



# Through the Vine

A Quarterly Newsletter of the OSU Extension Fairfield County Master Gardeners

**SUMMER 2020**

*Mission: To make a difference in the community in which you live through gardening education and knowledge.*

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## Sharing Garden Smiles... by the Numbers

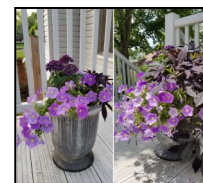
by **Connie Smith, Master Gardener Coordinator**



One way the Fairfield County Master Gardeners found to stay connected during the COVID-19 STAY AT HOME ORDER was by sharing SMILES from their gardens during the past 60 days. The SMILE Challenge was posted to the Fairfield County Master Gardener Facebook Group page on March 21, 2020. The MGCV Coordinator request was very simple...look around you and find something that made you SMILE today. Since March 21, our Facebook group followers have increased in number by 63% and the page has had 262 posts and engagements. You do not have to be a Master Gardener to join the group, you simply need to enjoy gardening and be respectful in your postings within the group.

A little bit of history, our Facebook MGCV group page started in late January of 2019. We have five active MGCV administrators. We have rules: Be Kind and Courteous. No Hate Speech or Bullying. No Promotions or Spam. Respect Everyone. We do ask a couple of membership questions: How long have you had an interest in gardening? Would you like to learn

more about the Master Gardener Program? Once the questions are answered, approval for membership is given by one of the administrators. We currently have 178 followers. It has been a very easy process and works very well for the Master Gardener Volunteers in Fairfield County.



In conclusion, from the Facebook Group Insight page we were able to see that posts on Monday and Wednesday were the

most viewed and the peak times for viewing was early in the morning (5 am) and late in the day (8-10 pm). More importantly, the impact of sharing our Garden Smiles was amazing. We have shared learning opportunities, identified plants, and even invited our Soil and Water friends to share information during April's Native Plant month. More importantly, we have seen MGCV's spring blooming gardens in full glory, weeds we wish we did not have, blooming houseplants, our favorite container combinations and even our pillowcase city gardens trying to keep away Mother Nature's chill. The true blessing of this group event has not really been the increase in activity, but the sharing of lots of great gardening experiences and plants we would have never shared had it not been for COVID-19. Our time at home enabled us to share our world and our SMILES with others.



**THE OHIO STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



## CONNIE'S CORNER



Dear Master Gardener Volunteers,

To say this has been a challenging spring would be an understatement. The screen saver on my computer is a heart that simply says, "I AM GRATEFUL." Until this spring, I had it there to remind myself that everyday I was grateful for family, friends, good health and a good partner in life, most of the time! It also reminded me to be grateful for something everyday, even the smallest of things!!

But today on Memorial Day, when I opened my computer and saw, "I AM GRATEFUL" pop up on the screen, it made me pause and reflect.

Today, I AM GRATEFUL for freedom.

Today, I AM GRATEFUL that our daughters-in-law, all nurses, survived being parents, teachers and workers that came home safe and kept our sons and grandchildren healthy and well during COVID-19. Plus, I AM GRATEFUL for our Evan, who did the running and fetching, while taking online classes at OSU. COVID-19 gave us the opportunity for some meal planning and time together. We even did a little greenhouse shopping and planted a garden together, his choice of plants and herbs.

Today, I AM GRATEFUL for friends, co-workers and good authors who have kept me engaged in phone chats, Zoom meetings, and books to read that took me to other places and kept my

mind focused. I am also lucky to be able to work from home. The available technology has allowed us to continue doing what we enjoy, helping others via written word, phone call and emails.

Today, I AM GRATEFUL for an extraordinary group of Master Gardener volunteers who have stayed connected and engaged during a very trying time. If COVID-19 did not take us out of the garden, Mother Nature sure did. Freeze warnings, rainfall and consistently chilly temperatures have gotten our gardens off to a slow start. I AM GRATEFUL for those of you on Facebook that joined the Master Gardener Facebook Page and gave it new life by sharing your gardens, plants, containers and even a bit of everyday life. Our world may look a little different, our gardens and projects a little shabby, but I AM GRATEFUL our Master Gardener family stayed healthy and engaged in learning and sharing.

Stay Strong and Stay Healthy and Well...

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### Did You Know?

