

Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer Newsletter

# KEEP IT GROWING!

January - February 2018

Volume 15, Issue 1

## Would YOU Like to Become a Master Gardener Volunteer?

**Do you enjoy gardening? Are you looking for a way to give back to your community? Consider becoming a Master Gardener Volunteer!** The MGV Program trains volunteers for Ohio State University Extension in their county to help further the mission of engagement and outreach. Volunteers are trained in consumer horticulture including: annuals, perennials, fruits, vegetables, soil, botany, turf, insects, diseases and more! Each intern must complete 50 hours of educational classes and 50 hours of volunteer service to OSU to become fully certified Ohio State Master Gardener Volunteers. Training classes in Coshocton County will be held on Monday evenings from 6-9 pm for the weeks of February 5 - June 11, 2018. Find an application packet at [coshocton.osu.edu](http://coshocton.osu.edu) or contact Emily Adams for more information at [adams.661@osu.edu](mailto:adams.661@osu.edu) or (740) 622-2265.

MGV's become leaders and educators in the community, sharing their knowledge and gardening experience with the public through presentations, informational booths, offering workshops and fun events, and always providing research-based, unbiased reliable information. Current MGV projects in Coshocton County include: gardens at Lake Park – Round Garden, Entrance Garden, Daylily, and Phenology Garden areas; Parking Lot Garden at the County Services Building; Plant Sale; WTNS monthly radio program; displays and programs.

*More information on becoming a Coshocton County MGV can be found at: <https://coshocton.osu.edu/node/564>  
Find more information on the Master Gardener Volunteer program in Ohio at: <https://mastergardener.osu.edu/about>*

## Beat the Winter Blahs Series

Are you looking for a way to add a little life and color to your dreary winter days? Grab a friend and register for one or both of the “Beat the Winter Blahs” workshops. Join local Master Gardener Volunteers to learn more about plants while getting out this winter and beating those winter blahs.

Do you have questions about your houseplants or want to learn more about different types of plants to keep in your home? Then join the MGVs on Monday, January 29, 2018 at 7:00 pm for Beat the Winter Blahs with Houseplants. The cost of this program is \$5.00 and registration is required by January 26.

Would you like to create a decorative terrarium to bring a little green indoors this winter? Then join the MGVs on Tuesday, February 20 at 7:00 pm for Beat the Winter Blahs with Terrariums. Cost for this program is \$15.00 and includes all class materials, terrarium plants and a glass container. If you would like to bring your own container, the cost is \$10.00. Registration is required by February 12.

Each program will be from 7:00-8:00 PM in Room 145 of the County Services Building, 724 South 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Coshocton. Informational flyers for both workshops can be found at the OSU Extension Office or online at:

<https://coshocton.osu.edu/program-areas/master-gardener-volunteers/news-and-upcoming-events>

Please call (740) 622-2265 for more information.

## Ask Your Gardening Questions on WTNS Radio

Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteers are in the local WTNS studio with Mike Bechtol on the second Friday of each month (unless otherwise announced). Tune to 99.3 FM or go online to <http://www.mywtnsradio.com> at 9:00 am. Call in with your gardening questions or comments to (740) 622-1560 and we will do our best to share our experience with you!

**Our workshop on annuals will be March 22 – more info to come!**

## Career Center Open House Display – February 15

Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteers will have a display at the Coshocton County Career Center Open House on February 15, 2018 from 4:30 until 7:00 pm. Stop by and see us and bring your gardening questions! In case of a weather cancellation, the open house will be held on February 22.

## Coshocton County MGVs Recognized

OSU Extension - Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteers were recognized for a year of dedication on November 29, 2017 at Raven's Glenn Winery.

Ten Coshocton County MGVs volunteered between 20 and 161 hours each, for a total of 690 hours from January 1 through November 28, 2017 toward beautifying and educating Coshocton County. They also dedicated over 196 hours to continue to educate themselves in horticultural practices.

