

# Here's The Scoop!

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

## The Latest Scoop

~The next scheduled Master Gardener general meeting is Monday, March 11 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, March 11 at the Sandusky County Extension office small conference room, 8:15 am, prior to the general meeting. The after meeting speaker is Kurt Bench from Shared Legacy Farms. His topic is "Organic Methods of Pest Control in Vegetable Gardening."

~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 the **Monday** morning of your assigned week. The next author is Joy Ceraldi, her topic is "Osage Orange" for the March 13 newspaper.

~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 "A Garden For Your Child" and "Be Safe in Your Own Backyard—Take a Few Precautions to be Safe—it Could Happen to You."

## MARCH 2024 CALENDAR EVENTS

Saturday, March 9, 1-5 pm, Gardening for Wildlife Workshop at the Seccor Metropark. Call 419-497-9700 for more information.

Saturday, March 23, 1-4 pm, Beekeeping 101—577 Foundation, Perrysburg. Call 419-874-4174 for details.

Saturday, March 30, 10-11 am, Bloom Tracker, Oak Openings Preserve Metropark. Call 419-497-9700 for more information.



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!*

## A GARDEN FOR YOUR CHILD

There is something magical about a garden when you are a child. In the fall you helped your mom plant the bulbs in the ground and during the long winter you forgot about them, but come spring just observing the little green shoots pop out of the ground – it's magic right? Those yellow and purple crocuses shine in the snow. Did mom help you plant radishes and in just a few weeks they turned into food. Maybe your mom gave you an eye of a potato and you planted the eye and in no time, there was a whole plant with baby potatoes dangling from the roots. No matter how old you are, you never get over this magic. Did you have a piece of the family garden to work in or a plot of your own? Wonderful memories!

What would a child put in their own garden plot if they could grow anything? Let's see – they would all be fun things because it would be a world all their own. It would be a child horticultural playground. Some suggestions would be petunias, snapdragons, sunflowers, crocuses, catnip, peppermint, bleeding hearts, money plants, Chinese lanterns, gourds, lettuce, popcorn, radishes, cherry tomatoes, pumpkins, and peas. However, preparing and maintaining would be a huge responsibility for a small child. So, guess who's going to do the bulk of the work? An older person might enjoy helping and teaching as much as the child likes being helped.

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

But keep in mind the garden should be fun. The purpose is not to teach horticultural or to get a child to eat vegetables, but both might result. The garden's theme is "always something to do, not just the weeding, but there are special things that keep happening all through the gardening season". Spring is the time for watching the bulbs come up and planting new plants and seeds. You watch all the plants grow and eat some of them. You watch the butterflies and bees visit your flowers. You pick bouquets for the people you love. In the late summer and fall, you harvest your vegetables, and maybe even preserve some of them if you have extra. A good pumpkin crop might give you a supply for a roadside or streetside stand in time for Halloween. On the cold winter days, you can make dried arrangements and bouquets with some of the flowers you have grown and enjoy popping corn from your garden.



Remember it's not the horticulture teaching or eating all the vegetables but the fun and good times like watching the butterflies and bees that visit the garden, witnessing the green sprouting from the ground that was a bag of bulbs last fall, taking note of how big the plants become week by week, and picking a bouquet of flowers to surprise mom; those are the important lessons learned and remembered for a lifetime. A child might sell pumpkins from the curb at Halloween time to earn money and will learn about enterprise and business.

Here is a reading teepee that can be built from sturdy branches or dried bamboo. After securing the poles in the ground, tie the top ends together to form the teepee. Wrap twine around the wood at various levels. Plant morning glories or string green beans at the base to twist and weave up the poles. Place an old carpet piece inside for sitting or relaxing. I have also strung rows of Christmas tree battery operated lights inside, so the children can read. I have found them napping on occasion.

## Be Safe in Your Own Backyard

Take a few precautions to be safe – it could happen to you.

The first thing you should learn is how to protect your skin from sun damage every time you work in your lawn or garden. Long sleeves and pants are the most effective barrier against sun exposure. Hats are always a good idea to protect you from sun and heat. Never overlook the sunscreen either. It doesn't take much exposure to cause damage. Even if you only intend to spend a few minutes outside to check things over, don't forget the sunscreen. Long pants also save you from scrapes and cuts when you're working on your hands and knees. They also offer protection from poison ivy. Tecnu is a lotion which dissolves poison ivy oil, causing it to wash off easily in the shower. Simple Dawn soap can do a great job to dissolve oil too. If you apply the soap all over your exposed skin and jump in the shower, the oil of poison ivy washes down the drain. Do this within two hours of exposure.

You should always wear gloves. They will save you from countless cuts and scrapes. There is a variety of gloves to choose from. Some tasks will require heavy duty protection. These gloves will cost more but will save you injury in the long run. By choosing ones with a Velcro wrist closure or some other way of securing the wide opening, it will protect you from bugs and sharp objects which can enter at the wrist and cause injury under the glove.

Protecting your eyes is very important in the garden. So, it is important to have good eye protection on hand. Not only have it on hand but use it. The experts recommend protective goggles. If that is not possible then choose sunglasses to guard against the unexpected – it will happen.

The buddy system is always a good idea. In such times when using power tools or a ladder, let a friend or family member know you are using power tools or climbing a ladder and should check on you periodically. Always carry your cell phone. If something happens to you, your cell phone will be a lifesaver.

## Lunch and Learn and Happy Hour Schedule

2023-2024

Here is the information on the site.

[Mastergardener.osu.edu](http://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 – POTTED 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, Programm 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**