



# Here's The Scoop!

Sandusky Ottawa County Master Gardener Volunteers – November, 2024

## The Latest Scoop

~The next scheduled Master Gardener general meeting is Monday, November 11, at the Sandusky County Extension office in the large conference room at 9:00 am. No one is scheduled for the after the meeting informative talk.

~The November Board meeting is cancelled.

~If you are a designated News Messenger/News Herald Master Gardener article writer, don't forget to submit your gardening article to Sue La Fontaine, lafontaine.5@osu.edu, no later than 11:00 am the **Monday** morning of your assigned week. *It looks like we have only one scheduled for November and December. That's too long with no gardening information going out to our readers. Recently I talked to people at the Fremont Farmers Market who said they read our gardening articles faithfully. Please consider submitting an article. Come on group, let's give them some valuable knowledge.*

I am adding a new feature titled "Name That Herb". Test your knowledge.

-Master Gardeners are asking for topics from the past newspaper publications to be printed in the monthly "Here's the Scoop". The Master Gardener Sandusky Ottawa County past article is "Native Plants in the Home Environment," written by Sharon Devine.



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!*

## NAME THAT HERB

The answer to last month's herb question is Rosemary. It was an easy one. Let's see how you guess this month. The herb this month was incorporated during the Great Plague as a common hand wash and tooth powder that offered protection. It also was found in Renaissance cookbooks. For cooking, it has a pungent, peppery flavor with a slight minty taste. When dried it is used in stuffing, soups, bean dishes, and sausage. In England it is used in a favored lemon sauce. The Native Americans used this burned this herb for purification and cleansing rituals. What is it called?

2024-2025

<https://mastergardener.osu.edu>

Click on Horticulture Webinars—click the one you want to watch

Tuesday, November 12, 12 noon – 1:00 pm, Soil Testing: Interpreting the Results. Fern Maria Gully, ANR and 4-H Program Coordinator, The Ohio State University.

Tuesday, November 19, 12 noon – 1:00 pm, The Plant and Pest Diagnostic Clinic: Your Partner in Plant Health. Francesca Potondo, Program Director, C. Wayne Ellet Plant and Pest Diagnostic Clinic, The Ohio State —University.

Tuesday, November 26, 12 noon – 1:00 pm, Promoting a Healthy Lawn Using Minimal Inputs. Dominic Petrela, Assistant Professor, Turfgrass Management, The Ohio State University.

## 2024 General Meetings

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

## Native Plants in the Home Environment

Sharon Devine, February 15, 2023

It has been said that one third of every bite we eat is due to pollinators. This does not refer to only honeybees, but also Native bees. In order to survive, all pollinators need the same things we need: food, water, a safe environment to provide shelter, and a place to raise their brood. Unfortunately, these are rapidly disappearing from our environment.

There has been a symbiotic relationship between bees and flowering plants for thousands of years. The flowers provide pollen and nectar to the bees. The bees pollinate flowering plants, which then produce seeds; some in the forms of fruits and vegetables. Grains provide feed for humans and livestock, which in turn provide us with cereals, eggs, dairy products, and meat. This relationship is based on the continued growth of native plants.

Our personal landscape contains many different plants, many from various locations around the world. Who does not enjoy the beauty of spring flowers, such as tulips or daffodils? These have been introduced into North American gardens for hundreds of years. However, they are not native to North America.

What is a Native plant? A native plant is defined as one that has evolved in a specific geographic region without direct or indirect human intervention. They have evolved over hundreds of thousands of years alongside the native bees, birds, and other wildlife. With the introduction of non-native plants, some which are extremely invasive, these native bees, birds, and wildlife are deprived of food sources. They cannot evolve quickly enough to be able to utilize these introduced plants.

Native plants include large canopy trees, understory trees, shrubs, perennials, vines, and grasses that are recognized as indigenous to a region. The special soils, moisture, and growing requirements developed along with these native bees, birds, and wildlife. It only takes a walk through your **neighborhood** or along a country road to notice the sterile environment present. The “norm” in a typical neighborhood is for a pristine lawn with no dandelions, clover, or native grasses, leaving them void of food sources. Indiscriminate use of herbicides and pesticides has created a hostile environment for our native species.

This does not mean you cannot enjoy the plants you like. Think about incorporating native species into your gardens. Remove a portion of the lawn and add a small area of native plants. The color and aroma will be enjoyed by your family and neighbors. The insects and birds will reward you when they return to your yard to enjoy the pollen, nectar, and seeds you have provided.

