When the sun rises, I go to work.
When the sun goes down, I take my rest.
I dig the well from which I drink.
I farm the soil that yields my food.
I share creation, Kings can do no more.
- Chinese Proverb

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Licking County Master Gardener

Volume XI, Issue 6 Nov-Dec 2021

Annual Spring Conference—March 26, 2022 Linda Bishop

We are the Ohio State University Extension trained volunteers empowered to educate others in timely researched-based gardening information.

For nearly 20 years, our own Licking County Master Gardener Volunteers have hosted an annual spring conference, inviting notable speakers to share their extensive, researched-based gardening knowledge and meet our mission statement to educate the community-at-large and other MGVs from other Ohio counties. Concerns about COVID safety in 2020 and 2021 interrupted our ability to have our spring conference. But now, we are ready to host a conference in 2022 and anxious for you—our own volunteers—to participate.

Finding a venue that will have room for about 200 attendees, house a professional kitchen, allow parking for a large number of cars, and not cost 'an arm and a leg' is always challenging. But, thanks to the extraordinary efforts of Diana Rowlee, we have a lovely new venue. Our 2022 Spring Conference will be held at Moundbuilders Country Club, 125 33rd Street, in Newark on Saturday, March 26th. The event this year will be catered. We will still offer soup choices but also provide mini-sandwiches and fruit salad. We still will need you to *bake cookies* for dessert and *make muffins* for our continental breakfast.

Our conference theme *Homegrown: Our Own Ohio Experts* will feature five experts, including local favorites Jim Chatfield and Jim McCormac. Chatfield's topic is "What Gets Us Into Trouble is Not What We Don't Know, But What We Know For Sure That Just Ain't So," and McCormac will cover new information on "Moths in the Midwest"—a book about the same that is in-press. Also presenting is Christopher Kline. Those of you who visited Butterfly Ridge Conservation Center a few years ago will want to welcome Chris—formerly butterfly specialist at Franklin Park Conservatory and developer of 21- acres located near Hocking Hills, designed to attract hundreds of Ohio's native butterflies. We will also welcome Andrea Jaeger, Director of Land Acquisition & Visitor Services for the Arc of Appalachia, one of Ohio's little know forest treasures, and Laura Deeter, a professor in horticulture at OSU Wooster. Dr. Deeter is an expert in landscaping and perennials—she will speak on garden color and design.

Kay Alban, Diana Rowlee and I—Co-Chairs of the conference—hope you will mark the spring conference date on your calendar. We do ask our volunteers to pay the same price as all attendee—$40.00—which will pay for your lunch and help defray expenses for our speakers. Our conference also has a number of vendors who come with their garden-related wares, and we hold a raffle with donated items from local businesses and extension services. If you know someone who might like to be a vendor, please contact Nancy McClary (nmcclary@columbus.rr.com). If you know of a business that would consider donating a special raffle item, please contact Carol Anderson at carolanderson17@gmail.com .

Our conference is not meant to be a huge fund-raiser. Although we make some money, mostly our conference's purpose is to meet the goal of our mission statement. We have lots of folks who come year after year because of the fine reputation we have of putting on a wonderful conference. You can help make it special by volunteering to make cookies and muffins, inviting friends who might be interested in attending the conference and supporting us by attending yourself. You will earn education hours!

Coordinators Column

Lori Swihart

"...do a little day dreaming of the spring and spring flowers."

We started 2021 with the phrase for reflection: *Embrace Change*. We knew we had some changes ahead of us in 2021. The year didn't disappoint.

A HUGE thank you to everyone for your patience this year as we all navigated the changes initiated by Ohio State University. Hands on Connect has been quite the challenge for most, but the video tutorial and Jennifer's open office via Zoom should help everyone get into the new system. If you are still struggling, contact Jennifer for assistance. Look for her contact information in the emails I have sent.

One of the greatest changes was the replacement of deer fencing around the Learning Gardens. If you haven't seen it yet, make sure to do so this coming spring. (Better yet, make it a resolution to volunteer in the garden!) The new fencing, new gate, and painted pergola has given the garden a fabulous facelift and uplifted the spirits that the pandemic has stifled. Dedicated members made other inspiring changes within the many garden plots.

With the change of training our newest interns online, we are now having a more diverse group of individuals within our membership. We are no longer the retirement group but have several new members that still work. I am elated that we now have Member Meetings rotate the meeting times so all can attend. Even months meet in the evenings at 6:30 pm and odd months are meeting at 9:30 am. Don't forget that each meeting begins with a social time to visit all of your gardening friends. Due to the season and Covid, we are meeting via Zoom in January through March.

