

# THE GREENE LEAFLET

News for OSU Extension Greene County Master Gardener Volunteers

March/April 2023

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

FROM DEBBIE DOWNES

For this issue of the Greene Leaflet, I asked project and committee leaders for any update they would like to provide. Here is some great information.

*Happy Spring! Debbie*

### Petrikis Park Butterfly Garden in Bellbrook

The Petrikis team of Jane Worth, Starlene Brooks, Patti Proconiar, and Arlon Zabel welcome two recently certified MGVs, Jennifer Eddy and Lauren McGinley. As interns, Jennifer and Lauren, along with Margi Gay, volunteered at the Butterfly Garden, spending many hours chopping the plant material we had carelessly discarded in our compost bins. It will be great to have usable compost for this year's garden.

We're eager to get back to the garden-whenver it stops raining. First order of business will be removal of hairy bittercress before the flowers explode and send their nefarious seeds airborne. We left most our native plants standing over the winter, and as eager as we are to clean up, we know we need to leave stems and leaf litter as shelter for pollinators until the nighttime temperatures reach 50 degrees.

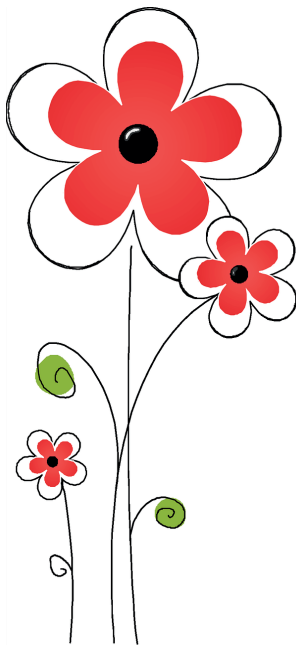
We're working to increase foot traffic through the garden, informing community members of our presence and purpose. Our partner, Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Parks Department, is providing great publicity for the Butterfly Garden at their activities, encouraging participants to visit the garden.

The following is a sweet little story about an incident last spring, told by Jane Worth. *I was working in the garden on a Saturday morning when a young man came sprinting through. He told me he was hiding notes for his girlfriend and put a couple in the garden then hurried out. About 30 minutes later, he reappeared with a young lady and she started searching for the notes. I gave them their privacy as they shared a few sweet moments together. They thanked me as they walked out of the garden hand in hand. On that spring day in the garden, love was blooming along with the flowers.* GCMGVs will have an opportunity to see what's blooming in the Butterfly Garden when we host the May business meeting. More details will be forthcoming.

### Little Miami Scenic Trail

The Little Miami Scenic Trail in Spring Valley needs your help maintaining the beautiful native Ohio flow beds. Please contact me if you are willing to help. I can be reached at 937-902-5236 or [lora\\_staugler@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lora_staugler@sbcglobal.net).

Thank you in advance for your help! Lora Staugler



## Fairy and Gnome Event

The date has been set for the 9th annual Fairy and Gnome event sponsored by OSUE GCMGVs and Beaver Creek Girl Scouts. Families will gather at Beaver Creek Land Lab on Saturday, May 20 to build fairy and gnome houses out of items that will decompose. The Girl Scouts will provide a gardening activity, stories and crafts.



There are two ways you can help. First, consider donating items used to build. These can include shells, flower heads, pinecones, whatever you may have in your yard. Up to 1 hour for collecting and dropping-off has been approved for volunteer hours. Drop off items at Evergreen Children's Center, 2659 Dayton-Xenia Road (This is also the event location). Items can be left any day or time by the building along the entrance drive. Text Mary Gordon at 937-829-7579 so items can be collected and stored.

Secondly, help is needed for the event on May 20. The event runs 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Set-up will begin at 9 a.m. and clean-up takes a half-hour. The most help is needed with set-up and clean-up so bookending your time would be most appreciated if you can't stay for the whole event.