Native plant is just another word for weeds! What is a weed? The definition depends on how you look at a plant. There are many “weeds” that are beautiful, producing spectacular blooms. Where that bloom is located can be the problem. If you are attempting to have a lawn that looks like a golf course, then the early blooming dandelions and Spring Beauty that appears in your turf grass can be irritating.

Is a dandelion a native plant? No, it was introduced when the Mayflower arrived in 1620 as a medicinal plant by the colonists. Many “weeds” have medicinal properties, having been used for centuries, and are still used today. Many pharmaceuticals used today contain constituents originally found in plants.

## Native Plants in the Home Environment can't

Dandelions are easily spread because of their ability to spread seeds. Children are delighted when they pick a seed head from a dandelion plant and blow the seeds into the air. There is something magical about watching the seeds float away. The bright yellow blooms are one of the first sources of food for all bees, whether a honeybee or a native bee. The tap root helps to loosen the soil, bringing nutrients to the surface from deep underground. The bright yellow color is an indicator that spring has arrived! Yet the bright yellow dandelion is one of the most despised plants on earth.

Start in your own way. Find a small area in your yard that is a problem area. Is it too wet, too shady, nothing seems to grow there, it is a slope that is eroding? Native plants can be used in all these areas. Landscaping with native plants restores a healthy, natural environment and creates a wildlife habitat. Many are deep-rooted, slowing down stormwater and improving water quality as well as reducing erosion, carbon, and excess nutrients. Native plants need no fertilizer or extra watering once established, and can act as natural pest controls, reducing the need for pesticides. Many are also deer resistant.

Native plants provide quality food for wildlife like caterpillars, as well as shelter for birds and other wildlife. They invite butterflies and other pollinators with pollen and nectar rewards. Consider providing a place in your personal environment for these beneficial plants. Then sit back and enjoy our beautiful Native plants.

### NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Saturday, November 9, Conservation at Work: Native Seed Planting—10 am-12 noon. Interested in growing your own native plants, but don't know where to start? Learn the first steps in the seed's journey and tour the seed cleaning facility. Help the nursery in their conservation mission by starting plants that will produce seed for future restoration projects, and learn skills to take home for your own native gardens. Meet at Blue Creek Metropark, Blue Creek Seed Nursery Parking Lot. Register on line. No charge.

There will be a second session to this. I found this very interesting to see all the native plants related to this specific area and how new seeds for next spring's planting is done, how volunteers have made new useful machines, instruments, apparatuses, or necessary articles from old, not used machinery and equipment, and gained knowledge from Brandon Best, Nursery Specialist, Toledo Metroparks. There are two native plant sales each year, one in May and one in September.

Mulberry Creek Herb Farm has educational videos each Wednesday. Go to their Facebook page for further information. You can watch live each Wednesday or watch previous recorded videos at any time.

## 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 Fountain  
Christine Michael  
Daniel Millinger  
Sara Sherick  
Linda Twarek  
Nancy Ziemke  
Allen Gahler, Educator

Master Gardener meeting schedule

Monday, November 11  
Sandusky County Board 815/General 9:00

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

## 2024 Newspaper Articles by Sandusky Ottawa Clunty

Christine	Author	Title
Jan 3	Chris Michael	New Inroes by Proven Winners 2024
Jan 17	Sue La Fontaine	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 Springtime Wildflowers Start Soon
Apr 24	Joy Ceraldi	Forsythia
May 8	Sue la Fontaine	No Mow May
May 22	Sue la Fontaine	So You Are Interested in Becoming a Certified Master Gardener
Jun 5	Sue la Fontaine	The Best Time to Water Your Garden
Jun 19	Chris Michael	Cucumbers and Companions
Jul 3	Chris Michael	Firefly Petunia
Jul 17	Sue La Fontaine	Garden Tool Rental vs Buying
Jul 31	Sue La Fontaine	Fall is Perfect For Planting Bulbs
Aug 14	Christine Michael	Herb and Culinary Use
Aug28	Sue La Fontaine	Crabgrass Invades My Lawn – Help
Sept 11	Sue La Fontaine	Why is my Plant Dying
Sept 25	Sue La Fontaine	Don't Be A Tool Fool
Oct 9	Sue La Fontaine	Pumpkins, pumpkins, and more pumpkins
Oct 23	Christine Michael	Onions
Nov 6	Sue La Fontaine	Checklist for Winterizing Your Yard and Lawn
Nov 20	Carolyn Johnson	Anthurium Plant
Dec 4		
Dec 18		
Jan 1		

The Sandusky Ottawa county Master Gardeners at the annual plant sale Saturday, May 4, 2024 **You could be in this picture.** Look for the new 2024 Master Gardener interns next month.



# **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**