per person for groceries.

October 8 – *Winery Visit*, Details TBA.

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

December - *Annual Recognition Banquet*.

OCVN 2015 Meeting Schedule

September 16 - Cancelled

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

December - *Annual Recognition Banquet*.

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! New & Tried-n-True

OSU Extension Master Gardener Volunteers
—Marilyn McKinley & Peg Zeleznic

Join Marilyn & Peg as they discuss the basics of perennials. Whether it is dry shade, wet shade, an embankment or full sun, learn what perennials received top rankings in OSU research studies. We will also discuss the new and exciting perennials for 2016—including where to find them! In this short session, we will explore perennials, enjoy coffee and a light breakfast with our Master Gardener Volunteers and have an opportunity to take home valuable information. This program is **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**.

Date: September 16th **Location:** 490 S. Broad St.
Canfield, OH 44406
9:30 am—Coffee, Donuts, **Cost:** \$15/person
and refreshments **Details:** Register by Sept. 11th
(limited seating)
10am-12pm—Program **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 and payment by **Friday, September 11th** to reserve a spot for the program. The program is filled on a “first come, first served basis.”

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

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

www.mahoning.osu.edu