



Through the Vine

A Quarterly Newsletter of the OSU Extension Fairfield County Master Gardeners

Winter 2017

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

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Backyard Blooms, Booms, and Busts

by Carol Schleich, Master Gardener 2013



While cleaning up the yard and garden this past fall, I reflected on my gardening successes and failures and became even more committed to maintaining a yard and garden to sustain beauty, birds, butterflies, bees - and me. We will start with failures so as to end on a high note.

Disappointments

Failure extraordinaire and disappointment were my tomato plants. Five inches of rain in one day flooded the roots of my lovely love apples; the few plants that survived dropped their blossoms when the temps temporarily took a dive for a few nights. Whether beefsteak, golden sunray, cherry, heirlooms or pear, pommes d'amour are among summer's best offerings. Since I don't appreciate out of season "cardboard" produce, home grown, sun blessed tomatoes are my special treat. While I survived by the kindness of friends I wondered why my plants died and theirs survived.

After several years of residence, chocolate mint seems to have relocated and will be replaced. The scent, taste and appearance compete for their best quality. Only a small spearmint patch was knee deep and out of control, feeding insects.

My sole peony fell victim to my lawn mower when I got a little wild with the gas pedal. I accidentally took out a small clump of columbines at the same time. My bad.

Treading Water

Banana plants that were cut back and wintered inside in pots returned to last year's height but not a centimeter more. One will overwinter with its stalk cut back; one will be cut and stored ala a canna rhizomes. Healthy, towering tropicals are my goal and, darn it, they will flourish.

The squash ground cover produced only four zucchini, one large acorn squash, and six pumpkins but redeemed itself by choking out weeds.

You've probably seen the Re-Grow Fruits and Vegetables from Kitchen Scraps and Never Have to Buy Them Again articles. Although rooting celery seems easy enough and is healthy, (in my opinion) its taste and texture ruins any dish. Avocados grown from seeds make beautiful house plants but it is not reasonable to expect them to flourish and fruit in Ohio. Pineapples? Same result, assuming the pineapple doesn't

Article continued on page 4.



**THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



CONNIE'S CORNER

Dear Master Gardener Volunteers,

I hope you are all making plans to join us for our annual Master Gardener Holiday outing on Wednesday, December 13. We will begin at our activities at Shirkey's Pizza Zone located at 70 E. Canal Street in Carroll at 11:00 a.m. We will enjoy lunch of pizza and salad compliments of the Master Gardener Program and then travel to the Saum Family Christmas Tree Farm located at 4675 Hamburg Road near Lancaster. It will be a pretty quick trip from the bypass and we will be making candle rings or small wreathes and enjoying the day at a great local tree farm. Please do bring at least \$20.00 in cash for the cost of your project at Saum's. Also, call your reservations into the office at 740-652-7260 by December 11.

As another year of Master Gardener activities, comes to a close THANK YOU for your dedication and commitment to making the Fairfield County Master Gardener program GREAT!! I am very proud of each of our projects and the progress being made to make our corner of the world a little better through horticultural education. I am truly excited about what the New Year will bring for our program, especially with our new connection with the Aha Children's Museum. It will be an exciting time for growth and leadership within the Master Gardener program. Plus, a great opportunity to teach young people about our gardening passions!!

Again, thank you for sharing your time and talents with the Fairfield County Master Gardener Program. Best wishes for a delightful Holiday Season surrounded by family, friends, laughter and memorable times. I do look forward to seeing many of you on Wednesday, December 13 for our 2017 Master Gardener Christmas Activity!!

Connie Smith
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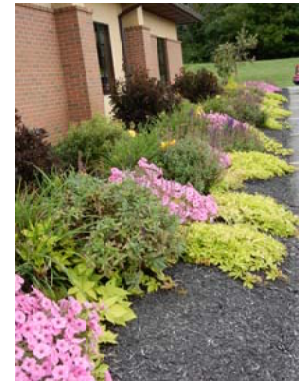
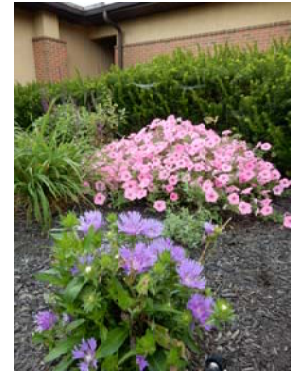
Holiday Gifts for Gardeners

by *Connie Smith, Master Gardener Coordinator*

- ◆ Garden Reference Books, as in the ones that have the same heft as a cast-iron frying pan, are a sure bet since gardeners never seem to have enough. Worthy options include the American Horticultural Society A-Z *Encyclopedia of Garden Plants*, Michael Dirr's *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants*, and Armitage's *Garden Perennials: A Color Encyclopedia* or *The Well Tended Perennial Garden* by Tracy DiSabato-Aust or the newly published *Garden-pedia* from Pam Bennett, the State Coordinator of the Ohio Master Gardener Program.
- ◆ A gift subscription to a good gardening magazine is always most welcome. (*Fine Gardening* or *Garden Gate* are must reads!!)
- ◆ A high quality rain gauge or a thermometer with minimum and maximum daily temperatures are items that a gardener will soon find indispensable.
- ◆ You can't go wrong with a well-crafted pair of pruners, or even a light-weight shovel or spade. (Love the Felco pruners!!!) Or how about a good pair of garden gloves? (Atlas Nitrile 370 are my favorite!!!)
- ◆ A classy ceramic or stainless-steel ice cream bucket or compost pail can replace that nasty old plastic container lurking under the kitchen sink.
- ◆ A gift certificate for a therapeutic massage can be a lifesaver for a gardener who tends to get a little too enthusiastic during the spring-planting.
- ◆ An IOU for hours of gardening labor may be the most valuable gift of all!

