

# Mulch & More Butler County Master Gardeners

May, 2022

---

## *In this issue:*

- President's Notes – 1
- VP's Notes – 2
- Financial Update – 2
- J. T.'s Spot – 3
- Updates &  
Announcements – 4
- Member Spotlight – 5
- Project News – 6

## *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 Paulette Walker, President

With the arrival of spring our project activities are heating up! The Opportunity Spreadsheet provided by Ann McGhee shows plenty of workday opportunities at project locations. Check out the spreadsheet to see where you can fit in some volunteer hours. Thanks, Ann!

We are happy that the Plant Sale will return on Saturday, May 7. It will be fun to welcome our customers back after missing them for two years.

If you have not done so, please sign up to help at the plant sale. It's a great way to see Master Gardeners we have been missing, as well as greeting our loyal customers.

We are happy that the Plant Sale will return on Saturday, May 7. It will be fun to welcome our customers back after missing them for two years. If you have not done so, please sign up to help at the plant sale. It's a great way to see Master Gardeners we have been missing, as well as greeting our loyal customers.

The Fair Booth this year should be wonderful. If you want to participate in the planning of the booth, contact Marilyn Bowling. The theme this year is Grow Your Own Vegetables. As usual, the creative minds of the Fair Booth Committee have developed a program to entertain and educate people stopping by our booth.

Again, I want to thank everyone for their patience with Hands On Connect. As it rolled out across the state, there were plenty of hiccups. JT, Frank Peters, and I have made ourselves available to help members who are stumped with the system, either with the initial sign on, or with problems entering hours. We hope to have a computer and help available at the May 4 meeting for anyone who needs a hand. If I can help anyone with Hands On Connect, please call or email me.

Please take good care of yourselves, and your neighbors. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at our general meeting on May 4.



---

**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

---

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

Welcome to spring/winter/spring in Southwestern Ohio!

Time to hit the garden!

I hope everyone has consulted the workday spreadsheet (thank you Ann McGee) and have a few volunteering dates posted to your calendar. All of our projects are looking for volunteers and offer a great way to connect with fellow gardeners.

The Plant Sale is our primary fund raiser. Sharing some of your favorite plants is a good way to spread the wealth. Don't wait too long to pot up your transplants so they will be looking their best on May 7th. Please invite your friends and neighbors.

The board is working on a special meeting for the BCMGV 25th Anniversary on Wednesday, July 6th. We will be meeting in the Pavilion at Pyramid Hill Sculpture Park in Hamilton for a summer evening celebration. More information to follow!

The speaker at our May 4th Master Gardener meeting will be Steve Willis, owner of Just Farmin' CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) of Hamilton, Ohio. He supplies local, freshly harvested, natural produce from April to December for his members. I hope to see you at the meeting.

**Financial Summary and Annual Dues****by Becky Hildebrandt, Treasurer****April 2022 Financial Summary**

- Checking Account Ending Balance = \$18,740.82
- 2022 Annual Income to Date = \$530.10
- 2022 Annual Expenditures to Date = \$1,633.79
- Members who paid 2022 dues = 108
- Members with unpaid 2022 dues = 4

**2022 annual dues**

- \$15 payable to BCMGV
- Send to PO Box 273, West Chester, OH 45071
- OR pay in person at the May general meeting



---

*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

---

**JT's Spot****by J. T. Benitez, Extension Educator, Agriculture & Natural Resources, OSU Extension, Butler County**

So, what happened to spring? I feel like April has been an extension of March and some of February and January. Where is this warm spring weather? Like many of you, I am over the cold and April snow. I am ready to begin working in my yard, prepping my garden, and planning new things. Cold rain and snowy weather does not motivate me much to get out there and begin working on my projects, it leaves me inside still in planning stage without any implementation!

This year my plans include adding raised beds up around the house for our harder-to-grow plants and a large garden out in the yard as well. We are also working to expand our poultry fencing area along with adding more birds to our flock for eggs. We have a goose sitting on a nest now, we hope to have a hatching of new baby goslings soon. It has been a few years since our mother goose has hatched any eggs, so hopefully this is the year!

I am looking forward to the Master Gardener Plant Sale. I have only seen it once in the over three years with OSU Extension. COVID canceled it for two years. It seems like ages ago that it occurred. I am excited to see all the great plants donated for the sale that all of you have worked so hard to nurture into very good quality plants. Thank you for donating to the sale. I look forward to working in the education room. It is always interesting to learn about the questions that folks have. There is always something new learn and it is fun to assist them in finding the answer.

Of course, the kids are growing up fast. My son has been a big help building our new barn for the tractors (including his) and Charlotte has been busy exploring, crawling with walking occurring very soon. She is already one year old as of April 19. Time is passing too fast!

April showers (and snow :-)) bring May flowers and warmth I hope. I wish everyone a great planting season and spring!



## Updates and Announcements

### Scholarship Committee by Paulette Walker

We have received six applications for our three scholarships of \$250 for Butler County residents. The Scholarship Committee will review the applications and announce the winners of the scholarships at the July meeting.

We also are donating \$250 to the Tools for Schools foundation at Butler Tech, to be used to help fund tools for students enrolled in landscaping/horticulture students.

As a reminder we have \$600 set aside for funding Master Gardener's registration at the State Master Gardener's conference, with a maximum of \$100/year per applicant. If you have an interest in attending the state conference in the Cleveland area this year, remember these funds are available. Another \$400 is available for funding educational opportunities for members, with a maximum of \$100/applicant per year.

