

**Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer Newsletter****KEEP IT GROWING!**

September - October 2019

Volume 16, Issue 5

**THANK YOU to Those Who Visited  
Our First FARM Friday Display!****Coming Up...****Info on Fall Planting & Spring Planning**

MGVs will lead a free, hands-on, learning event in the perennial bed at Clary Gardens on Tuesday, September 10, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Bring your questions, garden gloves and a trowel (tools not required), to learn about fall planting and spring planning! No RSVP is necessary; for more information contact Clary Gardens at (740) 622-6524 or [events@clarygardens.org](mailto:events@clarygardens.org); or the Coshocton County OSU-Extension Office at (740) 622-2265.

**Fair Booth**

MGVs will have a booth display and pertinent seasonal information in the Youth Building at the Coshocton County Fair Sept. 27 – Oct. 3. Stop by and learn about the importance of native plants and pick up some fact sheets!

**Fall Foliage and Farm Tour**

Coshocton Soil & Water Conservation District, Coshocton County - OSU Extension, and USDA Farm Service Agency will sponsor the drive-it-yourself Fall Foliage and Farm Tour again this fall. The tour will be held Saturday, October 19, from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, October 20, from 12:00 noon until 5:00 p.m. This year's tour will highlight the east central section of Coshocton County and will feature a variety of agricultural enterprises along the tour route.

Tour maps, brochures, and registration will be at the first stop of the tour, The Animal Boutique &

Villas, located at 23905 Airport Road (just off U.S. Route 36, three miles east of Coshocton across from Walmart). Maps are available on Saturday between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. and on Sunday from 12:00 noon until 3:00 p.m. Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteers will be there with a display on trees, leaves, and native plants – please stop by and ask questions!

Along with outstanding fall scenery, the tour will include a dairy farm, a fertilizer facility, a winery, vineyards, a radio-controlled-aircraft club, a lunch stop and more. If you would like additional information regarding the tour, please contact OSU Extension - Coshocton County at (740) 622-2265.

**Thank You!**

The Master Gardener Volunteers would like to thank those who have agreed to distribute our newsletter, “*Keep It Growing*”, for the past several years. We very much appreciate their service in helping us to inform the public of our programs, education and information. We recently added Tractor Supply and Auer Ace Hardware to our list of distributors. You may also find the newsletter at the OSU Extension Office, Coshocton Public Library, West Lafayette Library, Buehler’s, Warsaw Shop Wise, Garden Patch Greenhouse, Sprout Garden Center, and Clary Gardens. The newsletter is also available online at <https://coshocton.osu.edu/> and on the Facebook page “Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteers”. Home delivery through the postal service is possible for a subscription fee of \$5.00.

Thank you, distributors!

**About Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteers...**

The Ohio State University Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program is an educational program designed to meet the horticultural needs of citizens of Ohio. Its purpose is to train volunteers and utilize their expertise to teach people about plants, their culture, and their importance to the environment and our quality of life. MGVs provide technical assistance to their county Extension office in order that consumer horticultural activities and programs can

*(Continued next page)*

be more effectively and efficiently produced. As the name states, the MGV program is a part of OSU Extension; the Coshocton office and programs have been funded by a county tax levy since the election in 2010.

Master Gardener Volunteer trainees receive formal training from a county Extension office member covering a wide range of pertinent horticultural topics. To become an MGV, the trainee must complete a 50-hour training program, pass the required exams and volunteer a specified number of hours to Extension. The volunteer commitment may be fulfilled in a number of ways depending on the determined needs of county residents. After completion of the initial required volunteer time, volunteers are encouraged to continue to assist with horticultural program delivery as active Ohio State University Master Gardener Volunteers.

The Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer program began with the first class in 2001. Six more classes were held in 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2012 and 2018; since the beginning, many programs and projects have benefited the community. Currently, sixteen active, unpaid members volunteer their time to beautify our community and to promote and teach environmentally sound, research-based gardening practices to our citizens under the auspices of Ohio State University Extension of Coshocton County.