Beat the Winter Blues!

Thanks to **MGV Mary Carter (2017)** for compiling pictures of the stunning landscape efforts at the Agriculture Center this past season. If you need a break from the winter over the next few months, just keep this news page handy to recall warmer, brighter times!



Looking Forward to 2018

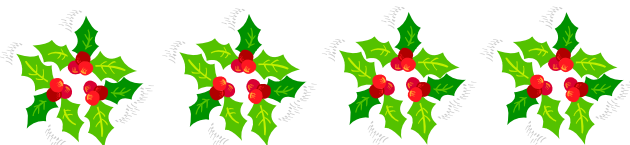
Please be sure to take a look at page 15 and make a note of the list of upcoming events for 2018. We are not doing Lunch & Learns during the winter months, but will be having monthly planning meetings to prepare for our Dig Into Gardening Event in April of 2018 plus making plans and sharing ideas for the children's learning garden at the Aha Children's Museum. Stay tuned, it is going to be a great new year!!

Recording MGV Hours

Please work on getting your hours recorded for 2017....by **December 15**. Remember volunteer and continuing education hours from MGV Training in the spring. If it is easier, just record your hours weekly or monthly rather than daily. If you have questions or concerns, contact Connie at smith.3204@osu.edu.

HELP KEEP INFORMATION CURRENT!

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



Blooms, Booms (cont'd from page 1)

rot. (Mine did.) Ah, but onions will regrow for anyone. I cut the ends from onions and instead of rooting them in water, I planted them in pots outside and enjoyed "chives" well into autumn.

Only Time Will Tell

A friend's father saved geraniums from year to year by brushing the dirt from the roots and hanging them upside down in their basement. I'd never tried until this year and there are only two but I gave it a whirl, using the paper sack method, alleged to be cleaner and less fuss, instead.

A pack of Tulipa 'Angélique' is chilling in my refrigerator's hydrator awaiting potting and forcing to bring a little early spring into my life. Advertised as "soft pink flowers with the romantic charm of a peony" it will be most welcome. Even though I've had only success with forcing bulbs, I'm too superstitious to take anything for granted. I do wish I'd purchased more.

Victory!

A dahlia tuber thrived in a large plastic caldron with the bottom cut out and filled with potting soil and dried cow manure. I lost count of how many luscious pink tipped yellow flowers fed bees and butterflies, while making me smile. Wish me luck overwintering the tubers.

I finally got up the confidence to divide and transplant two well established hostas. They flourished which means that next spring I will dig in and dig out a few more.



This past spring I bought a bag of twenty gladiolus and almost didn't bother to plant them because I was exhausted from family responsibilities and yard work (or was too lazy) and didn't realize how pretty they would be. They were gorgeous!

Guaranteed winners, as always, were the cannas, my organic hummingbird feeders. Every morning a hummer flitted in a circular route between



jewelweed, a Rose of Sharon and canna flowers and one fine day two danced a tango through the blooms. Coveting yellow and orange varieties, I had to use restraint when I walked past a group of flowers in downtown Lancaster - within sight of the

police station - when I felt a strong urge to pick seeds from the yellow ones. Fortunately they were deep in the middle of the display, keeping me safe from charges of trespassing or petty theft. I've read that the seeds of yellow and orange often revert back to red when they develop into plants so the reward would not be worth the risk. I do wonder what happens to rhizomes, bulbs and seeds of plants treated as annuals. When I worked in Columbus daffodils planted by the city were discarded after they bloomed and I was never allowed to give them a good home.

Apple mint continued to thrive and spread throughout the yard and garden. After being mowed, they would bounce back. Apple mint is an excellent bouquet filler.

A mommy Rose of Sharon self seeded at least ten babies along her base - and as a bonus, they are my favorite white blossomed ones.



The highlight of the growing season was the spectacular - and surprise - success of wisteria. In past years a distressed-bargain wisteria grew a thick trunk but never seemed happy enough to flower until it was brutally attacked by a chainsaw last autumn. This year an abundance of blooms blanketed the fence, overflowing into the yard and this fall was again cut back in anticipation of a return show in 2018.

It's (way) too early for spring fever but perhaps savoring a few memories of blooms and blossoms and birds will soften the winter blues.



Tool Wish List for Gardeners

by Sara Creamer, Fayette County MG Coordinator

Do you have a gardener in your life? Are gifts hard to buy for them? With Christmas coming, I thought it would be fun to see what books and tools Master Gardeners would recommend for the gardener on your shopping list. (*Editor Note: See companion article on page 9 for the book list.*)

The tool list is easy and has a big winner. If your favorite gardener does not have a soil knife, this is the tool to purchase. It is sometimes called a Japanese soil knife or a Hori-Hori knife. The one most often mentioned is the AM Leonard™ Deluxe Stainless Steel Soil Knife. Several people said it never leaves their side. I am not surprised. I have one that I use for digging out weeds and making planting holes. In addition, it easily opens a bag of mulch or potting soil. Any Japanese soil knife is a great tool but this one is the favorite of MGVs and is available from A. M. Leonard™ Horticultural Tool and Supply Company. There is a sheath available to keep them from losing this useful tool.

The soil knife seems to be taking the place of a trowel. Several MGVs still rely on a sturdy trowel in addition to their knife. The emphasis on sturdy is important. I use the Wilcox (Made in the USA) brand and have never bent one.

