

# Flora and Fauna

The Mahoning County ANR Volunteer Newsletter  
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January 2015

Volume 14 Issue 1

## Marilyn's Musings

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!**



So here it is 2015! Let's take a quick look back at 2014. It was a good year for the Mahoning County Master Gardeners. There were great programs for us and for the community. Every committee / activity was successful. We had another class of great interns, anxious to obtain their volunteer hours. The speaker's bureau had more requests; the 100 year extension exhibit at the fair was well received. The trees at Fellows were creatively beautiful, and the recognition banquet was great. Nice work! Big thanks to all MGV's.

Now days our mailboxes are filled with tax return information (ugh) and seed catalog (yea). We gardeners, the eternal optimists, have visions of all kinds of plants dancing around in our brains. Could this year be the year when we have the best garden ever? Maybe the temperature will be just right at the right time, maybe rainfall will be the right amount at the right time. See

more on this later. At any rate, may this be your best gardening year ever!!

Now is the time you want to also be thinking about which MGV committee(s) you would like to be a part of. Just want to let you know that there will be a few changes in how our committees are set up. We will eliminate, combine, and rename others, nothing drastic. As we become a larger and more active group changes are appropriate. We also will be attempting to have a little more structure in our organization this year. We will be discussing this at the January meeting, please plan to attend...and wear your badge!

Wishing to all a Healthy, Happy, and Hopeful New Year!

**Marilyn McKinley**

OSU Master Gardener Volunteer  
Ohio certified Volunteer Naturalist

## January MGV Meeting

Our first Master Gardener Volunteer meeting for 2015 will be held at the OSU Extension office on Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm. This will be our annual organizational meeting where we will discuss plans for 2015, including committees, meetings, field trips and programs. It is essential that we have as many volunteers attend as possible.



## January OCVN Meeting

Our first Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists meeting for 2015 will be held at the OSU Extension office on Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm. This will be our annual organizational meeting where we will discuss plans for 2015, including meetings, field trips and programs. It is important to have as many OCVNs attend as possible.



## November MGV Meeting

Our November Master Gardener meeting focused on preparations for our OSUE Master Gardener Holiday Tree at Fellows Riverside Gardens. The meeting was full of activity and very enjoyable.



## ANR Volunteers Host a Baby Shower for Leslie and Eric

In November, the ANR Volunteers sponsored a shower for Leslie and Eric to celebrate the eagerly awaited arrival of "Baby Barrett."



## MGV Holiday Tree at Fellows Riverside Gardens

Once again our MGV contribution to the Holiday Tree Display at Fellows Riverside Gardens was spectacular. Our



thanks to all who contributed and special thanks to Thresea Harris for coordinating this outstanding effort.

## ANR Volunteer Recognition Banquet 2014

The 2014 ANR Volunteer Recognition was held at A La Cart Catering in Canfield. It was an evening of great fun, great food and great friends.





## MGV Class of 2014 In Their Own Words

### Lynne Duchon

My name is Lynne Duchon. I am a retired Speech, Language Pathologist having spent my 35-year career, serving students in the public school setting.

My first memories of gardens were those of my grandparents and great grandparents who would often send us home from our visits with vegetables and/or flowers from their gardens. I have fond memories of climbing my grandparent's tree to pick cherries that would later be used in scrumptious pies.



My favorite flower is the peony. Each spring, on our Sunday visits to my grandparents, we would wander out to pick bouquets of them from my grandmother's bushes. Three of her bushes are thriving in my garden to this day.

I had been a vegetable gardener for many years when I became interested in growing and drying herbs. Many years ago a friend and I had a small business making and selling dried arrangements and wreaths using the herbs and flowers grown in our gardens. I no longer craft with, or dry herbs but continue to grow them for cooking. I most recently added raspberries and blueberries to my gardening interests and love being able to pick fresh healthy berries from my garden.

I have always composted and utilized organic methods when gardening as I am interested in not only keeping our environment free of conventional fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides, but also enjoy knowing that the food that I

### Wreaths Across America 2014

Our annual Veterans wreath ceremony was held this year at Poland's Old Church Graveyard and at the Cornersburg Cemetery. Special thanks are due Mike Beaudis for all of his work in making this one of our most successful events.



pick from my gardens has not been exposed to them.

