

THE GREENE LEAFLET

News for OSU Extension Greene County Master Gardener Volunteers

January/February 2022

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By: Debbie Downes

As Master Gardeners we embrace the concept of working as volunteers. It wouldn't surprise me to hear that each of you volunteers in numerous capacities. You might donate your time to Veteran organizations or community projects. You may be a foster parent, work in an animal shelter, or fundraise for a cause close to your heart. Being a Master Gardener Volunteer is just one of many of the things that keeps you busy and keeps your life full. Thank you for all you do.

I want to recognize our out-going MGV Board of Trustee members. Dan Denham completed his term as board President. He will now serve as Past-President and advisor to the board. Garry Abfalter completed his last year as Past-President. Carol Brown finished her term as secretary and James Hoffer finished his term as member-at-large. These MGVs shared their energy, skills, and dedication to the program.

I'm also excited to welcome the 2022-2024 Board of Trustees: Jane Worth, Vice-President, Kathy Lewis, Secretary, Skip Mahan, Treasurer, and Sarah Preston, Pam Carter, and Rebecca Elniski as members at large. We are going to have an exciting two years together as new interns become master gardeners, as we work to enhance education opportunities in our community, explore ways to increase our fundraising efforts, and host a first-class state conference (2023). You can reach out to any of these folks with your ideas, concerns, and suggestions for our program.

Thank you for your confidence in electing me as the board President. I will work to the best of my capabilities for the Master Gardeners of Greene County.

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

Welcome winter! I am sure there are some of you who read that line and shudder at the thought of winter, snow, cold weather, and short days. The good news is that the days are getting longer and spring is 7 weeks away! I enjoyed seeing everyone at the Winter Gathering a couple of weeks ago. We had a great time with the mingle bingo, breakout sessions, and acknowledging milestone hours. The Awards Committee presented the Community Service award to Sarah Preston for her donation of 188 lbs. of fresh produce from her home garden. In the Best of Show, there are 4 categories: largest vegetable/fruit, most unique flower, produce with an unusual appearance, and most interesting insect, arachnid, or "creepy crawly". The winners are: Kathy Estabrook - Largest Vegetable; Denise Wetzel - Most Unique Flower; No entries - Produce with an Unusual Appearance; Kathy Estabrook and Denise Wetzel - Most Interesting Insect, Arachnid, or Creepy Crawly. The collage of the winning pictures is on display in my office.

I would like to extend a huge thank you to the Meeting Support Committee and those who volunteered to help them for organizing and helping with the Winter Gathering.

I would also like to thank Debbie Downes for organizing the ice breaker, breakout session, and being a co-host!

No matter the number of hours you volunteer, we value each and everyone of them. This year as a group, you have volunteered 3166.25 volunteer hours. The dollar per hour value of volunteer time is \$28.54. This equates to a total \$90,379.00 worth of volunteer time in Greene Co. Each year, we like to acknowledge those individual MGVs who for the first time have achieved milestone hours. These benchmarks are set at 250, 500, 750, 1,000, 1,500 hours reach for the first time.

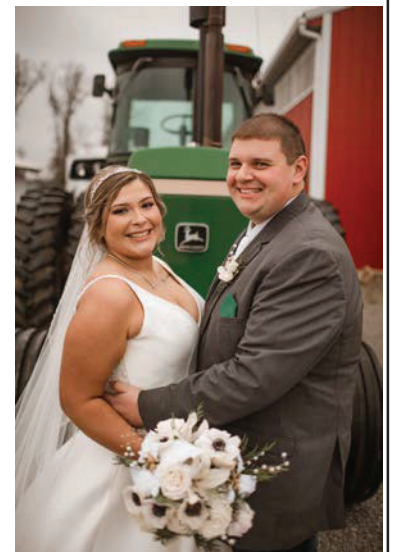
Milestone Hours: First time achieving over 250 hours - Debbie Downes; 500 hours - Rosann Stycula, Marilyn Parsons; 750 hours - Debbie Erickson; 1,000 hours - Garry Abfalter, Helen Haun; 1,500 hours - no one this year; Honorable mention - Dick Baker – over 2,000, Jill Gordon – over 1,700, Jerry Haun – over 4,590, Kathy Mesaros – over 1,690, Denise Wetzel – over 2,740