The second tool that MGVs could not live without was a good pair of pruners. You should always buy the bypass blade type. These cut cleanly and do not crush as the anvil types do. The most mentioned brands were Felco® and Okatsune. These brands come in several sizes and shapes. No specific pruner was favored since everyone's hands are different. The take home on pruners is do not settle for a cheap pair and always buy bypass type pruners. There is a sheath available to hold a soil knife and pruners, a perfect gift.

MGVs use loppers (by-pass), hedge shears, and Japanese folding handsaws in addition to their pruners for keeping plants in check.

It is no surprise that weeding tools were the next category of must have tools. Gardeners are always

in pursuit of those pesky weeds. None of these were what I would call a traditional hoe. They are known by such names as circle hoe, hula hoe, stirrup hoe, and loop hoe. They work best on young weeds and undercut the weed on the push and the pull separating it from its roots. My favorite weeding tool is the Push-Pull Hoe (Made in the USA) sold by Lehman's Hardware. A dear friend of mine had one thirty years ago. I could not find one until I ran across one at a flea market. Lanco Tools now makes the Push-Pull Hoe. Perhaps a bit pricey, but your gardener is worth it, right? Several short-handled weeding tools are popular. They are generally based on the design of a Japanese razor hoe. They cut on the pull only.

MGVs use shovels too. When I was in college, I asked my Grandmother for a shovel for Christmas. I think she was a bit puzzled but I received one. MGVs seem to like a sharp spade type shovel. My husband guards his King of Spades branded shovel closely (Made in the USA).

A practical gift is a Solo® pump up hand sprayer. They are easier to use than a mist bottle type sprayer. It is nice to have two sprayers so one can be dedicated to herbicide.

Several MGVs rely on their cameras to take pictures for identification later. They use the light meter to tell if a plant would get adequate light.

One MGV recommends a Power Planter® Soil Auger with 3/8" Hex Drive for planting. The auger fits into a drill and does not slip. The augers I have used in the past did slip and were not as heavy duty as this one. It would be worth a try.

Some MGVs dared to dream big. One wanted a cedar raised bed kit or a zinc topped potting bench. The ultimate wish was for a John Deere Gator™—ahhh what a luxury. Might be a little hard to wrap!!

A.M. Leonard's Garden Edge™ is located in Piqua, Ohio. They have gift cards and carry a wide range of gardener tools that MGVs recommend. Gardener's Supply Company in Vermont also has gift cards and is a popular source of tools.

DESTINATION GARDENS

Ohio Pawpaw Festival

by *Bruce Garrett, Master Gardener 2015*



Pickin' up pawpaws, puttin' 'em in your pocket (come on, sing along. All you older folks know the tune). Way down yonder in the pawpaw patch.

Well, one thing I learned at the festival is that if the pawpaws are ripe enough to eat, don't put them in your pocket or you'll have a slimy mess. (Historical note: in the 1800's, ladies wore dresses, largely without pocket so many wore a "pocket" somewhat like our fanny packs today. Pawpaws could have fit in these. See an authentic ladies' pocket in the Master Bedroom at the Sherman House)

The 19th annual Ohio Pawpaw Festival was held September 15-17 at Lake Snowden in Albany, OH. The festival was jam packed with lectures, pawpaw contests, lake activities, beer tasting, eating and all day music. In the numerous tents you could learn about pollinators and how to attract them, wildlife of Ohio, solar power and how to add it to your home, birding, farming and much more. At one workshop I learned how a local small farmer is using goat poop to create methane which he and his wife use to cook. He had his digester there and it consisted of 3 plastic barrels with bladders and a few plumbing supplies that could be purchased at a local hardware. They even popped some popcorn on their methane stove.

And, of course, you could learn anything you want to know about pawpaws from how to grow them, how to manage your wild pawpaw patch and how to use them in a variety of items. You can taste or purchase pawpaws and at the pawpaw tasting area you can get some seeds if you want to pick them out of the bucket of pawpaw skin and left over parts.



The festival is a great place for kids. Activities for them include Professor Bubblemaker, balloon fun, horse drawn wagon rides, pedal cars, a climbing/acrobatic dome and, my granddaughter's favorite, the atlatl throw. Since the festival is at

Lake Snowden, which is managed by Hocking College, bring your canoes and kayaks to paddle the lake or rent boats there.

One of the biggest draws for my family is the music. Music on the stage goes to 10:30 pm or later Friday and Saturday and 3:30 Sunday and includes everything from folk music to The Almighty Get Down on Saturday night. The Almighty had a great brass section and went until well after midnight. Our campsite was across an arm of the lake from the stage and we sat around the campfire listening to music well into the night.

This year we decided to camp at the festival and spend all three days there. There is unlimited tent camping there but site camping is limited and reservations for the following year are sold out by noon on Sunday of the festival. We waited until Sunday morning and only got another non electric site for next year. Next year we will reserve our 2019 site as soon as we check in on Friday.

To learn more about the Ohio Pawpaw festival, go to <https://www.ohiopawpawfest.com/index.html>.



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**

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

The Gift of an Orchid

by *Dianna Wears, Master Gardener 2011*



Were you the lucky recipient of an orchid over the holidays? Or, did you decide to “splurge” and treat yourself to one of those beautiful orchids? If yes, read on for tips to help you keep your plant in tip-top shape and bloom it again next year. If no, read on to learn how easy that exotic looking plant can be to take care of and enjoy!

Most orchids sold at big box stores are Phalaenopsis orchids, commonly called “moth orchids” due to their shape and the large number of them on a bloom spike that may remind you of a “flock” of moths. They are so popular because they are easy for a beginner to grow, they like the growing conditions in our homes, and the blooms can last up to 4 months or more. Some may even bloom twice in a year or send up multiple bloom spikes, which are called inflorescences.

