

September, 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 Presidents:

Doug Troy & Marge
Webb

Members at Large:

Margy Beckner,
Carol Kell,
Anne Rolfes,
Nancy Tereba

President's Corner

by Paulette Walker, President

July was a busy month for the Butler County Master Gardeners! We had our 25th Anniversary Celebration, plus the Butler County Fair booth. Both were a big success, and we are already looking forward to doing both again.

It's August, which means fall cannot be far away. I am not a fan of summer heat and I'm counting the days until the first frost – my personal holiday.

Please continue to enter your volunteer and education hours into the Hands On Connect system so you don't have to rush to do it at the end of the year. As always, JT and I are available to help anyone who needs assistance doing this.

Anyone who has tried to retrieve anything from the Master Gardener storage area at the Extension Office knows how difficult it is to find supplies. Nancy Tereba and Renate Pealer have agreed to lead a committee to organize that area a few times a year. If you like to put everything in its place, contact these women and offer your help.

Our next General Meeting is right around the corner, September 7, 2022, at the Extension Office.

Our November 2, 2022 meeting will be at the Fernald Nature Preserve, 7400 Willey Rd., Hamilton, OH. I believe we will be suggesting some carpooling options for those who want to share rides from the Extension Office to Fernald. The November meeting will include our annual seed exchange.

As always, please contact me if you have any questions or suggestions.



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**

The end of summer is slowly catching up to us. Please remember to keep up with recording your hours for the year.

We have successfully gotten through our main events for the year. The Plant Sale did very well, followed by a fun evening to celebrate the MGCV's 25th Anniversary and honor some of our hard-working members. The Butler County Fair booth was a big success, handing out hundreds of seeds and plant coloring sheets and showing the public the many forms that a garden can take. The whole Farm Building was buzzing with new ideas and the fair goers seemed happy to be back!

A few things of note for the fall – we will be having Brian Jorg, from the Cincinnati Zoo's Bowyer Farm in Mason, as our speaker at the September meeting. This is a great place to find native plants for your garden and an interesting extension of the zoo's conservation efforts.

The November 2nd meeting will be held at the Fernald Preserve meeting room due to election activity at the Extension office. The address is 7400 Willey Rd. Hamilton, OH 45013. There will be no raffle but the seed exchange will be held in the lobby. Carpooling is encouraged!

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

- Checking Account Ending Balance = \$19,456.53
- 2022 Annual Income to Date = \$7,193.96
- 2022 Annual Expenditures to Date = \$7,581.94
- Members with unpaid 2022 dues = 3

2022 Annual Dues

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

"Funny Money" – A Little Treasurer Humor

Three animals were having a drink in a bar, when the owner asked for the money. "I'm not paying," said the duck. "I've only got one bill and I'm not breaking it. "I've spent my last buck," said the deer. "Then the duck will have to pay," said the skunk. "Getting here cost me my last scent."



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

JT's Spot

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

I first want to say, "what a great summer." Thank you to all the Master Gardener Volunteers who worked hard this summer educating the public at events and at our project sites. Your dedication to this volunteer mission is very important and I thank you greatly for your commitment to the OSUE Master Gardener Mission!

I would also like to mention our 25th anniversary celebration at the July meeting. It was just a great time! What a good evening for it after the storms rolled through. The temperature was comfortable, good friends, lots of talking and connecting, and great food. The Pyramid Hill facility is such a nice place and great for a picnic for a group of our size. Thank you to the Master Gardener volunteers who put the celebration together. Great Job!

One highlight for me was announcement of our 2022 annual awards:

- Butler County Master Gardener of the Year (Tom Smith award): Michele Merritt
- Butler County Master Gardener Project of the Year: Boys and Girls Club of West Chester, Robyn and Lynn Glaser

Michele has been in the program for 5 years and has completed for the year 2021, 116 volunteer hours and 19 hours of continuing education with a lifetime volunteer hour achievement of 550 and 110 continuing education hours. Her work with Hamilton Urban Gardens (HUGS) has been her main focus where she is a dependable and enthusiastic leader. She was one of the key drivers of the planning for HUGS and serves on the board at HUGS. HUGS is one of the most visible gardens in Butler County and has a huge impact on the Hamilton community. The project works to educate the community about healthy eating habits and the food that the gardens produce, such as healthy fruits and vegetables, go to help meet needs in the area community.

Robyn and Lynn Glaser were recognized for their leadership of the Boys and Girls Club of West Chester project. This project was established in 2020 and has moved quickly up the list as one of our most active impactful projects. The goal of this project is to educate young people on sustainable gardening techniques, plant biology and the value of raising plants. Boys and girls from 2nd grade all the way up to high school receive education through a variety of gardens including raised bed demonstration sites and a hydroponic tower garden system as well as classroom and interactive demonstrations. Over 200 youth have been reached through this MGVP Project Site.