My biggest challenge with gardening is keeping up with the weeds, although through the MGV program I have learned some tips that I hope will help me do a better job of keeping them at bay.

I truly enjoyed the Master Gardener Training Program as I have learned so much about a great variety of topics. I especially appreciated the relaxed and friendly environment of the classes and the interesting and light-hearted manner in which the information was presented.

I am looking forward to continuing to learn and grow as a gardener through my volunteer experiences with the MGV program.

**Lynne Duchon**

## Volunteer Voice



### **Gardeners are Eternal Optimists**

This is one of my favorite quotes: "To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow", Audrey Hepburn. We gardeners are eternal optimists! We all have different journeys as gardens, we have unique perspectives based on our experiences, but what we all share is optimism, we are always hopeful about future outcomes. Gardening is a hobby that supports a lifetime of learning and sharing. A few more garden sayings. "If I'm ever reborn, I want to be a gardener again – there is too much to do in one lifetime". Karl Foerster "When gardeners garden, it's not just plants that grow, but the gardeners themselves". Ken Druse. "I always try to grow some plants that are out of the ordinary, something your neighbors or

garden friends have never attempted. You can receive no greater flattery than to have a fellow gardener of equal intelligence and experience stand before your plant and ask, 'What is that?'" Richardson Wright. What the world needs are more gardeners! Having said that, see the following article, a touch of reality, which all gardeners must face.

**Marilyn McKinley**  
OSU MGV/OCVN

### **GARDEN "KNOWNS"**

- The likelihood of rain is inversely proportional to the need for it.
- Weeds proliferate most vigorously when you have the least time to deal with them.
- Plant beans at four-week intervals and they will all be ready at the same time.
- The year you get the cool weather veggies in early will be the year of record high temps in April. If you plan for a fall harvest, Sept. will be the hottest in history. If you prepare the garden for spring planting in the fall, the early spring will be dry and sunny. If you wait to prepare the soil until spring, sure enough, it will rain nearly every day from late March to mid - May.
- The greater the cost of seeds and/or plants the more likely they are to: never come up, be eaten by some critter, be eaten soon after they come up, come up then die from some unknown disease, get stepped on, or be killed by a late frost.
- Seeds planted too close together will all germinate, so plants must be thinned. Seeds planted at the appropriate spacing for best growth will germinate poorly.
- Your neighbors favorite high

producing variety of anything will fail to grow at all in your garden.

- There is no such thing as rabbit or deer proof fencing that isn't 12 feet tall, 2 feet being underground.
- The kink in the hose is always at the other end.
- Rows laid out in straight line will somehow how get ziggy - zaggy.
- The stuff that killed your neighbor's cabbage worms only increases the appetite of those worms on your cabbage.
- Any and all garden tasks will take much longer than you planned for.
- Early tomatoes never are. Late ones always are.
- The more educated you become about garden problems the more problems you will find in your garden.
- Any garden problem can be overcome with enough time and enough money. Who has enough time or enough money?
- If you buy plants at the appropriate time to plant them, you will be too busy to plant them. If you order plants and have the time to plant them, they will arrive later than expected.

The more meticulous you are in keeping garden records, the greater likelihood you will either leave them out and it rains or you will lose them!

### Keen Observations

If you read the December 28<sup>th</sup> issue of the Youngstown Vindicator, you saw our own Gladys Burnet, representing the Friends of Youngstown & Mahoning County Public Library.



Gladys Burnett of Friends of Youngstown & Mahoning County Public Library stands beside the podium as she explains that Kujichagulia means self-determination, Saturday afternoon during the second day of Kwanzaa celebration at the East Branch of the Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County.

### Upcoming Events

January 17 & 31 - **Coffee With The Birds**, Saturday, 8 am- 9:30 am. Watch birds with Jeff Harvey of Wild Birds Unlimited while sipping coffee (or tea). Bring your favorite mug. Space is limited; call to register for a 45 minute session. (8-8:45 or 8:45 – 9:30). Ford Nature Center. 330-740-7107.

