

Mulch & More Butler County Master Gardeners

July, 2022

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2022 MGCV board:

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

Welcome to summer! The weather has been just wonderful the last few weeks, and I have enjoyed being outside. I hope all of you have been able to enjoy the great outdoors as much as I have.

I want to offer a big congratulations to the Plant Sale team, led by Robyn Glaser, and managed by Carol Kell and Nance Greenslade. We made the most money ever! Since we were forced to cancel the Plant Sale the last two years, no one was sure how well it would go. I was there, and I think

everything went perfectly. Please thank the team when you see them. The Plant Sale is the primary source of funds for the Master Gardeners, and we would not have the same organization without this income. Again, thanks to the Plant Sale team and everyone who worked on the sale or contributed to it.

On July 6, 2022, we will have our 25th Anniversary Celebration for the Master Gardeners. I have not been in the organization nearly that long, and I want to tip my hat to those members in the founding years, who made such a nice organization for me, and others, to enjoy. The celebration will take the place of our regular July meeting. It will be at Pyramid Hill, from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. We will have a catered dinner. We will recognize members who have been around all 25 years, we will thank those members who have contributed an extraordinary number of volunteer hours, we will present scholarship checks to our scholarship winners, and JT will recognize the Volunteer of the Year and the Project of the Year. *Please respond to the Sign-Up Genius with your RSVP by June 26th* as we need to confirm numbers for the caterer. We hope to see everyone there.

The Butler County Fair runs from July 24th to 30th. JT has worked hard on organizing the entire Farm Zone building for a re-opening of sorts, after the last two years. The Fair Booth Committee, led by Marilyn Bowling (see pg. 8), has a theme of Grow Your Own Vegetables-Everyone Can Do It, and there are plans afoot to show visitors just how easy and important it is to get your hands in the dirt and grow something good to eat. Please sign up for a shift or two at the Fair Booth. I know from personal experience how fun it is to work at the Fair Booth. It is a good way to interact with other Master Gardeners and the public.

(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)

I want to recognize our current group of MG interns. I see those folks everywhere! They are showing an outstanding level of energy and commitment to our group, contributing new ideas, and reminding me how important a fresh perspective can be to an organization. Please say hi to our interns when you see them.

We have had a change in personnel on our Board. Lynn Glaser has stepped down as Immediate Past President. Doug Troy and Marge Webb are the two most recent past presidents and will be sharing the Past President position until the end of the term. Please make a point of thanking Lynn for all his leadership with the Master Gardeners. He brought a new level of organization and energy that will continue to shape our group and moved us into the 21st century. He has shown a tremendous commitment to Master Gardeners as a board member and in his volunteer hours in various projects, especially the Boys and Girls Club. Thank you, Lynn, for all your hard work. Doug and Marge, welcome back to the board.

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

Hello Summer!

Hope you are all having a great gardening season so far. Remember, every day that it rains we don't have to water!

After starting with a highly successful Plant Sale (thank you Robyn, Carol and Nancy), we are now heading into the Butler County Fair season. Please watch for the sign-up sheets and volunteer. This is always an interesting project; we get lots of county residents coming through plus it's fun to go to the Fair!

I'm looking forward to our next meeting on Wednesday, July 6th, when we will celebrate our 25th Anniversary as an organization. It will be in the Pavilion at Pyramid Hill Sculpture Park from 4 – 7 PM. Please look for the Sign-up Genius e-mail from Ann McGhee and respond by June 26th. You can also e-mail Paulette Walker (paulettegw23@gmail.com) or me (ginnyhertenstein@hotmail.com). We need an accurate count for dinner. Come early and explore this beautiful park!

Hope to see you there!

