



# Through the Vine

A Quarterly Newsletter of the OSU Extension Fairfield County Master Gardeners

**Autumn 2017**

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

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## **Growing Up Gardening** *by Bruce Garrett, Master Gardener 2015*



At an MGV get together not too long ago, the discussion centered on why/how we got into gardening. For those who "blamed" some thing or event from their childhood, the memories seemed focused on one of two remembrances. The first group I label the "Walton Memories." These are the folks who paint a picture of growing up in a lush garden with a parent or grandparent usually, plants providing abundant fruit and vegetables, bluebirds and butterflies flying around and quiet music playing on a 78 degree (F) day with no sunblock required.

The other group was my group, what I call the "child indentured servant" group. Many of you were a member of this group I'm sure. The group whose parents had kids, not for the patter of feet throughout the house, but for a captivated workforce for the house, yard or farm. The group who started performing tasks at a young age that would bring Children Services and law enforcement to your house if you had your children do the same thing today. The group that still has all fingers and toes, or at least most of them, after all the childhood use of mowers, hedge clippers, knives, machetes and other implements of mayhem. Let me tell my sad, sad story.

Sometimes in the fall, but most often in the spring, when the garden was awash in mud, my dad would send me there with a garden spade to "turn over the garden." This involved a spade that was my height and half my weight and digging into the soil, lifting this clump of dirt and then redepositing it, top side down, bottom up, one clump after another until the whole garden was "turned over." I approached the backyard garden with the same sense of awe and dread that I'm sure the early settlers had as they contemplated how to turn under the vast prairies for planting. At least part had to be done in March so that the potatoes and peas could be planted.

In later years, Dad softened a bit and hired Mr. Frank to bring his Gravely tiller to do this job. Never had I seen a more wonderful machine and person. Almost had the urge to kiss him but I don't think his wife even did that. However, this "Jack Sprat" couple must have managed to get together some as they had numerous kids, enough that I, the paperboy, only delivered to them riding at a break neck speed past their house, slinging paper towards the porch, always in fear that the mob of feral children would attack and take my bicycle.

*Article continued on page 4.*



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



## CONNIE'S CORNER

Dear Master Gardener Volunteers,

Make plans to be a part of the AgAmazing Agriculture Adventure during the 2017 Fairfield County Fair. This will be the second year for this effort and the building encompassing all things Agriculture!!! Last year, it was a huge success with over 25,000 visitors. This year we are teaming up with the AHa Children's Museum to put together an interactive display for some of our young visitors to enjoy.

We are still in the planning phase, but we will need Volunteers!! The plan will be to have 2 shifts per day beginning on Sunday, October 8 thru Friday, October 13, 2017. Shift one will be from noon until 3 pm and the second shift will be from 3 pm until 6 pm. These hours will be count as work "give back" hours. As of September 8, we need someone on Sunday, October 8 for the 12-3 pm shift, volunteers on Monday, October 9 for the 3-6 pm shift and Tuesday, October 10 both shifts, one person on Wednesday, October 11 for the 3-6 pm shift, and one person on Friday, October 13 for the 3- 6 pm shift.

I will also have a pass for you to get into the Fairgrounds and hopefully park near the building, which is located on the North (livestock) side of the Fairgrounds. Please send me an email if you are interested in working during the 2017 Fairfield County Fair at the Ag Amazing building!!

Thanks for all you do to make the Fairfield County Master Gardener Program a success.

Connie Smith  
Master Gardener Coordinator  
Program Assistant—Ag and Natural Resources  
smith.3204@osu.edu  
740-652-7267

### **HELP KEEP OUR INFORMATION CURRENT!**

If you have updates to your e-mail address or mailing address, please contact Kelley Scott at [scott.1863@osu.edu](mailto:scott.1863@osu.edu) or 740.652.7263.

## AHa Children's Garden Will Become a Reality

by *Connie Smith, Master Gardener Coordinator*

At our annual summer picnic in late August, we discussed the possibility of working with AHa – The Children's Interactive Museum in Lancaster. The Museum has just broken ground on an 11 acre piece of property near the River Valley Mall that will be site of their new facility. Director Wendy Gregory has asked the Master Gardeners to work with them as they develop their teaching gardens at the new site. Currently, all is in the planning and idea phase. But if you are interested in participating in this newly evolving MGV project, consider taking a tour of the Licking County Children's Garden located at OSU Extension in Licking County located at 771 E. Main Street in Newark. We plan to meet in their garden on Thursday, September 28 at 10 am to walk and talk about potential plans and ideas for the AHa project.

The Museum will be bringing some of their Board members and hopefully some of our interested MGVs will plan to attend for ideas and inspiration. The plan is to simply carpool or meet at the garden on September 28 possibly find a place for a quick lunch and maybe a trip to Wilson's Garden Center. IF you would like to be involved, please let Connie know via email [smith.3204@osu.edu](mailto:smith.3204@osu.edu).

### **ACROSS THE FENCE...**

#### **FOR SALE**

#### **PRE-OWNED WORM COMPOSTER KIT**

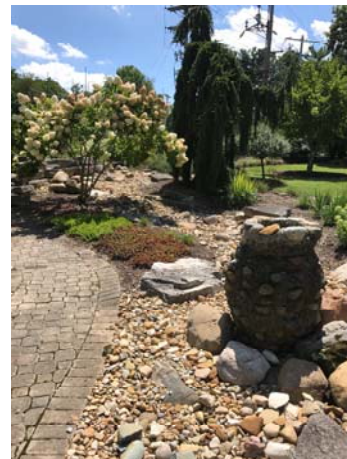
Grace Williams, MGV 2015 is selling a worm composter kit (minus live worms) for \$35.00. If you are interested in purchasing the kit/arranging delivery or have additional questions about it, please contact Grace directly at 740-862-8051.



