

Here's The Scoop!

Sandusky / Ottawa County Master Gardener Volunteers – April, 2024 Newsletter

The Latest Scoop

- ~The next scheduled Master Gardener general meeting is Monday, April 1 at the Sandusky extension office located at 2000 Countryside Dr., Fremont in the large conference room at 9:00 am.
- ~The next Board meeting is scheduled Monday, April 1 at the Sandusky County Extension office small conference room, 8:15 am, prior to the general meeting.
- ~If you are a designated News Messenger/News Herald Master Gardener article writer, don't forget to submit your gardening article to Sue La Fountaine, lafountaine.5@osu.edu, no later than 11:00 am the **Monday** morning of your assigned week. The next author is Chris Michael with "Local Spring Wildflowers Start Soon," scheduled April 10. Joy Ceraldi is scheduled April 24. Her topic will be "Forsythia."
- ~Master Gardeners are asking for some of the newspaper publications to be printed in the monthly "Here's the Scoop". Included in this month's newsletter is "Beetle Buddies in Your Garden," by Elaine Bast and "Bird Scaping," also by Elaine Bast.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Mission



We are The Ohio State University Extension trained volunteers empowered to educate others with timely research-based gardening information.

Our Initiatives



Integrated Pest Management with a focus on teaching correct techniques in the garden and landscape

Invasive Species with a focus on the potential damage they may cause to the environment, and teaching ways to manage/eradicate.

Backyard and Local Foods with a focus on community gardens, councils/policy, urban agriculture—farms and teaching/demonstrating how to grow vegetables

Environmental Horticulture with a focus on varieties of horticulture such as storm water management, rain gardens, good plant selection practices, demonstration gardens and more!

19th Annual

PLANT SALE

Saturday, May 4

9 a. m. - 1 p. m.

**Sandusky County Fairgrounds
Fremont**

Annuals • Perennials

Herbs • Vegetables

Hanging Baskets

FASTER CHECKOUT



***Cash or Checks
Only***

FREE Gardening Advice

**Sorry No Early Sales
and No Pets in the
Building**

APRIL 2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, April 5-Wildflower Walk and /woods at the Luscombe Farm in Clyde, Ohio. Meet at the parking lot, 2341 County Road 213, Clyde. Admittance is free, Must register at 419-334-4495.

Saturday/Sunday, April 6 & 7—2024 Annual Botanical Garden, 11030 East Blvd., Cleveland, Ohio. Saturday 10-5 and Sunday noon-5. www.facebook.com/mwcss for event program and admittance fee.

Sunday, April 14—Oak Openings Wildflower Walk, 1-2:30 pm. Meet at Mallard Lake Area, free, call 419-407-9700.

Friday, April 19-Celebrate Earth Day, 5:00-8:00 pm, admittance is free. Call 419-407-9700 for further details.

Friday, April 26-Arbor Day Sunrise Tree Tour at Hayes Spiegel Grove, Fremont, Ohio. Departs at 7:30 am from the Hayes Home verandah. Tickets are \$12.00 for non-members and \$8.00 for members. Call 419-332-2081 for details.

Saturday, April 27—Wood County Plant Exchange, 13800 Poe Road, Bowling Green, Ohio, starting at 10:00am. Plant Drop off is 8:00. Bring your plants with labels. You will receive 3 FREE plants (based on availability). There will be exhibitors and vendors, kids activities (one free plant for each child), and live music for listening and buying pleasure. Questions—call 419-354-9050.

Sunday, April 28-Oak Openings Wildflower Walk, 1-2:30 pm. Meet at Mallard Lake Area, free, call 419-407-9700.

2024 General Meetings
Sandusky/Ottawa County
Master Gardeners
All meetings start @ 9:00 am

Sandusky County
2000 Countryside Dr
Fremont, Oh 43420
419-334-6340

Ottawa County
240 W. Lake Street
Oak Harbor, Oh 43449
419-898-3631

Creek Bend Farm
720 S Main Street
Lindsey, Oh 43442
1-419-334-4495

OARDC
1165 Gonawein
Fremont, Oh 43420
Corner of County Road 43 and
State Route 53
Fremont, Oh 43420
1-419-332-5142

Schedel Arboretum & Gardens
9255 W Portage River South Rd
Elmore, Ohio 43416
419-862-3182

Hayes Presidential Spiegel Grove
1337 Hayes Avenue
Fremont, Oh 43420
419-332-2081

577 Foundation
577 East Front Street
Perrysburg, Oh 43551
419-874-4774

Beetle Buddies in your Garden

Everyone has seen ladybugs in the garden and in the house. Ladybugs are those cute red bugs with black dots on their bodies. In the house, they are just trying to find a warm place, often in the winter, to hibernate. Ladybugs don't harm the home or contents of the house, nor do they bite or spread disease. They are harmless, except to be voracious eaters of pests such as aphids in both the larva stage and as adults. Ladybugs are also known as ladybird beetles or lady beetles. These beetles are members of the Coccinellidae family. To attract and keep these valuable pest police, plant Bergamot, Cosmos, Dill, goldenrod, lemon balm, mint, parsley, Queen Anne's lace, statice yarrow, and zinnias. If ladybugs can't find enough aphids to eat, they will eat pollen.