An east or west facing window will meet the light requirements most of the year. Watch the plant and if the margins of the leaves are showing a red color, your plant is receiving too much light and should be moved farther away from the window. In no case should the leaves ever touch the cold window glass.

Watering requirements depend on the type of potting mix the orchid is in. Generally, plants grown in a chunky bark mix will only need watered weekly or so. Those planted in sphagnum moss will need watered even less. Most orchids are killed by overwatering. If you only have a few plants, the best way to water them is to take them to the kitchen sink and allow warm water to run through the bark mix. Do not do this with orchids planted in moss. Check them for water needs by inserting a pencil into the mix as you would a toothpick into a cake. If the pencil comes out clean and dry, time to water. If you have a water softener, do not use that (salted) water on your plants. Rainwater, RO water or straight well water will suffice.

Another way to determine if your plant needs water is to look at the aerial roots. Roots growing outside

of the potting mix are normal. Do not attempt to put them back into the planting mix as they can break. If the roots are a silver or gray color or appear shriveled, time to water. If they are green and plump, the orchid does not need watered. Do not get water into the crown of the plant as this can lead to crown rot which can be fatal. Do not water with ice cubes, even if that is on the tag. This is a marketing gimmick – cold water or ice can shock the tropical orchid.

When all the flowers on the inflorescence have died, cut it off near the bottom and continue watering as above. When the weather warms up with temperatures consistently above 50 degrees at night, take the plant outside for the summer. Place it under a tree or on a shaded porch or patio. Dappled east or west sun is fine, but never full sun in the summer as the leaves will sunburn.

Fertilize in the summer once or twice a month according to the directions on the package of orchid fertilizer. If it does not rain, supplemental watering will be needed.

In the fall, when night temperatures start getting into the 50's, bring your orchid inside. Your plant should soon start putting up a new inflorescence. When it reaches 3-4", gently push a bamboo stake into the pot and clip the inflorescence to it. As the inflorescence elongates, move the clip up or add another clip. Do not turn the plant once the inflorescence has started to elongate or your flowers will not present evenly and will be turned in different directions.

If you buy or receive one of the orchids that are blue or have been otherwise colored, next year's bloom will be white. If your plant dies shortly after you received it, it was most likely as a result of how it was handled prior to the purchase. Orchids have become so inexpensive, try again!

See, that wasn't too hard! There are all colors, stripes and spotted orchids – you are sure to find one to love! For more information, you can visit the American Orchid Society's web site at www.AOS.org.



Wild Garlic – Scapes and Teeny, Tiny and Tasty Bulbils

by Carol Schleich, Master Gardener 2013

Allium canadense: The Stinking Rose. AKA Wild Garlic and Meadow Garlic

A year or two ago while ambling off a beaten path I stumbled upon plants that resembled wild onions, but the tops puzzled me. Always ready for an adventure or experiment (as long it is nothing that would scare a four year old) I pulled a few and took them home, laid them in a bed of hostas and never gave them another thought. I didn't even bother to half heartedly plant them.

Earlier this year while weeding, I was surprised to see the mystery plants soaking up the sun and enjoying life. Using goodsearch.com (each search earns one shiny penny to a charity of your choice) I learned that the odd top of the wild "onion" was called a scape and that we were talking about garlic, not onion. If it smells like an onion you can eat it. If it looks like a garlic and smells like a garlic you can eat it. If you do not smell a garlic or an onion odor it might be a similar-looking toxic plant. They are drought and cold hardy, but unfortunately the season for garlic scapes is short.

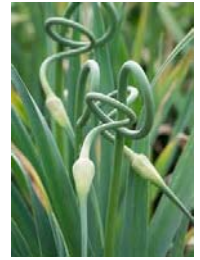
The scapes were too tough for my taste, but perhaps they were past their prime. Next year, I will pick them earlier. If you are interested, there are scape recipes, including pesto. Scapes can also be grilled, pickled, and substituted for scallions.



Through benign neglect or disinterest, the scapes matured and developed into bulbils, tiny garlic cloves. A head of bulbils resemble raspberries both in size and in appearance.

The miniature cloves are a tender yet strong tasting delicacy when sprinkled on top of pasta, salads, steak, pizza, cheese spread and canapés.

The teeny, tiny tasty treats can also be infused into olive oil or vinegar.



Allium canadense attracts bees, hummingbirds and butterflies, but its strong scent makes it unappealing to deer and rabbits.

For history buffs, an agricultural bulletin published in 1965 (!!!) appeared to consider garlic scapes a scourge upon the earth because wild garlic contains allyl sulfide that imparts a disagreeable odor and garlicky taste to agricultural products. This is of no concern to those of us without dairy cattle or goats.

Page upon page offers information about eradication of this evil wild vegetable. The 1950s and 1960s were the heyday of chemical control, but even way back in the early 1900s crankcase oil, carbolic acid, sulfuric acid, fuel oil, orchard heating oil, sodium chloride and sodium arsenite were used to kill wild garlic but were discontinued when these means also destroyed crops. I'm trying to picture Great Grandpa pouring orchard heating oil, whatever that may be, on these rogue weeds when Great Grandma could have just tossed them into soup. However as I was raised on unpasteurized milk with the taste of overpowering wild onions I can understand the need to rid pastures of all things onion and garlic. To this day I refuse to drink milk. And since Great Grandpa and Great Grandma needed milk for their family to drink, cook with, make butter and often, to sell, we will give them a pass for destroying what was to them a nuisance weed.



