



Here's The Scoop!

Sandusky / Ottawa County Master Gardener Volunteers - June, 2024 Newsletter

The Latest Scoop

- ~The next scheduled Master Gardener general meeting is Monday, June 10 at the Ottawa County Extension office in the large conference room at 9:00 am.
- ~The next Board meeting is scheduled Monday, June 10 at the Ottawa 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 May, June, July, August, September, or October. That's six (6) months with no gardening information going out to our readers. Please consider submitting an 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!

The Toledo Rose Society
in affiliation with the
American Rose Society
and in cooperation with
Toledo Botanical Garden
presents its
59th Annual Rose Show
June 8 and 9, 2024
the public is welcome

Toledo Botanical Garden Metropark
Crosby Conference Center
5403 Elmer Dr.,
Toledo, Ohio 43615



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

JUNE 2024 CALENDAR of gardening events

Saturday, June 15-Hayes Spiegel Grove-Tree Tour 10:00 am. Learn about the different trees on the grounds. Cost for non-members is adults \$10, children 6-18, \$7, free for children under 5. Members are free. Register on line.

Tuesday, June 18 Toledo Metroparks, Glass City Volunteer Garden Keeper Weed and ID Day from 9:00 to 10:30 am. No charge. Call 419-407-9713 to sign up.

Saturday, June 22—Grove Fest, Spiegel Grove— 10:00 am-2:00 pm. Celebrate nature and wild life on the grounds. Event is free

Saturday, June 29—Schedels—Rose Wreath make and take, 10:30 am till 1:00 pm. Cost is \$52. 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 Fontaine
- Christine Michael
- Daniel Millinger
- Sara Sherick
- Linda Twarek
- Nancy Ziemke



Master Gardener Joy Ceraldi, taking a little break after planting all these annuals at the Schedel Arboretum and Garden. She was only one of many planters.

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 ten weeks on Wednesday from 9-3.

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