There are about 5,000 different species of ladybugs and they inhabit much of the world. Ladybugs are equally comfortable in grasslands, urban landscapes, forests, cities and along rivers. A ladybug will lay eggs in clusters or a row on the underside of a leaf that has a number of aphids. In a few days, the eggs hatch and the larvae feast on the aphids while they shed their skin several times. When the ladybug larva is full size, it attaches itself by its tail to a leaf. The pupa becomes an adult ladybug in a couple weeks. While frogs, wasps, spiders and dragonflies will eat ladybugs, their major predator are birds. Ladybugs are somewhat protected from birds by their bright red color. This color announces the presence of a ladybug, and tells birds to stay away. Ladybugs secrete an oily, foul tasting fluid from their leg joints to discourage predators.

While ladybugs are probably the cutest and best known beetle in the garden, there are a number of beneficial beetles that live in our gardens. One of the more common garden beetles is the ground beetle (Carabidae). There are more than 40,000 species of ground beetles found around the world. This beetle is a nocturnal predator that spends days hiding under stones. It forages at night in soil among roots and plant stems searching for tasty morsels such as maggots, nematodes, weevils, thrips, silverfish, slugs and cutworms. Ground beetles are attracted to exposed dirt, flagstone and other paved areas, perennial plants, potted plants, and rotting wood. Ground beetles are rather large and dark in color. They rarely bite and don't carry diseases, nor are they harmful if they get into the house. A defensive fluid can be sprayed in case of danger. This fluid can be an irritant, but is otherwise harmless.

Like the ladybug, ground beetles have four stages: egg, larva, pupa, and adult. The egg, larva and pupa stages live under ground where the larva eat pests that live in the soil. Adults live above ground and forage primarily on pests that dwell in debris and plant matter on the ground.

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So, when you spot beetles in your garden, be kind to them. They are working hard to control harmful pests without using chemicals that will kill the harmful and beneficial bugs alike. By a previous Sandusky Ottawa
Gardener—Elaine Bast

Mark your calendars for the
Sandusky/Ottawa County Plant Sale
Saturday, May 4, 2024 from 9:00 am-1:00 pm
Sandusky County Fair Grounds

Bird Scaping

When I was a kid, we had a wren house on a pole under a large box elder tree in our yard. That little guy was a very early riser, chortling the dawn of a new day when it was barely light, then continuing to sing until dusk. I think that wren outdid our resident rooster in waking us each morning in the summer with a pleasant song rather than raucous crowing. Besides being a reliable alarm clock, there are many benefits to attracting birds to your garden. Even birds that at first glance appear brown and gray sport fascinating lines and designs of various shades that are quite attractive. Then there are the birds with more colorful feathers, like cardinals, blue jays, blue birds, Baltimore Orioles and a number of others. These flashes of color zipping through your yard, especially in the winter against a backdrop of brown trees and winter snow can be quite a relief from the stress and cold of winter. The antics of birds like the nuthatch and woodpeckers draw a smile and a chuckle. Many birds eat garden pests such as slugs, mosquitoes, aphids and other unwanted garden visitors. Have you ever marveled at swallows as they chase their prey through the air in effortless aeronautic maneuvers? While not as efficient as other pollinators like butterflies, birds, especially those like hummingbirds and orioles that drink nectar, help pollinate backyard plants. Birds are harbingers of changing seasons. When juncos show up, we know winter is close behind. When they disappear, spring is close at hand. It's become a contest with my friends to see who can see the first hummingbird or oriole in the spring.

If you love the songs of birds and enjoy watching them, there are many ways you can attract them to your yard and garden. Birds need a source of water, not only for drinking, but also for bathing. Feathers must be kept clean to provide good insulation and facilitate flying. Shelter from summer heat and harsh winter wind and snow must be available. This involves having a variety of trees and shrubs in your yard that are dense. Evergreen shrubs and trees are good sources of both shelter and food for the birds as well as nesting sites. Trees and shrubs also provide escape and shelter from larger birds of prey. It is interesting to watch avian predators match wits and flying skills with smaller birds in the cycle of life. Plants that produce a lot of seeds like coneflowers, trees that have fruits, and small fruit like strawberries all attract birds. Trees that hold their fruit over the winter, such as crabapples, are especially welcomed by birds. Of course, you must decide whether the presence of a large variety of birds with their song, beauty and antics is worth the price of sharing your garden and its produce with them.