*source: Garden-pedia by Pamela Bennett and Maria Zampini*

**Hardpan** is a layer in the soil that roots and water cannot penetrate.

Chances are, all gardeners have tried to dig through hardpan before, with futility. There are different reasons why hardpan forms; one of the most common causes is using a rototiller too often. The tiller will keep the top layer of soil loose, but beneath the depth of the blades the continual tilling leads to compaction - and eventually a layer of soil that is impenetrable.

# Master Gardener Project Team Report - Year Ending 2019



Source: *Connie Smith, Master Gardener Coordinator*

## Master Gardener Program

2019 State Master Gardener Dues	\$440.00
Master Gardener Yard Signs	\$100.00
Master Gardener Name Badges	\$140.40
Holiday Lunch Expense	\$414.00
(2020 State Dues—@\$480.00)	

## Ag Center Renovation Project

240 reported give back hours	
Commissioners Budget Allowance	\$500.00
\$\$ Spent from MGV Funds	\$670.26
**Wheelbarrows, Additional Shrubs, Plant Tags	

## AHA Children's Museum Garden

217 reported give back hours	
Supplies to get started in Garden	\$383.35

## Fairfield County Fairgrounds Entrance Garden

69 reported given back hours	
Fair Board Reimburse. (shrubs/annuals)	\$74.96
MGV Fair Display—Orchid	\$43.72

## Friends of the Wagnalls Gardens

770 reported give back hours	
Signage, Plant Tags, Wheelbarrow	\$373.35
Winter Arrangement Supplies	\$29.30

## Green Machine Gardeners

226 reported give back hours

## Helping Hands in the Garden (Cancer Patients)

36 reported give back hours	
Anonymous Donation of Plant Materials @	\$80.00

## Meetings and Continuing Education

236 reported give back hours

## MGV Teaching

224 reported give back hours

## Sherman House Gardeners

90 reported give back hours

## Through the Vine Newsletter

144 reported give back hours

## Tranquility Garden

175 reported give back hours

## MASTER GARDENER TRAINING

Income \$3,890 (includes class participation fees)  
\$140.00 cost to take MGV Program -2019

Expenses (include speaker mileage and lunch fees)

Lunch	\$847.15
Mileage (speakers)	\$179.80
Manual Expense—\$51.00 per manual	

## Hydrangea School

Expense (speaker and plants)	\$867.00
Income	\$1,380.00

## BOOK A REVIEW

*by Barbara Kochick, Master Gardener, 2013*



### The Peach Truck Cookbook

By Jessica N. Rose and Stephen K. Rose

Last year the Peach Truck people produced their own cookbook with many suggestions for using up a bushel box of Georgia goodness. Of course, all can be used for the products of our local orchards also.

The first section tells how Stephen and Jessica Rose came up with the brilliant idea to get the peaches quickly along the East coast and through the midwest. Social media spread the word about their offerings and the business has grown exponentially. Next, they give a brief explanation of the types of peaches and what it takes to grow them. Finally, there are the one hundred recipes.

This is a primer on slipping peaches into everything - smoothies, salads, pulled pork, classic pie and even a margarita. I tried the roasted chicken with peaches, onions, garlic, rosemary and thyme.....fabulous!

## About Live Oaks

by Barbara Kochick, Master Gardener 2013



One of the most fascinating things to me when we moved to the Deep South was the magnificent trees dripping with Spanish moss. They set the scene for many southern movies and TV shows. Now that we visit the same area on a yearly basis I have become even more interested in these giants looming over tiny cottages.

Live oak is a basket category containing many species. I am focused here on the Southern live oak, *Quercia virginiana*, an evergreen tree endemic to the Southeastern United States. This species ranges from Virginia and southward in a narrow band through the Carolinas and into Florida. From there they can be found westward along the gulf coast and into Texas. In general, they hug the coastline and are rarely found more than 300 feet above sea level. These trees survive well in various types of soil and tolerate both wet and dry sites.

Although live oaks retain their stiff leathery leaves year round they are not true evergreens. The leaves are dropped but shiny new leaves emerge immediately. The male flowers are green hanging catkins three to four inches in length. The lower limbs often sweep towards the ground before curving up again. They can grow at severe angles.

The branches frequently support other plant species such as ball moss, Spanish moss, resurrection fern and a species of mistletoe. Each of these is fascinating and an exploration for another time.

