

THE GREENE LEAFLET

News for OSU Extension Greene County Master Gardener Volunteers

September/October 2022

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By: Debbie Downes

Whether you enjoy planting flowers, herbs, unusual or common vegetables, Wright-Patterson AFB has a wonderful place to garden. Garry Abfalter has worked the Wright-Patt gardens since 2015.

The Wright-Patt Garden project began in 2012 with Medical Center staff and Master Gardener Volunteers applying for and receiving a Department of Defense grant. This three-year grant studied the therapeutic effect that gardening could have on patients with pre-diabetes and diabetes. It looked at the effect of working in a garden on changes in physical health and the understanding of nutrition in these patients. While the study is no longer active, the garden work continues. Garry is the only Master Gardener Volunteer currently working this Medical Center/Master Gardener plot.



Garry does have volunteers. This spring the Medical Center promoted a garden work day. Twenty people volunteered, working up to four hours that day. A few of those volunteers continue to work. Typically, the volunteers live on base or work at the Medical Center. Some volunteers like Aster and Maria have worked at the garden for several years. Other are temporary, moving on like military members do.

Garry says his biggest challenge is manpower. Maintenance is ongoing with the current beds needing to be re-framed. The goal is to replace the deteriorating wood borders with concrete blocks. Garry would love to see his beds be more structurally sound like the beds at Mary Help of Christians Community Gardens. Like other gardens, his challenges also include groundhogs and rabbits, and the need to replenish the overworked depleted soil.



Garry wants more people to know the garden exists. "This is a community garden. We encourage people to own a bed, plant and grow what they need for their family." Except for those individuals growing their own flowers and produce, the food grown at Wright-Patt is donated to the Fairborn FISH Pantry. So far in 2022 about 300 pounds of food have been donated. Garry also collects and delivers food from Treadway Gardens, a fresh produce seller. This year that donation has been nearly a 1000 pounds.

Whether the volunteers are working, educating newer gardeners, or enjoying an outdoor potluck together, there is a strong sense of comradery among everyone at the gardens. If you would like more information about working at the Wright-Patt gardens you can reach Garry at 937-272-2762 or papaabby@gmail.com. He'd love to hear from you!



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 Fall 2022-Spring 2023

The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden Events

Miami County Coffee with the Master Gardener Volunteers

Cuyahoga Master Gardeners

OSU Bee Lab Workshops & Webinars

Ohio Woodland Stewards Program

Small Beginner & Small Farm College

Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Park District Fall Speaker Series



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COORDINATOR'S NOTES SECTION

And the next thing I knew, It was August! The tail end of summer is upon us and it is time to think about fall and all the wonderful seasonal changes it will bring.

The activity committee is hosting a Scarecrow building event on September 17th in partnership with GCP&Ts. It will be held at James Ranch from 11 am to 1 pm. You can register through their Facebook page or at reservations.gcparkstrails.com/programs/2395

The activity committee will need donations of old clothes to use to make the scarecrows; long pants, long sleeved shirts, hats, or other clothing you think would look great on a scarecrow. They are looking for volunteers to help the participants build the scarecrow, set up and tear down. Contact Debbie Downes to donate and volunteer. This will be a fun event so I look forward to seeing all the different scarecrows that will be created.

Speaking of creative, to help kick off this event several of the projects plus the interns are creating scarecrows to display at James Ranch. The scarecrows will begin appearing on Monday and all of them should be up by Wednesday. They will be there during the Appreciation Dinner so be sure to take a look at them. There will be voting available through our Facebook page for your favorite scarecrow.

There will be several more programs this fall including Backyard Garden to Fork, Sunflowers, Kohlrabi, and Cauliflower; Invasive Plants, and Winter Porch pots. I will be sending flyer's with the registration information soon.

Happy Fall!

UPDATES IN ANR

Fall has arrived. As the season changes, along comes harvest time. I hope you had the opportunity to consider attending the Farm Science Review last week. I saw a few folks from a distance. Corn and Soybean harvest has officially started in the county, so be sure to give farmers a little extra room on the road if you find yourself in a situation needing to share the road way. The farm equipment that is used today is much different than in years past. Much larger in a lot of situations and of course more costly. These valuable pieces take the grain from the field to what will most likely become food for animals and our pets or by-products that we use on a daily basis.

A few things to note, we are in full swing for State Conference planning. Be looking for another large group meeting soon. I hope you can join us in a week or two in Cuyahoga to see how we will host the conference next year. We have just over a year to plan a great conference, I am sure we will, but we will need a lot of help from you!

One other note, Greene County will be hosting a Small and Beginning Farmer College later this year in October and November. If you know of someone that has a small plot of land and is looking to do more with it. Feel free to pass along this link (greene.osu.edu) or send them my contact information.

As always, thanks for all you do and feel free to reach out if you need anything.

-Trevor



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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

**Extension Educator, Agriculture and Natural Resources: Trevor Corboy, corboy.3@osu.edu
Program, Assistant, Horticulture: Kim Hupman, hupman.5@osu.edu**

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: November 15, 2022

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