The following persons were recognized for volunteer hours accrued since the year they were certified:

- Between 100-199 hours: Dianne McCoy, since 2012
- Between 300-399 hours: Coleman Anderson, since 2008; Tony Hatem, since 2012
- Between 400-499 hours: Pam Anderson, since 2008
- Between 500-599 hours: Marsha Duling and Teri Williams, both since 2008
- Between 700-799 hours: Tracey Wiseman, since 2004
- Between 800-899 hours: Reta Grewell, since 2001
- Between 1200-1299 hours: Margaret Lowe, since 2002
- Between 1400-1499 hours: Gail Piper, since 2006

## Amaryllis

By Margaret Lowe, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer

If you were fortunate to receive an amaryllis for Christmas or purchased one for yourself, you will want to keep it for as long as possible or have it to bloom again next Christmas. The amaryllis is one beautiful blooming plant to have in the house during the holiday season. Most amaryllis bought now come in a box with a growing mixture, a pot and are ready to begin growing the minute you add some water. However, an amaryllis bulb is prone to rotting, so be careful with watering; less is better with all your houseplants. The potting mixture should be well drained. A bulb can go years without repotting.

Blossoms usually unfold in four to five weeks. Buds form deep within the bulb and one flower bud will grow for every four to six leaves.

Come spring, like poinsettias and Easter lilies, an amaryllis can be planted outside. However, this requires more care if you want to bring back inside for next Christmas. After the "Christmas bloom", many of us place the bulbs in a dry, dark place where they can rest for quite a while and then begin all over again for next Christmas.

*For more info on caring for amaryllis, visit: <https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/2009/1-7/amaryllis.html>*

## Tips to Save Your Poinsettia for Another Season

Many folks discard their poinsettias when the holidays are over, but others may want to try to keep the plant and have it bloom again for the next Christmas. Here are a few tips to follow:

Keep the poinsettia in good blooming condition for several weeks by watering when needed, applying a bit of fertilizer, and keeping it in bright light. If the plant becomes "leggy", trim it back and continue to keep it in bright light. In the spring, trim off a couple of inches of the branches to encourage branching, re-pot it into the next size bigger pot, and move the plant outside into indirect light. During the summer, move the plant into direct sunlight and make sure to water and fertilize it. Bring the plant indoors in the fall (check for hitch-hiking bugs!) and begin to keep it in total darkness for 13 hours per day and in bright light for 11 hours; night-time temperatures should be kept at around 60 degrees. Four or five weeks before Christmas, place the plant in a place where it receives at least 6 hours of direct light per day. Hopefully you'll have a pretty poinsettia to enjoy again!

*Check out this detailed factsheet from The University of Vermont Extension here:*

<file:///C:/Users/jimga/OneDrive/Documents/Documents/Master%20Gardener/Newsletter/2018%20Issues/Jan%20-%20Feb/Caring%20for%20Your%20Poinsettia%20Year%20Round.html>

## **Create a Terrarium or a Diorama**

By Margaret Lowe, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer

Terrariums have evolved since the mid-1800s, when Englishman Nathaniel Ward developed glass-walled boxes (later called Wardian cases) for growing and transporting plants.

Start by selecting a clear glass, acrylic or plastic container. Wide-mouth containers are easiest to work with. A small round fish bowl would work well when using a plate to cover the top. A larger square fish aquarium also would make a large terrarium. Plastic wrap, a piece of glass or plexiglass could be used as a cover.

Choose a light-weight potting soil. It is a good idea to place a layer of small stones or pebbles in the bottom of the container to collect excess water. Cover the stones with a thin layer of activated charcoal which can be found in aquarium stores. The charcoal helps to reduce bacteria. Cover with enough potting soil to place plants.

Decide on plants that need the same type of soil, moisture and light conditions. Do not pair a cactus with a fern; they have different requirements and the fern will take over the space. Naturally, small plants need to be used that suit the size of the container. Small succulents make a nice terrarium. Small figurines can be added for decoration. Don't get carried away with plants and figurines.

Keep the container out of the direct sunlight or you may cook your plants. Only water lightly when the soil is dry to the touch.

Create a diorama with the same ideas. You will not need charcoal and watering will not be necessary. I have one with a thin layer of soil, twigs for trees, small stones for boulders and lots of dinosaurs roaming around. Along the back of the square fish aquarium, I have created a picture of an erupting volcano with mountains, a waterway, clouds and large trees - all on a piece of paper that fits the back side. Various ideas can be used for the diorama. Create a ball park, a fishing hole, a favorite garden, an island or desert with sand and camels. Let your imagination carry you away.

You may want to check the library for books on the subject. Two titles you might want to look at are: "A Kids Guide to Making a Terrarium" or "Tiny World Terrariums".

