



Here's The Scoop!

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

The Latest Scoop

~The next scheduled Master Gardener general meeting is Monday, September 9, 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 next Board meeting is scheduled Monday, September 9, 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 September, October, November, and December. That's over five (4) months 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.**

-Master Gardeners are asking for topics from the past newspaper publications to be printed in the monthly "Here's the Scoop". This month's topic is "Fall is Perfect For Planting Bulbs."



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!



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

FALL IS PERFECT FOR PLANTING BULBS

You probably have been seeing all the adds for planting bulbs. And you thought planting season was over. Or not – now is the time to buy the bulbs for next year's beautiful flowers.

Before you actually put the bulb in the ground there is some prep work. To pre-chill, leave the bulbs in their bags and place them in a refrigerator. Do not store near fruit. Ripening fruit will give off ethylene gas, which will damage or kill the flower inside the bulb. Once the bulbs have chilled, plant them at the coolest time of the year, after the first frost but before the ground hard freezes. Check the directions on the bulb container.

A few important things to keep in mind: The bargain price on the bulb is really not a bargain in the long run, plant the pointy end up, plant perennials on top of your bulbs, keep track of where you plant, measure, listen and watch nature as to when to plant, if you can't dig down then cover up, deer will shy away from the plant, and some of the bulbs will actually do the work for you.

Fall bulbs should be planted as soon as the ground is cool usually when the evening temperatures are constant between 40-50 degrees. Some gardeners plant as late as January. The rule is if you can dig a hole deep enough to plant – go for it. Some people still soak their bulbs before planting, but that is not necessary. The thought behind the soaking is some believe it will enable the bulb to establish quicker. It is suggested that you remove the roots and main outer shell but do not remove the inner shell that is protecting the bulb.

The easiest bulbs to plant are peonies, tulips, crocuses, daffodils, winter aconites, allium, hyacinths, and fritillaries. Of these and others the most popular are daffodils, tulips, grape hyacinth, crocuses, plus hyacinths and snowdrops. These bulbs are known for their ability to return year after year and are often the first signs of spring. So next year you won't need to buy more bulbs because the ones you have will multiply on their own. Tulips are the exception; they require a full year before they start multiplying. But if you want more bulbs, be sure to order them early. They are shipped by the end of September and continue through November.

What about depth? Plant the bulb two to three times deeper than the bulb is tall. That calculates if the bulb is three inches, plant it six to nine inches deep. which will bring on the color and cheer to the garden. They are known to flower the first year.

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What about depth? Plant the bulb two to three times deeper than the bulb is tall. That calculates if the bulb is three inches, plant it six to nine inches deep.

If for some reason you don't get a chance to plant the bulbs, they will keep for up to a year, but will perform best if planted within six months.

You are probably wondering how to keep track of where you planted what bulbs. It is wise to keep a journal of where the bulbs are planted. Taking pictures is another good idea. That way you will also know what color the flower is. Marking the area with stakes and labels will help you next year.

Fall flowers usually need to be seeded in the spring or transplanted by early summer. Most flowers will start blooming by mid-summer and continue till frost.

So, what do you do with the bulbs that didn't get planted? Most bulbs need to go through a cold period otherwise they probably won't flower. You can plant them, and the leaves will grow. They will absorb sunlight and store it for the next year. Cut the greenery when it starts to die and then replant in the fall.

If you don't already have some of these beautiful bulb plants why not try planting some this fall and enjoy what happens next spring.

Susan La Fountaine, Master Gardener

AUGUST 2024 CALENDAR of gardening events

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

SENIOR DISCOVERY DAYS AT THE TOLEDO ZOO

EVERY WEDNESDAY IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

For all seniors

- Free parking in the Anthony Wayne Trail and Broadway parking lots
- Free small coffee and mini-muffin at the Timberline Bakery (10 am—2 pm)
- 15% discount on merchandise in our gift shops
- 20% discount on Memberships when purchased at the Membership Sales window
- \$1 off either individual or family baskets at our Giraffe feed deck
- Free admission on WEDNESDAYS (all counties included)

Wednesday, September 4 –Join our Wild Toledo biologists as they discuss native landscaping and release migratory Monarch butterflies for their journey to over-wintering grounds in Mexico. Meet at the Conservatory in the gardens at 11:00 am.