January 17 - **Gardening Basics: Design Theory I**, Saturday, 10 am – 12 pm. Garden Design Theory class will answer the question of "where do I even begin in designing an ornamental garden?" Bridget Beck, garden designer, will cover basic design elements found in all art and design including concepts of order, unity and rhythm. We'll also discuss the use of color and form and how to apply all of these ideas when planning an ornamental garden. This class is one-part lecture on design theory and one-part workshop in applying these theories when choosing perennials for your garden. Call Fellows Riverside Gardens to register. \$14; FFRG \$12.

January 27 - **Audubon Society/Mahoning Valley**, Tuesday, 7 ppm – 8 pm. Learn about Bird Identification with Mahoning Valley Audubon Society President Jeff Harvey. Bring binoculars and field guides. Prizes will be given for tough ID challenges. Mill Creek MetroParks Farm. (330) 533-7572.

February 7 - **Orchid Walk-About**, Saturday, 10:30 am – 11:30 am. Join one of our experts on an orchid walk highlighting the main varieties of orchids displayed throughout the Davis Center. Drop-in. Fellows Riverside Gardens. (330) 740-7116.

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

## **Tentative Master Gardeners 2015 Meeting Schedule**

**January 8** – *Organizational Meeting*. OSU Extension Office, 6:30 pm.

**February 12** – *Growing Our Future Gardeners*, Jim Converse. OSU Extension Office, 6:30 pm.

**March 12** – *Phenology*, Bill Snyder. OSU Extension Office, 6:30 pm.

**April 9** – *Update on State MGV Committee*, Hugh Earnhart. OSU Extension Office, 6:30 pm.

**May 14** —Member Plant Exchange and Covered Dish. OSU Extension Office, 6:00 pm.

**June 11** – *Visit to Western Reserve Village*, Herb Guild Members. Meet at the OSU Extension Office, 6:30 pm.

**July 9** – *DJ's Greenhouse Visit (Grounds Tour and Picnic)*, 6:30 pm. Meet at OSU Extension Office at 5:30 pm or Meet at Poland Library at 5:45 pm.

**August 13** – *An Evening in Dan Burn's Garden*, Details TBA.

**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*.

## **Tentative OCVN 2015 Meeting Schedule**

**January 28** - *Annual Organizational Meeting*, OSU Extension Office, 6:30 pm.

**December** - *Annual Recognition Banquet*.

### **NOTE: Emerald Ash Borer and White Fringetree**

Emerald ash borer (EAB) (*Agrilus planipennis*) was discovered on white fringetree (*Chionanthus virginicus*) in the Greater Dayton area by Don Cipollini of Wright State University. On October 14, 2014, the USDA Systematic Entomology Laboratory (SEL) at the Smithsonian confirmed the partial adult and larval specimens recovered from a white fringetree were indeed EAB.

What is currently known is that EAB can select and complete its development on our native white fringetree; thus far it has not been found on Chinese fringetree (*C. retusus*). We do not yet know whether it will be a major pest on this plant. We do not know if an EAB infestation on this plant is related to other factors such as plant age, stress, etc. Indeed, we do not yet have the answers to some very basic questions relating to the biology of EAB on this plant; we are on the fringe of our knowledge.

However, we do know that this discovery was not totally out of the blue. Ash belongs to the genus *Fraxinus* which is one of the genera grouped in the olive family (Oleaceae) as is *Syringa* (lilac), *Forsythia*, *Ligustrum* (privet)...and *Chionanthus* (fringetree). Early host preference studies suggested EAB was limited to Ash. Obviously, this new discovery should give us pause to investigate further.

With this in mind, OSU Extension will be partnering with others to conduct an "observational survey" in late spring, about the time white fringetrees are in full bloom. We will be asking horticulture professionals to take a close look at fringetrees and perhaps other members of the olive family for "D"-shaped holes and to report their findings. One goal of this survey will be to identify plants that can be further studied.

Joe Boggs  
BYGL, October 23, 2014

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