Everyone is invited to bring family or just yourself to Fairy & Gnome Build Day to check out the creativity and try to build your own! Email Jill Gordon at [cattailpond78@gmail.com](mailto:cattailpond78@gmail.com) with any questions or if you can help the day of the event.

## Wartinger Park

Wartinger Park is in Beaver Creek next to the Firehouse on Kemp Road. It has a number of historic log cabins and a recreated barn (modeled on the one destroyed by the 2019 tornado). The GCMGVs maintain the gardens and work to keep them historically accurate to the late 1800s. The park is visited by every 3rd grade class in Beaver Creek where they learn about the life of our settlers. It is also a favorite spot for photographers. We are a small group of MGVs and welcome any other MGVs wanting to help for a short- or longer-term commitment. Our usual work time is Wednesday mornings 9-11 am. We particularly need someone with herb knowledge.

## Mary, Help of Christians Community Garden

This is our 27th year as a GCMGV Project and the longest continuous running MGV project.

Our mission is primarily food production for the needy in our community. We also teach seed starting and veggie gardening to 5th and 6th grade Sunday School students as well as a hands-on tomato/pepper container gardening workshop at Fairborn Fish.

Last year we harvested 1375 pounds fresh produce for two local food pantries. Located at 954 N. Maple Ave. in Fairborn behind the church, we meet most Thursday mornings during the growing season. We currently have fall planted garlic and spinach in the garden and cabbage and kale will soon be ready to plant out. We could use some help with the spring garden and clean up. One and all are welcome to come out and tour the garden, get some early volunteer hours and be a part of a truly worthwhile project that has a real impact on our community.

For questions or to be added to our e-mail list call Denise Wetzel, garden leader, at 937.878.3450 or [dcwmg41@gmail.com](mailto:dcwmg41@gmail.com).

## Activities Committee

The Activities Committee includes GCMGVs Sarah Preston, Debbie Downes, Bev Taylor, Kathy Estabrook, Rosann Styracula, and Jane Worth. The Committee decided to go low-key this year because of commitments to the upcoming State Conference. We have planned activities that liven up our Business Meetings.

In February we celebrated Valentine's Day, learning about roses as a symbol of love. At the March 14 meeting, we revealed the "real dirt" on shamrocks. Are they really what they purport to be?

In April we'll observe Native Plants Month and in May we'll have the opportunity to visit the Butterfly Garden at Petrikis Park in Bellbrook. Get ready for a Birthday Bash in June to celebrate all of us-members' ages will not be revealed. In July we look forward to visiting the Wright Patterson Medical Center Garden Clinic. We'll appreciate each other in August at the Annual Appreciation Dinner.

Stay tuned for information about our Scarecrow Program in September.

Join the fun by attending monthly business meetings. We look forward to seeing you!

## Meeting Support Committee

The Meeting Support Committee does the set-up, clean-up and provides packaged refreshments for the monthly MGV Business Meetings. We also assist other pre-selected Greene County Extension workshops and classes. There are always people at the events who help, but we expect we will need to reach out for high attendance events to keep things moving smoothly. Contact Helen Demers if you would like to be involved. Thanks!

## 2024 Calendar Fundraiser

It's a great time to get out and take some great pictures! We'd like to have photos from each month represented on our Greene County MGV 2024 calendar to be sold at state conference.

Guidelines for submission:

- Photos must be in landscape orientation
- Photos should be high resolution
- Photos must be taken by a Greene County MGV
- Subject matter must be of landscapes, objects, nature scenes, and outdoor events taken within Greene County limits. We encourage you to submit seasonal pictures from GCMGV gardens, and, of course, photos in other nature settings within Greene County can be submitted.
- Any images containing people must have written consent from the individuals in the photo before submission.
- Photos taken 2020 or later may be submitted if they meet the above guidelines.

Please send Jane Worth your best photos from each month.

This calendar will be spectacular!

