

January, 2022

Mulch & More Butler County Master Gardeners

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2022 MGV board:

President:

Paulette Walker

Vice-President:

Ginny Hertenstein

Treasurer:

Becky Hildebrandt

Secretary:

Jeanne Walther

Past President:

Lynn Glaser

Members at Large:

Margy Beckner,
Carol Kell,
Anne Rolfes,
Nancy Tereba

President's Notes

by Lynn Glaser, President

The holidays are a time for celebration, but also reflection. In January, we will install our new board and again welcome our new members. I would like to start this note with a thank you to all of those that have served on the board over the last two years, as well as those that are serving going forward.

Two short years ago, our membership was asked for input regarding how to improve the Master Gardener program. From that input, we developed six key priorities for the board. I'd like to re-share those priorities, and what we have accomplished.

1. Re-Start Garden Tours: We identified a desire to do more local tours of horticultural businesses and parks in addition to member garden tours. Cynthia Stever has graciously volunteered to identify and plan these tours, and she has a committee that will be continuing to schedule these as the pandemic allows. Our first tour was at Spring Grove earlier this fall.
2. Boys and Girls Club Kickoff: There was a request for help at the Boys and Girls Club in West Chester to assist with hydroponic growing. After this small start we are now entering our third year and have developed / executed programming for both the school year as well as their summer camp. In addition, we have improved the facilities at the club to include two raised bed vegetable gardens and a pollinator garden.
3. Develop Plan for Spending the Financial Surplus: The survey clearly had a preference to help spend down the financial surplus. Frank Peters kicked off this effort leading to the development of a scholarship committee led by Paulette. This committee has developed the process for application, identified the schools we are supporting and completed our first round of scholarships.
4. Newsletter: We did not know about the pandemic as we began efforts to restart the newsletter! Doug and his committee have helped us stay in touch through this difficult time so successfully that the effort was awarded project of the year this year! Thanks to Doug and the newsletter committee, as well as all of those that have contributed articles.



(Continued on page 2)

BCMG Projects:

Boys and Girls Club:

Lynn Glaser

BOE Planter Boxes:

Paulette Walker

Bull's Run:

Linda Mull

Butler County Care

Facility:

Carolyn Hoyt

Butler County Historical

Society Museum:

Karen Kessler

Chrisholm Farmstead:

Ginny Hertenstein

Judy Shillinglaw

Doty Homestead:

Gail Troy

Elisha Morgan Gardens:

Libby Head

Butler County Fair:

Frank Peters

Governor Bebb Park:

Emily Eberwine

H.U.G.S.:

Michelle Merrett

Home Horticulture

Series:

J. T. Benitez

Keehner Park Pollinator

Habitat Garden:

Sandy Swiwert

Bonnie Bollie

Metroparks Office:

Carol Souder

President's Notes (continued)

5. Pollinator Garden: The garden remains on hold following a lack of alignment on the overall layout/plan, cost of existing plant removal and site preparation, and identified leadership from the Master Gardeners.
6. Memorandum of Understanding with Metroparks: After over two years of work trying to come to agreement with Metroparks, the effort was abandoned by the board. This effort was intended to partner with Metroparks to deliver education as well as acknowledge our efforts to improve their facilities. In return, the Master Gardeners were to gain access to Metroparks facilities for celebrations and scheduling conflicts at the extension. Although the MoU was a bust, Metroparks gained a better understanding of the contribution of the MGVS and further discussions on project budgeting were initiated.

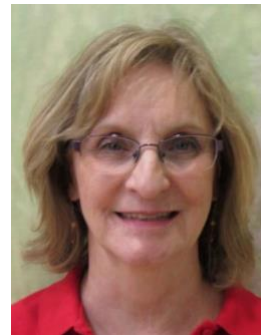
Four out of six is not too bad, at least as a batting average. Wishing you all the best over the holidays.

