

Here's The Scoop!

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

The Latest Scoop

- ~The next scheduled Master Gardener general meeting is Monday, August 12, at the Sandusky County Extension office in the large conference room at 9:00 am. Sue La Fountaine will give an informative talk on yarrow after the meeting.
- ~The next Board meeting is scheduled Monday, August 12, at the Sandusky County Extension office small conference room, at 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. **It looks like we have no one scheduled for articles in parts of July, August, September, October, November, and December. That's over five (5) months with no gardening information going out to our readers. Please consider submitting an article.**
- 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 "Pumpkins Have Many Uses" authored by Christine Michael published October 13, 2021. Thank you Chris.



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!

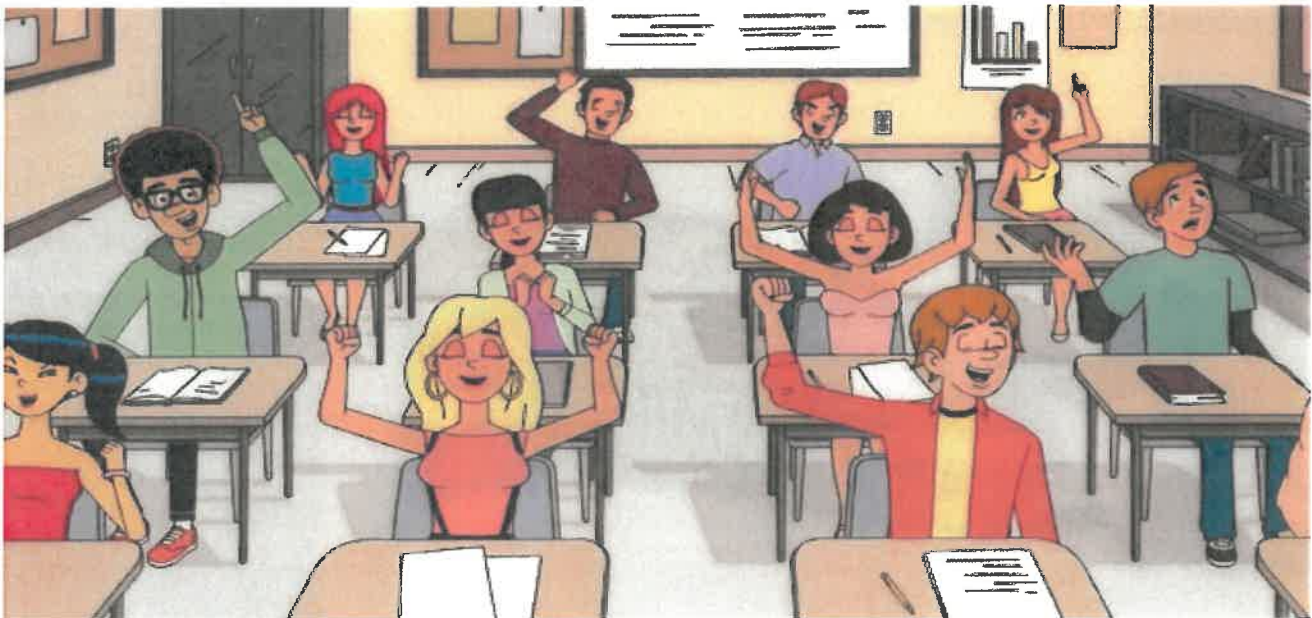


2024 FALL MASTER GARDENER CLASS

It's official – The fall Master Gardener class will begin Monday, September 9, 2024, and will meet continuously each Monday till November 25, 2024. Subjects include: Soils – Harmful Algal Blooms and Nutrient Loading and the Effect on, Soil Chemistry, Botany, Plant Identification, Plant Physiology, Vegetables, Plant Propagation and Plant Pathology (intro), Turf/Lawns, Tropical Plants and Houseplants, IPM, Fruit, and Plant Path, Entomology, Ornamental Trees and Shrubs, General Pesticide Safety, General Agricultural Practices (GAP) training, "What do Master Gardeners Do?", Herbicides, Insecticides, miticides, fungicides, and Organics (OMR). *This is the tentative schedule with subjects, they may be changed. Study/information textbook is provided.