These hardy trees can often survive fire because often the flames do not reach the crown. Also, their huge overstory provides a dense cover that discourages a flammable understory. They can withstand floods and hurricanes and are resistant to salt spray.

Live oak wood is very hard and heavy. The frame of the USS Constitution was constructed from Southern live oak that allowed it to withstand cannon fire earning it the nickname “Old Ironsides.” Today the U.S. Navy owns extensive live oak tracts. However, today the primary use of the trees is providing food and shelter for various wildlife. A secondary use is providing iconic beauty.

In the community where we visit, the trees are well protected. Before removing any part of a tree, even that branch looming over the roof, a form must be submitted asking the city to investigate. Removal of a tree requires replacement at the direction of the city.

Southern Live oak can live for a very long time. Some live oaks have lived for hundreds or even a thousand years. The largest oak tree is located right where we stay. It is called the Seven Sisters Oak Tree. It is the “president” of the Live Oak Society which means it is the largest registered with them. At last measurement it was thirty-nine feet around and fifty-seven feet high. The limb spread is greater than one hundred fifty three feet. Foresters estimate it to be about 1200 years old! It is on private property but it can be seen from the street.

### Please Help Keep Information Current

If you have updates to your email or mailing address, please contact Lisa Stoklosa, [lmstoklos@gmail.com](mailto:lmstoklos@gmail.com).



# Trying New Things during Difficult Times

By Connie Smith, Master Gardener Coordinator



No doubt, the last two months have definitely changed us. How we move forward is our choice. Can we do things differently? Are we willing to change? Perhaps it might be a

good time to take a look back to the Victory Garden Revival. Given our very cold and wet spring, you still have time to plant a few things in a garden space or maybe create a container of your favorite cooking herbs.

A look back at history tells us that in 1941, just 12 days after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the USDA began plans to promote Victory Gardens throughout America. The concepts of the Victory Garden are just as valid today as they were then and there is no better time than the present to start your own.

Did you know that the U.S. Department of Agriculture created the goals of the Victory Garden Program in 1942? Could some of those goals benefit us today?

**Goal 1: Increase the production and consumption of fresh vegetables and fruits by more, to the end that we become a stronger and healthier Nation.**

Wouldn't it be great to teach our Children and Grandchildren where food comes from and how to grow lettuce, carrots and tomatoes and so much more? OSU Extension has resources to help with that..but if you prefer to support local farmers and farm markets, go to <https://fairfield.osu.edu>.

**Goal 2: Encourage the proper storage and preservation of the surplus from such gardens.**

Did you know the OSU Extension Food Preservation Team is offering live "Office Hours" events bi-weekly through the end of July? Each of these Tuesday sessions will be from 4:00-5:00 pm. Sessions will start with a short presentation and the remainder of time will be for open Q&A. The presentations will be recorded and posted for those who could not attend live. To register, contact OSU Extension in Fairfield County at 740-653-5419.

**Goal 3: Enable families and institutions to save on the cost of vegetables and apply this saving to other necessary foods which must be purchased.** How rewarding would it be to "run to the garden" for that tomato for your next burger cookout? Maybe even find some lettuce or other burger toppings growing there too? How about growing your own green beans? Does it bring back memories of having to pick and snap green beans on the front porch with a grandparent? For all the basic garden information you need, check out the Fairfield County Master Gardener Blog at site <https://u.osu.edu/fairfieldmg/>. Be sure to click on the Gardening 101 link, it will definitely help you to get started with your own garden, no matter what size you choose.

**Goal 4: Maintain and improve the morale and spiritual well-being of the individual, family and Nation. The beautification of the home and community by gardening provides healthful physical exercise, recreation and definite release from stress and strain.** While we are "all in this together," sometimes, you might just feel like you need a reason to SMILE...Check out the Fairfield County Master Gardener - OSU Extension Facebook Group Page where during the last 60 days we have shared over 200 SMILES from our gardens, our frustrations with Mother Nature and even some of our favorite container creations. All you need to do is request to join our group, no gardening experience required!

These are just some of the goals listed in the original USDA Victory Garden Plan. I trust you have all heard many times that we are currently at war with an enemy that threatens the well-being and healthfulness of our nation. While the war against COVID-19 is different in many ways from WWII, the idea that gardening and preserving your garden's bounty could play a role in increasing the abilities, health and moral of American citizens is still true today. OSU Extension in Fairfield County is here to help you!! We can be reached at 740-653-5419 or find us at <https://fairfield.osu.edu/>.

