

# Here's The Scoop!

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

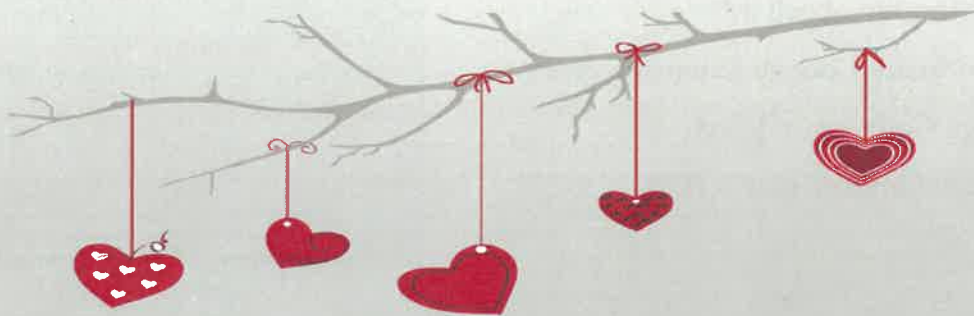
## The Latest Scoop

~The next scheduled Master Gardener general meeting will be Monday, February 12 at the Ottawa County Extension office, 240 Lake Street, Oak Harbor, Ohio, large conference room, starting at 9:00 am. The after meeting speaker has not been determined yet.

~The next Board meeting is scheduled Monday, February 12 at 8:15 at the Ottawa County Extension office small conference room 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 the **Monday** morning of your assigned week.

~The Master Gardeners are asking for past newspaper publications to be printed in the monthly "Here's the Scoop". Included in this issue is "It's Not Over Till It Freezes," by Joe Johnson and "Romance is in the Garden Air and it Smells Like Skunk!" by Allen Gahler, OSU Extension Educator. Let me know if you would to see a repeat article.



## 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!*

**Board meets 8:15 am before the General Meeting**

President—Sharon Devine

Vice President—Joy Ceraldi

Secretary—Joyce Konieczny

Treasurer— Bob Horton

Monday, February 12

Board 8:15 Small Conference Room

General 9:00/Ottawa County

Extension Conference Room

After meeting speaker—TBD

Monday, March 11

Board 8:15/Small Conference Room

General 9:00/Sandusky County

Extension Conference Room

After meeting speaker—TBD

Monday, April 8

Board 8:15/Small Conference Room

General 9:00/Sandusky County

Extension Large Conference Room

After meeting speaker—TBD

Monday, April 29

General 9:00/Sandusky County Extension office,

Large Conference Room

After meeting speaker—TBD

**Master  
Gardener  
Members  
Sandusky/Ottawa Coun-**

Dennis Bohland

Deb Camp

Johnette Cellier

Joy Ceraldi

Dorothy Clarke

Sharon Devine

Charles Gaydos

Kim Harsanje

Bob Horton

Susan Jenkins

Joyce Konieczny

Susan La Fountaine

Christine Michael

Daniel Millinger

Sara Sherick

Linda Twarek

Nancy Ziemke

## FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF GARDENING EVENTS

Friday, February 2 till Sunday, February 11, International Exposition Center, 1 I-X Center Drive, Cleveland, Ohio. Are you searching for information and tickets regarding the Great Big Home & Garden Expo 2024 taking place in Cleveland. Tickets on line from \$15-\$13—[Greatbighomeandgarden.com](http://Greatbighomeandgarden.com).

Saturday, February 3, 1-2:00 pm. Our Fantastic National Parks—Zion, Bryce, Yellowstone, and Glacier. Presented by Cara Douglas and Anthony DiVitto at Oak Openings, 5440 Wilkins Rd, Whitehouse, Ohio. Event is free and no reservation required.

Fridays, Saturdays, & Sundays, February 9,10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, from 10-4 at the Toledo Zoo— Become immersed in beautiful blooms throughout the Pro-Medica Museum of Natural History during the Orchid Show. Discover the vibrant colors, delightful scents and interesting backstories of rare and exotic species from around the world. This event is included with your zoo admission.

Friday, February 9, from 5:30-7:30 pm— Toledo Metroparks, Wildwood Preserve. Learn how to make a plant-able Valentine with recycled paper at this DIY-style program. We'll provide all the materials and tools necessary to make recycled paper-AND show you how to embed them with native seeds to make a truly unique gift for your loved ones this Valentines Day. Bring comfortable clothes. Adults and age 8+. Meet at the Wildwood Preserve, Ward Pavillion, located on the East entrance. Cost is \$10.00 Minors must be accompanied by an adult. Register online or call 419-407-9700.

Saturday, February 24 from 12 noon till 3:00 pm –Toledo Grows Annual Seed Swap, Scott High School, 2400 Collingwood, Toledo, Ohio. Five free packets of seeds to each attendee, bring additional seed packets to swap for more (50 packet limit). If you have no packets to swap, tickets are available for \$ .50 each. At 1:00 pm there will be a workshop -"Seed Saving in Yor Home Garden". There are Children's Activities and Gardening Displays. Admission is free. For more information go to: [Tollegrows.org/events/event-seed-swap/](http://Tollegrows.org/events/event-seed-swap/). Phone 419-720-8714.

Wednesday, February 21, 6:00 pm— Spring is almost here. Now is the time to plan your garden and begin the process of starting seeds indoors. Whether you are new to gardening or have been doing it for years, this program has something for everyone. Join Boone County Master Gardener, Jennifer Crider, and learn about germination, breaking dormancy, scheduling, seeding methods and more. Registration is required. Call 815-544-3838 for more information.

staff to visit some of the areas impacted. Meet at Oak Openings Preserve Metropark Lake Area parking lot.

