

Here's The Scoop!

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

The Latest Scoop

- ~The next scheduled Master Gardener general meeting is Monday, April 29 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, June 10 at the Ottawa 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. **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.**
- ~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 "Let's Create A Fairy Garden" and "Cold Frame Gardening."



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

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**

MAY 2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, May 2-Toledo Lucas County Library, McMaster Center, 325 N Michigan, Toledo, 5:30 pm. Elizabeth will be discussing climate change. Light refreshments provided. Call 419-259-5200 for reservations.

Saturday, May 4-Sandusky/Ottawa County Plant Sale from 9:00 am -1:00 pm at the Sandusky County Fairgrounds in Fremont. Admission is free.

Sunday, May 5—Hayes Spiegel Grove, Fremont—Guided Wildflower walk of Spiegel Grove from 2:00 till 3:00 pm. For members only. Make RSVPs to Meghan Wonderly-Kolbe at 419-332-2081, ext 237.

Tuesday, May 7-The Wisdom of Aloe Vera, 6:00-7:30pm. Explore the wisdom of nature by discovering the potential benefits of aloe vera plant. You will make a 2 oz container to take home. 577 Foundation, 577 East Front St., Perrysburg, Oh. Register on line.

Saturday, May 11-Hayes Spiegel Grove, Fremont—Mystic Giants Tree Tour, 10:00 am-11:00 am. Tickets are required—members are free, non members cost \$10 for adults, \$7 for ages 6-18, and free for under 5. Buy tickets online.

Saturday, May 11—577 Foundation, Perrysburg—Music in the Garden—Jeff tucker, singer and songwriter from 11:00 am till 1:00 pm and the Southview Tri-M band, orchestra, and choir from 2:00 pm till 3:00 pm for your listening enjoyment.

Saturday, May 11- Wildwood Preserve Metropark Metz Stables, 10: am-11:30 am, ages 8+, Follow spring blooms as the world wakes from winter. This month highlights the colors in the trees. Cost is \$3.00. Register on line.

Sunday, May 12-Oak Openings Wildflower Walk (adlts and 12+), 1:00-2:30pm. Discover spring ephemerals and early summer wild flowers that carpet Oak Openings trails. Register on line. There is no charge.

Monday, May 13-Blue Week: Blue Creek Glade State Nature reserve Walk (Adults and 12+), 2:00 pm-3:00 pm. Blue Creek limestone glade is considered a globally significant ecosystem. The walk will highlight this special site's unique history and the wild-life species that now thrive. Cost is \$3, register on line.

Tuesday, May 14-Blue Week: What's Water Got to do With It? (Adults and 12+), 7:30-9:00 pm. Celebrate the beautiful diversity of the Oak Openings Region during Blue Week. This rare area starts and ends with water. Travel along the Moseley trail. Cost is \$3. Register on line.

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

MAY 2024 CALENDAR con't

Thursday, May 16-Blue Week: The rarest Pigment in Nature (Adults and 12+), 5:30 pm-6:30pm. A short hike through one of the rarest regions in search of an equally rare pigment. Then take the pigment home with you. Make an all-natural chalk pastel using water, pigment, and limestone powder (also found in our region) for Blue Week Celebration, a celebration of all things blue in our unique Oak Openings region. Cost is \$5. Register on line.

Friday, May 17-Blue Week: Blue Stone Beading (Adults and 8+), 6:00 pm-7:30 pm. Celebrate Blue Week and join our partner, Bonita Bead Boutique, to create our own Lapis Lazuli gemstone bracelet. Lapis Lazuli means "blue stone" and represents self-expression, self-confidence, and self-love. Show the Oak Openings region some TLC and learn the fundamentals of bead stringing, working with Beadalon string (a strong flexible wire cable, coated with nylon) and a sterling silver clasp. All materials are provided. Meet at the Mallard Lake Area, Buehner Center. Cost is \$40. Register on line.

Saturday, May 18-Introduction to Flower Essences, 2:00-3:30 pm. Flower essences are a particularly magical branch of herbal medicine. They carry energy imprint of a plant rather than an extraction of physical constituents. Class will discuss what essences are, how they are used, and how to make your own. 577 Foundation, 577 East Front, Perrysburg, Oh. Register on line. Cost is \$24.

Wednesday, May 22-Grow and Create: Fun Eco-Friendly Garden Gadgets, 2:00-4:30 pm. Make items out of upcycled materials: a garden apron for your tools out of an old pair of jeans (no sewing), a cute and comfortable kneeler, a white-washed planter from a recycled Mason jar, and turn an old cigar box into a little one-stop place to store your seed packets and small tools like garden wire. 577 Foundation, 577 East Front, Perrysburg, Oh. Register on line. Cost is \$35.

Wednesday, May 22-The Wisdom of Clove, 6:00-7:30 pm. Explore the wisdom of nature and discover the potential benefits of clove while sampling medicinal teas and enjoy an herbal infused treat. Learn more the plants around us. Treat is gluten, dairy, and nut free. Register on line. Cost is \$65.

Sunday, May 26-Oak Openings Wildflower Walk (Adults and 12+), 1:00 pm-2:30 pm. Discover spring ephemerals and early summer wildflowers that carpet Oak Openings trails as the season progresses. The program is rain or shine. There is no cost. Register on line. Meet at Oak Openings Preserve Metropark, Mallard Lake Area.