Wednesday, September 11 –60+ Safari: Toledo Zoo and the Area Office on Aging of Northwest Ohio offer a fun day focused on seniors, including health screening, entertainment, safety tips and Zoo exploration! As an optional extra, enjoy lunch in the Malawi Event Center; purchase lunch tickets in advance by contracting the Area Office on Aging at 419-382-0624.

Wednesday, September 18— Win great “ZOO0venirs” as we present BINGO with a Zoo twist! Games in the Malawi Event Center,10:30 am to noon. Limited capacity, first come, first serve. Plus, our partners from Medical Mutual/Paramount will be amplifying the day with special giveaways and experiences as part of their Senior Appreciation Tour!

Wednesday, September 25—Enjoy a guided tour of the Zoo’s WPA Reptile House. Get a special behind the scenes, close-up view of the Zoo’s vast reptile collection. Meet in the Reptile House at 11:00 am.

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
Sandusky County
Board 8:15/General 9:00

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

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

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

Sunday, September 8—Mindful Forest Walk, from 1:00—2:30 pm, adults over 18. Engage your senses to increase your awareness of self and the natural world around you. Prompts will be offered as you experience the forest to allow for mindful engagement. This experience is designed to increase wellness, peacefulness, and a state of calm through active mindfulness. Dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes, and bring a reusable water bottle. Register at 419-407-9700 or online MetroparksToledo.com. There is no cost.

Wednesday, September 18—Inclusive Explorer Trolley Ride (all ages), 10:00-11:00 am Howard Marsh. Explore Howard Marsh from the comfort of an open air Explorer Trolley. Learn how this former farm was transformed into a vibrant wetland and watch for diverse waterfowl, shorebirds, and stunning birds of prey. This program utilizes ListenTALK 2-way communication devices for participants to hear and communicate with the interpreter while they drive them through the park. Hearing-aid compatible neck-loops are available if needed. The Explorer Trolley can accommodate two wheelchairs.. Meet at Howard Marsh. Dress for the weather. Cost is \$4.00. Register on line MetroparksToledo.com or call 419-407-9700.

Sunday, September 22— Native Alternatives to Classic Garden Plants, from 10:30-noon. Whether you are a seasoned green thumb or gardening greenhorn, there will be something to learn and apply to your at-home gardening projects. Each tour is guided by a Zoo horticulture staff member who will discuss different gardening topics, including tips, best watering practices and much more. As an added bonus, after registering for this tour, participants will receive a digital coupon to be used at the fall Wild Toledo plant sale. The price of this tour includes admission to the Toledo Zoo and complimentary parking in the Anthony Wayne parking lot. Cost is \$25 members and \$35 non-members. Register on line or call 419-385-5721.

Saturday, September 28—Creek Bend Farm, 1-3 pm at the Wilson Nature Center. Fall into the Autumn season with festive crafts for all ages. Stop by to make a pumpkin, corn, leaf, and acorn themed décor. Registration is required by on line or calling 419-334-4495. Address is 720 South Main Street, Lindsey, Oh 43442. Creek Bend Farm is handicapped accessible.. This event is free for all ages.

Sunday, September 29—Mindful Forest Walk, 1:00-2:30 pm (adults over 18). See above Mindful Forest Walk for Sunday, September 8 for full details. DIFFERENT LOCATION—Meet at Succor Metropark, Secor Center Parking Lot. Dress for the weather, wear sturdy walking shoes, and bring a reusable water bottle. There is no charge. Register on line MetroparksToledo.com or call 419-407-9700.

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 Springtime Wildflowers Start Soon
Apr 24	Joy Ceraldi	Forsythia
May 8	Sue la Fountaine	No Mow May
May 22	Sue la Fountaine	So You Are Interested in Becoming a Certified Master Gardener
Jun 5	Sue la Fountaine	The Best Time to Water Your Garden
Jun 19	Chris Michael	Cucumbers and Companions
Jul 3	Chris Michael	Firefly Petunia
Jul 17	Sue La Fountaine	Garden Tool Rental vs Buying
Jul 31	Sue La Fountaine	Fall is Perfect For Planting Bulbs
Aug 14	Christine Michael	Herb and Culinary Use
Aug28	Sue La Fountaine	Crabgrass Invades My Lawn—Help
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

You could be in this picture in 2025.



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 Erie, Huron, and 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 begin on Monday evening from 6-9—September 9 till November 25, 2024

There is still time to register for the Master Gardener class.

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