Books for Your Gardeners

by Sara Creamer, Fayette County MG Coordinator

It turns out that Master Gardeners have a wide variety of books on their bookshelves. It makes sense. All of us tend to specialize. One of the Fayette County Master Gardeners is our go to guy on fruit and vegetables but is not comfortable with flowers. Like all good MGs he knows where to go to find the answer to all flower questions.

The first list is ten books that are great books for a gardener's library. They are in no particular order, although Dirr was the most mentioned author. Yes, I know that the top ten list has more than ten books, but some authors deserve multiple listings. Most of these books are on our library shelf at home. The lists that follow are on specific topics (we have a lot of these, too).

So, you ask, which books from this list will be on my Christmas list? I think, *The Hidden Life of Trees, Insects and Gardens: In Pursuit of a Garden Ecology*, and *The Forbidden Orchid* will be on the list.

A Gardener's Book List, Ten+ Must Have Books:

- 1.a. *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants: Their Identification, Ornamental Characteristics, Culture, Propagation and Uses* by Michael Dirr
 - b. *Dirr's Hardy Trees and Shrubs: An Illustrated Encyclopedia or Dirr's Encyclopedia of Trees and Shrubs* by Michael Dirr
 - c. *The Reference Manual Of Woody Plant Propagation: From Seed To Tissue Culture* by Michael Dirr
2. *Manual of Herbaceous Ornamental Plants* by Steven M. Still
- 3.a. *The Well-Tended Perennial Garden: The Essential Guide to Planting and Pruning Techniques* by Tracy DiSabato-Aust
 - b. *The Well-Designed Mixed Garden: Building Beds and Borders with Trees, Shrubs, Perennials, Annuals, and Bulbs* by Tracy DiSabato-Aust
- 4.a. *Armitage's Garden Perennials 2nd Edition* by Allen Armitage

- b. *Armitage's Garden Annuals: A Color Encyclopedia* by Allen Armitage

5. *The New Self-Sufficient Gardener* by John Seymore

6. *The Vegetable Gardener's Bible, 2nd Edition: Discover Ed's High-Yield W-O-R-D System for All North American Gardening Regions: Wide Rows, Organic Methods, Raised Beds, Deep Soil* by Edward C. Smith

7. *Pruning and Training, Revised New Edition: What, When, and How to Prune* by Christopher Brickell and David Joyce

8. *American Horticultural Society Pests and Diseases: The Complete Guide to Preventing, Identifying and Treating Plant Problems* by Pippa Greenwood, Andrew Halstead, A.R. Chase, and Daniel Gilrein

- 9.a. *American Horticultural Society Encyclopedia of Gardening* by Christopher Brickell
 - b. *American Horticultural Society New Encyclopedia of Gardening Techniques* by American Horticultural Society

10. *Garden Insects of North America: The Ultimate Guide to Backyard Bugs* by Whitney Cranshaw and David Shetlar

Ohio

1. *Tree & Shrub Gardening for Ohio* by Fred Hower and Alison Beck
2. *Perennials for Ohio* by Debra Knapke and Alison Beck
3. *Wildflowers of Ohio, Second Edition* by Robert L. Henn
4. *The Gardening Book for Ohio* (2004 revised edition) by Denny McKeown
5. *Midwest Fruit and Vegetable Book: Ohio Edition* by James A Fizzell

Article continued on page 10.

Gardener Books (cont'd from page 9)

Permaculture/Nature/Natives

1. *Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants, Updated and Expanded* by Doug Tallamy
2. *Planting in a Post-Wild World: Designing Plant Communities for Resilient Landscapes* by Thomas Rainer and Claudia West
3. *Noah's Garden: Restoring the Ecology of Our Own Backyards* by Sara Stein
4. *Garden Revolution: How Our Landscapes Can Be a Source of Environmental Change* by Thomas Christopher
5. *The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden* by Rick Darke and Douglas W. Tallamy
6. *Gaia's Garden: A Guide to Home-Scale Permaculture, 2nd Edition* by Toby Hemenway
7. *Armitage's Native Plants for North American Gardens* by Allen Armitage
8. *Newcomb's Wildflower Guide* by Lawrence Newcomb, Gordon Morrison (Illustrator)
- 9.a. *The Midwestern Native Garden: Native Alternatives to Nonnative Flowers and Plants* by Charlotte Adelman and Bernard L. Schwartz
 - b. *Midwestern Native Shrubs and Trees: Gardening Alternatives to Nonnative Species* by Charlotte Adelman and Bernard L. Schwartz
- 10.a. *Attracting Native Pollinators: The Xerces Society Guide to Conserving North American Bees and Butterflies and Their Habitat* by The Xerces Society
 - b. *Gardening for Butterflies: How You Can Attract and Protect Beautiful, Beneficial Insects* by The Xerces Society
11. *Native Trees for North American Landscapes* by Guy Sternberg with Jim Wilson

Botany/Biology

1. *Of Naked Ladies and Forget-Me-Nots: The Stories Behind the Common Names of Some of Our Favorite Plants* By Allen Armitage
2. *Understanding Perennials: A New Look at an Old Favorite* by William Cullina
3. *Insects and Gardens: In Pursuit of a Garden Ecology* by Eric Grissell
4. *Botany for Gardeners, 3rd Edition* by Brian Capon
5. *The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate—Discoveries from a Secret World* by Peter Wohlleben (Author), Jane Billingham (Translator), Tim Flannery (Foreword)

Organic/Integrated Pest Management

1. *IPM for Gardeners: A Guide to Integrated Pest Management* by Raymond A. Cloyd, Philip L. Nixon, Nancy R. Pataky
2. *How to Grow Vegetables and Fruits by the Organic Method* by J. I. Rodale
3. *All New Square Foot Gardening II: The Revolutionary Way to Grow More in Less Space* by Mel Bartholomew
- 4.a. *The Ruth Stout No-work Garden Book* by Ruth Stout and Richard Clemence
 - b. *Gardening Without Work: For the Aging, the Busy, and the Indolent* by Ruth Stout
5. *Weedless Gardening* by Lee Reich
6. *The Organic Gardener's Handbook of Natural Pest and Disease Control: A Complete Guide to Maintaining a Healthy Garden and Yard the Earth-Friendly Way* Edited by Fern Marshall Bradley, Barbara W. Ellis, and Deborah L. Martin

Article continued on page 11.



