

Mulch & More Butler County Master Gardeners

November, 2022

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<i>2022 MGV board:</i>
President:
Paulette Walker
Vice-President:
Ginny Hertenstein
Treasurer:
Becky Hildebrandt
Secretary:
Jeanne Walther
Past Presidents:
Doug Troy & Marge Webb
Members at Large:
Margy Beckner,
Carol Kell,
Anne Rolfes,
Nancy Tereba

President's Corner

by Paulette Walker, President

Hello, everyone! Here we are looking at the end of 2022 already. This year has gone by in a blur for me. I guess that means I have been very busy. Our group has a new class of Master Gardener Volunteers in training. They have been meeting since October 4. There are about 16 members in the class, and they are a fun and engaging group. There are lots of different backgrounds to be drawn from, and lots of experience for them to share with us. I am encouraging them to attend our general meetings so they can meet our group and see how we operate. Please welcome our new trainees when you see them. Also, recall that JT published the schedule of topics of their classes. If you need education hours, you can schedule with JT to sit in on a class or two that interests you.

Our next general meeting is Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2022, at Fernald Nature Preserve, 7400 Willey Rd., Hamilton, OH 45013. As usual, we will begin our lunch buffet at 11:30, followed by the meeting and the speaker. This meeting will include the Seed Exchange, a perennial favorite with our group. Please bring your seeds to share and trade. Make sure your seeds are adequately marked to make the exchange go smoothly. We will also have something new, that was discussed at the last general meeting. The Fair Committee is collecting seeds from members to hand out at next year's Butler County Fair. If you have extra seeds, please bring them along, and the Fair Committee will have a collection point for those seeds. If you cannot bring your seeds to the November meeting, I know the Fair Committee will have a collection point at the Extension Office for the next couple of months.

We will have our first general meeting of 2023 on Wednesday, Jan. 4, at the Extension Office. At that meeting, we will welcome our current interns as "real" Master Gardeners. They have worked hard and have already made their mark on our group. We will also host our Project Fair that day, to showcase projects to new and experienced members (notice I did not say OLD members?).



(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:

Marilyn Bowling

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 Corner (continued)

Please remember to add your volunteer and education hours into Hands On Connect. We are closing in on the end of the year, and you don't want to run out of time to document all your hard work. If you need help, please let me know. JT can also help with this.

Thank you to all the members of our group. We have a wonderful organization, and the only reason it is great is because of our members. I appreciate all the work you do to share your knowledge and energy throughout Butler County.

Vice President's Notes**by Ginny Hertenstein, Vice President**

The garden season is coming to an end. It was a pretty good year for gardens in Butler County! Hope everyone has been able to save some seeds and can bring some to share at our November 2nd seed exchange.

The next meeting will be held at the Fernald Preserve (7400 Willey Road Hamilton 45013). Please bring a dish to share and a drink. There will be limited beverages available. Carpooling is encouraged, as it is a good half hour drive from the Extension office. Our speaker will be Angela Marci, from the Department of Legacy Management at DOE.

Hope to see you there!



Projects (continued)

Miami U Conservatory:

Angela Lampe

Nancy Tereba

Plant Sale:

Carol Kell & Nancy

Greenslade

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

Financial Summary and Annual Dues

by Becky Hildebrandt, Treasurer
October 2022 Financial Summary

- Checking Account Ending Balance = \$19,264.67
- 2022 Annual Income to Date = \$7,281.96
- 2022 Annual Expenditures to Date = \$7,861.80



2023 Annual Dues –
In-person collection will begin at the November General Meeting.

Please recall that 2023 dues have been waived for members who donated 50+ plants for the 2022 Plant Sale. If you are not sure if your membership dues are waived, please check with me at the November meeting. Thank you!

- \$15 payable to BCMGV

Options:

- Send to PO Box 273, West Chester, OH 45071
- OR pay in person at the November general meeting

“Funny Money” – A Little Treasurer Humor

Some silly advice: *Borrow money from pessimists. They don’t expect it back.*



JT's Spot

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

To say that work here at the OSU Extension, Butler County, has been busy is an understatement. Since the Fair, we have hit the ground running with all kinds of programs, new staff and planning for Fall/Winter Farmer programs.