Sessions will be held at the EHOVE Career Center, 316 W. Mason Road, Milan, Ohio 44846 in the High School Room 101 (Presentation Center) from 6:00 pm till 9:00 pm. Cost is \$175.00 and will include participants/interns from Erie, Huron, and Sandusky Ottawa counties.

If you are interested, please give us a call and make payment to register as soon as possible. With participants from three counties, it will fill quickly. Send to or hand deliver: Sandusky County extension office, 2000 Countryside Dr., Suite D, Fremont, Oh 43420, from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm at 419-334-6340. We look forward to meeting YOU!



Pumpkins Have Many Uses, October 13, 2021
Christine Michael, Sandusky/Ottawa Master Gardeners

Heading into fall, ripe pumpkins can be observed in gardens, fields, farm markets, and decorating doorways. This versatile fruit can be used for food, decorations, composting and animal feed.

A native of North America, pumpkins *Cucurbita pepo* are fruits, not vegetables. Here's how to determine the difference between fruits and vegetables: "A fruit develops from the flower of a plant, while the other parts of the plant are categorized as vegetables. Fruits contain seeds, while vegetables can consist of roots, stems and leaves," according to botanists.

The pumpkin flower is edible, but the fruit is much more versatile. It requires a long growing season which is why we enjoy carving pumpkins for Halloween and making pumpkin pies for Thanksgiving.

From childhood, we learn to carve pumpkins by scooping out the seeds and creating different faces. Battery operated lights have replaced burning candles for safety. Instead of carving pumpkins you can paint faces for a different experience.

October is a good month in Ohio for pumpkin festivals, pumpkin walks, pumpkin glows, and other activities. Some giant pumpkins have a weight contest and afterwards are dropped by a crane for a seed gathering event.

There are different varieties of pumpkins, so make sure you

2024 General Meetings
Sandusky/Ottawa County
Master Gardeners
All meetings start @ 9:00 am
Board meets at 8:15 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

know the difference between a pumpkin for baking and a pumpkin for jack-o-lanterns. A sugar pumpkin or pie pumpkin is usually smaller than a carving pumpkin and has denser flesh. You can make a puree from these, canning or freezing them to use in future recipes.

When you pick pumpkins from the garden, be sure to select ripe fruit. A good way to tell is to press your fingernail to the skin. The ripened pumpkin skin will resist the pressure, while an immature skin can be pierced.

Be sure to cut the stem about 2 inches away from the pumpkin. This will increase the pumpkin's "keeping time." Also, do not use the stem as a "handle" which might break off.

Harvested pumpkins need to be "cured" by leaving in the sun for about 10 days.

Undoubtedly, there is an unlimited number of pumpkin recipes and products ranging from coffee to ice cream. While some of these actually include pumpkin, others are only flavored with pumpkin pie spice.

Pumpkin spice is a mixture of five spices: ground cinnamon, ground ginger, nutmeg, ground allspice, and ground cloves. It is sold commercially, but you can make your own at home.

Whether you use your pumpkins for carving or baking, don't throw away the seeds or the rinds. The seeds can be dried and planted next season, or they can be roasted and eaten. Rinds and rotting pumpkins can be used as compost adding nutrients to future gardens.

Here are some recipes:

Pumpkin Pie Spice

3 tbsp. ground cinnamon

2 tsp. ground ginger

2 tsp. nutmeg

1 1/2 tsp. ground allspice

1 1/2 tsp. ground cloves

Directions: In a small bowl, whisk together cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg, allspice, and cloves until well combined. Store in a small jar or container.

Pumpkin Puree

Directions: Halve two small pie pumpkins. Remove the seeds and pulp. Save seeds to roast later.

Place pumpkin pieces on a baking sheet and roast in a 350-degree oven for 45 minutes, or until pumpkin is fork-tender.

Remove from oven and peel the skin from the pumpkin pieces.

Smash the pieces until smooth using a blender, a food processor, a food mill, a potato masher, or potato ricer.

Use now or freeze in 1 cup containers for future use for cakes, pies, cookies, bread, or beverages.