## Friends of the Wagnalls Gardens Project takes off

by *Connie Smith, Master Gardener Coordinator*

After taking a break from the Wagnalls Library Garden project for a few years, MGV Pam Jarvis began a small weeding project at Wagnalls basically with the hope of cleaning up the garden area for an upcoming wedding. After some emails, meetings and calls for help, the Master Gardener Volunteers from the Lithopolis, Pickerington and Canal Winchester area rolled up their sleeves and got involved. Rather than holding regular work days, the group decided it would be best to simply “adopt” garden beds or areas. With assistance from Thrivent Financial Services Seed Money, Crossroads Church, Faler Feed, and Dills Greenhouse, weeding and mulching have been happening and cleanup around the beautiful old facility has begun. The group is looking to add some existing plants to some of the beds listed below in the am on September 18. If you have sedum, black-eyed susans, coneflowers, hostas, peonies, irises or lilies, your donation to the project would be most appreciated. Call or text Pam Jarvis for details at 614-256-2314 or to make a plant donation to the project. Please leave a message if Pam doesn't pick up.



### “Adopted” beds and their MGV caretakers:

*WM Gated Beds in parking lot* - Mary Carter (MGV 2017)

*WM Gated Fence in parking lot* - Patty Sykes (MGV 2015)

*Hostas/Bermuda Triangle/Windowed Entrance Bed* - Diane Gerken and Susan Lloyd (both MGV 2017)

*Hydrangea Tree Triangle Bed by Amphitheater* - Edna Wilson (MGV 2017)

*Dying Russian Sage Tree Bed across from Hydrangea Tree Triangle and No Bicycle Sign Bed near library workers' pavers entrance* - Dolly Browning (MGV 2015)

*Circle Area in Front Entrance/Bench* - Edna Wilson and Jackie Marion (MGV 2011)

*Herb Garden* - Ann Brocker (MGV 2009)

*Shrub Area on East Side of Front Property, Area Under Tri-color Beech* - Pam Jarvis (MGV 2005)

*Front Sign* - Linda Werner (MGV 2009), Barb Wood (MGV 2005), Dolly Browning, Laura Hempleman (MGV 2011), Sarah Cory (MGV 2011)

*Stepped area in front of Children's Library/Circle Tree* - Linda Werner, Barb Wood, Patty Sykes, Sarah Cory

*Dry Creek Bed near trash/recycle bins* - Pam Jarvis

*Lighthouse Bed* - Jackie Marion

*Thistle Downs Bed in front of electric station* - Nancy Busack (MGV 2015)

*Handicapped Parking Bed by Back Entrance/Lone Evergreen Tree/1/2 of Spirea Quarter Circle* - DJ Hoermle (MGV 2017)

Other MGV volunteers include Connie Shields (MGV 2017).



**Hostile hostas before and after MGV caretaking!**



## Growing Up (cont'd from page 1)

The one high point of the garden for me was the peas. Picking them wasn't much of a chore but the real fun was shelling them. On pleasant spring evenings I would use my best Tom Sawyer act and Mom and Dad, my brothers and me and numerous kids from around the neighborhood would sit in a circle in the back yard, telling stories and shelling peas. I'm sure Mom and Dad learned more about our roaming the town and countryside than they wanted to know.

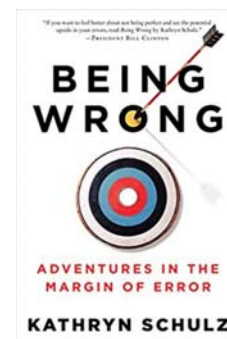
With summer came the dreaded list. With Mom and Dad working, we three boys were left to our own devices each day (refer to paragraph two, Children Services). As I awoke each day, thoughts of the coming adventures ran through my head - Club houses to build, homemade skateboards to crash, apple trees to sit in to tell stories of the neighborhood girls who passed by below. But, alas, as I reached the kitchen, there, on the table was the dreaded list. This was the kid version of the "honey do" list only it was a "you had better do" list. There was the every present weeds to pull, abundant after the trailer loads of manure from Grandpa's farm that were spread over the winter. There were tomatoes to tie up, sucker and clear of garden spiders and tomato worms. The potatoes and beans were to be "dusted" early in the growing season, picked or dug later. In June the strawberries were to be picked and rhubarb was to be cut. This on top of the lawn mowing (no motor, reel mower), edges of the yard to be trimmed (hand powered scissor trimmers) and hedges to be trimmed (the tops had better be flat!). Oh, and did I mention? All this was accompanied by urging and catcalls from my friends who sat in the shade and reminded me that the day was wasting. Friends whose families were gardenless and whose parents were loving, unlike mine.

So is it any wonder that these poor, down trodden children like me grew up to.....HAVE THEIR OWN GARDENS!!!! Yep, after much therapy and introspection we became gardeners also. And many of us enjoy it. And many of our children received their own lists as they were growing up (I ended up with one who loves gardening, the other won't even plant a flower or mow his own lawn).

## RIPE FOR THE PICKING Goodies for All...



**Being Wrong** by Kathryn Schulz  
When Joe Bogg's gave his presentation on Diagnostics to our trainees this Spring, he highly recommended this book. His thought and that of this author is that it is ultimately wrongness and not rightness that teaches us. This is a heavy subject that is handled here without heavy handedness. It's a user friendly, entertaining look at the way our minds work. We are encouraged to see error as a gift in itself, an illumination that leads to knowledge. Something to remember when you are making a diagnosis.



### **Wicked Plants: The Weed That Killed Lincoln's Mother & Other Atrocities** by Amy Stewart

Many kinds of vegetative wickedness are listed here from A-Z and include illustrations. These are plants that kill, maim, intoxicate, irritate and otherwise offend. Scientific facts and historical antidotes keep the narrative moving. Beware! These evil doers might be in your own backyard!