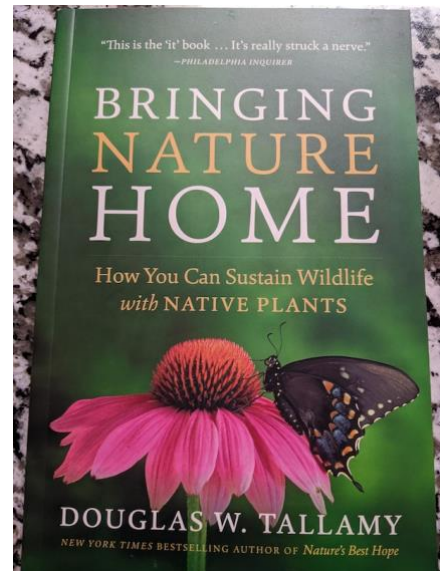
The simplest way to apply for one of the funding opportunities is to contact me, Paulette Walker, so I can send you an application.

### Native Bees at Keehner Park by Paulette Walker

MidPointe Library, West Chester Township and Butler County Master Gardeners are teaming up Saturday, April 23, 10:30-12:30 pm, to educate children and adults on Native Bees, at Keehner Park, 7411 Barrett Rd., West Chester. Join us on this fun outdoor adventure! In case of inclement weather, the event will be moved to the MidPointe Library, 9363 Centre Pointe Dr., West Chester.

### Gardening Book by Paulette Walker

Bringing Nature Home by Douglas Tallamy is a fascinating, easy to read book that makes a compelling argument for adding native plants to your property. He gives a well researched explanation of how native insects rely on native plants. If you have not read this book, I suggest you do. It can be found digitally from the library, or it can be purchased for about \$20.00



## Spotlight on MG volunteers

**Editor's note:** We are introducing new, and relatively new, members. Mentors and new members, please send a brief article about yourself and a photo for future newsletters.

### Meet Diane Pfaff by Ginny Hertenstein

Meet Diane Pfaff – one of our new Master Gardener interns. She is already very involved with our organization! Diane is on the Butler County Fair planning committee and teaches high school students about growing plants at the West Chester Boys and Girls Club.

Originally from Pittsburgh, PA, Diane moved to Ohio with her husband years ago and raised a family here in West Chester. Her daughter became involved with the Butler County 4-H club grooming and showing horses. Diane's mom was involved with garden club activities, and she had several relatives who were Master Gardeners in Pennsylvania, so Diane took note of our local MG organization. Her neighbor, MG Diane Carr, suggested she join our group.

Diane is an equal opportunity grower. She grows both flowers and vegetables at home. She is hoping to make a new garden this year with native pollinators to attract more birds and pollinating insects to her yard.

She retired from a dental office in Fairfield two years ago and now enjoys travelling with her daughter to dog shows. Her daughter is a dog groomer and shows Boston Terriers. She also enjoys going to Austin, Texas, where her son has recently relocated.

Diane has another new interest, working with dogs as a docent to train them to recognize scents, in preparation for competitions.

Diane will be a great addition to our Master Gardener organization!



## Project News

### Plant Sale

by Carol Kell

The May 7th BCMGV Annual Plant Sale is just around the corner and we are looking forward to offering our usual quality event for the public after a two-year hiatus! You have received information by email, but here's a quick list to serve as a reminder.



- Help meet the goal of 100% member participation with at least 10 plants donated per person
- Bring in items for the Garden Boutique and Silent Auction
- Drop off plants and items Thursday, May 5, 4-6:00 pm and Friday, May 6, 12-4:00 pm
- Make sure you water and label each plant before drop-off (common name is fine)
- Spread the word in your community through friends, family, social media
- Park in the overflow parking the day of the sale, if you are able, to allow ample customer parking
- Contact one of the committee members if you have questions or still need to volunteer

Thank you for your participation in the one big fundraiser for our organization.

Plant Sale Committee: Nancy Greenslade, Robyn Glaser, Carol Kell

### Board of Elections Planters

by Paulette Walker

On a very cold day in March, Marge Webb, Sonia Brule and Peaches Atha braved the weather to prepare the Board of Elections pots with the spring planting. Visit the pots and see if you like the arrangement.



## Project News (continued)

### Farm Zone/Fair Committee Report by Marilyn Bowling

We held our organizational meeting on March 10 at the OSU Extension Office with ten Master Gardeners and two Interns in attendance. We started with an overview of previous years displays, particularly last year during COVID. After much discussion, we decided that adult education will be this year's prime focus with the theme "Grow Your Own Food – Everybody Can Do It." The focus will be on container growing, raised beds, grow boxes, pots, and various other containers. All ages, from early childhood to senior citizens, can be involved in container growing. We will show these various ways and areas in which to grow food.

We are excited to have a hydroponic tower for our use all week at the fair, borrowed from the West Chester Boys and Girls Club. A big thank you to Lynn and Robyn Glaser for securing this for our use at the fair. There will be pictures illustrating various spots for container gardening such as day care centers, schools, long term care facilities, and homes. Members of the committee have selected various themes to illustrate how to plant fruits and vegetables, including who, when, where, and why. In addition, the emotional benefits of raising fruits and vegetables will be illustrated.

There will be no tattoos this year. However, we will have "take home" coloring sheets illustrating fruits and vegetables.

If anyone has any suggestions for our display, please contact Marilyn Bowling at [mbowling7@fuse.net](mailto:mbowling7@fuse.net) or 513 863 2435.

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](mailto:douglastroy@gmail.com).