JULY 2024 CALENDAR of gardening events

Friday, July 18-577 Foundation-High Summer Herb Walk, 6:00-7:30 pm. Cost is \$20. Register on line.

Friday, July 12-577 Foundation-Creating an Illustrated Field Journal, 11:00-12:30 pm. Cost is \$20. Register on line.

Saturday, July 13-Hayes Spiegel Grove Tree Tour, 10:00 am. Order tickets on line.

Sunday, July 14-Toledo Zoo-Plants for Problem Spots Garden Tour, 10:30 am-noon. Cost is \$25/\$35. Buy ticket on line.

Friday, July 19-Toledo Zoo-Hanging Terrarium Ornament Making, 7:00-10:00 pm. (three sessions—one hour each) Cost is \$35. Buy ticket on line.

Wednesday, July 24-Toledo Metroparks Butterflies and Bees, 4:00-5:00 pm. Meet at Wildwood Preserve. Cost is \$3.00. Register on line.

Thursday, July 25-Free Lunch and Learning: Plant Science, 11:30 am-12:30 pm. Meet at the Enrichment Center for this series. Learn about the importance of plants in our daily lives. No charge and no registration. Meet at the Glass City Enrichment Center.

Tuesday & Thursday, July 25 and August 13- 577 Foundation- Make and Plant a Fairy Garden, 5:30-7:30 pm. Cost is \$60. Register on line.

Saturday, July 27-Lindsey Sunflower and Homecoming Festival, 1:00 -9:00 pm. Wendelle Miller Park, all day activities with music, 5K race, cake walk, bingo, corn hole, 45 craft vendors, food trucks, kid games, dunk tank and much more.

Wednesday, July 31-577 Foundation-Cooking for your Health: Herbs, Spices, and More, 3:00-5:00 pm. Cost is \$40. Register on line.

**Master
Gardener
Members
Sandusky/Ottawa**

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

Master Gardener
meeting schedule

No July

Monday, August 12
Ottawa County
Board 8:15/General 9:00

Monday, September 9
Recognition Event

Monday, October 14
Ottawa County
Board 8:15/General 9:00

Monday, November 11
Sandusky County
Board 8:15/General 9:00

Monday, December 9
Ottawa County
Board 8:15
Holiday Brunch 11:00

2024 Newspaper Articles by Sandusky Ottawa Clunty

	Author	Title
Jan 3	Chris Michael	New Inroes by Proven Winners 2024
Jan 17	Sue La Fountaine	Non-Seed Food For Wild Birds
Jan 31	Chris Michael	Clean and Sharpen Garden Tools
Feb 14	Allen Gahler	Skunks
Feb 28	Linda Twarek	Choosing Native Plants
Mar 13	Joy Ceraldi	Osage Orange
Mar 27	Linda Twarek	The Good & Bad of Alligator Pears
Apr 10	Christine Michael	Local
Apr 24	Joy Ceraldi	Forsythia
May 8	Sue la	No Mow May
May 22	Sue la	So You Are Interested in Becoming a Certified Master Gardener
Jun 5	Sue la	The Best Time to Water Your Garden
Jun 19	Chris Michael	Cucumbers and Companions
Jul 3	Chris Michael	Firefly Petunia
Jul 17		
Jul 31		
Aug 14		
Aug 28		
Sept 1		
Sept 2		
Oct 9		
Oct 23		
Nov 6		
Nov 2	Carolyn Johnson	
Dec 4		
Dec 18		
Jan 1		

The Sandusky Ottawa county Master Gardeners at the annual plant sale Saturday, May 4, 2024



So You Are Interested in Becoming a Certified Master Gardener

I have been getting so many calls and emails regarding our Master Gardener program and upcoming class. I thought I would give you a history of the Master Gardener program.

The Master Gardener program actually started in 1972 in the state of Washington because so many people were calling David Gibby and William Scheer at Washington State for information. They knew some type of teaching program had to be initiated.

Washington State University Extension initially assigned horticulture faculty to county offices as part of the Agriculture, Home Economics, and 4-H outreach education programs, with emphasis on the horticulture part was crop production. It was not until rapid urban growth and the burgeoning interest in gardening that Extension began to develop programs emphasizing urban horticulture.