## **Try Something New - 2017 and 2018 All American Selections**

The only nonprofit trial organization for plants, All American Selections, has judges that select plants each year in both vegetable and flower categories. Winners are expected to be available in the spring as seeds or young plants. The following selections, taken from the 2017 and 2018 lists, are just a few you may want to try this year. For more information on the winning plants as well as honorees from previous years, visit, <https://all-americanselections.org/>

1. Peas: Patio pea – compact enough to grow in a container, produces sweet, tender peas
2. Peppers: Mad Hatter pepper – three-sided variety with a hint of heat  
Hungarian, Mexican Sunrise F1 – semi-hot, can be eaten at any stage  
Cayenne, Red Ember F1 – early to mature
3. Ornamental Pepper: Onyx Red – shiny red fruits with dark foliage
4. Beans: Seychelles pole bean – 7 to 9-foot tall vines, string-less pods in waves of multiple crop
5. Tomatoes: Midnight Snack – cherry tomatoes with unusual black-purple highlights  
Patio Choice Yellow – so compact that it can be grown in hanging baskets  
Cocktail Red Racer F1 – small variety, larger than grape tomatoes
6. Corn: Sweet American Dream – tender, very sweet kernels
7. Watermelon: Mini Love – has high sugar content, sweet and crisp  
Gold in Gold – yellow flesh with high sugar content
8. Petunia: Evening Sensation – covers itself with flowers, sweet scent
9. Zinnia: Profusion Red – disease resistant, long bloom time, intense color
10. Geranium: Calliope Medium Dark Red – velvety color, strong stems, many flowers
11. Celosia: Asia Garden – attracts pollinators, tall spikes
12. Verbena: Endurascap Pink Bicolor – survives heat and drought
13. Canna: South Pacific Orange F1 – bright orange color, long bloom span
14. Marigold: Super Hero Spry – compact, maroon and gold
15. Gypsophila: Gypsy White Improved – semi-double flowers, more blooms per plant

Find the complete list of this year's selections at <http://all-americanselections.org/product-category/year/2018/>

## January Garden Check List:

- Order seeds!
- Sow seeds of warm-season annuals and cool-weather vegetables
- Cut back on feeding houseplants (do not feed dormant houseplants)
- Check house plants for mites, mealy bugs, and scale
- Plan flower and vegetable beds for spring
- Brush heavy snow from evergreens with a broom
- Take cuttings of your African violets
- Winter damaged tree and shrub branches should be pruned as soon as possible
- Cut branches of pussy willow and forsythia to bring indoors for forcing
- Curl up with a good gardening book or catalog



## February Garden Check List:

- Sow seeds of warm-season annuals
- Sow seeds for hardy spring-blooming plants
- Over-wintering egg cases of bag worms should be removed from trees and shrubs
- Parsley and other herb seeds can be sown indoors, for use in the kitchen
- Seed of both annual and perennial Canterbury bells can be started indoors
- Sow celery, cabbage and onion seed indoors now for an early crop
- Spray house ferns every other day
- Towards the end of the month, sweet pea seed can be sown in a cool house
- Transplant begonia and coleus seedlings when their second pair of true leaves appear
- Ventilate your cold frames on any warm sunny days
- Prune winter damaged tree and shrub branches as soon as possible

## Upcoming Events

January 12	The Real Dirt on WTNS 99.3	9:00 – 10:00 am
January 12	Master Gardener Volunteer class applications due	
January 29	Beat the Blahs: Houseplants	7:00 pm
February 9	The Real Dirt on WTNS 99.3	9:00 – 10:00 am
February 15	Coshocton County Career Center Open House	4:30 – 7:00 pm
	Weather date Feb. 22	
February 20	Beat the Blahs: Terrariums	7:00 pm

## Volunteers Are...

Author unknown - contributed by Reta Grewell, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer

Volunteers are like Coke - they're the real thing.

Volunteers are like Hallmark - they care enough to give the very best.

Volunteers are like Standard Oil - you expect more and you get it.

But most of all, volunteers are like Frosted Flakes - they're Grrrrreeeeeeeaaaaattttt!!!!

**Watch for FREE copies of "Keep It Growing" bi-monthly at:** OSU Extension Office, Coshocton Public Library, West Lafayette Library, Cantwell Creek, Garden Patch, Clary Gardens, Baker's IGA, Buehler's, and Warsaw ShopWise. Available FREE via e-mail or the OSU Extension website. Subscribe for home delivery via USPS for \$5.00 per year.

Have a suggestion or question for "Keep It Growing"? Contact Margaret Lowe and Gail Piper, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteers, in care of the Coshocton County Extension Office.

### Coshocton County Extension

724 South 7th Street, Room 110, Coshocton, OH 43812

Phone: (740) 622-2265

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