GARDEN MUSINGS

## Wildlife in the Garden

by *Dianna Wears, Master Gardener 2011*



Yes, they can be a problem. But have you even taken the time to observe those critters? They can be entertaining and sweet. Have you ever watched a male cardinal in the spring tenderly feed his bride a seed? Or what about a squirrel rolling around in the grass or mulch and looking silly? Here are a few other observations I have had the pleasure to make.

I have a two story home with a walk out basement, thereby making the bedroom level the third story above ground at the rear of the house. One morning, as I opened the blinds in my bedroom, I observed a chipmunk, three stories below, sitting on the edge of the deck, grooming himself. If you've never observed a chipmunk grooming, think how a rabbit or cat grooms themselves. He was busily grooming himself until he fell off the edge of the deck into the grass. As I stood there snickering, he jumped back up on the edge of the deck and looked around as if to say, "who pushed me?" or, "did anyone see that?" He continued to groom himself without further issue and soon went on his way, doing whatever it is that chipmunks do.

Another time, as I was relaxing in my La-Z-Boy (La-Z-Girl!), I watched a squirrel with a black walnut in his mouth hopping across the deck. He jumped up on one of the potted tomato plants

and buried the walnut in the potting mix. He jumped down and was on his way, probably gathering and burying more walnuts. Not 15 minutes later, a chipmunk came from the opposite end of the deck, jumped up on the same potted tomato plant where the squirrel had been, and dug up the just-planted walnut and ran off with it!

Watching the deer can be entertaining, too. Just this past winter, three of the does I regularly see were in the rear of my property with their young, whom I assume were two males. The "boys" chased one another and then continually pushed back and forth against one another's heads. Apparently, when one of the does (Mom, or Auntie, I'm guessing) had enough, they would walk over to the boys and break them up. This happened a few times; different does took turns administering the disciplinary action.

Another time, I observed five deer peacefully grazing. A cat walked along the edge of the wooded area towards the grazing deer. I grabbed my camera because I figured I might get an interesting photo. The cat stopped and looked at the deer. One of the deer went towards the cat and faced off with it about 10 feet or so away from the cat. The cat then decided maybe he needed to be on his way, so he started to mosey along a flower bed. With that movement, all five deer followed behind the cat until it disappeared into the woods. The deer then continued their grazing.

Every time I am in the garden and observe a walnut tree planted by one of my free garden "help" (a squirrel), especially when at the base of a shrub or a rose bush, I try to remember the chuckles they have given me. Ditto for when I find newly planted annuals dug up or sunflower seeds growing in pots that were planted by the chipmunks. And especially when the deer prematurely deadhead my pussy willow, hydrangeas, forsythias, hostas, lilies and balloon flowers... They can all be quite destructive, but I try to remember how watching them can be fun, too!

GARDEN MUSINGS

# Summer Gardening for Old Folks

by Chuck Zurhorst, Master Gardener 2019



After your tomatoes, zucchini, cucumbers and beans are planted and beginning to sprout, early to late summer is the perfect time to get your crops sown for a fall harvest. The seed buying season has always been January, February and March, but now, there is a surge of seed buying in May, June, July and August and even into September for delicious fall-harvested crops. Planted early to mid summer, depending on days until harvest, most of these fall crops can handle light frosts and will even taste better after the frost. Most winter vegetable plants are fully hardy and will cope well with cold winter weather. They can be planted or sown directly outdoors to ensure that your winter vegetable garden is fully stocked. If a hard frost threatens, you can always cover the seedlings with newspapers or an old bed sheet.

Fast growing crops, planted 30 to 50 days before harvest include: fall Radishes, Spinach, Arugula, Lettuce, Pac Choi and Mustards. Crops planted 60 to 80 days before harvest include: certain varieties of Beets, Turnips, Broccoli, Napoli and Carrots, Radicchio, Endive, Kale, Collards, Peas, Kohl Rabi, Swiss Chard and Scallions. Slow growing crops taking 90 to 120 days such as Parsnips, Winter Cabbage, Leeks, Brussel Sprouts and Rutabaga also make excellent winter harvesting.