**Financial Summary****by Becky Hildebrandt, Treasurer****June 2022 Financial Summary**

- Checking Account Ending Balance = \$24,658.60
- 2022 Annual Income to Date = \$7164.86
- 2022 Annual Expenditures to Date = \$1,992.37
- Members with unpaid 2022 dues = 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

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

So, this cold, wet spring has been depressing. Our vegetable garden looks very sad as this rain has really saturated it. Where was the heat to dry it out and get it to grow? Our early/mid spring in April was dry but then May came around and it was more like May showers instead of April showers. Crazy spring no doubt and now we are in the mid-90's with high humidity. Welcome to Ohio weather! We are in the heart of growing season now and it is great to see all the flowers and green shrubs and trees as well! At least some of those plants are doing well!

I wanted to share with everyone the Butler County Fair, Farm Zone Education Exhibit Schedule. It is very exciting to have all these groups participated. We also have permanent displays for the week: Butler County Farm Bureau, Butler Soil and Water Conservation District, OSU Extension – Butler County, OSUE Butler County Master Gardeners & the Butler County Antique Machinery Club with Antique Lawn & Garden Equipment. We are very thankful for all who are participating in the County Fair!!

Sunday, July 24th – Butler County Farm Bureau Day

- Teaching Demo Corner
 - 1:30 PM – Mason Bees, Our Native Bee: Paulette Walker, MGv
 - 4:00 PM – Mason Bees, Our Native Bee: Paulette Walker, MGv
- Center Aisle Interactive Activities/Displays – 12 PM to 5 PM
 - Cabbage Contest
 - Butler County Lamb and Wool (Industry & Recipes)
 - Butler County Cattlemen's (Industry & Recipes)
 - Butler County Pork Producers (Swine Unit Barn Display)
 - Reily Fire Department
 - Grain Bin Rescue Unit
 - Animal Rescue Unit
 - Mullen Dairy – Emily Mullen (Info about Dairy Industry)

Monday, July 25th – Natural Resource Day

- Teaching Demo Corner
 - 1:30 PM – Hueston Woods Naturalist (Birds of Prey or Reptiles)
 - 4:00 PM – Hueston Woods Naturalist (Birds of Prey or Reptiles)
- Center Aisle Interactive Activities/Displays – 12 PM to 5 PM
 - Hueston Woods Naturalist (firs and nature items)
 - Hamilton Conservation Corps
 - Butler County Metroparks – Lara Askill
 - Girl Scouts

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JT's Spot (continued)

Tuesday, July 26th – OSU Extension, Butler County Day

- Teaching Demo Corner
 - 1:30 PM – Canner Testing Demo/Safety – Heather Reister, FCS OSU Extension
 - 4:00 PM – Sun Safety and Water first for thirst – Heather Reister, FCS OSU Extension
- Center Aisle Interactive Activities/Displays – 12 PM to 5 PM
 - 4-H Robotics – Kindra Montgomery
 - 4-H Carteens – Impaired Vision Goggles, Seat Belt Safety, Other
 - OSUE & 4-H Display Boards
 - ANR Display

Wednesday, July 27th – Butler County Soil & Water Conservation District Day

- Lots of Items being Planned. Stay Tuned!

Thursday, July 28th – Kids Activity Day

- Teaching Demo Corner
 - 1:30 PM – Emily Kahrs, 4-H Educator – Topic: Stay Tuned!
 - 4:00 PM – Emily Kahrs, 4-H Educator – Topic: Stay Tuned!
- Center Aisle Interactive Activities/Displays – 12 PM to 5 PM
 - Fitton Center for Creative Arts
 - Ohio Soybean Council Youth Activities

Friday, July 29th – Historical Day

- Teaching Demo Corner
 - 1:30 PM – Butler County Lamb and Wool – Lamb Tasting & Recipes – Nick Forest
 - 4:00 PM – Butler County Lamb and Wool – Lamb Tasting & Recipes – Nick Forest
- Center Aisle Interactive Activities/Displays – 12 PM to 5 PM
 - Butler County Historical Society
 - Then and Now
 - Laundry from 1800's activity
 - History of Butler County Agriculture
 - Fodder Chopper – Long-Allstatter
 - Check-Row Corn Planter – H.P. Deuscher, Made in Hamilton in 1882
 - West Chester Historical Society – Stay Tuned!!
 - Lane Library – Stay Tuned!!
 - Midpointe Library – Stay Tuned!!