Sunday, May 26-Spring into the Growing Season Garden Tour, 10:30 am-12:00 noon. Toledo Zoo, whether you are a seasoned green thumb or gardening greenhorn, there will be something to learn and apply to at-home gardening projects. Each tour is guided by a Zoo horticulture staff member who will discuss different gardening topics, including growing tips, best watering practices and much more. Winter is officially behind us, so it is time to get outside and revel in all the glory spring has to offer! Join a member of the Zoo's horticulture staff on a tour of the formal gardens as we discuss the ins and outs of spring gardening. Learn to identify common spring weeds, how to prepare your gardens for planting, and even

MAY 2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, May 29-Herb Walk, 6:00-7:30 pm. Join us as we stroll the 577 gardens and grounds in search of wild and cultivated herbs. Learn their folklore and medicinal virtues of our common springtime plants. Register on line. Cost is \$20.



LET'S CREATE A FAIRY GARDEN

What – in the winter?

You are probably wondering why I chose this subject in November. This is the perfect time for garden design. If you are like me, you have grand children or children that are so eager to create a fairy garden. You can usually find bargains on the tiny accessories at your favorite garden supply center this time of year. My grandchildren continually search for the perfect addition to our next spring's fairy garden.

I will list a few steps to give you a perfect accent to your yard. First you should develop a theme such as camping, farming, back yard play area, Victorian, bird house, gazebo, party, water feature, fairy, church yard - the themes are endless. There is inspiration everywhere. What you choose to do this year can certainly be changed next year.

Ok let's get this plan started. Select your focal point. It doesn't have to be the biggest, the grandest, or the most expensive focal point but it will unfold the story of your theme. It should capture the most visual interest. It is most likely the largest ingredient that the eye will notice first. The best way to do this is start with something you love.

Remember the scale – 1:12 which means that one inch in fairy land equals one foot in real garden. You may want to keep a tape measure handy when looking for the small treasures. Children often search their toy box and offer one of their prized possessions for your fairy garden. This will make it special.

Now that you have chosen your precious pieces, it's time to put your story into reality. Design around your focal point piece that compliments its surroundings. Create winding paths, streams, court yards, camping scenes, back yard, or water feature for your theme. Architectural features make a strong focal starting point.

If you decide on an archway, use the rule of symmetry – what you plant on one side – mirror on the other. You don't want to overload with adorable miniatures. Create two fairy gardens instead. It would be a good idea to position your fairy garden near a well-traveled path such as a porch, patio, or sitting area, especially if you have included a water feature. This is two-fold – you will enjoy the fairy garden often and you can easily maintain the watering and pruning tasks.

Your local nursery will have a good supply of mini trees for your selection. There are many books that give pruning instruction so you can keep your plants well groomed. Take a good look

at your plants before you buy them to make sure they are root-bound because the plant will forever remain stunted. This is what you want, a plant that has branches and trunks that gives the gnarled or aged look.

As you select your accent pieces, try to keep them similar in color range. You can find kits or pre-cast planters in stores and online. These kits will make the decision for you.

Do you choose the fairy or the accessories first? There is no set answer – it is up to you. Creating a fairy garden reflects your tastes and interests; this is what makes it unique.

Now that you have collected your pieces it is time to arrange your story. I have seen an array of fairy garden containers such as wheelbarrows, bird baths, boxes, bathtubs, baskets, urns, and even a bicycle basket as the base for the fairy garden. The container should have good drainage. Put a screen or piece of broken pottery over the holes to keep the soil from eroding. Add a layer of gravel then place a high-quality potting soil (not mulch) to your masterpiece. Avoid soils that contain water-saving polymers as they tend to save water in an uneven manner. Watering is up to you. Keep the soil moist, not soggy. Fertilizer should be added at half strength when plants and foliage look pale. Do not over fertilize, you don't want your plants to become overgrown.

So get your imagination flowing to have a head start on spring.

Here is a challenge for you. At the Fremont Farmers Market in July 2020, there will be a fairy garden contest. Bring yours to be judged. You could win a monetary award and your treasure will be admired by many.

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

Cold Frame Gardening

As gardeners and being mid-February, we start thinking about our gardens.

Maybe thinking about cleaning out our gardens in a few weeks. We look forward to cleaning out, adding to, moving plants, or dividing what we have.

Maybe we will give a whole new look to our gardens.

For those who are eager to plant, we can start early food crops in cold frames. There are many ways to make cold frames. We can add a hinged lid covered with glass or plastic to a wooden frame such as over a raised bed.

We could build a quick frame with cinder blocks if we want and back fill with good rich dirt. One way has old glass windows that can be used as covers, or just plastic stapled to a light wooden frame. Straw bales could also be used as a way to plant your crops. Simple wooden boards or hooped PVC pipe can be used as a structure for a cover. There is no set way to construct your cold frames to start early crops. When locating your cold frames, one may want to face top opening to the south and place the structure where it may be protected from the strong winds. You can start sowing some seeds in your cold frames as early as February and continue through March and April. A good temperature for growing in cold frames is 45 to 65 degrees. There are many vegetables that can be started in cold frames: onions,

broccoli, kale, beets, lettuce, radishes, cabbage, spinach, carrots and cauliflower. Starting these items will give you early produce which you can continue to plant to keep your produce coming over a period of time.

Jackie Kindred, Master Gardener

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

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.

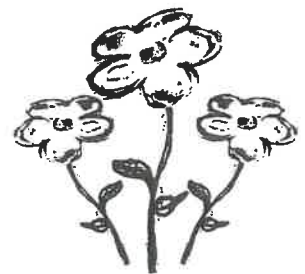
Wednesday, March 20, 2024 – 12-1 pm – SPOTTED LANTERNFLY IS ON THE MOVE: AN UPDATE IN OHIO, Amy Stone, Extension Educator, Lucas County, The Ohio State University.

Thursday, March 28, 2024 – 4-5 pm – SONGBIRDS: CREATING HABITAT AND SAFE SPACES FOR BIRDS IN YOUR BACKYARD, Marne Titchenell, 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.

**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