Reviews by Barbara Kochick, MG 2013

*Editor's Note: Check out Stewart's other interesting titles like The Drunken Botanist, Wicked Bugs, and Flower Confidential.*

### **Bees in Your Backyard** by Olivia Carril

Across Ohio, many residents are concerned about the plight of bees, including honey bees, bumble bees and the over 400 other species of bees native to Ohio. With close-up photography, powerful binoculars and user-friendly field guides, now anyone can learn to identify common bees. Carril's book features detailed photography, natural history tales, and diagrams and details aimed at making bee identification accessible to the interested naturalist or gardener.

## Bye...Bye...Birdie

by Edna Wilson, Master Gardener 2017



Where did the Summer go?

Autumn is coming soon and the Hummingbirds (Hummers) will soon prepare for their fall migration flight back to Mexico and South America. This flight will take approximately two weeks allowing for weather, etc. Most birds will stop along the way to rest and feed. The Hummer's flying speed averages 27 miles per hour. If the hummer is flying across the Gulf of Mexico it can take 18 to 24 hours of nonstop flying. Once a hummer leaves shore it must continue until it finds dry ground again.

The migration is triggered by the amount of daylight, not the amount of available food. It is important to leave some of your feeders up and filled with fresh nectar for two weeks after you see your last hummingbird visitor. This will allow for other migrating hummers to stop and eat on their journey. At this time of the season there may not be enough wildflowers/flowers for the hummers to eat. Leaving your feeders up will not cause the hummers to remain too long before they migrate.



Instinct will prevail. The hummers migrate because they can't withstand freezing temperatures for long periods of time. If cold weather comes early or an unexpected cold period hits the hummers put their body in a state of torpor where they can shut down

their functions and drop their body temperature and slow their heartbeat to almost nothing. In the torpor state the hummers often hang upside-down. Don't disturb them. When it warms up they wake their body up and continue on their journey.

Before migrating the hummers double their body weight before they take off to allow for their long flight. The average weight of a hummer is 3 grams which is in comparison the weight of a penny. During September it is good to increase the sugar nectar using a formula of 3 parts water to 1 part sugar. This will allow them to increase their calorie intake. (Normal sugar nectar formula is 4 to 1).

The male hummers will migrate first followed by the females and then the younger birds. The hummers do not migrate in masses. They take on their own journey individually. It is a legend/myth that the hummers hitchhike on the back of geese or other large birds!

Once hummers are gone it's important to clean up all the feeders, inspect for any for damage, and have them ready for next April when the scout male hummers will migrate back and be ready to fight for their territory again. The hummers remember their good food sources from the previous season and will return to those feeder locations and be ready to amaze you with their daily aerial displays. A good tip is to buy up a bag or so of sugar on your winter shopping trips to have a stockpile on hand for the next summer. A four pound bag of sugar will make 2 gallons of nectar (4 to 1 Ratio...there are 9 cups in a four pound bag of sugar).



### Newsletter Deadlines

Do you have an article, garden musing, photo from an MGCV project, calendar event or other idea you'd like to submit for the MGCV 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**

Email articles and information to Kelley Scott at [scott.1863@osu.edu](mailto:scott.1863@osu.edu) or [kelleynotez@yahoo.com](mailto:kelleynotez@yahoo.com). Contact Kelley by email or at 740-475-8498 with questions or ideas! Thanks to all who contribute!

GARDEN MUSINGS

## Gardening for Hummingbirds as well as For Profit

by Carol Schleich, Master Gardener 2013



This year when absolutely no one in my circle was interested in freebies, I decided to advertise my canna bulbs online: "Healthy and ready to plant. Free to a good home. Must be willing to dig up and overwinter (it's easy)." After taking pictures, I decided to let my entrepreneurial spirit loose and posted two boxes for \$10. I received a response within minutes and arranged to meet the prospective buyer. She showed me the bag she bought the day before - \$4 a bulb and they were dried out!

I deleted my post and waited a day before offering them for \$15 a box. Again, almost immediately I made another sale and another and another... (I still had plenty for my own garden.) After wearing myself out planting the last two out of my remaining three boxes, I reluctantly sold my final product for the year, bringing my total sales up to \$97 (my initial investment was \$2 for eight bulbs that have reproduced exponentially each year). The customer and I negotiated from the original price of \$15 to her offer of \$10 to mine of \$12. The new mommy seemed happy with her purchase/adoption. \$95 profit is nothing to brag about but it did finance several wild Dollar Tree shopping sprees!

(Earlier this summer I brought out seeds gathered last summer, poured boiling water over them and let them soak until the water cooled, then planted them in a plastic take out container. They germinated and summered outdoors and will be brought back in after the first frost to continue the life cycle.)

### **Ambassador of Nature**

by Esther Messerknecht (MG 1996)

Change in weather good old Ohio clay soil we gain  
Enjoyment of gardening runs through our veins.  
Amending our soil with fertilizer, water, sun, care,  
Tomatoes not ripening or come on late for the Fair.  
Blackberries ripe for harvest planted by others grow  
Reaping what we did not work for delicious I know.  
Roses first bloom May through October take lots of care  
Some with fragrance, some so beautiful and fair.  
Ambassadors of nature love of our land and soil  
Glad to be an MGV and OAGC member tending the good  
earth staying true and loyal.

