

THE GREENE LEAFLET

News for OSU Extension Greene County Master Gardener Volunteers

July/August 2023

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By: Debbie Downes

Master Gardener Volunteer Program 50th Anniversary 1973 – 2023

Fifty years ago, a couple of Washington State University Extension agents came up with the idea to train volunteers to deliver unbiased, research-based gardening education. That idea has grown into a program with more than 100,000 volunteers across the country.

Overwhelmed by questions from aspiring home gardeners, while still trying to fulfill their mission to farmers, two Extension agents developed a program to extend knowledge to the gardening public. The first master gardener training class started in the spring of 1973. More than 600 people applied. About 300 were accepted. Unique to Extension and the master gardener program is its ability to learn and adapt to the needs of individual communities. The program went on to become a national and even international phenomenon.

The Master Gardener Volunteer program in Ohio piloted in the late 1970s with Cuyahoga County initiating their MGV program in 1986. This is currently the longest continuous program in the state. Currently there are 2,523 active Master Gardener Volunteers in more than 62 Ohio counties (urban, suburban and rural).

In Greene County the first training program began in February of 1994. The class was a combined Clark and Greene County training and facilitated by Pam Bennett, Horticulture program Assistant for Clark and Greene County. Pam started the MGV program in Clark County first and then in Greene County. The first Greene County MGV only training was in 1995 and was held from January through March by the new Horticulture Program Assistant, Suzette MacKenzie.



UPCOMING MEETING/EVENT/TEAM CALENDAR

MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETINGS

All Meetings are at 6:30pm, unless otherwise announced

January 17th, 6:30 Zoom
January 21st 1-3pm Winter Gathering
February 14th, zoom
March 14th
April 11th
May 9th
June 13th
July 11th
August 8th
September 12th
October 10th
November 14th

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

All meetings are at 4:00pm, unless otherwise announced

January 3rd
February 14th
March 14th
April 11th
May 9th
June 13th
July 11th
August 8th
September 12th
October 10th
November 14th
December Social TBD

Meeting dates and other information can also be found at <https://greene.osu.edu> under Master Gardener Volunteers

CONTINUING EDUCATION

CFAES

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Greene County – Agriculture and Natural Resources

Continuing Education Events Available for
Master Gardener Volunteers

Additional Programs:

All programs will require pre-registration, for links go to our website, greene.osu.edu, Master Gardener Volunteers, Current Master Gardeners to view Additional Continuing Education Programs

State OSUE MGV Hort Happy Hour & Lunch and Learn Webinar Series 2023 - 2024

The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden Events

OSU Bee Lab Workshops & Webinars

OSU Bee Lab Tending Nature Webinar Series

Ohio Woodland Stewards Program

Ohio Master Gardener Volunteer Conference in Greene County

visit our website, greene.osu.edu, Master Gardener Volunteers, Current Master Gardeners, 2023 MGV State Conference for link to registration and schedule



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EXTENSION

The Greene County program grew from seven volunteers to double the number with each yearly training class. The first project was Green Thumb gardens at James Ranch Park. It started as a community garden and was converted into a demonstration garden area. In 2000, the group developed their first By-laws, a copy of Clark County's.

Why does the master gardener program work so well? A 2008 University of Minnesota survey found that the public prefers to get their gardening information from friends and neighbors. We are those friends and neighbors. We tend to be lifelong learners who serve in our communities. The master gardener program also fulfills a social desire for enjoyable camaraderie among gardeners. We work together, support each other, share successes and challenges.



Another survey found 75% of homeowners wanting to know what to spray changed their minds and did not feel the need to spray after receiving diagnosis and management information from master gardeners. That's a very powerful environmental effect.

So, continue the good work. Find those teachable moments. Those moments that we can show, share and excite people about all facets of gardening.
To 50 Years and Counting!

Sources: Washington State University Extension Master Gardener 50th Anniversary Edition, Home | Master Gardener Volunteers (osu.edu), and Greene County MGV files.



COORDINATOR'S NOTES SECTION

Here we are at the highest part of summer. This is usually a hot and dry time of year. Lately, we have been blessed with temperatures that have been as cool as a beautiful fall day and lucking to receive a couple inches of rain in a week (location dependent, of course!). No matter the temperature or the amount or lack of rain, the summer weeds seem to grow quicker than they can be eradicated. Once you have an area weed free, you may want to consider using a preemergent to keep in that condition. Do make sure you apply a preemergent at the correct rate. Too much will kill the soil microbes and earthworms. Like many of you, I have always applied it by shaking the container, using the shaker cap it comes with, or putting on a rubber glove and applying it that way. Unfortunately, this does not give us an accurate amount or rate that we are applying to an area. As we know, over and under application rates each causes unintended damage, or the produce does not control the weed seed.

If anyone has a great idea on what can be used to apply preemergent at an accurate rate, please send me an email so I can pass the information on to projects. I look forward to hearing from you!

Kim

UPDATES IN ANR

I cannot believe fall is here already. For crops in Southwest Ohio, there is a concern about the later-planted corn running out of time to reach the black layer. The corn kernel "black layer" is an indicator of physiological maturity. Southwest is behind on heat accumulation for this time of year, which could be a key factor in this later corn maturing. However, the corn planted in April and early May is having no trouble reaching the "black layer" and is beginning to dry down.

Farm Science Review is coming up next week, and there are plenty of opportunities for continuing education there, hopefully, I will see some of you. We are all excited for the MGVS state conference coming up, we cannot thank you all enough for making it happen.

We also would like to thank you all for completing the Greene County MGVS survey. It was great to have feedback and understanding of the current program, and we will work on improvements according to your needs.

In our last business meeting (November) I will present the main points of the survey results and some plans we have for improvement, and we would love to hear more ideas and suggestions from you all. Please let me know how I can help, and always feel free to stop by the OSU extension office, call (937-736-7205), or email me (miquilini.1@osu.edu).

Warm wishes,
Marina



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AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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OSU Extension Greene County Master Gardener Volunteer

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

Next Newsletter Deadline: September 15, 2023

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