Saturday, July 30th, Farm Zone Day

- Teaching Demo Corner
 - 1:30 PM – J.T. Benitez, ANR Educator – Gardening to Know
 - 4:00 PM – J.T. Benitez, ANR Educator – Gardening to Know

I hope everyone has a great summer and growing season. I look forward to seeing everyone at our July Anniversary Dinner and the Fair!

Updates and Announcements

Scholarship Committee by Paulette Walker

The Scholarship Committee has selected three Butler County residents to receive a \$500 scholarship each. The winners are Catharine Beerman, Justin Beckner and Jalin McConnell. Congratulations to all three of these fine young people. The winners are invited to the July 6 Anniversary Celebration, where they will be introduced. The scholarships were budgeted for \$250 each, but the MG Board generously decided to increase the amount to \$500, because of the outstanding success of the Plant Sale.

Plant Sale 2022 By Carol Kell

This year's Plant Sale can be counted as a great success after a two-year hiatus. Our membership hardly missed a beat and provided great plants, lots of items for our garden item/décor boutique and silent auction, and an amazing number of volunteer hours before and during the day of the sale. Here is some data from this year's sale:

- Net proceeds were \$6,176, about \$1,000 more than our last sale in 2019
- Three of our Silent Auction items, together, brought in \$800; total Silent Auction income was \$1,205
- We had 58% of members donating plants, down slightly from 2019
- We had 5 members who donated over 100 plants and 5 members who donated over 50 plants
- We had about 25% fewer plants donated this year as compared to 2019; we also had very few plants left over at the end of the sale
- The Education and Project displays provided great outreach to the visiting customers; 366 adult customers were tallied entering the sale floor

Butler County Master Gardeners can be proud of providing a quality plant sale. Thank you, Butler County Master Gardeners for a successful fundraiser.

This year is Robyn Glaser's last year as Plant Sale Chair and she turns the reigns over to Nancy Greenslade and Carol Kell to serve as Co-Chairs next year. In her years serving as Plant Sale Chair, she has created a well-oiled machine. Thank you to Robyn for her organization, insights and leadership!



Plant Sale Photos



Our First Plant Sale

A brief history of the MGV Plant Sale by Renate Pealer

Since everyone worked so hard to help make this year's plant sale a great success, I thought I'd share some of the history/background on how and why we started having a plant sale.

Back in the early 2000's we met every other month, the dues were \$15.00, as they are now, and we had 40+ members. The only income our group had was the dues and the proceeds of the raffle that was held at every meeting. Once we paid our state fees, we were left with only \$5.00 per member for operating fees. So, we mostly had no money for anything. Something needed to be done.

At that time I belonged to a garden club that had a very successful plant sale each year. So, I thought "We are Master Gardeners. We can have a plant sale." But, we needed a place for this sale. At that time we were meeting in the basement of the old extension building, now used by the sheriff's department. We knew that walking up and down a flight of stairs to a basement with no windows was a location far from ideal for such a sale. So, Don Eberwine and I spoke with Margy Beckner whose brother operated Brown's Marketplace, located where Rural King is now, to ask if we could possibly hold our plant sale there. That's how Margy and I became the "Founding Mothers" of our annual plant sale.