Gardener Books (cont'd from page 10)

Youth

1. *Gardening for Beginners* Publisher: Usborne
2. *The Plant Hunters: True Stories of Their Daring Adventures to the Far Corners of the Earth* by Anita Silvey
3. *Linnea in Monet's Garden* by Cristina Bjork, Lena Anderson, trans. Joan Sandin
4. *The Seasons of Arnolds Apple Tree* by Gail Gibbons
5. *The Pumpkin Book* by Gail Gibbons
6. *The Biggest Pumpkin Ever* by Steven Kroll
7. *Too Many Pumpkins* by Linda White
8. *The Magic School Bus Inside a Beehive* by Joanna Cole (Author), Bruce Degen (Illustrator)
9. *The Tiny Seed* by Eric Carle

Miscellaneous

1. *Gracia's Herbs* by Gracia Schlabach
2. *Arborists' Certification Study Guide, Third Edition* by S.J. Lilly
3. *The Color Encyclopedia of Ornamental Grasses: Sedges, Rushes, Restios, Cat-Tails and Selected Bamboos* by Rick Darke
4. *The New Shade Garden: Creating a Lush Oasis in the Age of Climate Change* by Ken Druse (Author)
5. *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life* by Barbara Kingsolver
6. *Garden-pedia: An A-to-Z Guide to Gardening Terms* by Pamela Bennett and Maria Zampini
7. *Great Gardens of America* by Tim Richardson , Andrea Jones (Photographer)
8. *Taylor's Guide to Heirloom Vegetables* by Benjamin Watson
9. *The Forbidden Orchid* by Sharon Biggs Waller (This is a novel.)

Magazines

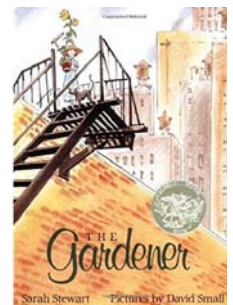
1. *Garden Gate*
2. *Birds and Blooms*
3. *Country Living*
4. *GreenPrints, the "Weeder's Digest"*
5. *Ohio Gardener Magazine*

RIPE FOR THE PICKING

Gifts for Gardeners To Give

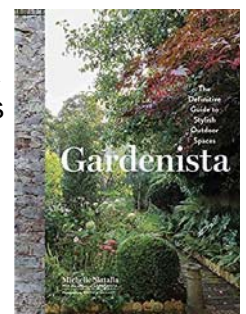
The Gardener by Sarah Stewart

The story of Lydia Grace Finch is as beautiful now as it was when it won a Caldecott award twenty years ago. It's the depression. Her suffering farm family sends her to live in the city with her baker uncle. She brings her indomitable spirit and packets of seeds with her. She uses both to change her world. Gorgeous illustrations will entrance any young or older reader. Available in hardback - \$19.00 and paperback - \$9.00.



Gardenista: The Definitive Guide to Stylish Outdoor Spaces by Michelle Slatalla

Eye candy for the gardener and a winter full of inspiration would come with this gift. Modern to vintage, wild to orderly, stunning photographs of a wide variety of gardens are fun to look through. A large section includes DIY projects whimsical to practical to elevate the look and comfort of an outdoor living area. One section features tools and decorations and another has tips from the professionals. The author does include a "where to purchase" section but many of these sources are no longer available. For information about plants and growth one would have to use another source but as a guide to achieving or just dreaming about loveliness it's hard to beat. \$27.19 at Amazon.



Reviews by Barbara Kochick, MG 2013

Christmas Cactus Care

by *Sandra Mason, Illinois State Master Gardener Coordinator*

For years I have heard the frantic calls of Christmas cactus caretakers. Nobody wants to be the descendant that killed grandma's Christmas cacti. My suggestion – give lots of stem cuttings to your relatives. It's always best to spread the pressure around.

Holiday cacti are known for their colorful tubular flowers and ease of care. They include Christmas, Thanksgiving and Easter cacti. Christmas cacti have flattened leaves with rounded teeth on the margins as opposed to the Thanksgiving cactus that has pointed teeth. Easter cacti have pointed teeth with fibrous hairs in the leaf joints. Under normal conditions the holiday cacti will bloom close to the holiday suggested in its name. Florists will often force plants into bloom at other times. To make things really confusing, most of the Christmas cactus sold are actually Thanksgiving cactus and will bloom in subsequent years at Thanksgiving time. So don't be surprised if the plant you bought last year at Christmas time is blooming now.

Holiday cacti are easy to care for once you realize they are not the sun-loving, drought-loving cacti of the desert. In their native range they live in the rain forest of the Organ Mountains of Brazil. As epiphytes they live in tree branches happily rooted in accumulated organic debris with rainfall amounts varying from a whopping 17 inches per month in December through March to just 3 inches per month in the subsequent dry season.