I feel like I am in demand for all kinds of educational programming as it seems that I am speaking somewhere once or twice a week. It is the busy season for me. I have presented an educational program at the Ohio State Fair, Land of Living Exhibit, Ohio Farm Science Review, garden clubs, churches, new master gardener volunteer training, AGFest for New Miami and Madison Schools Grades 5-7 (500 Kids!) and much more. I have had countless client calls, emails and site visits from farms to home gardeners to trees. No downtime in the Agriculture and Natural Resources program for sure!

Changes and updates in our staffing include a permanent new area leader, Victoria Mullins, and a new DLS staff member, Holly Parras. Some open positions remain in the DLS and SNAP-ED programs.

The Farmer/Landowner/Green Industry Training season has begun with lots of programming being developed such as Horse/Equine Workshop, Beef Production Workshop, National Agriculture Breakfast Education Event, Pesticide and Fertilizer Applicator Recertification Trainings for Farmers, Initial Fertilizer Applicator Training for Farmers, Tri-State Green Industry Conference, Southwest Ohio Bee School and much more!

We are now in the middle of the new Master Gardener class with 16 trainees. We probably could have had a few more if we had the space here at the office. Due to the election, we are stuck in the small rooms, unfortunately. The trainees are very enthusiastic and excited and ready to hit the ground running once their training is completed. Be sure to connect with them at the November general meeting. I plan to continue to offer the class annually if the demand is there. I feel at the current level of interest we will be at 150 active members in a few years.

As we continue to grow in numbers, we must also continue to grow in our activities and expand to new opportunities that will work for our group. When new project opportunities come along, we must make sure that they are meeting our mission, vision, and educational goals and that they are sustainable, manageable, and at sites with public access such as parks, government properties, educational organizations, and schools. I want to also make sure each project site is getting recognition from the visiting public by having a MG Project Site Sign in place. If there is not one at your site, ask for one. We have plenty. I want people to know that our MG volunteers are conducting the hard work at these sites. Do not worry if signs are stolen or vandalized as they can be replaced easily, or we can add a security measure if needed to preserve that sign.

Lastly, be sure to keep up to date with Hands on Connect to record your volunteer and continuing education hours in order to maintain your active status. I want to thank everyone for your volunteering in the various parts of the MG Program. Our community and I truly appreciate the work you are doing. Have a great safe and healthy holiday season!



Updates and Announcements

2023 Scholarships for Members and Students by Cristine Matacic

The BCMG Board approved at their October meeting a budget of \$2,750 for the 2023 scholarships with the understanding that the following would be the breakdown:

Butler Tech Tools for Schools – \$250

- The funds we send to the Tools for Schools program helps students achieve education success by helping to support those in need with the acquisition of tools for their education in landscaping/horticulture. Once a year, these funds will be sent to Butler Tech's Foundation for utilization for incoming juniors according to our specifications.

Student Scholarships - Three (3) \$500 scholarships

- Applications will be sent to Financial Aid Officers at schools serving Butler County students and others by November 30, 2022
- Applications with all documentation to be received by March 23, 2023
- Scoring will take place by May 31, 2023
- Awards will be made July 5, 2023 (at our bi-monthly meeting)

BCMG Member Scholarships – \$1,000

- This Educational Support is designed to assist current active Butler County Master Gardeners in one of two ways while funds are available:

State Conference Fees (maximum of the lesser of what the yearly fee is or \$100 each). This is limited to 60% of what the BCMG Board of Directors allocates for the year to the Scholarship Committee for Member Educational Support. For 2023, this equates to a maximum of \$600.

Outside Educational Opportunities/Classes (maximum award of the lesser of what half the fee is for the opportunity/class or \$100 per person per year). This is limited to 40% of what the BCMG Board of Directors allocates for the year to the Scholarship Committee for Member Educational Support. For 2023, this equates to a maximum of \$400.

- For consideration for educational support and determined by the BCMG Scholarship Committee, an application form must be completed in full and submitted to the BCMG Scholarship Committee Chair (2023 – Christine Matacic – cmatacic@fuse.net) either electronically or via hard copy *30-days prior to the conference or educational opportunity/class*. This will give the committee time to evaluate the request, ensure funds are still available, and notify the requestor.

Please let us know if you have any questions or would like to become involved with our committee.

