

Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer Newsletter

KEEP IT GROWING!

November - December 2017

Volume 14, Issue 6

New Master Gardener Volunteer Class - Open House Dec. 4

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 or contact Emily Adams for more information at 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



“Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.”

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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.

Join us at a FREE informational open house on December 4, 2017 from 7:00 to 8:00 pm in Room 145 of the County Services Building (724 South 7th Street, Coshocton OH) to learn about our program. Hear from current Master Gardener Volunteers about their experiences, the process of joining, our volunteer activities and how you can be a part of it all!

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>

**More Programs to Come...
2018 Programming Is Being Planned
Now!**

MGVs are now planning for 2018 – we would consider suggestions, so if there is a program you would like to see, please let us know! Programs scheduled include two “Beat the Blahs” workshops: ‘Houseplants’ on January 29 and ‘Terrariums’ on February 20. We will also have a program on annuals on March 22. Watch for more information, coming soon!

Thanks for Attending in 2017!

Master Gardener Volunteers would like to thank all those who attended our recent programs!

Fair Booth - We hope you enjoyed our booth at the Coshocton County fair and picked up some information about monarch butterflies and the milkweed they need to survive.

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Fall Foliage and Farm Tour Display – Our MGV-manned display at Dr. Darr’s Animal Boutique and Villas included information on Ohio trees and why leaves change color in the fall. We would like to announce the winners of our drawings: Leanne Endsley received the book “Garden-pedia, An A-to- Z Guide to Gardening Terms” on Saturday and Steve Lonsinger won the book “Ohio Trees” on Sunday.

Bats: What You Didn’t Learn Watching Batman – Marne Titchenell, OSU Extension Wildlife Specialist, presented information on Ohio’s bat species. The session was well-attended.

Other 2017 Programs – MGVs were pleased to present other sessions and displays over the past year. Some of those programs include: Beat the Blahs sessions; display at the Career Center Open House; Veggie 101 workshop; wildflower walks at

Clary Gardens and Lake Park; wildlife programs on moles, bald eagles, and insects & butterflies in our gardens; Lunch & Learns at Clary Gardens; our annual plant sale; ginseng information and rules for harvesting; First Farm Friday display complete with live monarch butterflies; and our monthly presence on WTNS radio. A very big thank you to all who participated!!

Scarecrow at Clary Gardens

Coshocton County MGVs entered the scarecrow contest at Clary Gardens this fall. MGV Tracey Wiseman, with help from Susan McCurdy, did a great job of putting together “Lily of the Valley” which took first place in the Traditional Scarecrow category! Nice work, Ladies!



Things to Do This Fall

It is time to tidy up the gardens – although it’s been hard to think about this year with the late, warm autumn weather! Put the garden to bed, clean the tools and put yard ornaments away till next season.

Perennials should have been divided already, but you can plant spring-flowering bulbs up until the ground freezes. We’ve had plenty of rain this fall, so your plants will be well-hydrated going into winter – a must to help them survive cold temperatures! Mulch around plants for winter protection; this will give the roots an extra layer of insulation. Rake leaves and make compost or put leaves on the vegetable garden and roto-till them into the ground to enrich the soil. You can test your soil and amend it; test kits are available at the OSU Extension Office.

Make sure to clean all your garden tools and sprayers well; metal surfaces should have a light coat of oil applied to prevent rust. This is also a good time to repair and sharpen tools – or put suggested replacements on your Christmas list.

Did you harvest and dry herbs this season? Make potpourri soaps or candles and use them for gifts for Christmas, birthdays and weddings. Make herb jellies and breads or pot holders and sachets with herbs and spices. Dried foliage also makes pretty decorations for greeting cards.

An especially nice touch to bring some “spring” inside during the winter months is to pot and force bulbs such as paper whites and narcissus indoors.

Our last suggestion for winter “gardening” - plan a theme garden to plant next spring! Check out catalogs and magazines for ideas to attract butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinators or plan an all-season or color-themed garden. Let your imagination lead you into the next gardening season!

Reta Grewell, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer, contributed to this article

Two Terms of Interest – Thermogenesis and Diapause

Have you ever wondered how some plants and insects survive adverse conditions? Besides plants going dormant and insects burrowing, two little-known processes are “thermogenesis” and “diapause”.

Thermogenesis, although not completely understood, is the process used by some plants to generate heat. Heat is generated in the mitochondria portion of cells as part of cellular respiration. This process is what allows skunk cabbage to emerge in freezing temperatures and actually melt ice and snow around it. Thermogenesis may also help attract insects for pollination.

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Diapause is a type of dormancy, a reduced metabolic state initiated in the nervous or endocrinal system that allows some insects to endure adverse conditions such as temperature, drought, and lack of food or moisture. It usually affects the growth of an insect until the environment returns to a favorable condition for normal activity.

Marmorated What???

By Margaret Lowe, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer



Photo by D. Shetlar, OSU Extension Entomology

Now found in about every state, the brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) poses a big threat to Ohio's produce. Originating in Asia, it first appeared in Pennsylvania in 1988 and was first identified in Ohio about thirteen years ago. Soybeans, apples, tomatoes, peaches, fig, mulberries and lima beans serve as some plants in its diet, making it a major agricultural problem as well as a nuisance as the BMSB finds its way into buildings.

Adults are about three-fourths of an inch long, brown on both upper and lower body and shaped like a shield; if you look at them closely, they really are very attractive and beautifully marked. The name "stink bug" refers to scent glands on the abdomen and under the thorax. The bug does not have many natural enemies. Some birds and bats feed on them; however, other insects leave them alone. Crushing them releases an odor and stain. This time of year, they start looking for a warm place to spend winter - your house may be the place. They will squeeze through small spaces and come out in the open all winter long.