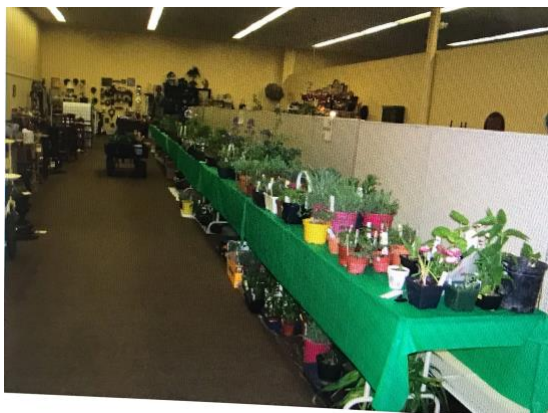
There was much planning and anxiety before that first sale. There was no guide on how to prepare for such a sale so we made up guidelines as we went along. We had numerous meetings to determine what committees we would need, how many plants we hoped each member would bring, how to prepare the plants for the sale, who would do what at the sale and how much advertising we would need to make sure that we would have customers attending our sale. On April 29, 2007 our first ever MGV Plant Sale not only happened (despite our worries) but we made a profit of about \$1,000.00. That's a small number compared to the profits of 2022, but in 2007 for our first sale we felt that we had done well.

So, the plant sales were held each year after that. Our second plant sale, again held at Brown's Marketplace, had a profit of \$2,000.00, our third one had a profit of \$2500.00 and so it continued. Once the building in which we now meet was completed, we started to hold our plant sales there.

I hope that we will continue to hold our plant sales as the years go on. Besides adding money to our treasury so we can make our meetings better, give scholarships to horticulture students, pay for plaques and markers to make the public aware of our projects, etc. our sale provides a large variety of healthy, inexpensive plants to all who attend. Our sale is a win-win for all participants. As the French would say (I have to warn you that I taught French for many, many years and just can't help adding little phrases in French when possible), Vive la Vente des Plantes, long live the plant sale.



First MGV plant sale volunteers 2007.



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 Gerald “Jerry” Bradley by W. Joyce Bradley

Born in Butler County, Ohio, Jerry has always lived in Hanover Township. For more than 36 years he worked as a field engineer for the Southwest Regional Water District. In July of 1968, Jerry married Joyce Hamilton and they built a home in Hanover Township. Joyce was a Master Gardener Volunteer. Joyce encouraged him to take the Master Gardener Course which he did in 2021.

Jerry was first bitten by the gardening bug when he was five years old and he watched his grandfather prepare the garden plot for planting and later harvesting what had been planted.

As the years went by Jerry learned how to prepare his own garden plot. He read books and grew his own garden. The vegetables were given to family and neighbors. Each year family and friends came to expect deliveries of tomatoes and peppers as well as cucumbers.

Exhibiting his harvest at the Butler County Fair was another adventure in gardening.

As Jerry grew up his hobbies came to include classic tractors as well as models of his favorite Ford Tractors. In 2020 Jerry graduated to Grow Boxes and found them to be especially interesting. The Grow Boxes required less labor and the yield was similar. Joyce adopted the Grow Box process and found them to be easier for her to work with. And so the Bradleys' work with Grow Boxes exclusively and save the former Garden plot for wild flowers and such.

Master Gardener Meetings are especially enjoyable and making friends and sharing information has been yet another adventure in gardening.



Meet Ruth “Peaches” Atha by Cynthia Stever

Ruth “Peaches” Atha is a long time Hamilton resident. She tells me that her mom gave her the nickname when she was born, saying that she had “peach fuzz” hair.

Peaches has been married to Tom for 32 years. They have two daughters and four grandchildren. She worked at LifeSpan in the Credit Counseling Division for 17 years. Peaches and I worked together at LifeSpan. She always strived to make the Credit Counseling/Education programs the best they could be.

When she retired in 2019, she devoted more time to her hobbies of photography, gardening, and crafts, including sublimation and vinyl. Tom is a woodworker and Peaches helps him with design and marketing. They recently incorporated 1806 Woodworks and look forward to having a booth at the Hamilton Flea Market on the 2nd Saturday of the month through September. Visit Facebook to see Tom’s woodworking projects.

Peaches has always enjoyed gardening but learned so much more in the OSU Extension Master Gardener Class. She is curious and asks question of fellow gardeners as they work together at projects (oops, opportunities). She has enjoyed getting to know people from diverse backgrounds and experiences. With only 16 hours to go, Peaches should easily meet the 50-hour goal for new interns.