UPDATES IN ANR

Happy New Year! I hope you all are having a great 2022 thus far! As many of you know we have a long list of programs underway for the year! Hopefully, you will plan to attend a few and give ideas for next year along the way. To highlight a few, we have a Farm Succession Workshop on February 10. This is farm focused, but even if you want to learn about getting your affairs in order, this will be a very helpful workshop. Another event is on March 8, the Test Your Well Water and Soil event. New this year, you will register online to bring a sample so that you have a dedicated appointment time. This is winter meeting season for many Ag programs. That said, I will be traveling some to teach over the next few weeks to teach Pesticide Safety to our private agricultural applicators. This license allows them to produce safe and wholesome crops for our use.

On a personal note, Thank you to everyone that was involved in one way or another in the wedding card and gifts. Everything went off without too much stir on the farm for our wedding in December. I cannot say thank you enough to each and everyone of you! My wife, Rachel and I greatly appreciate it!

I attached one of our wedding pictures below.



Old Landscape becomes New Garden Opportunity, Debbie Downes

Several years back, I purchased the property next door to my Bed & Breakfast. The house needed a serious renovation. I spent a few years tearing things out and then rebuilding and replacing all aspects of the house. In early 2021 I moved into the house. The renovations are beautiful, comfortable, and reflect exactly the home I wanted. Now it's time to work on the landscape.

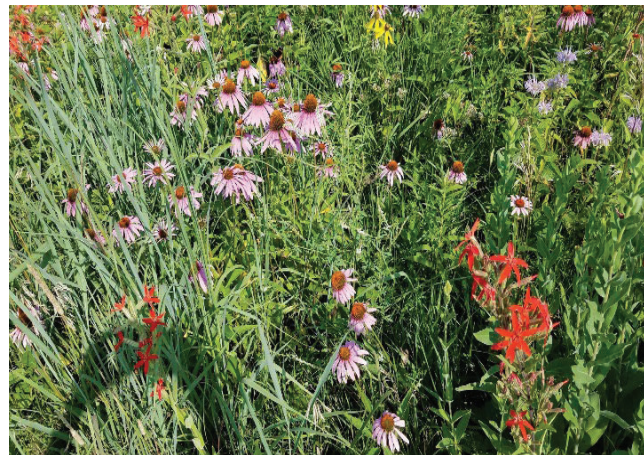
The property was built in 1950 and the yard reflects a 50's landscape that has had very little care over the years. Many trees are past their prime and collapsing. The yard is nothing more than grass and lawn weeds. Within a week of moving, a large maple branch fell from its tree dangerously close to the house. With all the rot this tree had, it had to come down.



While I spent time thinking about new plans for this area of the garden, the sewer line failed. Any of you who have experienced a sewer line failure know what this does to a yard. Now I had dirt and mud and knew it would be a while before the ground settled. It was such a mess.

This is where my education as a master gardener really took hold. I knew I didn't want a monoculture yard with lawn. I saw this as a new opportunity. I spent the later part of 2021 learning about native plantings. I logged on to webinars, talked with every gardener I met, collected seeds, joined organizations devoted to native plants, and toured native plant areas such as Huffman Prairie.

Now it's January and my yard is dormant. I'm not really sure what to expect this coming season. I'm hoping to see something wonderful that attracts insects, butterflies, and birds. Realistically I know this is a work in progress. But in January isn't gardening about our hopes and dreams for our beautiful and productive landscapes? I'll keep you posted on how this develops.



My vision



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Please note we are closed from 12:00pm-12:30pm for lunch
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OSU Extension Greene County Master Gardener Volunteer 2021 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: March 18, 2022

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