

THE GREENE LEAFLET

News for OSU Extension Greene County Master Gardener Volunteers

May/June 2022

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By: Debbie Downes

Mother Nature's Clock -- Phenology

Dick Baker has been a Greene County Master Gardener Volunteer for over 16 years. Almost from the start he has volunteered his time in the Phenology and Pollinator Garden and is currently the project leader. The garden first began at James Ranch and is currently located across the street from the Xenia bike station and is part of the OSUE phenology garden network.

Dick has been a gardener for most of his life learning from his dad. Dick says his dad was one of the original organic gardeners, avoiding pesticides and trying to incorporate beneficial insects. In his home gardens, Dick plants tomatoes, peppers, and cucumbers. He is also trying to plant more perennials, but says he has a problem. "When I see a plant, I buy it, and then I get home and think, where should I plant it?" His favorite season is spring when everything comes to life. His gardening nemesis is weeds and he wonders why there is not more research on taking the good qualities of weeds and combining them with the weaker qualities of the plants we should be growing.

The Phenology Garden in Xenia is part of a statewide network of identical gardens across Ohio. Each garden started with identical plant material consisting of 17 common trees and shrubs and 15 perennial plants. In 2014, the network expanded to include pollinators. The blooming sequence is recorded throughout the growing season. Dick and other phenology garden managers record their observations to include the date of first bloom and the date of end of bloom. This information is entered into the OSUE Phenology calendar.

Phenology is the study of recurring biological phenomena and their relationship to weather. Bird migration, hunting and gathering seasons, blooming of wildflowers and trees, and the seasonal appearance of insects are examples of phenological events that have been recorded for centuries. Phenology comes from the Greek word "to appear". If you google OSU Phenology Garden Network, you can view the gardens that actively record data. The Greene County: Xenia Station is one of those. There are several ways you can use this information. You can see the sequence of events, growing degree information, pictures of plants or insect emergence, and compare past years. This information can be used by farmers and gardeners to determine best planting times and when to anticipate emerging pests. It can be used in human related events such as allergies and mosquito season.

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UPCOMING MEETING/EVENT/TEAM CALENDAR

MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETINGS

All Meetings are at 6:30pm

February 8th, zoom
March 8th, zoom
April 12th, In-person
May 10th, In-person
June 14th, In-person
July 12th, In-person
August 9th, In-person
September 13th, In-person
October, TBD
November 8th, In-person

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

all meetings are at 10:30am

January 20th
February 17th
March 8th
April 21st
May 19th, zoom
June 16th
July 21st
August 18th
September 15th
October 20th
November 17th
December 15th

Updates will be posted on the website
greene.osu.edu

CONTINUING EDUCATION

CFAES

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Greene County – Agriculture and Natural Resources

Continuing Education Events Available to Master Gardener Volunteers

Additional Programs:

All programs will require pre-registration, for links go to greene.osu.edu

State OSUE MGV Lunch & Learn and Hort Happy Hour Webinar Series
2021-2022

The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden Events

Miami County Coffee with the Master Gardener Volunteers

Cuyahoga Master Gardeners

OSU Bee Lab Workshops & Webinars

OSU Bee Lab Tending Nature Webinar Series

Ohio Woodland Stewards Program



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COORDINATOR'S NOTES SECTION

So fellow gardeners here we are in June, the spring weeds are quickly dying while the summer weeds are maturing at a rapid rate. Thankfully, we are receiving rain on a regular basis so controlling them by hand is fairly easy but time consuming! As the season wears on and the weeds persistently prevail over our attempts to exclude them from our gardens, we may look at alternative control methods for help. There are numerous over the counter control options available to gardeners on the market. Before you pick up the first product you see to eliminate your nemesis, remember to correctly identify the weed in order to find the correct control method. Misuse of pesticides are an environmental hazard and can contribute to many other issues while doing nothing to eliminate the targeted pest. I cannot emphasize this point enough.

Every week, Trevor and I receive inquiries on controlling pests such as poison hemlock and when we ask for pictures or sample, the pest is not what the person originally identified it as. As MGVs, you are our eyes and ears in the community. People will stop you to ask questions on solving pest (weeds, insects, and disease) issues in their home lawns and gardens. Do not be shy about recommending they contact us by email or stopping at the office with a sample. Usually an email with pictures is a great starting place. We love nothing more than helping the community by solving their pest issues! Those of you that have brought me an insect or plant to look at know the joy that it brings to my day!

This service is a great way to educate and engage the community we serve and is a fabulous recruiting tool.

Happy gardening!

UPDATES IN ANR

The summer season rolls on. As we navigate the summer weeds, Kim has a great point. Be sure to know what you are spraying. Many weeds any more look very similar and we must be very careful in our identification. Things continue to be plenty busy in the agriculture community, it seems like a lot of the crops have been planted in a very short period of time between rains. However, more crops are to be planted. Wheat will soon be ready for harvest as we look across golden fields. The hay is also ready for harvest, so hopefully the rain will subside for a few days at a time to allow this.

At home, we have been mowing hay in between rains, but have a long way to go. We hope to bale more this weekend if the weather holds out. When I have been out in the fields, I have seen more ticks running around this year. Ticks should be a concern for all of us. According to Tim McDermott, my Franklin County colleague, 20 years ago there was only the American dog tick in Ohio, now there are five types. There is more of a risk now of tickborne illnesses including anaplasmosis, babesiosis, Rocky Mountain spotted fever and Lyme disease. Lone star ticks found here now can cause an allergy to red meat if bitten by that type of tick. If a tick attaches to you, the safe way to remove it is to grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible using pointy tweezers, a tick removal tool, or your finger and thumb. Pull straight up and out with steady, even pressure.

Enjoy summer, June is here but be careful and check for ticks after you have been outdoors, some types can be very small.

As always, if you need anything at all, please let me know. Feel free to call or send an email.

Thanks,
Trevor

Dick says he has a goal of a MGV visiting the garden at least three times per week to assess blooming plants. He says he needs more volunteers to make that happen. If you are interested in seeing this garden project, Dick would be happy to give you the tour.

Source: <https://phenology.osu.edu/>



This is how it began



Spring 2022



May 12, 2022 Common Lilac Blooms



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OSU Extension Greene County Master Gardener Volunteer 2022 Officers:

President - Debbie Downes

Vice President - Jane Worth

Secretary - Kathy Lewis

Treasurer - Skip Mahan

Board Members At Large -

Sarah Preston

Pam Carter

Rebecca Elniski

ExOfficio Board Member - Kim Hupman, Horticulture Program Assistant (937) 736-7209

The Greene Leaflet Editor – Pat Zehring at zehring.5@osu.edu

Next Newsletter Deadline: July 15, 2022

We welcome all suggestions, thoughts, calendar dates for this newsletter.
Please e-mail your comments, articles, photos, and dates