What will 2022 bring?

I am happy to report that we have 5 interns that have chosen to begin training online NOW! They were so excited to join our organization that they just couldn't wait! And why should they? I gave them the option to wait till February and start with a class or begin now with the link. I am still taking applications and will continue to interview well into 2022.

I am also excited to set up tours of other Ohio gardens and some hands-on workshops throughout the new year. The Michigan bus trip set for the end of July is coming along and I hope to have all the details to share soon.

Dawes Pollinator Garden will be expanding with the help of the Dawes team and employees. Peter Lowe will be taking on the expansion.

We have a new venue for our education outreach. The Harbor Community Center has invited us to share the love of gardening beginning with the first program in April. Thank you to Amy Vohsing and Linda Bishop for signing up for the first program, seed starting, on April 15. They will be giving away seeds from the Ohio Department of Agriculture and their Victory Garden project.

I hope all of you can take some time after the holidays for a good rest. You all deserve it, as you have worked so hard in the gardens and at our events.

Also, do a little day dreaming of the spring and spring flowers.

Have a very Happy Holiday season!

President's Column

Kathryn Bierley

"Have a wonderful holiday season, however you choose to enjoy the end of 2021 and the start of 2022!"

Thanksgiving Cactus

Christmas Cactus

Season's Greetings!

It's the time of year everyone sees pictures of the eternally popular Christmas cactus so I thought a quick refresher was in order. This year, mine was a Hallowgiving/Thankseen variety so it might be better named Holiday Cactus. Or better yet, since it doesn't behave like other cacti, let's just call it a Holiday Plant. Accurate, but not very descriptive, I know.

What do we know about these plants? The botanical name is *Schlumbergera,* native to Brazil, and available in a wide variety of colors: red, rose, purple, lavender, peach, orange, cream, white. All *Schlumbergera* species grow as epiphytes (plants that grow upon another plant or object merely for physical support) among the branches of trees in shady rain forests. They bloom during the long nights of fall and winter. The Easter Cactus (*Hatiora gaertneri;* synonym *Schlumbergera gaertneri*), on the other hand, flowers mostly in the spring with pink or red flowers.

To distinguish between the Thanksgiving and Christmas cacti, look at the shape of the flattened stem segments, which are botanically called phylloclades (a flattened branch or stem-joint resembling and functioning as a leaf). On the Thanksgiving cactus, these stem segments each have 2 to 4 saw-toothed serrations or projections along the margins. The stem margins on the Christmas cactus are more rounded. Since there are no true leaves on any of these holiday cacti, photosynthesis occurs within the green phylloclades.

The Thanksgiving and Christmas cacti commonly drop unopened flower buds, which may be caused by too many buds or a sudden change in temperature, light or drying out of the soil. Little or no flowering is often due to light interrupting the long night period (14 hours) that is required for flowering to occur.

https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/thanksgiving-christmas-cacti/

Quick facts

https://extension.umn.edu/houseplants/holiday-cacti

* Holiday cacti have beautiful, exotic flowers and can live a long time.
* Examine holiday cacti for overall health and signs of pests before bringing indoors.
* To produce flower buds, they require shorter days and/or cool night temperatures.
* Holiday cacti will not grow well in heavy, wet soils.
* Fertilize monthly June thru August with a balanced houseplant fertilizer at half-strength

And most importantly, have a wonderful holiday season, however you choose to enjoy the end of 2021 and the start of 2022!

Kathryn

Postcards from Ohio

Sent by Mary Beth Mathews, with permission from Marita King

Warm, wet days, even in winter, bring forth mushrooms to admire. Although many fall into the category of Little Brown Mushrooms and are too difficult to identify, there are two you'll see right now that are distinct and worth pointing out. The Deadly Galerina is one, and this pretty mushroom deserves its common name as it can kill you in very small amounts. The Deadly Galerina (top picture) is a good reason to avoid all little brown mushrooms you find and are not 100% certain of identifying correctly, including the Brick Cap Mushrooms (bottom picture), which some folks reportedly enjoy eating.

If You're A Gardener!

from the Millmerran Garden Club Facebook page

My Garden Spark — Nancy McClary

As far as my "garden spark" it was probably my parents with their vegetable gardening in the back yard. I remember helping in their garden a little, so it must have registered as of course later I took up gardening myself. I also remember when digging in the dirt at my parent's home I found what I thought were buried onions, showed them to my mother who corrected me and said they were spring flowering bulbs – whoops! I also remember an aunt who had her whole back yard full of flowers, and an uncle who grew gigantic zinnias next to his garage. Fond memories.