*(Written August 24, 2017)*



From the kitchen of **Esther Messerknecht (MG 1996)**:

### **Zucchini Tomato Casserole**

In a greased baking dish cube equal amounts of fresh zucchini and tomatoes, about 4 cups of each

Add the following ingredients:

**Large onion, chopped**

**Salt, pepper and herbs to your taste**

**1 cup grated cheese (your choice)**

**1 package of cheese and garlic croutons or**

**1 cup of dry rye bread crusts, to absorb moisture**

**Cover with aluminum foil, greased. Bake at 350° until vegetables are done, about 1½ hours. Take foil off to brown top. May sprinkle a little more cheese to melt on top.**

## DESTINATION GARDENS

# Traveling to the Tulips

by *Barbara Kochick, Master Gardener 2013*



Early this Spring we traveled to The Netherlands during tulip season. We had two close looks at bulb production. First we visited a tulip farm. This family owned operation is not selling bulbs but growing them for flower production.

Nets are placed over the soil, then the bulbs and a cover of soil. This cuts down the harvesting time as the entire net can be lifted and reused. Those grown in the greenhouse are cooled by fans, protected by curtains, have a heated drip system and monitors that keep the farmer abreast of conditions there.

It is twenty-four hours from picking the flower to selling it at auction. The flower with bulb attached is sorted by hand on a conveyer belt. Each is x-rayed to determine straightness and length. The bulb is stripped away and not cut. This is to add to the length. As they are paid by length and sell eight million flowers a year every half an inch adds up!



The bundles are shipped by refrigerated truck to their distributor, Flora Holland. There they are auctioned and available in Europe. The discarded bulbs and foliage are burned for bio-gas.

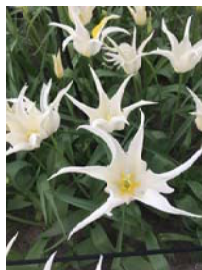
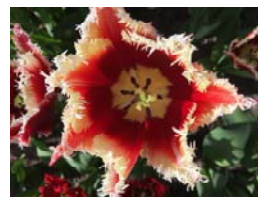


In Amsterdam we toured Keukenhof. It is one of the world's largest flower gardens with over seven million flower bulbs planted annually. It is only open from mid March to mid May. There is a castle there and the land was once the hunting ground and also an herb garden for the cook.

Kerkenhof means kitchen garden. The grounds are planted by growers to showcase Dutch flora culture and to sell their products wholesale.

The flowers are spectacular! Look online for many

beautiful photos. It was heaven on earth for me. Sadly, because the bulbs are exposed to people and all of



the possible problems they might carry with them, after the show all of the bulbs are destroyed. There were a few retail sellers there and we purchased some bulbs to be delivered this Fall. I am hoping for a tiny bit of this beauty in my Spring 2018 garden.

## Garden Inspiration

From where or whom do you find garden inspiration?

What resources inspire you as you are garden "dreaming"?

Who has been a mentor or kindred spirit to you along your gardening journey?

If you are *inspired* to answer one or more of these questions, please email your response to Kelley Scott at [scott.1863@osu.edu](mailto:scott.1863@osu.edu) or [kelleynotez@yahoo.com](mailto:kelleynotez@yahoo.com) **by November 1, 2017** for a winter newsletter article! Thank you in advance!!



## Rose of Sharon, A Yard's BFF

by Carol Schleich, Master Gardener 2013

Do you have a go-to shrub? Although I love early bloomers (spirea, viburnum, lilac, azalea, rhododendron, among others), their blossoms fade all too quickly. I've planted forsythia twice, only to have them run over by delivery men so daffodils now supply the yellow in my yard.

When I needed something living to block an unattractive but functional feature in my yard, I hit a big box store to take a gander and within minutes found my new BFF, Rose of Sharon (Hibiscus syriacus) aka Althea or Hardy Hibiscus. They



remain a favorite, although some years they leaf out and bloom so late that I nearly give up on them. Until recently the pink double bloom had been my favorite but the large white

flowers have stolen my heart followed by the smaller white with red centers. Lavender colored Rose of Sharon is pretty enough but lower on my list. Meh. The maroon occupies the spot of the red haired stepchild and one I could do without but will never be ripped out since it is well established and healthy. So much for the theory that the colors of Mother Nature's artistry never clash.



Easy care and self seeding to a fault, Rose of Sharon grow to nine to twelve feet tall and a spread of up to ten feet and although mine reach maximum heights they aren't as broad. Altheas are often planted as a living privacy fence especially around swimming pools since being deciduous summer is the only time they can provide privacy. If planting near pools or other outdoor living spaces caution is necessary for people who are allergic to bee stings. Hummingbirds love Althea nectar and so do the tiny insects that hummers eat.

Although it is recommended that Rose of Sharon be planted into rich well-draining, slightly acidic soil in a full sun to part shade location, it is low maintenance and will tolerate and even flourish in most conditions. At a former workplace I was saddened when a healthy Althea was the victim of a chain saw attack, but pleasantly surprised when it sprang back to life.



Several years ago I found this bird's nest in an Althea. All was well. The mother was nearby. Too little water or too much fertilization may contribute to bud drop. My shrubs have never suffered from that condition even though I don't water them and fertilizer with the exception of a few Tablespoons of Epsom salts for tomato plants is not on my radar. Perhaps my benign neglect is beneficial.

Rose of Sharon is a multi-stemmed shrub that can be pruned to a single main trunk, beginning in late winter of the first or second year of growth. I personally prefer the wild, untouched look of Althea.

As for the complaint of Rose of Sharon, being (too) abundantly self-seeding, what is the problem with that? I recently found a baby growing in a container and several thriving beneath their mommy. Welcome to my home!

Solomon KJV refers to "the rose of Sharon" but modern scholars believe that the biblical "rose of Sharon" may be instead a crocus, tulip or a Madonna Lily. Rose of Sharon is the national flower of Korea.