A common concern is the holiday cactus no longer blooms. Getting them into flower requires a little understanding of what makes them tick. Holiday cacti are short day plants meaning they bloom when nights are at least 14 hours long and daylight periods are between 8-10 hours for 6 weeks. Streetlights or indoor lighting may disrupt the required dark period so they may need to be covered each night. Holiday cacti will also flower if

exposed to prolonged cool temperatures between 50-55 degrees F. No flowers will form at night temperatures above 68 degrees F regardless of light length.

Holiday cacti can be placed in a shady spot in the garden in summer. I just leave mine outside or in an unheated porch until temperatures get below 50 degrees. The naturally longer nights and cool temperatures in late summer will encourage flower development. Grandma may have virtually ignored them in a spare bedroom or garage where temperatures were cool and no lights were used at night.

Once plants are in flower, they should be kept in bright, indirect light. Day temperatures of 70 degrees F and evening temperatures of 60-65 degrees F are considered ideal. Be sure to water thoroughly, but let plant dry slightly between waterings. It is especially important not to let soil dry too much during flowering.

Once flowers fade, continue to grow the plant as a houseplant. Soil should be well drained and most container soils will work. Fertilize monthly between April and October with a complete houseplant fertilizer. Prune plants in June to encourage branching and more flowers. Just remove a few sections of each stem with your fingers or a sharp knife. The removed pieces can be rooted in moist vermiculite to make more plants.

A common problem with Christmas cacti is dropping unopened flower buds, which may be caused by low humidity, a sudden change in temperature or light, or soil that is too dry. The most common insect pests are mealybugs and soft brown scale. The major disease is stem and root rot. Plants appear wilted and dull gray-green with water-soaked dead areas near the soil line often with faded reddish margins. Stem leaves often fall off. Avoid excessive watering to prevent. Cut out infected areas, repot into clean soil and hope your relatives have had more success.

DESTINATION GARDENS

Cincinnati Nature Center and Edible Plants & Foraging Group

by *Melinda Lee Adkins, Master Gardener 2015*

Last winter while researching Ohio gardens, I discovered the website for the Cincinnati Nature Center. It is located in Rowe Woods at 4949 Tealtown Road, Milford, Ohio. The property consists of 1,600 acres of forests, fields, streams, and ponds with 16 miles of hiking trails for visitors to enjoy. While hiking, visitors may explore a few of the special site features. These sites include: Oak Allee, Krippendorf Lodge, Abner Hollow Pioneer Cabin, the Herb Wall, the Celebration Garden, and Grosbeck Lodge and Garden. Take a moment to watch the Cincinnati Nature Center video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fMPjn_KLRfA#action=share

As I perused the Cincinnati Nature Center website I was thrilled to find a group/club section with the Edible Plants and Foraging Group. Of course, I joined. As a member of the Edible Plants and Foraging Group I receive an email schedule of group events and programs to attend. The Fall 2017 programs were remarkable. The season started off with a Cornelian Cherry presentation with samples of cornelian cherry jam. After the presentation the participants made sharbat and a Persian rice dish using cornelian cherries. Pawpaw Hunting and Pawpaw Fermentation were the next two programs. Patrick Mulrey, a professional brewer, shared his expertise on how to make pawpaw beer, pawpaw wine and paw paw mead. The Pawpaw Fermentation class ended with the attendees enjoying pawpaw beer and pawpaw crepes. For Pawpaw recipes go to this Kansas State University link:

<http://www.pawpaw.kysu.edu/pawpaw/recipes.htm>

The Edible Plants and Foraging group programs are popular and are well attended but the Taste of Nature programs sell out. The most recent Taste of Nature



programs featured Spicebush and Persimmon. Jason Neumann, Program Manager, conducted a short presentation which was followed by the caterer, Elegant Fare, serving delicious creations from the featured plant.

Article continued on page 14.

Start Your Garden Indoors

Learn how to start your garden indoors so that your seedlings will be ready in the spring. This 3-part YouTube series is presented by Pam Bennett, Horticulture Educator and Ohio Master Gardener Volunteer Coordinator.

Part 1: Garden Seedling Supplies

<https://youtu.be/AF9sF4dbsac>

Part 2: Starting Garden Seeds Indoors

<https://youtu.be/hNASrv4gxWI>

Part 3: Transplanting Your Indoor Garden Seedlings

<https://youtu.be/e43x-u46fPk>

Ohio Woodland Stewards

The Ohio Woodland Stewards Program promotes stewardship across the woodlands of Ohio through classes, professional workshops and publications.

Check out their website throughout the year for more information!

<https://woodlandstewards.osu.edu/>

Cincinnati Nature Center (cont'd from page 13)

The Spicebush menu included: Spicebush Chicken Yakitori with Yuzu; Spiced Butternut Squash Puffed Pinwheels with Parmesan; Pork Loin Brioche Cups with Spicebush Apple Compote; Vin Chaud “hot wine” with orange; and Spicebush Walnut Chocolate Macaroons.

The Persimmon menu included: Endive Cups with Marinated Feta, Roasted Beets and Persimmon Basil Jelly; Thai Rice Cracker with persimmon Sambal; Crostini Con Cachi Persimmon Puree with Brie and Candied Pistachios; Spicy Persimmon Pie in Mini Tart Shells with Persimmon Pulp, Condensed Milk, Egg, Ginger, and All Spice; and Persimmon Tea.

The fall program schedule concluded with these three programs: Black Walnuts, Inspirations from Europe; Wild Herbs for First Aid with Abby Artemisia; and Aquatic Edible Tubers.