Who or what was the "spark" that got you into the garden? Email your story to Lizz at stearns.107@osu.edu

Creative Christmas Tree with a Metal Shepherd's Hook
Kathryn Bierley

The warm weather has made me drag my feet packing up all my garden items. I still have a few shepherd's hooks out but thought I could use them to decorate for the holidays before putting them away. This is an easy way to give them one last task before their winter break!

Materials

1 metal shepherd's hook

3-5 strings of holiday lights (or more if making a full tree)

2 lawn fabric pins or tent pegs per string of lights

Plastic zip ties

Electrical connection

You can use as many strings of lights as you wish. An odd number of strings gives the most pleasing result. Be sure to check how many strings of lights can be connected safely before you begin.

⇒ Pick a spot for your display. Put the hook securely in the ground and run the electric supply to the top of the hook, using zip ties to hold the cord to the post.

⇒ Take a string of lights and place both ends in the top curve of the shepherd's hook. Extend the two sides of the string out at an angle as far as possible to the right of the shepherd's hook.

⇒ Take a pin and tack one part of the string of lights to the ground. Then stretch 8-12" along the ground and use a second pin to tack the string. This will form a triangle with the lights.

⇒ Take a second string of lights and repeat steps two and three on the opposite side.

⇒ Repeat steps 2 and 3 with each string of lights. You can create a half or a full circle this way. Try to keep the lights evenly spaced and at the same angle.

⇒ Connect the plugs together at the top of the hook. Then connect the electrical supply.

⇒ Adding a bow, star or other topper is up to you. I zip tied a solar light to the top but may look for a big bow to coordinate with other decorations.

You could do several "trees" if you wish, vary the color of the lights, even use different heights of shepherd's hooks.

REDDINGTON VILLAGE GARDENS—PLANT OF THE MONTH

Joe “Grizz” Smith

European Hornbeam
Carpinus betulus 'Fastigiata'

Also known as Common Hornbeam, this tree is native to Western Asia and Europe. In horticultural terms, fastigiate means having upright clustered branches that narrow towards the top. Of the various cultivars (cultivated varieties) of the hornbeam, 'Fastigiata' is the most commonly used for landscape purposes. It is excellent for wind, vision and sound screens, hedges, medium strips, boulevards, narrow yards as well as large industrialized landscapes. While European Hornbeam will withstand frequent shearing, pruning is seldom required because of it's dense arrangement of leaves on the fine textured upright stems. This year-round interest tree is considerably tolerant of urban pollution including road salt. The hornbeam's lateral root system usually is not a problem for mowers and is not known to be susceptible to Verticillium wilt which infects plants through their roots. The inconspicuous flowers (catkins) bloom in April producing non-showy fruit that matures in September-October. The hornbeam's wood is so dense and resistant to wear and abrasion that ancient Romans used it in making their chariots and ox-yokes. The dense dark green summer foliage turns yellow-orange in fall. Companion plants for this small to medium size tree are pines, Red maple and spruces.

Be sure to enjoy the charming European Hornbeam as you delight in the beauty of our winter gardens.

See you in the gardens.

LCMGV Officers

Coordinator: Lori Swihart
President: Kathryn Bierley
Vice President: Collette Peugeot
Secretary: Karen Jackson
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www.licking.osu.edu

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Leaves for Wildlife Plant Nursery — Alice Schlaegel

I would like to share a native plant nursery that is close at hand. Leaves for Wildlife Plant Nursery is located on State Route 605. It is close to the Licking/Delaware County Line. I made my first visit in mid-November as they were closing down for the season. They have a nice variety of native plants, I selected Button Bush, Shagbark Hickory and Overcup Oak. I was not familiar with the Overcup Oak. Looking at the leaf is see that it is a red oak, looking online line I see an unusual looking acorn. The young woman who has this home business has a passion for growing and understanding the interaction of plants, insects, birds and animals. She also told me that she speaks to garden groups. She would be delightful to have as a guest at a member meeting. Check out their address and contact information below.

Leaves for Wildlife, 1655 N CR 605, Sunbury OH 43074
www.leavesforwildlife.com (614) 881-5550
Find us on FB, IG and www.OhioNativeGrowers.org

Birthdays of the Month

November
Collette Peugeot 5th
Tami Cecil 19th
Monica Parsons 22nd
Amy Vohsing 26th

December
Ann Linn 4th
Carol Remley 14th
Leona Vrbanac 17th
Bruce Kern 19th