DESTINATION GARDENS

# Great Stops in the North San Francisco Bay Area

by Bruce Garrett, Master Gardener 2015



A must stop in this area is the Luther Burbank Home and Gardens in Santa Rosa, CA. This was the home of the renowned botanist Luther Burbank. The gardens are free to stroll as it is a city park but the fee for the docent led tour was well worth the cost. The gardens include trees, flowers, garden and farm vegetables and ornamentals. We learned about his plant breeding and the incredible patience it took to get the plants he wanted. In one section of the garden we even learned about his work in developing better varieties of wheat. Learn more about the gardens at <http://www.lutherburbank.org/>

Our next stop was in Martinez, CA, to visit the John Muir National Historic site where we visited his home and orchards. This felt like a pilgrimage for me as I have read and own many books about Muir. In case you didn't know, Muir was responsible for the preservation of the Yosemite Valley as a National Park. This stop completed a gap in my knowledge of Muir as most of what I've read concerned his travels and writings and not how he financed these. He was a very successful grower on this farm which his wife inherited. If you go, don't forget to climb to the bell tower and ring the bell. I also chatted with the arborist who was pruning, surprise to me, buckeye trees. There was a free docent led tour of the house by the NPS. Learn more at <https://www.nps.gov/jomu/index.htm>

The docent at the Burbank home suggested we visit Korbels winery in Guerneville, CA. This is the home of Korbels champagnes, which, according to them, are one of the few that can refer to their product as champagne. Theirs is fermented in the bottle and has no added CO2 for bubbly. Avoids hangovers they say. The guided tour was quick but quite good. Little known fact. The 3 eastern European brothers who started Korbels cut down the redwoods there, sold the lumber and then planted their vineyards around the redwood stumps, which were much too big to remove. Almost 100 year later the stumps were still there as redwood deteriorates very slowly. In the 1960s, the producers of the TV series

Combat, a program about WWII, visited the new owners to ask if the series could be filmed there as it had an old European look. At first the owners said no but under further consideration said yes, with one condition. When they had combat explosions, they were to blow up those darn redwood stumps. So Combat filmed there for 2 years and Korbels got rid of their stumps. Learn more about Korbels at <http://www.korbels.com/> Note: you can't join their wine club. Ohio law doesn't allow them to ship to Ohio.

## RIPE FOR THE PICKING

### In Honor of a Favorite & More!

*The Darling Dahlias series* by Susan Wittig Albert I bought this dahlia at Lowes as a distressed plant, brought it home and babied it for a few days in honor of a favorite literacy series, *The Darling Dahlias*, featuring a gardening group and set in the south during The Great Depression.



Here is another dahlia bloom. This bloom is from a bulb.

Shared by Carol Schleich, MGV 2013

**For grape and wine enthusiasts!** Check out Buckeye Appellation's website at <https://ohiograpeweb.cfaes.ohio-state.edu/home> for current research in viticulture and enology, information on commercial grape and wine production in Ohio, and updates on Ohio vineyards. A grapevine pruning video was also posted by the website in July, which you can view at <http://u.osu.edu/cfaesadmin/2017/07/10/buckeye-appellation-website-posts-grapevine-pruning-video/>.

## Noxious, Poisonous Weeds

by Carol Schleich, Master Gardener 2013

Meanwhile, back at the herb plot...

When I got my mower stuck between a pine tree and a Rose of Sharon I called my occasional handyman to get me out of the bind. Among the few herbs towered Hemlock, pokeweed and butterweed, all noxious weeds. And to injury to insult, when I accidentally brushed my arm against stinging nettle, I developed welts. Yes, we should wear long sleeves and gloves when doing any yard work.

Since herbicides are a banned (by me) physical means of eradication, clippers, weed eater and mower are all I have at my disposal. One pulled muscle leaves clippers out of the equation and the weed eater is nearly impossible to start even with a charger so I am stuck, literally, with the mower. This is what I have learned about the "cute" plants hogging one of my herb plots:

**It's Not Dill. It's Not Parsley. It's Poison Hemlock.** At first I thought the one of the monster plants was dill since I had planted the pickling seasoning seed along with other herbs. When it became painfully obvious that it was not indeed dill I decided it must be wild parsnip. Wrong again. Ok, then, it must be parsley. Give up? Hemlock! As in the death of Socrates! There have been reports of human poisoning when the Hemlock roots are mistaken for parsnips and the leaves for parsley. Hemlock is also toxic to cattle, pigs, poultry, horses, goats, sheep and rabbits. It is recommended that gloves are worn when manually removing Hemlock and discarding in black trash bags. Under no circumstances should Hemlock be added to compost or burned.



**Pokeweed Kills but Apparently not in Tennessee.** The second noxious weed adorning one of my innocent little herb beds is pokeweed. Although several members of a Facebook Appalachian group boil, strain, then boil pokeweed again and eat it as a green (poke sallet), this is a noxious weed and should never be consumed. The berries look tempting, but all parts of the plant should be destroyed and discarded.

Pokeweed often grows up to 8 feet in height and reproduces only by its seeds which are contained in the purplish black berry. Although pokeweed is highly toxic to mammals, and becomes more poisonous as it matures, its berries are a good food source for songbirds. The pokeweed plant in my herb garden most likely was a gift from a bird. Thanks. Thanks a lot.



*(\* Tennessee's Poke Salad Festival was held on June 17, 2017 at the Rockwood American Legion Hall featuring two sound stages, a beauty pageant, master craftsmen demonstrating pottery, spinning, rope making, weaving, quilting, painting - and the Ladies Auxiliary cooking up poke sallet with scrambled eggs, bacon, and green onions, served with pinto beans, cornbread, dessert and drinks.)*

**Butterweed aka Cute Daisy.** The third plant on my hit parade came as a surprise when our extension office sent out a warning about what I considered a cute yellow daisy looking plant. I'd never before noticed it until this spring when it filled in a section near the woods. Butterweed, *Packera glabella*, is a member of the aster family and is toxic to livestock while deer seem to be smart enough to avoid butterweed. It often spreads and takes over fields, delaying planting of crops.