Project News

Pollen in Love with native bees – A Day at Keehner Park by Sandy Seiwert

Dianna Malott, a Librarian at MidPointe Library in Westchester, was inspired by the PBS special *My Garden of a Thousand Bees*. It follows acclaimed wildlife filmmaker Martin Dohrn, who while locked down by coronavirus, turned his lenses on the surprising and spectacular bees living in his own urban garden in Bristol, England. Dianna wanted to encourage people to understand the diversity of our native bees, why they are important and if there is something that we can do to help the native bees. With the help of West Chester township and the Butler County Master Gardeners, Pollen in Love was set for April 23 at Keehner Park (10:30 to 12:30). It was a remarkable success with about 150 to 200 people attending.

The library set up five exhibits. There was a display of bee related books that were available at the library, a bee bookmark craft, a station where native wildflower seeds were planted to take home, and a display of mason bee houses for sale.

The West Chester Township provided bee cookies and lemonade. They also opened the log cabin.

The Master Gardeners had six exhibits. Karen Kessler discussed the diversity of native bees and Mason bees and their importance. Helen Smith had a coloring station that covered how pollination worked. Patty Schreiner covered why pollinators are important and what we can do to help. Paulette Walker had the hard job of taking the fear out of bees and the things we can do to prevent stings. Chris McCullough made origami finger puppet of bees and had people folding an origami snapper. Bonnie Bollie gave out information about what to plant in a pollinator garden and when things bloomed. Barb Stigler gave tours of the Pollinator Garden at Keehner that the Master Gardeners maintain. Because late April is not the best time to demonstrate what plants are best for pollinators, we used nine-by-eleven photos of the blooming flowers that are in the garden.

I have always wanted this garden to be used as an educational tool. I think that our garden does this. This is the first time our garden has ever been featured in a public event. I was very pleased with what we accomplished.



Project News (continued)

MG's Fair Committee Has Been Active

by Marilyn Bowling

The fair dates are July 24-30. Our booth will again be in the Farm Zone Building. This year's theme is "Grow your own fruits and vegetables, everyone can do it!" We will:

- Show ways you can grow fruits and vegetables without moving to a farm: raised beds, containers, pots, and troughs.
- Show who can be a gardener: children; adults of all ages; individuals with physical disabilities; senior citizen retirement/assisted living facilities; and mentally challenged individuals of all ages.
- Demonstrate why you should garden: to save money; to eat healthier; for exercise; and for mental well-being.
- Have a Hydroponic Tower Garden in the booth with vegetables growing. Thanks to Tracey Key, sales rep, for her assistance in providing the tower. We will be distributing pamphlets on this method of gardening.

The committee has been meeting monthly since January to plan and prepare for Fair Week. We will need volunteers to work Fair week. Frank will be posting a sign-up sheet for the work schedule. Please sign early to get your preferred day and time. It is a fun way to earn volunteer hours.

Marilyn Bowling for the MG Fair Booth Committee at the Farm Zone Building

Visit the Hueston Woods Pioneer Farm and Doty Kitchen Garden on Weekends

by Gail Troy

We have expanded the Doty Pioneer Kitchen Garden at the Hueston Woods Pioneer Farm and are busy planting and watching our garden grow. I want to thank our dedicated volunteers here in the far reaches of Butler County and our partners at the Oxford Museum Association (OMA) for their hard work. The farm and garden are open to the public every weekend from noon – 4:00pm with OMA interns available for tours. In addition, OMA sponsors the following special events presented by the interns:

- 6/25 – 6/26 Butter Churning
- 7/9 – 7/10 Laundry Day
- 7/16 – 7/17 Ice Cream Churning
- 7/30 – 7/31 Parlor Games
- 8/7 Canvas Rug Painting
- 8/13 – 8/14 Candle Dipping & Doll Crafting
- 8/27 – 8/28 Intern Event



Some of the Doty Garden MGV volunteers.

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.