Vice President's Notes**by Paulette Walker, Vice President**

Here we are, ending another year that just seemed to fly by. I'm so happy we were able to hold our November meeting in person and have our carry-in lunch. We are looking forward to doing that again at our January 2022 meeting and the other meetings in 2022. Our speaker for the January meeting is Betsy Kruthoffer, with the Lloyd Library, Cincinnati, OH. The Lloyd Library and Museum advocates for education in plant-based science, medicine, conservation, art, and history. It provides resources to engage visitors and researchers from the community and around the globe and is considered one of Cincinnati's hidden treasures (see <https://lloydlibrary.org>). It will be nice to see you at the January meeting.

Beginning with the January 2020 meeting Lynn will transition from his position of President of Master Gardeners to Past President. Although he seems to have enjoyed his position, he seems quite willing to pass the position of President on to me. I look forward to leading our group in the next two years. Of course, with Lynn becoming Past President, that means that Doug Troy will be giving up the position of Past President. He has done a wonderful job and I thank him for all his support. Ginny Hertenstein will be the new vice president, and already has provided helpful suggestions. Ginny is looking forward to hearing from members with ideas on speakers for our general meetings. Becky Hildebrandt is our new Treasurer, a job that has been handled quite well by Jim Mack. Jeanne Walther will continue as our amazing Secretary. Thanks to everyone willing to help lead our organization.

We are happy to welcome our two newest members, Christine Small and Judy Nelson, who managed to complete their hours under the COVID restrictions. Welcome to our group! We look forward to getting to know you better in 2022.



(Continued on page 3)

Projects (continued)

Miami U Conservatory:

Angela Lampe

Nancy Tereba

Plant Sale:

Robyn Glaser

Plant Science Skill-a-

Thon:

Margy Beckner

Pyramid Hill Sculpture

Park:

Cynthia Stever

Real Money, Real

World:

Frank Peters

Ross Village Roadside

Plantings:

Emily Eberwine

Speakers Bureau:

Lynn Glaser

St. Julie Church Garden:

Julee Uhrig

Newsletter Team:

Jim Lipnickey

Kathy Maurer

Judy Shllinglaw

Helen Smith

Richard Sunberg

Doug Troy

Vice President's Notes (continued)

We are also happy to welcome our new group of interns: Peaches Atha, Jerry Bradley, Ally Dobbins, Terry Mitchell, Pamela Palmer, Padma Patkar, Diane Pfaff, and Denise Prysmont. This is an enthusiastic group, and I expect to see a lot of them in months to come! Please see the photo below.

Most of us have learned to use Hands on Connect and enter our volunteer and education hours for 2021 in the new system. It has been a hair pulling experience for some, but let me say, I am TERRIBLE with computers, and I managed to wrangle the system into submission. That means, you can do it, too. JT and Frank Peters have dedicated long hours to training members on the new system. I understand it is difficult this year, because we have to learn an unfamiliar system and enter an entire year of hours, all at once, but I really do think this is a one-time problem. With the start of 2022, we can all start fresh, and enter our hours as we go. I put together something I like to call Hands On Connect for Dummies, which is included at the end of this newsletter. I can answer questions by phone if you get stuck on anything. It's not a difficult system, it's just different from what we are used to using. Here's one tip: everyone should choose General Meetings, On-Going Education and Administrative Time as Opportunities. Nearly everyone will use these three categories.

I wish everyone a wonderful holiday season. Stay safe and enjoy this special time of the year.

Financial Summary and Annual Dues

by Jim Mack, Treasurer

December 2021 Financial Summary

- Checking Account Ending Balance (Check Register) = \$19,769.51
- 2021 Annual Income to Date = \$2,659.05 (See Note)
- 2021 Annual Expenditure to Date = \$2,064.18
- Members Who Paid 2021 Dues = 110
- Members who did not pay 2021 dues = 5
- Members Who Paid 2022 Dues = 71 (62.8%)
- Members who did not pay 2022 dues = 42 (37.2%)
- Financial Audit for 2020 completed – Carol Sefton & Joe Morlino
- 2022 dues collection started in September
 - To Pay 2022 Annual Dues:
 - \$15 payable to BCMGV
 - Send to:



Butler County Master Gardeners
PO Box 273
West Chester, OH 45071

- Can also pay in person at the January 2022 general meeting.