(Continued on page 4)

JT's Spot (continued)

Another highlight of the summer was the Butler County Fair. What a week. We had thousands of people tour the Farm Zone building and enjoy our permanent displays, interactive exhibits, and daily rotations! We even had some well-known dignitaries walk in. Those folks were Ohio Governor Mike Dewine, Ohio Department of Agriculture Dorothy Peland, Ohio State Representative Thomas Hall - District 53, Ohio State Representative Sara P. Carruthers – District 51 and Butler County Commissioner T.C. Rogers. T.C. Rogers mentioned to me that the building looked professionally done and looked great. Not to be biased but I think that was one of the best Farm Zone displays to date! It could not have worked out better. Thank you to the Master Gardeners for a great educational display and working all week, interacting with the public. I can only imagine all the people you talked to and educated throughout the week. I hope that a lot of those folks will plant some of those free seeds and learn where their food comes from! I look forward to your educational theme for 2023!

A final topic to mention is that starting this year new Master Gardener training will be held annually. The number of people interested in joining the MG program throughout the year keeps growing so it makes sense to offer annual training so that we do not miss anyone who wants to participate and may lose interest waiting two years for the next MG training. I hope that at minimum we will gain 10 new MG interns annually. It is exciting that we continue to grow with new MG members because they are essential to bringing in new ideas, new project site development, improving and modifying our direction, and carrying the group into the future. Please be sure to welcome those new members and to mentor and guide them so they can become successful in our group and enjoy the experience!

Ok, one more thing to mention! I am planning to have a MG Project Leader Meeting on Wednesday, September 7, 2022, 9:30 – 11:00 AM here at the OSUE Office, before our MG general meeting. It will be an informal meeting of no more than 1 ½ hours to discuss needs, concerns, role, direction, and other items related to being a project leader at a MG project site. MG project leaders, please let me know if you plan to attend.

Robyn and Lynn
Glaser, Leaders of
the Boys and Girls
Club project



Ohio Governor Mike
Dewine visiting our
MG Farm Zone booth

Updates and Announcements

Scholarship Committee by Paulette Walker

One of the many highlights of the 25th anniversary meeting was the awarding of three \$500 Master Gardener scholarships to three outstanding young people from Butler County:

- Jalin McConnell, a graduate of Hamilton High School/Butler Tech, with plans to become a registered nurse. Jalin attended the celebration with a friend.
- Justin Beckner, a graduate of Talawanda/Butler Tech, and currently a sophomore at Wilmington College, studying for a degree in Agricultural Education.
- Katie Beerman, a graduate of Lakota East High School, who plans to attend the University of Iowa, and earn a degree in Cardiac Ultrasound Technology.

We wish the three of them success in their studies.



Plant Sale Recognition by Carol Kell

Another highlight of the anniversary meeting was recognition of members who made outstanding contributions to the 2022 plant sale, starting with the leadership team of Carol Kell, Robyn Glaser, and Nancy Greenslade.



Plant Sale Recognition (Continued)

Ten members donated 50 or more plants and will have their 2023 annual dues waived as a thank-you from the Board. They are:

Donna Ferguson	Carolyn Hoyt
Lynn Glaser	Carol Kell
Robyn Glaser	Christine Maticic
Delores Harper	Terry Mitchell
Janet Higgins	Denise Prysmont



In addition, a \$20 Graeter's gift card was given to those who donated in excess of 100 plants:

Janet Higgins	125 plants
Terry Mitchell	140 plants
Lynn Glaser	150 plants
Robyn Glaser	150 plants
Christine Maticic	350 plants

Also recognized with a \$20 Graeter's gift card was Cynthia Stever for the donation of a pressure washer and tiller for the silent auction, generating \$650 of income, and Kathy Maurer for donating a large jade plant that generated \$150 in the silent auction, believed to be the highest single plant income in plant sale history. Robyn presented Kathy with a new jade plant to keep that tradition alive.



Farm Zone Booth a Big Success

by Marilyn Bowling

The 2022 Butler County Fair is now behind us, and the Master Gardener's Farm Zone Booth was a major success! I would like to thank the committee for their dedication and hard work. We met as a committee once a month beginning in January, with many individual assignments being completed between meetings.

Our initial task was to develop the theme for our booth. "Grow Your Own Fruits and Vegetables - Anyone Can Do It" was developed by the committee. We tried to demonstrate that fruits and vegetables can be grown by people of all ages in various ways, and in any living arrangement.

55 Master Gardeners worked at least one four-hour shift during the week. The heat/humidity was tough at times, and we had a thunderstorm on Wednesday. However, the weather was decent most of the week. Give-aways at the Fair always are a big hit. The "free" flower and vegetable seeds were a huge success. Thanks to Terry Mitchell for obtaining the seeds. Coloring sheets were a big hit with the kids and Senior Citizens. Both groups like to color!