Send photos and questions to: [jmw1526@gmail.com](mailto:jmw1526@gmail.com)



# UPCOMING MEETING/ EVENT/TEAM CALENDAR

## MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETINGS

All Meetings are at 6:30pm

January 17, zoom

January 21, Winter Gathering

February 14 , zoom

March 14, In-person

April 11, In-person

May 9, In-person

June 13, In-person

July 11, In-person

August 8, In-person

September 12, In-person

October 10, In-person

November 14, In-person

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

All meetings are at 4pm

January 3

February 14

March 14

April 11

May 9

June 13

July 11

August 8

September 12

October 10

November 14

December TBA

Updates will be posted on the website  
[greene.osu.edu](http://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](http://greene.osu.edu)

State OSUE MGV Lunch & Learn and Hort Happy Hour Webinar Series  
Fall 2022-Spring 2023

The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden Events

Cuyahoga Master Gardeners

OSU Bee Lab Workshops & Webinars

Ohio Woodland Stewards Program



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## COORDINATOR'S NOTES SECTION

Happy Spring! It is time to start our rush to get so much done in so little time. In hopes of helping with the large volume of work, we are planning to do group spring clean ups at several projects. Below is the schedule for the clean ups at the projects. This is a great opportunity to see projects you don't know about and meet the fellow MGVs who volunteer at them. Remember, many hands make a task easier!

- Mary Help – March 25th – 10:00 am – 12:30 pm
- James Ranch – April 18th – 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
- Petrikis Park - May 17th – 4:00 – 5:30 pm
- Wartinger Park - May 20th - 8:30 – 10:30 am – rain date May 24th

These events will on the calendar in HOC and must be signed up for to log hours. This will let me know how successful we are at working as a group to help all our projects be sustainable and be able to continue as a project. I will send information on signing up and logging hours in an email.

Do remember to log volunteer hours at least once a month. This will give me up to date information on what, where, and when we are volunteering as soon as stakeholders or supervisors ask what we are doing. You can do a monthly bulk entry for a project to save time. For example, I volunteer at James Ranch and Phenology. In February, I had a total of 5 hours at phenology and 3 hours at James Ranch. I can do one entry for both projects.

When logging continuing education hours, do so within a week of attending a program. Do not do a bulk entry for continuing education, instead list them as one entry each.

Do email me if you have questions on entering hours. I try to look at entries as often as possible to make sure we don't have any issues. I am happy to help as this can be confusing!

Many folks expressed great interest in the information Dan presented at the March business meeting. You can sign up to receive the BYGL (Buckeye Yard & Garden onLine) at <https://bygl.osu.edu/newsletter> If you are interested in finding our growing degree days (GDD) to be a head of any insect emergence and to find out where we are on soil temperature as they relate to landscape plant blooms or indicator plants.

The information can be found at <https://weather.cfaes.osu.edu/gdd/>

Happy Spring! Kim

## UPDATES IN ANR

We are currently taking applications for a new Greene County Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Educator. Hopefully we will have one in place soon. Watch for updates.



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OSU Extension Greene County Office  
100 Fairground Rd.  
Xenia, OH 45385

Phone: 937-372-9971  
Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm  
[greene.osu.edu](http://greene.osu.edu)

**Extension Educator, Agriculture and Natural Resources:** *coming soon*  
**Program Assistant, Horticulture:** **Kim Hupman, [hupman.5@osu.edu](mailto:hupman.5@osu.edu)**

***OSU Extension Greene County Master Gardener Volunteer 2023 Officers:***

**President - Debbie Downes**

**Vice President - Sarah Preston**

**Secretary - Kathy Lewis**

**Treasurer - Starlene Brooks**

**Board Members At Large -**

**Pam Carter**

**Rebecca Elniski**

**Laura Carroll**

**Bev Taylor**

**Past President - Dan Denham**

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

*The Greene Leaflet* Editor – Pat Zehring at [zehring.5@osu.edu](mailto:zehring.5@osu.edu)

**Next Newsletter Deadline:** May 12, 2023

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