The BCMG Scholarship Committee,
Christine Matacic, Chair

Paulette Walker, Jeanne Walther, Helen Smith, Marilyn Bowling, Gwen Ritchie, Carol Kell

Spotlight on MG Volunteers

The Amazing Pawpaw, (*Asimina triloba*)

by Renate Pealer

It must have been in late elementary school, or perhaps middle school, that I heard the song “Way down yonder in the pawpaw patch”. At that time I had no idea what a pawpaw was. I wondered about it a bit and then promptly forgot about the whole thing. When we lived in Chillicothe, only about 60 miles from Athens, we heard a lot about pawpaws but never actually saw one.

Then in 1999 Chris Chmiel founded the Pawpaw Festival or Ohio Pawpaw Festival, an annual festival dedicated to the Pawpaw fruit (*Asimina triloba*) that is indigenous to the Eastern, Southern, and Midwestern United States, and cultivated in the Athens County, Ohio, area. The pawpaw represents a cultural connection between displaced Native American tribes like the Shawnee and their ancestral lands in what we now call Appalachia. Removal robbed them of access to the food, but the pawpaw lingers as a ghost in their language and memory. Now, almost 200 years later, people are trying to bring it back in the flesh.

Pawpaws are ancient native plants that are well adapted to our Ohio soils and this region. We know that the pawpaw was an important resource for the Shawnee because it left an imprint on their culture even after the Shawnee were forcibly removed from this region by the U.S. government in the early 19th century. The Shawnee marked time by phases of the moon, they used the fruit to mark one of those phases.

Some Indigenous people are working to strengthen their cultural connections with the pawpaw. Dr. Devon Mihesuah is a professor at the University of Kansas, a citizen of the Choctaw Nation, and also a Chickasaw descendent. She has devoted her life to recovering lost knowledge of indigenous foods. “I have spent decades taking a look at travelers' reports, people who observed back in the 1700s, coming through,” she said. “Nobody ever mentioned the pawpaw. They just say ‘this strange fruit’ because they didn't know what to call it.” She says there's a reason for that. Like a banana, the pawpaw has a short window of ripeness. That meant it was probably consumed right on the spot--a convenient, fast food. It has just the most amazing flavor. It was sort of like a banana mango combo with a hint of strawberry.

So now, back to our yard and the pawpaw trees. Many years ago, while attending a gardening workshop in Owensville, I happened to win a door prize, a pawpaw tree. After I brought it home I discovered that two trees were required for the formation of fruit. We had a friend with pawpaws who dug up a couple of small trees for us. We planted them, but they soon died. This happened several times. After seeking the cause for this, we discovered that pawpaws grow in colonies, much like redwoods. The “mother” tree sends out runners that grow into more trees but these trees need to remain connected to the “mother tree”. To make the tree viable by itself, the connection to the mother tree must be severed so that the runner can develop its own roots. Finally, we found another tree, we planted it and it prospered! The pawpaw is an edge of the forest tree, much like the native redbud. If you already have trees on your property plant pawpaws on the edge of your tree line. That's a perfect place for them.

Although I can't remember how long ago this was, we have been harvesting pawpaws for a number of years. Often the wild “critters” eat them before we can harvest them. It took a while before we began to appreciate the pawpaws' unique flavor. Last year we made pawpaw pudding. This year we made pawpaw ice cream. My husband prefers the ice cream. We also discovered that the pulp from the pawpaw fruit can be frozen and used at a later date. We found all the recipes we used on the Internet. There are thousands of them out there.

The September 19, 2022 issue of The New Yorker magazine had a brief article about pawpaws. This article describes the pawpaw as “a creamy mango-shaped fruit that tastes like candied bananas”. The author makes pawpaw crème brûlée, pawpaw panna cotta and lasagna with black beans and pawpaws. The berry of the pawpaw is America's largest native edible tree fruit, grows in the wild in twenty six states but is almost never in grocery stores.

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Spotlight on MG Volunteers (continued)

The Amazing Pawpaw (continued)

The New Yorker article states that this will soon change. In the last five years small orchards along the east Coast have started growing pawpaws and pawpaw festivals have popped up, in addition to Ohio, in Maryland, Pennsylvania and North Carolina. Scientists in Kentucky are seeking to extend the pawpaws short shelf life to make growing them on a large scale more economically viable.

Another interesting fact is that Pawpaws are larval hosts for the Zebra Swallowtail Butterfly.

Last of all, if you are interested in growing pawpaws, there are many small seedlings and lots of seeds in our “pawpaw patch”. We would be happy to share them with anyone interested in growing these unusual, tropical trees.