While small bees and butterflies sip butterweed's nectar and dine on its pollen, it must again be emphasized that the leaves of this comely plant are toxic to the liver of all mammals, including humans. (When my grandson heard me talking about toxic to "cat-" he immediately began cutting the flowers from a butterweed. "I meant 'cattle.'" "I thought you said 'cats.'")

Butterweed's natural habitats include wet areas, soggy meadows, low lying areas along streams, swamps, ditches, agricultural fields, as well as grassy areas that are not regularly mowed. Butterweed can grow to a height of 3 feet and a good hard freeze will take it out.



Although butterweed will be leaving my tiny piece of paradise, I still think it is cute.

## RIPE FOR THE PICKING

# Of Naked Ladies and Forget-Me-Nots

by Edna Wilson, Master Gardener 2017

Gardeners beware of *Naked Ladies*, *Black Eyed Susies* with *Bleeding Hearts*, *Busy Lizzies*, and soldiers wearing *Bachelor Buttons* all in *Love In the Mist* of your flower garden.

You might think that a book review for *Of Naked Ladies and Forget-Me-Nots* would be one from a steamy romance novel, but no, it is a fun and easy to read garden book by Dr. Allan Armitage a well-known writer, speaker and researcher in the gardeners' world.

In this book Dr. Armitage describes many common flowers by their "Nicknames" and relays a story from his research on how the common name came to be. He also shows the Botanical name of that flower as well as a color picture. Ever wonder how *Pinks* got their name? I always thought that *Pinks* were so called this because of their color being mostly in the Pink shade, but no, it is because the edges of the tiny flowers are serrated like they were cut by a pair of pinking shears!

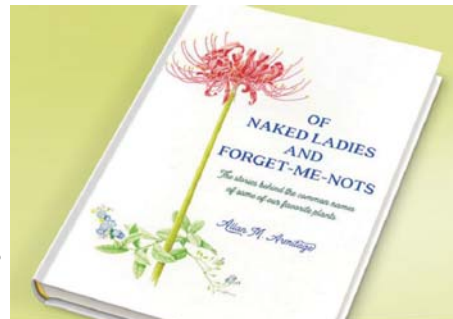
I know that we all have our favorite plants that were passed down by our families and friends and we only know the plant by the name that Grandma gave it and thus the plant has its name. I know one of my favorite plant's nicknames is "*Lady in the Bath tub*". I remember being told this as a child, which of course is the *Bleeding Heart*. I always looked forward to it blooming in the spring and showing this marvel of the naked lady to others.

These are just a few of the over 150 flowers/plants that Dr.

Armitage discusses in this fun and interesting book. After my friend Lily read the book she had so much knowledge of her flowers that all her friends and family remarked "You have gone through such a *Resurrection Lily*!"

The book is a paperback, 9 in x 6 inch, over 200 pages, color pictures, with indexes of both common and botanical names. The Book can be ordered online at [www.allanarmitage.net](http://www.allanarmitage.net) for a cost of \$20.00.

I am sure if you order this book or check it out at your local library you will be very pleased and amused. Once you get the book sit back in your favorite garden spot with a cool beverage and enjoy! I'm sure the *Lamb's Ears* and *Elephant Ears* will hear you chuckling and swear you ate some *Locoweed*.



## Garden Good News!

MGV Barbara Velez Barbosa (2013) recently reported that monarch caterpillars were found at the Wesley Ridge Woodland Restoration on 5 Swamp Milkweed Plants!



## DESTINATION GARDENS

# Pond Extravaganza

by *Melinda Lee Adkins, Master Gardener 2015*

I had the pleasure of attending the Miami Valley Water Garden Society Pond Tour the last weekend of July. If you are considering the installation of a pond, add this tour to your schedule. You will have the opportunity to talk with the owners of these beautiful ponds and ask fish keeping and pond maintenance questions. They are passionate about the hobby and are very helpful in explaining their experiences.

The Miami Valley Water Garden Society pond tour covers the Dayton, Springfield, Middletown, Yellow Springs, Hamilton, and other nearby communities. Visitors can purchase their tickets and map at Green Vista Water Gardens (<http://www.greenvista.com/>) or contact the Miami Valley Garden Society website (<http://www.mvwgs.org/index.html>). The tour is a two day event that begins on a Saturday and concludes on Sunday. The daily hours are 11am to 5pm. Visitors can visit ten ponds listed on the tour. The 2017 tickets cost \$10 each and the proceeds go to promote water gardening and educational and social activities related to the hobby. The Miami Valley Water Garden Society is a non-profit organization.

Here are a few highlights from my Sunday pond tour visit:



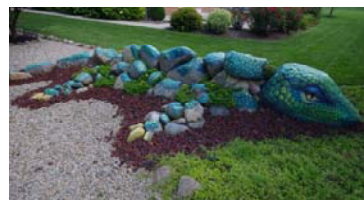
**Pond #1** - The Kinney pond is in Yellow Springs, Ohio and features a parklike setting with two water features. Upon entering the garden the visitor is greeted by the

sweet aroma of flowers. The visitor then walks along a path to the deck of the Japanese Koi pond. After viewing the colorful Koi the visitor can wander the gardens to the rear of the property where there is a waterfall and stream like water feature. This garden is a perfect place to sit, relax and listen to the water running over the rocks.

**Pond #2** – The Grimes pond in Springfield, Ohio has two ponds to enjoy. In the front yard there is a small pond with a waterfall surrounded by beautiful flowers. The large pond and waterfall with Koi is in the backyard. The dragon artwork is a fun addition to the garden.