JT's Spot

by J. T. Benitez, Extension Educator, Agriculture & Natural Resources, OSU Extension, Butler County

2021, what a year. Can you believe we started 2021 still all at home and under lots of COVID-19 restrictions? Although OSU went back to normal in June it seems so long ago. Unfortunately, things are not looking so good again for COVID right now but hopefully we are nearing the end of this thing!

I would like to personally thank you for your dedication to our organization, the Butler County Master Gardener Association. Your volunteerism is greatly valued by our community at the various volunteer events, project work sites and educational programs! Thank you! I am so excited to see such a great group of dedicated volunteers committed to the OSU Master Gardener Mission of educating the public through our various educational venues! We currently have over 110 active members with eight new interns added from the class of 2021. Let's continue to keep this momentum going! I know we have had to slow down for a while but as things hopefully get better, let's set out a plan of new growth through strengthening membership, developing new project sites and creating more educational programming. During COVID time, we had a lot of time to think and plan for the gardens, use those ideas, and set forth a plan to implement in the Master Gardener program for 2022. I have been thinking a lot about what we can do. I hope to put together a plan soon!

Hands on Connect = Thank you for your patience! That is all I want to say here! Just kidding! We are moving along with the new system. Our members are getting their profiles updated and hours logged in. As with anything new, it takes some time to get the hang of things, which we at the Extension Office are also doing. This time next year this system will be part of the norm. If you are having difficulty, call me or Beth anytime. We will be glad to help. We can put hours into the system, if you need us to, but know that it is a general bulk entry and will not have details of each volunteer or continuing education event. That can be fixed later once you have you logged into your profile. We can help with this as well. Setup an appointment with us for help at the Extension Office.

As for 2022, let's make it a great one! I look forward to what 2022 can bring. From all of us at OSU Extension, Butler County and my family, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!



New Executive Board Elected

The new Executive Board was elected at our November general meeting and will assume their duties on January 1, 2022.



From left to right, President: Paulette Walker, Vice President: Ginny Hertenstein, Treasurer: Becky Hildebrandt, Secretary: Jeanne Walther, Past President: Lynn Glaser (not shown in the photo) and Members at Large: Margy Beckner, Carol Kell, Anne Rolfes and Nancy Tereba.

Congratulations and thank you to the new board members.

Welcome New Master Gardener Class

Please join in to welcome our new class of interns. From left to right are Diane Pfaff, Pamela Palmer, Terry Mitchell, Ally Dobbins, Peaches Atha, Jerry Bradley, Padma Patkar, and Denise Prysmon.



A thank you to JT for holding a successful new member class.

Spotlight on MG volunteers

Editor's note: Members are encouraged to submit stories of interest for future newsletter issues.

Board of Elections Planters

by Paulette Walker

The Board of Elections flowerpots are sporting their winter display. Please stop by and see what you think of them. The pots were designed by Sonia Brule, with Sonia and Paulette Walker selecting material and planting the pots. Sonia and Paulette both brought materials from their own yards to add to the displays. The planters are changed four times a year and are a nice advertisement for the Master Gardener Volunteer organization. Sonia and Paulette would love to have other Master Gardeners work with us on this project. If you would like to join us, please add the Board of Elections opportunity to your Ongoing Opportunities in the Hands On Connect system, so I will know you would like to work on the flower pots. Feel free to call or email me (paulettewg23@gmail.com) if you have any questions about this project.