Many gardeners are discovering the joys of harvesting fresh vegetables all winter long, which allows for fresh picked treats in spite of the temperature, and even the snow, which may have fallen. Just keep the harvest days in mind. June, July, August and even September are becoming increasingly popular planting months. Granted, fruiting crops need long sunny days and warm conditions to complete their ripening. Winter crops on the other hand, are all about the leaves, stems and roots which mature more and more slowly as the weather cools and the days shorten. There must be enough adequate light present to warm the soil for seed germination and crop growth. Try to be sure that crops can somehow be protected from the wind by planting near a fence or protected by landscaping. At any northern latitude there's enough daylight to grow a wide range of winter crops. Keep in mind that winter vegetables sweeten with the cold. You won't believe how sweet a winter harvested carrot or spinach leaf tastes. Imagine the comments you'll get from your family and friends, not just for having these vegetables in the fall or winter, but also, for the delicious taste.

Enjoy the unusual experience of winter gardening and enjoy the fruits (or vegetables) of your labors.

## Newsletter Deadlines

Do you have an article, garden musing, photo from an MGV project, calendar event or other idea you'd like to submit for the MGV newsletter? Articles and information are welcome at any time! Items not used in an upcoming newsletter can be saved and used in a future newsletter.

Newsletters are published quarterly with the following submission deadlines:

*Spring Newsletter*—submit by **February 1**

*Summer Newsletter*—submit by **May 1**

*Autumn Newsletter*—submit by **August 1**

*Winter Newsletter*—submit by **November 1**

Please email articles and information to Lisa Stoklosa at [lmstoklos@gmail.com](mailto:lmstoklos@gmail.com).

## In and Around the Garden—You Won't Want to Miss It!

Mark your calendars with these important dates and upcoming activities and events!

### COMING SOON

#### *Lunch and Learn Virtual Class Events (via Zoom):*

- **Toxicity of Pesticides—Amanda Douridas**  
Tuesday, June 2, 2020, Noon
- **Gardening Myths and Legends—Eric Barrett**  
Wednesday, June 3, 2020, 4 pm
- **GAP Good Ag. Practices for Transferring Produce**  
Thursday, June 4, 2020, Noon
- **Macro Photography—Danae Wolfe**  
Monday, June 8, 2020, Noon
- **Dazzling Dahlias—Jacquelyn Kowalski**  
Wednesday, June 10, 4 pm
- **Thyme for Herbs—Kerry Smith**  
Thursday, June 11, 2020, Noon
- **Organic Lawn Care—Dave Gardener**  
Tuesday, June 16, 2020, Noon
- **All about Elderberries—Patrick Byers**  
Wednesday, June 17, 2020, 4 pm
- **Meet Fireblight—West Virginia State MGVC Coordinator**  
Thursday, June 18, 2020, Noon



- **Growing Gourmet Garlic—Patrick Byers**  
Tuesday, June 23, 2020, Noon
- **Busy People Can Garden Too—Amanda Douridas**  
Wednesday, June 24, 2020, 4 pm
- **Pest Mgmt. for Herbaceous Plants—Pam Bennett**  
Thursday, June 25, 2020, Noon

### SAVE THE DATE

**Tasting Event (approval pending)**  
Thursday, August 20, 2020  
Fairfield County Agriculture Center

**Wagnalls MGVC Educational Series**  
Garden Tours during Honeyfest (approval pending)  
September 11-12, 2020  
Wagnalls Memorial Library, Lithopolis, OH

**2020 State Master Gardener Conf. (approval pending)**  
September 11-12, 2020 (Beachwood, OH)

**Farm Science Review**  
September 22-24, 2020

**Fairfield County Fair**  
October 11-17, 2020

**MGVC Holiday Gathering**  
Thursday, December 10, 2020 (Fairfield Cnty. Ag Center)

**Through the Vine** is a publication of the Ohio State University Extension Office in Fairfield County  
Lisa Stoklosa, Fairfield Master Gardener Volunteer Editor

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For the latest information and news about OSU Extension in Fairfield County, including the Master Gardeners of Fairfield County, visit <http://fairfield.osu.edu/>



#### **Ohio Master Gardener Program Mission**

*We are Ohio State University Extension trained volunteers empowered to educate others with timely research-based gardening information.*