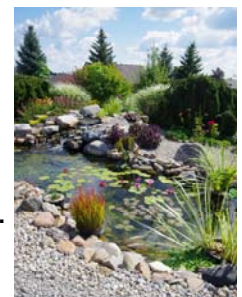


**Pond #3** – The Stewart pond in Springfield, Ohio is an example of water gardening in a small area. This garden packs a punch with attracting wildlife, colorful Black Eyed Susans, and artwork. My favorite feature of the Stewart garden is the three turtles they added to their pond. I also enjoyed the pictures of the raccoon visitors that stop by their garden in the evenings.



**Pond #4** – The Swabb pond in Greenville, Ohio is truly a labor of love. The homeowner spoke of his garden struggles and the garden transformation. He is dedicated to perfection and detail and this garden is full of surprises. What a delight to walk through this garden and discover all the hidden treasures.

**Pond #5** – The Litke pond in Greenville, Ohio features a gazebo, colorful landscape, and pond with a variety of water plants. A walking path encircles the pond. Along one side of the walking path there are Black Eyed Susans and a variety of grasses, shrubs and flowers. This pond's special feature is the content of different types of water plants. There are pink and yellow water lilies, Imperial Tara, Water lettuce, water hyacinth and many more plants. It is a wonderful display of water plants.



Mark your calendars for the 2018 Miami Valley Water Garden Society Pond Tour. You don't want to miss this tour.

GARDEN MUSINGS

# Evening Primrose

by Bruce Garrett, Master Gardener 2015



If you come to my house mid to late summer you will see many evening primrose in the flower beds, garden beds, along the lane, in the field, in the driveway. You get it; evening primrose will grow anywhere and the birds will gladly help you spread the small seeds. Evening primrose is a biennial plant but it sometimes blooms the first year. During the second year a stalk or stalks develop that produce bright yellow, blooms. The curious thing is that they bloom as the sun sets. You can tell which buds are set to open as they have a sliver of yellow showing. As the sun sets, the bud “shivers” and pops open to reveal a very bright yellow bloom that one can see even after dark. In the morning that bloom will have wilted and the beginnings of a seed pod are evident.

Evening primrose can bloom for over a month. I gave one to an elderly friend and we planted it next to his seat on the porch. The plant grew to about 5 feet high and each evening he counted new flowers and recorded dates and time and numbers in his log. He claimed he counted over 500 blooms that summer.

The funny story is how Lola and I discovered the evening primrose. Several decades ago we went to visit some friends, she a retired teacher, he a retired farm dealer. It was early evening and we had a good time talking about and looking at pictures of the time they visited us in Kodiak, AK. At about 8:30 we decided to leave and as Mary Kate stood on the porch, Frank walked us to our car. About half way to the car he stops us and says, “Wait! You can’t go yet!” He then ushered us back towards the porch and shouted to Mary Kate, “Mary Kate, put on a pizza.” She headed in the door and Frank started getting lawn chairs out of the garden shed. We both thought that Frank had lost his last brain cell and thought it best that we back slowly towards the car

before he snapped. He set up 4 lawn chairs and some camp tables in a semi-circle by a flower bed and asked us what we wanted to drink, We must have said something for he headed into the trailer and emerged with cold drinks. Shortly Mary Kate came out with a warmed up frozen pizza and we were directed to have a seat and enjoy. The sun was almost to the horizon.

Neither gave away the scene we were to behold. In front of us was a flower bed with several dozen evening primrose. As I chewed on a piece of pizza, the first yellow “flash” happened, followed by one after another after another. For the next 15-20 minutes we were in awe of a yellow nature fireworks display. We were hooked on evening primrose and withdrew our judgement of Franks mental state.

Give evening primrose a try. I could even save you some seed.



**MGVs Bernie Anderson, Ann Brocker, and Linda Werner (2009) with former First Lady Hope Taft at the Governor’s Mansion Heritage Garden Open House earlier in the summer.**

## Heavenly Honeysuckle

by Carol Schleich, Master Gardener 2013

We celebrated what would become unbeknownst to us my husband's last birthday by taking our treasured - not classic, just loved - red convertible to Pizza Hut and then to Dairy Queen with me insisting my son and his lovely bride ride with us, suggesting that she play the role of Lancaster Beauty Queen. Her only comment? She couldn't believe the overpowering scent of honeysuckle while driving through town. (She humors my silliness but did not wave or pose or otherwise draw attention to herself as we cruised Main Street.)

Several years ago my son wryly remarked about the clump of "weeds" growing up a post in the yard. He appreciates beauty when he sees it. Butterflies, bees and hummingbirds love honeysuckle nectar so the delightful aroma is merely a bonus.

Although honeysuckle, *Lonicera* (family Caprifoliaceae), is considered an undesirable, invasive plant, it is welcome at my house. A perennial flowering plant prized for its scented flowers, honeysuckle is often thought of as a climbing vine, but some species are more shrub-like. My

honeysuckle plants are healthy, no care volunteers, but apparently some people buy, plant, water, feed, mulch, and prune theirs and we may presume others spray herbicides, cut down and in any other possible way obliterate any trespassers. Since honeysuckle receives no nourishment from any plant it uses as a support, it is not a parasitic plant. However, due to its aggressive nature it crowds out other plants.

**Warning:** The berries and leaves of most honeysuckle are toxic to humans. However, birds

dine on honeysuckle berries.

A quick internet search reveals Southern style honeysuckle recipes using white or yellow flowers only for sorbet, jelly, sore throat remedy, wine, simple syrup, biscuits with sea salt peach butter, mint vinaigrette, and cordial. I vote for biscuits with sea salt peach butter.