To become a member of The Cincinnati Nature Center and register for programs go to their website at: <http://www.cincynature.org/>

Another notable section of the Cincinnati Nature Center website is The Nature Guys Podcast. In 2016, Bill, the Chief Naturalist at the Cincinnati Nature Center, retired. Bill met Bob, a Cincinnati Nature Center volunteer, and they created the Nature Guys Podcast that launched in October 2016. Past podcast show topics have included: the Mighty Milkweed, Stinging Nettle, Spring Fungi, Down Yonder in the Paw Paw Patch, Monarchs on the Move, Hedge Apples, Hummingbirds, Oh Deer, and many more shows to listen, learn, laugh and enjoy are available. To listen to the Nature Guys Podcast go to: <http://natureguys.org/>

For an enchanting experience, visit the Cincinnati Nature Center and Rowe Woods.

References:
The Cincinnati Nature Center Website
Kansas State University



From the kitchen of **Elegant Fare** in Cincinnati:

Spicy Persimmon Pie

30 mini tart shells
2 cups pureed persimmon pulp
14 oz sweetened condensed milk
2 eggs
4 tsp pumpkin pie spice
1/8 tsp salt

Preheat oven to 350°. Combine persimmon pulp, sweetened condensed milk, eggs, pumpkin pie spice, and salt in large bowl. Beat with an electric mixer until well blended. Pour into tart shells. Bake until persimmon filling is set—about 15 minutes. Cool on wire rack.

From the kitchen of **Elegant Fare** in Cincinnati:

Crostini Con Cachi

1/2 baguette sliced on bias—20 pieces
2 persimmons, halved and thinly sliced crosswise—16 pieces
8 oz thinly sliced brie cheese
2 tsp light brown sugar
Pinch of black pepper

Preheat oven to 350° and toast crostini until golden. Top each crostini with brie, persimmon and a sprinkle of brown sugar and black pepper. Bake in 350° oven until cheese melts.



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 Fairfield MGV Planning Meetings

2:00-4:00pm—Fairfield County Agriculture Center
831 College Avenue, Lancaster, OH 43130

Thursday, January 11, 2018

Thursday, February 8, 2018

Thursday, March 8, 2018

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Thursday, May 10, 2018

Columbus Dispatch Spring Home and Garden Show - February 17 to February 25, 2018

Ohio Expo Center—Columbus

Featuring exhibitors, events, and attractions for home and garden

SAVE THE DATE:

19th Annual Central Ohio Perennial Flower School Spring 2018—Clark County MG event

Watch for more information at

<http://clark.osu.edu/program-areas/agriculture-and-natural-resources/horticulture/central-ohio-perennial-flower-school>

Dig Into Gardening Educational Day

April 2018—Fairfield County MG event

Watch for more information at <http://fairfield.osu.edu> in the new year!

Contact Kelley Scott at scott.1863@osu.edu or

kelleynotez@yahoo.com with garden activities and events to include in the newsletter.



GREEN YOUR HOLIDAYS

Let EarthShare help you plan an eco-friendly holiday season! They share simple ways you can make the season of celebration a celebration of the planet we all share. Visit their website at <http://www.earthshare.org/2008/09/holidays.html>



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

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS...

Chris Audette, Ann Brandt, Paul Dilliard, Carolyn Harris, Hank Jones, Barbara Kochick, Linda Landis, Mary Love, Nancy Morrison, Brian Myers, Michele Myers, Louise Smith, Pamela Smith, Julie Tharp, Gina Wagner, Edna Wilson

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS....

Phyllis Chambers, Trish Jones, Linda McCague, Ann Porter, Paul Posey, MaryAnn Richards, Melody Schmitt, Gene Svoboda, Jane Thoman, Joyce Wylie

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS....

Georgia Achtermann, Joy Ballinger, Nancy Bower, Ann Brocker, Joan Barrows, Sarah Dalton, Ginger Deuley, Bruce Garrett, Dorie Kirwin, Barbara Mann, Jackie Marion, Susan Osborne, Libby Stearns, Barbara Velez-Barbosa



GARDEN MUSINGS

Closed: The Case of the Disappearing Squash

by Carol Schleich, Master Gardener 2013



Pumpkin, zucchini and acorn squash seeds germinated and the plants blossomed all summer, but they bore few fruit.

Caught in the Act

At approximately 3:37 a.m, October 1, 2017, while on routine Potty Patrol Lt. Shiloh Lasagna Schleich apprehended Vernon R. Quigley III, aka Mooney the Moocher, age unknown, in the act of snacking on a teeny tiny zucchini squash. Quigley was arraigned on charges of petty theft and trespassing and after being released on his own recognizance, waddled under a set of steps. (If you are a squash) Quigley should be considered armed and dangerous.

relocate wild animals. Since I do not have the heart to kill a living creature, either, I guess I'm stuck with the Mooney the Moochers of this world.

Beneficial and Relatively Harmless

However, o'possums (*Didelphis marsupials*) could be my new BFF as they are scavengers that devour ticks, rats, mice and road kill among other undesirables, including snakes. While annihilating scary serpents, possums seldom carry diseases common to cats and dogs: distemper, parvovirus, feline hepatitis. I will still plant seeds every spring, enjoying the plants as ground cover and accepting that the fruits of my labor will feed Mr. Quigley and his family and friends. Even though we've been admonished to ignore the popular saying, "the enemy of my enemy is my friend" when it comes to removing slithering vermin from my life, have at it, *Didelphis marsupials*! And consider my pumpkins your first course.



Mug Shot Courtesy of Dogwood Acres P.D.

It is Illegal to Trap and Relocate the Moocher

Even though farm stores sell humane traps in sizes ranging from rat to armadillo to coyote, it is illegal – not to mention wreckless to mess with coyotes - to



Through the Vine is a publication of the Ohio State University Extension Office in Fairfield County
Kelley Scott, 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.