Spotlight on MG Volunteers (continued)

Memorial Trees

by Richard Sunberg

I have been donating trees for many years but recently I saw on a funeral home website that if one crossed their palm with a LOT of silver, they would plant a tree in honor of the deceased. I thought that these free trees can be planted as memorial trees in the memory of the deceased...at no charge. So far, two people have already taken me up on the offer with a red bud in one case and a tulip poplar in the other.

Trees are one of our most prominent plants. To me a yard without trees is like a church without Jesus. Think about it, they provide, beauty, shade, and leaves to compost. You can tie a hammock to trees, lean up against them and sit under their shady branches. They provide fruit, nuts, seeds, syrup, firewood, fence posts, lumber and habitat for birds to nest and for squirrels to perform their acrobatics.

They are also good landmarks...even today they provide traffic markers in rural areas to give travel directions. I was once told to go about a mile past where the old oak use to be and turn left. So long after the old oak was gone locals still use it as a reference point.

I value trees so much that I propagate them to give to others including at the Master Gardener's seed exchange. When I was working, I dug up redbud and dogwood saplings each spring from my farm woods and wrapped their roots in wet newspapers. I tied the wet papers in place, put the saplings into plastic bags and took them to work where I gave them to my co-workers.

Over the years I have been the conduit for 100s of trees that are now thriving in southwest Ohio and into Indiana.

I had an endless supply when I was living on my woodsy farm but even in town, I still have a good supply. Trees are constantly sprouting in my gardens and raised beds.

Additionally, my brother owns a farm next to Hueston Woods. The trees in the woods are constantly sending their seeds into the edges of his corn fields via wind, birds and squirrels.

It is easy to use a trowel or shovel to scoop them up and transplant them into a gallon or two-gallon plastic pot. I let them grow in potting soil until I can give them away. I place the seedling pots in a cluster in my backyard and water them with a hose. They require little care.

Trees native to Ohio are not hybrids, they grow well in this area. These include varieties of oak, beech, red bud, dogwood, sycamore, maple, hickory, yellow poplar, buckeye, sweet gum, locust, and willow just to name a few very good yard trees.

This fall I ordered white pine and Norway spruce seeds to sprout under grow lights in my sunroom. Anyone want some conifers?

Contact me if you want a memorial tree or if you too want to supply potted tree saplings for others. If there is an interest, I will file an application for this service as an official Master Gardeners project for volunteer hours and education hours.

My contact information is jesusfreak356@aol.com
410 Edgehill Drive, Oxford, Ohio 45056 513-524-0083



Project News

Chrisholm Pollinator Garden by Ginny Hertenstein

In the spring of 2021, we started with an empty patch of lawn. After many hours of work by master gardener volunteers, the garden grew and flourished this year.

Recently, an interpretive sign has been installed, promoting the planting of native pollinators to the county park visitors.



Project News (continued)

BCHS/Benninghofen Museum Project by Karen Kessler

The BCHS/Benninghofen Museum Project has been put to bed for another successful gardening season. Our gardening schedule for 2022 was interrupted midsummer due to construction on the Benninghofen House but the MGs rebounded, and the season ended with the gardens in great shape. Thanks to all the MGs who volunteered their time and efforts in the Benninghofen gardens and looking forward to seeing you in the gardens in 2023!



Gardening crew at the Benninghofen
Sandy Seiwert, Helen Smith, Joe Morlino, Kathleen
Sherman, Nancy Tereba, Dolores Harper, John Bollinger,
Judie Seitz, Patty Shreiner, Karen Whalen



Sandy Seiwert wins the
"Biggest Weed Award"

Project News (continued)

Doty Farmstead Kitchen Garden by Gail Troy

We are wrapping up the second successful year for the Doty Farmstead Kitchen Garden. This year we almost doubled the size of the garden. We modeled the garden in the Potager French Kitchen Garden style combining edible and flowering plants.

The garden was viewed by hundreds of weekend visitors to the Hueston Woods Pioneer Farm including large crowds attending the Arts and Crafts Festival and the Apple Butter Festival.

I want to thank our Master Gardener volunteers for their hard work and dedication and the Oxford Museum Association for providing funding.

But we are not completely putting the garden to bed for the year: As an experiment we sowed a cover crop of winter rye.



Some of the Doty Garden volunteers.



Left, A future MGV sowing the cover crop of winter rye. Right, cover crop emerging in October.



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.