Tracy Key was our source for the Hydroponic Grow Tower. Tracy was at our booth to demonstrate, throughout the week, various ways to grow food. Lynn and Robin Glaser helped secure the tower for our use. Lynn started growing vegetables before Fair Week and delivered the Tower during set-up at the Farm Zone.

We were asked many questions by the public, and MGs were able to give correct answers, most of the time. Governor Dewine was a surprise visitor to our booth on Saturday.



Farm Zone (continued)

In closing, I was blessed to have a great committee. We had a mix of experienced committee members and interns who meshed well and shared ideas. Each person accepted a job and carried it out to make our booth a source of learning for the public.

I want to thank Frank Peters for his leadership from the beginning, through all our meetings, handling Sign-up genius, set-up and tear down. Frank was my "Go-to" guy from the start. I also want to thank Kathy Sherman for putting together and displaying her book on Microgreens. I want to thank our Board and JT for their support. It was greatly appreciated.



Your 2022 Butler County Master Gardener Fair Booth Committee: Marilyn Bowling, Chairman, Jerry and Joyce Bradley, Joan Fox, Secretary, Christine Matacic, Terry Mitchell, Frank Peters, Diane Plaff, Denise Prysmont, Kathy Sherman, Sandy Seiwert, Helen Smith and Paulette Walker.

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 Pam Palmer

Pam grew up in Brecksville, a suburb of Cleveland, her husband Dennis, in Kettering and they met at Bowling Green State University. After a few years of active duty with the United States military, they moved from Oklahoma to New Jersey and then to West Chester in 1982. They lived in a little neighborhood bordered by West Chester and Barret Roads where Pam started her very first sunny perennial flower bed with surprisingly good results. Nine years later they moved to their dream house in Providence Manor, behind Lakota High School. They bought the house because of the back yard. It was once the end of a cow pasture and has a small grove of trees including oak, hickory, persimmon, ash, buckeye, maple, hackberry, and black walnut. She had to learn very quickly about gardening in the shade!

Since retiring from the Great Rivers Girl Scout Council she has devoted even more time to gardening. She belongs to the Grapevine Garden Club and is a faithful member of the club committee that plants and maintains the landscaping at the West Chester Post Office. As a MG intern, Pam has worked hard at Elisha Morgan Heritage Gardens, Chrisholm Historic Farmstead and Keehner Park.

Pam and Dennis have two grown children. In non-Covid years they typically take a cruise or two to some part of the world. It was a thrill of a lifetime to take a tour through Monet's house and gardens in Giverny, France. Monet believed his gardens were his greatest achievement and Pam completely agrees!



Project News

Miami University Conservatory by Nancy Tereba

Who needs a gym membership when you can work at Miami University? What a great day!



Cynthia is attacking the dead branches on a bush!



Joe is finding all the hidden weeds!



Karen is trimming the bush so we can view the artwork again!



Jim is battling two shrubs that don't belong and he won!



Nancy found a tree within a bush and now we only have a bush



Tami gets the award for cleaning out the jungle of weeds!

25th Anniversary Celebration Memories

A big thank-you to the Board for presenting our 25th anniversary celebration in conjunction with the July general meeting. The meeting was held at Pyramid Hill Sculpture Park and catered by City Barbecue. President Paulette Walker presided and served as the Master of Ceremonies for the anniversary celebration.



Three members of the very first MG class were in attendance: Marilyn Bowling, Judy Shillinglaw, and Ann Coombs.

Several awards and accomplishments (mentioned above) were recognized including project and volunteer of the year awards, scholarship awards, and those who made outstanding contributions to the annual plant sale.



Members who have accumulated over 1000 volunteer hours were recognized with the Golden Trowel award. They and their hours are:

Karen Kessler, 2483.5
Joan Fox, 2429
*Frank Peters, 2365.5
Sandy Seiwert, 1934.95
*Renate Pealer, 1670
Gwen Ritchie, 1623.7
Judy Shillinglaw, 1600
Cynthia Scrimizzi, 1412.9
Debbie Grant, 1342.5
Lynn Glaser, 1061.6
Emily Eberwine, 1061.15
Margy Beckner, 1059.5



* - Frank and Renate were inadvertently overlooked at the meeting and will be recognized at our next meeting.

Thanks to our roving photographers for capturing photos of many of those in attendance.

25th Anniversary Celebration (continued)



25th Anniversary Celebration (continued)



25th Anniversary Celebration (continued)



25th Anniversary Celebration (continued)



25th Anniversary Celebration (continued)



25th Anniversary Celebration (continued)



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.