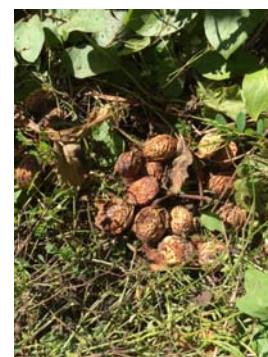
Traditional Chinese remedies include Japanese Honeysuckle flower's formidable medicinal value.

All this talk of honeysuckle and remembrance of its savory essence sent me to Amazon to order a Bath and Body Works Wild Honeysuckle Fine Fragrance Mist which will become my signature cologne until something else catches my nose.



### Garden Giggle

From Carol Schleich (MGV 2013)...  
Wild(life) Party? My peaches June 22; nothing but pits July 9. June Drop targets "some" immature fruits but since there is not a single peach left, members of an online gardening group suggested raccoons as the culprits. (The neat piles lend credence to that theory.) I love peaches, but the mere idea of the carousing, thieving rascals' festivities makes me smile.



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



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

### COMING SOON:

#### **Monthly Garden Learning Sessions—Licking County**

9:30-11:00am—Licking Extension Office, 771 East Main Street, Newark, OH 43055

Saturday Sept 23—Putting the Garden to Rest

Visit <https://licking.osu.edu/program-areas/master-gardener-volunteers/upcoming-programs-and-events>

#### **Thursday, September 28, 2017—10:00 am**

For those interested, MGUV visit to Licking County Children's Garden at OSU Extension in Licking County located at 771 E. Main Street, Newark. See article on page 2 about new partnership with Aha! Museum.

#### **September 29 and 30, 2017**

##### **Ohio State Master Gardener Conference**

Conference theme is *Grow Your Own Way!* Franklin County hosting at the 4-H Center, Columbus. Visit <http://go.osu.edu/2017statemgv> to register!

#### **Sunday, October 8, 2017— 2:00 to 5:00 pm**

**Wagnalls Gardens Fundraiser** - Rain or Shine, \$20 for wine and cheese event, art sale, music in the garden.

#### **October 8 -14, 2017**

Fairfield County Fair Week— MGUV activity needed for AgMazing Building. See Connie's Corner on page 2.

#### **October 9, 2017—Fall Flower Show—Fairgrounds Fairfield County Federated Garden Clubs**

Show theme is "A Great County Fair". Judging at 10 am, Monday, October 9. Show can be viewed from Monday afternoon through Saturday, October 14 in the art hall. The Federated Garden Clubs are: Bremen Garden Club, Carroll Community Garden Club, Faithful Gardeners Garden Club, Mystical Junior Gardeners. Basil Garden Club is the host. Contact Show Co-Chairs: Trudy Keck, 740-862-8206 or Jackie Cooperrider, 740-862-4432.

### SAVE THE DATE:

#### **December 13, 2017—11:00 am**

Christmas Trip to Saum Tree Farm  
Candle Ring Making...and tour of the trees.

Contact Kelley Scott at [scott.1863@osu.edu](mailto:scott.1863@osu.edu) or [kelleynotez@yahoo.com](mailto:kelleynotez@yahoo.com) with garden activities and events to include in the newsletter.



### ***WISHES FOR A HAPPY BIRTHDAY... CELEBRATE AND ENJOY!***

#### **SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS...**

Susan Blake, Lisa Dominguez, James Dyer, Linda Gaylor, Barbara Houston, Ann Huston, Mindy Killoran, Stephanie Kohler, Susan Lloyd, Laura Raybourne, Melissa Thatcher, Carolyn Wilson

#### **OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS....**

Nancy Busack, Michele Byrne, Keith Eichhorn, Diane Gerken, Bill Huston, Esther Messerknecht, Connie Rogers, Lisa Stoklosa, Patty Turner, Caryl Woods

#### **NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS....**

Suan Priser, Carol Schleich, Diane Sheridan, Dianna Wears, Linda Werner

## GARDEN MUSINGS

# How to Grow Lemons

by *Bruce Garrett, Master Gardener 2015*



On a recent trip back to the Bay Area, we just had drive past our old home in Oakland, CA, the house where Lola and I lived when our son was born. As we stopped to look at the house and take a picture, I noticed that it was still there....the lemon tree in the backyard. This was the first home at which I could grow some garden. Through all my gardening with my Dad in Ohio, I had never encountered a lemon tree. Try as I might, it just sat there, not flowering.

Neighbor Ken, an artist 30 years my elder who smoked cigarettes using a cigarette holder and grew beautiful tomatoes, walked over one day to give me some advice.

“Beat it,” he said.

“Huh,” I said.

“Roll up a newspaper and beat it. Up and down the trunk, all over the larger top branches. Beat it good. That way the tree will think it has been damaged and will send growth hormones up from the roots and it will flower. Just beat it!” (This was before Michael Jackson. Ken was a man before his time) “OK,” I said. So that night (you don’t think I was gonna do that in broad daylight, do you?) I crept into the backyard, evading the frequent searchlights of

police helicopters (This was the time of the Patty Hurst kidnapping and subsequent riots...Google it), and with my rolled up newspaper, beat the heck out of that tree. Lola was at the kitchen window laughing her you know what off.

Well, several weeks later, while I was practicing my pitching with the rather large snails in the backyard with the wooden fence as my catcher) I noticed buds on the lemon tree and within the next week it was covered with beautiful blooms. IT WORKED!!

Before the Navy transferred us to our new duty station, we had loads of lemons off of this 6 foot lemon tree. The tree didn’t beat me, I beat it. So, if you decide to use this information to get a fruit tree in gear, remember the most important step in this process. DO IT AT NIGHT. New moon would be best. Otherwise you could get caught and lose your MGCV credentials.



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

For more information contact:

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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.*