## February Calendar of Gardening Events con't

Wednesday, February 21, 6:00 pm— Spring is almost here. Now is the time to plan your garden and begin the process of starting seeds indoors. Whether you are new to gardening or have been doing it for years, this program has something for everyone. Join Boone County Master Gardener, Jennifer Crider, and learn about germination, breaking dormancy, scheduling, seeding methods and more. Registration is required. Call 815-544-3838 for more information.

Saturday, February 24, 10:00-11:00 am—Pine Management (all ages) children must be accommodated by an adult). Pine trees planted decades ago as a way to prevent soil erosion are now reaching the end of their life span. Areas of pine trees are being removed in Oak Openings to restore significant rare habitats and native species. Learn about the project with Metroparks Natural Resources and Education staff and visit some of the areas impacted. Meet at the Oak Openings Preserve Metropark, Mallard Lake Area parking lot. We will board a Metroparks van and drive to the pine restoration area. Cost is free. Register online.

Sunday, February 25, 2:00-3:00 pm—see above entry for details. Cost is free. Register online.

Saturday & Sunday, February 24 & 25 (Saturday 10-8 and Sunday 10-5)- PRO Home and Garden Show, Glass City Center, 401 Jefferson Ave., Toledo. Get ready for the annual PRO Home & Garden Show.



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**

## ITS NOT OVER TILL IT FREEZES

It has been a hot and dry summer for most gardeners in Northwest Ohio, but the upcoming fall season will give them another opportunity to grow vegetables. The end of the growing season in our area is usually the second week of October so even though our attention is slowly turning to harvesting this is also a great time to plant and/or seed in the garden, flower beds, and lawn. Garden crops such as beets, carrots, lettuce, radishes, broccoli, brussels sprouts, carrots, celery, kale, kohlrabi, spinach, onions parsley, peas, and potatoes are excellent for fall planting. These plants will mature within thirty to forty-five days. Since the average first frost date in this area is mid-October planting these vegetables in early September will allow them time to mature.

The lawn also has a rebirth in the fall of the year. Cooler days and nights allow the grass to rebound from the "dog days of August". Despite this renewed growth of grass keep mowing at the recommended height of two to two and a half inches. Do not lower the blade(s) at all for fall mowing. Fall is also a good time to apply weed killer and fertilizer to the lawn before the first frost. However, the best thing in the fall for a lawn is aeration. A lawn aerator is designed to create holes in the soil to help grass grow by improving soil drainage and preventing thatch buildup. If possible, mow first, water second and then use the aerator. Shorter days and cooler nights make it an ideal time to overseed the lawn and fill in any bare spots. The best time to plant is when the soil temperature is between fifty-five and sixty-five degrees and the air temperature is from sixty to seventy-five degrees. For Northwestern Ohio this would be from mid-August to early October. Water helps the soil resist freezing and retain heat so water the seeded area in the early evening. Grass seed takes ten to fourteen days to grow so check your calendar and listen to any frost warnings before seeding.

The flower beds will also need attention in the fall. It is a good time to divide the perennials, to plant spring bulbs and to plant fall flowers. Select those that are hardy enough to withstand cool nights and light frost and plant them two weeks before the ground freezes to establish their root systems. Fall flowers to plant include asters, heuchera, Autumn Joy sedum, dahlia, oakleaf hydrangea, and sunflowers.

There is plenty of work in the month of September to keep a gardener busy. If you think you have everything under control, turn the compost one more time. With all these fall gardening activities don't forget to harvest. With the Buckeyes playing Notre Dame, Toledo, and Wisconsin in September time to work in the garden will be limited so learn to gauge the local temperature.

Joe Johnson, Master Gardener

## Romance is in the Garden Air and it Smells Like Skunk!

Allen Gahler, OSU Extension Educator

February not only brings more cold temperatures, but with Valentines day, it also puts romance in the air – even for skunks! That’s right, February marks the start of the skunk breeding season. If you thought they were sleeping the winter away, Skunks do not officially hibernate. They do become “slow” or dormant for approximately a month during the coldest part of the winter right before breeding season!

Skunks are typically nocturnal, but just like deer, daytime activity increases significantly during breeding season, and we should expect to see them on the prowl at any time over the next month to 6 weeks. And we can expect to see them anywhere – in your yard, behind your barn, on your porch, and even under your tires as you go down the road! Just like deer in November, you will likely notice more roadkill skunk this month than other critters, and see them in plenty of not so normal places. If you have skunks inhabiting your barn or other structure and you want to alleviate the problem, now is the time to do so before they have their young. With a gestation period of 7-10 weeks, adults have their young during the first part of May, and yearlings during the first part of June. Typically, they only have one litter a year, with between 4 to 6 kittens, or “kits” for short. Since they stay with their mothers until fall you will obviously want to eliminate your skunk problem before the kittens are born.

According to the Ohio Department of natural Resources website, Skunks seldom cause damage to property other than raiding garbage or eating pet food. They sometimes reside under buildings or in rock and wood piles. A few tips for handling skunks include:

In confined spaces skunks or opossums may be driven away by placing an ammonia-soaked towel in the den.

Install a one-way door until you are sure the animal(s) have left, then permanently seal the entrance.

An animal that becomes trapped in a window well will climb out if you place a rough board in the well that extends to the top.

Don’t chase or excite a skunk, you know what that leads to!

## Lunch and Learn and Happy Hour Schedule

2023-2024

Here is the information on the site.

[Mastergardener.osu.edu](http://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 Corbooy, 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 State University.

Thursday, February 29, 2024 – 4-5 pm – LANDSCAPE DESIGN: GETTING STARTED, Erika Lyon, Extension Educator, Jefferson/Harrison Counties, The Ohio State University.



Lunch and Learn and Happy Hour Schedule con't

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 – POTTED 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, Program 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.