Elaine Bast

Lunch and Learn and Happy Hour Schedule

2023-2024

Here is the information on the site.

Mastergardener.osu.edu

Horticulture Webinars

2023-2024 Hort Happy Hour & Lunch and Learn Webinar Series

(the next session will appear)

Wednesday, October 25, 2023 – 12-1 pm -Growing Frut Trees: The Basics by Dr. Gary Gao, Professor, Small Fruit Specialist, Horticulture and Crop Sciences, The Ohio University.

Thursday, November 2, 2023 – 4-5 pm – Fall Foliage: The Science Behind Changing Colors, Dr. Ann Chanon, Extension Educator, Lake County, The Ohio State University.

Wednesday, November 8, 2023 – 12-1 pm- Invasive Plant ID and Control, Carrie Brown, Extension Educator, Fairfield County, The Ohio State University.

Thursday, November 16, 2023 – 4-5 pm – Christmas Tree Varieties: Tis the Season, Tom DeHaas, Extension Educator, Erie County, The Ohio State University.

Wednesday, December 6, 2023 – 12-1 pm – Why Raised Bed Gardening?, Trevor Corboy, Extension Educator, Brown County, The Ohio State University.

Thursday, December 14, 2023 – 4-5 pm – TOP 10 WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR GARDEN, Eric Barrett, Associate Professor, The Ohio State University.

Wednesday, December 20, 2023 – 12-1 pm – INSECT RESPONSES TO CLIMATE CHANGE, Dr. Sam Ward, Assistant Professor, Department of Entomology, The Ohio State University.

Thursday, January 4, 2024 – 4-5 pm – WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SOCIAL IN THE INSECT WORLD, Dr. Joe Raczkowski, Assistant Professor, Department of Entomology, The Ohio State University.

Wednesday, February 7, 2024 – 12-1 pm – NATIVE VERSUS NON-NATIVE LANDSCAPE PLANTS, Dr. Dave Shetlar, Professor Emeritus, Department of Entomology, The Ohio State University.

Thursday, February 15, 2024 – 4-5 pm – PLANT PROPAGATION BASICS, Dr. Wendy Klooster, Assistant Professor, Horticulture and Crop Sciences, The Ohio State University.

Wednesday, February 21, 2024 – 12-1 pm – BOXWOOD MOTH UPDATE: OHIO'S NEWEST INVASIVE INSECT PEST, Marcia Gulley, Horticulture Program Coordinator, Hamilton County, The Ohio

Wednesday, March 6, 2024 – 12-1 pm – COMMON AND EMERGING SOIL CONTAMINANTS, FROM ARSENIC TO PFAS, Maggie Rivera, Extension Educator, Summit County and Jeff Hatty, Professor, Soil Sciences, The Ohio State University.

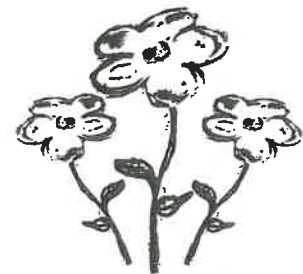
Wednesday, March 20, 2024 – 12-1 pm – SPOTTED LANTERNFLY IS ON THE MOVE: AN UPDATE IN OHIO, Amy Stone, Extension Educator, Lucas County, The Ohio State University.

Thursday, March 28, 2024 – 4-5 pm – SONGBIRDS: CREATING HABITAT AND SAFE SPACES FOR BIRDS IN YOUR BACKYARD, Marne Titchenell, Programm Director, Wildlife, The Ohio State University.

Wednesday, April 3, 2024 – 12-1 pm – VIRTUAL SPRING WILDFLOWER HIKE, Carrie Brown, Extension Educator, Fairfield County, The Ohio State University.

**Master
Gardener
Members
Sandusky/Ottawa County**

Dennis Bohland
Deb Camp
Johnette Cellier
Joy Ceraldi
Dorothy Clarke
Sharon Devine
Charles Gaydos
Kim Harsanje
Bob Horton
Susan Jenkins
Judith King
Joyce Konieczny
Susan La Fontaine
Christine Michael
Daniel Millinger
Sara Sherick
Linda Twarek
Nancy Ziemke



A new Master Gardener class is forming in Sandusky/Ottawa County. If you are interested, please fill out the form below and return to: Sandusky/Ottawa County Master Gardener, OSU Extension Office, 2000 Countryside Drive, Suite D, Fremont, Oh 43420. The sessions will run for ten weeks on Wednesday from 9-4.

MASTER GARDENER CLASS

I am interested in becoming a Sandusky/Ottawa County Master Gardener

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Return to:

Sandusky/Ottawa County Master Gardener

C/O OSU Extension Office

2000 Countryside Drive, Suite D

Fremont, Oh 43420

419-334-6340