Pesticides are not an effective method to destroy them inside the home. Preventing entry by sealing cracks and crevices is the first line of defense. A cup of water with dishwashing liquid will work if you drop them into the soapy water. If they are as prevalent this fall as last year, you may also find them in the house in January because they can hide in small spaces and emerge later.

More information can be found at: <http://ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/brown-marmorated-stink-bug> and <https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/brown-marmorated-stink-bug>

Indian Summer

We were curious about what constitutes "Indian summer", so we checked online for a definition. The most stringent definition comes from *The Old Farmer's Almanac*. According to their criteria, Indian summer is a warm period of weather after a cold spell or hard frost that occurs between Nov. 11 and Nov. 20 with no wind, high barometric pressure, chilly and clear nights, and hazy days. A simpler definition found was "a period of unusually dry, warm weather occurring in late autumn". What does the term Indian summer mean to you?

Porcelain Berry

Joe Boggs, Assistant Professor with OSU Extension, wrote in the October 6, 2017 edition of *Buckeye Yard & Garden onLine* (BYGL) about another invasive plant being seen in Ohio – this one in the Cincinnati area. The culprit this time is porcelain berry (*Ampelopsis glandulosa* var. *brevipedunculata*) and it has the potential to become the next kudzu. Its growth habit allows it to climb and spread over the top of shrubs and trees, thereby shading out the preferred plants and competing with them for light, water and nutrients. It is already classified as an invasive in several states; therefore, we are trying to educate the public to prevent spreading it.

Porcelain berry, a member of the grape family, is native to Asia. It was introduced in our country in the 1870's and can still be purchased in plant or seed form. The leaves may be mistaken for wild grape vine and the berries are porcelain-looking, shiny, and range in color from pale blue to reddish-purple. It is advertised as fast-growing, adaptable, and tolerant of several adverse conditions – a perfect storm for a plant to get out of control! It spreads by virtue of its fast growth, prolific root system, and animals spreading the seeds.

The best thing to do to prevent porcelain berry from becoming established is to NOT plant it. Be vigilant on your property for starts of the plant; pull and destroy them. Established porcelain berry is difficult to eradicate; non-selective sprays such as glyphosate (Round-up) work, but the vines must be pulled away from preferred plants and sprayed without affecting the "grown-over" plant.

As Mr. Boggs says, "I don't know whether or not we're seeing another 'kudzu' creeping over our landscapes. However, we shouldn't find out by doing nothing."

Find Mr. Boggs' article online at: <https://bygl.osu.edu/index.php/node/934>

November Garden Check List:

- ❖ Cut down perennials after foliage browns.
- ❖ Plant spring bulbs until ground freezes.
- ❖ Inspect euonymus and lilacs for scale.
- ❖ Rake lawn to remove fallen leaves and debris.
- ❖ Remove fallen leaves from beds of ivy, pachysandra, myrtle or euonymus.
- ❖ Drain gas and oil from mower before storing.
- ❖ Prune grape vines.
- ❖ Stay off frozen grass.
- ❖ Make sure hoses are drained, disconnected and stored to prevent winter freezing.
- ❖ Clean and sharpen tools before storage.

MGVs Donate to Christmas Castle Project

Master Gardener Volunteers will donate \$200.00 again this year to a very worthwhile project... the Salvation Army/WTNS Christmas Castle Project. We are glad to be able to “give back” to our community!

December Garden Check List:

- ❖ Set Christmas trees securely in a holder that will hold water, and fill daily.
- ❖ Start pansy seeds under grow-lights.
- ❖ Brush heavy snow and ice off of trees and shrubs.
- ❖ Prune grape vines
- ❖ Stay off frozen grass.
- ❖ Page through garden catalogues and fill out a wish list.
- ❖ **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!**

Christmas Gift Suggestion

Every gardener would appreciate a good gardening book and we have one for you! *Garden-pedia, An A-to-Z Guide to Gardening Terms*, co-authored by Pam Bennett and Maria Zampini, is an easy-to-use guide for any gardener, explaining more than 300 gardening terms and practices. The book is available for \$17.00 at the Coshocton County Extension Office at 724 South 7th Street, Room 110, in Coshocton. It would make a great Christmas gift for your favorite gardener!

Upcoming Events

November 5	Daylight Saving Time ends – turn your clocks back	
November 7	Election Day – remember to vote!	
November 10	“The Real Dirt” on WTNS 99.3	9:00 am
November 23	Happy Thanksgiving!	
December 4	Master Gardener Volunteer Training Open House	7:00 – 8:00 pm
December 8	“The Real Dirt” on WTNS 99.3	9:00 am
December 25	Merry Christmas!	
January 1, 2018	Happy New Year!	



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For Deaf and Hard of Hearing, please contact Coshocton County Extension using your preferred communication (e-mail, relay services, or video relay services). Phone 1-800-750-0750 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. EST Monday through Friday. Inform the operator to dial 740-622-2265.

Contact Coshocton Co. Extension at (740) 622-2265 or 724 South 7th Street, Room 110 Coshocton, OH 43812; visit the website at <http://coshocton.osu.edu/> Like [Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteers](#) on Facebook



Watch for FREE copies of “Keep It Growing” bi-monthly at: OSU Extension Office, Coshocton Public Library, West Lafayette Library, Cantwell Creek (in season), Garden Patch (in season), Baker’s IGA, Buehler’s, Warsaw ShopWise and Clary Gardens. 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.