JT Benitez, Sonia Brule, and Paulette Walker



Spotlight on MG volunteers (continued)

Some Project Highlights
Photos by JT



Chrisholm Founders
Garden Workday



Three Sisters Show and
Tell Program with
Ginny Hertenstein

Spotlight on MG volunteers (continued)



Teaching in the
Chrisholm Garden with
Judy Shillinglaw



Volunteering at the
Miami University
Conservatory

Spotlight on MG volunteers (continued)

Some New Year's Resolutions

My New Year's Resolution for 2022 is to FINALLY go through all those old flowerpots sitting in dark corners in my shed and my garage. I'm sure I will find all sorts of surprises (plants? deceased critters?) when I pull out those pots. I should probably donate some of them to Master Gardeners for use in the plant sale! Wish me luck---I'm sure I will need it. Paulette Walker

My dear spouse says "less plants, less garden". Ha ha. Kay Asbrock

I will not buy, dig, or receive any perennials without doing research prior to planting. Wouldn't hurt to lose 20 pounds also. Karen Gaker

My New Year's resolution is to keep my gardening tools clean, and pruners and clippers sharpened! Makes the job a lot easier. Sharon Gaston

We are with Sharon: Clean and sharpen our gardening tools. Doug and Gail Troy

My resolution is to do more soil testing before I plant. Ginny Hertenstein

Resolve to clean out your garden shed, discard expired materials and clean up tools. Pete Moss

Assemble those gardening items that you no longer use or need and bring them to the MG meeting raffle so someone else can use those items. Rhoda Tiller

If you do not keep a garden journal start one, if you have one keep it up to date and with photos. Clay Potts

Introduce a child to joys of gardening by a visit to a public garden, teach them to help in your garden. Lon Mower

Get involved with 4-H gardening...I was a 4-H Club leader for a 4-H garden club. Richard Sunberg

Take a risk and plant something new to you, every year I plant at least one plant not common to this area. I have planted and harvested cotton, peanuts, buckwheat, but I have a greenhouse for the cotton. I love to start tree seedlings for give-a-ways...I sent off for white pine and Norway spruce seeds. Hu Lu Ho

This year show your flowers and vegetables at the County Fair, win a ribbon and share your joy of gardening. Chip Munk

Add new native plants to your gardens and especially a plant that draws pollinators. Misty Day

Resolve to share your plants, flowers, vegetables, and seeds with others. Lee Ke Hose

Hands on Connect for Dummies

Website--mgvolunteers.osu.edu

At the Home Page:

- Choose Potential Volunteers
- Choose Create an Account
- Add Information about yourself

Create Log in:

- Email
- Create password

Click Save. If you are sent a verification code by email, follow the directions to enter the verification code.

To Log In

- Enter website (mgvolunteers.osu.edu)
- Enter email address and password

(If you ever want to change your basic information or password, go to home page, choose Current Volunteers, then choose My Profile)

After logging on, at home page, choose

- Current volunteers -Volunteer Home

Then you will see pages with your hours, and a page to edit your hours if necessary.

To set up your projects and education hours:

- Choose Butler County (if not automatic)
- Under My Counties, choose Search Projects
- Choose projects/volunteer opportunities
 - Master Gardener meetings
 - Continuing Education
 - Any other projects where you might want to volunteer

You must choose every project one at a time.

My Ongoing Opportunities

This is where you add your hours.

- Choose Log Time next to the volunteer opportunity where you volunteered
- Enter the Start and End Date (use the same date for both)
- Enter hours served
- Make a comment in Activity/Feedback (examples: weeding, meeting, education, etc.)
- Click = Submit & Verify Attendance (You can skip the section about Contacts)

Terms to know:

- Volunteer Opportunity = Project
- Opportunity Coordinator = Project Leader
- Organization = Butler County
- Express Interest = Sign Up a project (volunteer opportunity)

Mulch & More is the newsletter of the Butler County, Ohio, Master Gardeners. © 2021 Butler County Master Gardeners. Submission of articles and member news is encouraged. Send to douglastroy@gmail.com.