So, in 1971 Gibby and Scheer (both Extension agents) started separate assignments in the major populated areas. They focused, respectively, on urban and commercial horticulture. Public demand for information about plant problems was so intense it made educational programming for either of them virtually impossible.

In the beginning they used the mass media to solve the problem, resulting in television and radio shows that were put on by Gibby making the public more aware that the Extension office was the place to get help.

So here is where the volunteer idea came about. They explored all thought to address the needs of the backyard gardener most effectively. Some of the approaches to be considered was the concept of recruiting and training volunteers to serve the urban population. They wanted a distinguished title, however. Coming to mind was "Gartenmeister," which they anglicized as "Master Gardener (MG)." This title would be appropriate for volunteers who had received extensive training. Initially the Western Washington Research and Extension Center (WWREC) rejected the idea of training volunteers. But a trial was established at the Tacoma Mall, which was very successful. Now they were convinced, and training was in the making.

An article was published in the Northwest edition asking "Wanted: Expert Gardeners to Become Master Gardeners." Six hundred applied, with only 200 being trained.

Subjects taught were culture of ornamental plants, lawns, vegetables and fruits, control of plant diseases, insects and weeds, and safe use of pesticides. Sessions were to be held eight hours per day, one day a week, for five weeks. At the end of the training, volunteers were required to pass subject matter exams, as well as an exam for pesticide licensing by the Washington State Department of Agriculture.

The successful Master Gardeners were then committed to volunteering a specified number of hours working with the gardening public. Faculty specialists from the WWREC and county faculty participated in teaching.

Sharon Collman, who had been working as program assistant with Gibby, became King County Extension agent and continued managing the program for several years. She is credited with building a solid foundation for the program and she helped other Extension offices establish Master Gardener programs in Washington and in other states. All this while others were promoting the Master Gardener program nationwide. The idea caught on quickly and in 1986 Ohio had it's beginning. As of this date 62 of the 88 counties (urban, suburban, and rural) have the Master Gardener program. Sandusky and Ottawa counties are combined.

Master Gardeners are active in all 50 states in the United States. There is over 95,000 active Extension Master Gardeners who provide about 5 million volunteer service hours per year to their communities.

After the volunteer is accepted into the Master Gardener program they are trained by cooperative Extension, university, and local industry specialists in subjects such as taxonomy, plant pathology, soil health, entomology, cultural growing requirements, sustainable gardening, nuisance wildlife management, and integrated pest management.

The training is about 50 hours long and the participants must pass all quizzes and examinations with a cumulative average of 70% or better. In addition, they complete 50 hours of volunteer time on projects pre-approved by the Master Gardener coordinator. This must be completed within one calendar year after their formal training. To stay active the new member must do the following every year: pay local association dues,

complete 20 hours of volunteer time, complete 10 hours of educational time which will be provided locally but is also available at state and national conferences.

The Ohio State University Extension Master Gardener Volunteer program provides intensive training in horticulture to interested Ohio residents who then volunteer their time assisting with educational programs and activities for Ohio residents through their local OSU Extension County office. Gardening skills and knowledge are not required, only a passion for learning.

Volunteers provide educational services to the community such as: answering gardening questions from the public; conduct plant clinics; gardening activities with children, senior citizens, or disabled persons; beautifying the community; developing community or demonstration gardens; and other horticultural activities.

If you are asking yourself "Would I make a good Master Gardener volunteer?" You could qualify if:

- You want to learn more about plants and gardening.

- You are eager to participate in a practical and intensive training program.

- You enjoy sharing your knowledge with others.

- You have time to attend training and serve your community as a volunteer educator.

There is a fee for the training. It covers the costs of training materials and other expenses the county may incur to conduct training and to help support educational activities. Fees vary from county to county.

To volunteer for any Ohio State University Extension program, you must first complete a background check and interview with the Extension professionals. Yearly expenses will be \$10 to the state and \$10 to the county for membership dues.

Did this information spark an interest for you? Why not give us a call and sign up for the next Master Gardener class this coming fall. Our phone number is 419-334-6340.

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 eleven weeks on Monday evenings from 6-9—September 9 till November 25, 2024

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