Current garden projects include the Daylily and Entrance beds and the Phenology Garden Area at Lake Park plus the Parking Lot Garden at the County Services building. Other projects include a bi-monthly newsletter *Keep It Growing* and an annual plant sale. MGVs facilitate many educational programs including: Beat the Blahs; *The Real Dirt*, a monthly program on WTNS; and speaking engagements for various organizations. MGV informational displays are found at the Career Center Open House; First Farm Friday; the Fall Foliage and Farm Tour; the MGV booth at the Coshocton County Fair; and other events. Members often volunteer their help in other short-term programs as well. In 2018, Coshocton County MGVs volunteered 1100 hours; according to *The Independent Sector*, a national membership organization for the charitable community, those hours are worth over \$26,000 to the community. In addition, members continually participate in educational programs to enrich and update their knowledge – over 250 hours in 2018.

To learn more about the Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteers and projects, log on to <http://www.coshocton.osu.edu> or contact David Marrison at the OSU Extension office at 622-2265.

By Margaret Lowe, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer



“Horse high, bull strong and pig tight” is a description used to describe living fences grown from these trees. Covered in thorns with interlocking branches and closely planted, hedges of them once formed thousands of miles of living fence. In the 1800s they were also cultivated as windbreaks and boundary markers. However, in 1875, the invention of barbed wire slowed the use. Grown in all the lower forty-eight states, these trees have a fascinating story.

Also known as bodark, bow wood, chino, naranjo, and hedge apple, this tree is a member of the mulberry family and has a history throughout America. The wood was used by Native Americans for making their bows, an antiseptic tea, and orange dye from the bark. Cuttings were traded and planted throughout the nation. Lewis and Clark sent slips to Thomas Jefferson when they were on their expedition. Jefferson propagated the tree and probably shared cuttings. Today the national champion tree lives southeast of Monticello at Red Hill, Patrick Henry’s estate; it grew from a cutting given to Patrick Henry’s daughter by Lewis and Clark. The tree is four-hundred years old, over fifty feet tall and has a span of ninety feet. One almost as big grows on George Washington’s farm.

The fruit of the female tree is a large green ball, weighing as much as three pounds. It is a cluster of one-seeded drupelets fused together. (Drupelets are one of the individual parts of an aggregate fruit, such as raspberry.) The fruit is considered non-edible. The large, heavy, green ball contains an average of two hundred seeds. If you let the fruit rot it is very easy to take apart and gather seeds to propagate new trees. Wash the seeds and let them dry. I have planted the seeds in pots and left them outside during winter; in the spring the seeds sprouted and could be transplanted. Surprisingly, these small tree seedlings were already adorned with thorns.

Every time we display one of the fruits for the Fall Foliage Tour, we hear over and over how people use the fruit to repel insects about the house, particularly spiders. Sorry, but Iowa State University toxicologists tested that premise and found the fruit does not deter pests, although high-concentrated extracts do repel cockroaches. I would wager the fruits will continue to be used to repel spiders by many individuals.

Have you guessed the name of this fascinating tree? Yes, it is the Osage orange, one beautiful work of nature. It is named for the Osage Native Americans that used the wood for bows and “orange” after the scent of the fruit when warmed by the sun.

# Ginkgo (Maidenhair Tree)

By Margaret Lowe, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer

“...living relicts of the first trees that clothed the earth” is one way to describe ginkgo trees. Another is majestic, dramatic, colorful with distinct fan-shaped leaves lining the street with gold when they fall. This deciduous conifer tree is native to China and very easily identified by its fan-shaped leaves. The fruit only develops on the female tree; when ripe, the fruit is a putrid smelling pulp that surrounds an edible nut or seed (a favorite in Oriental cooking).

Ginkgo trees grow in Ohio and are common in parks, gardens and private property. They are resistant to many insects and diseases and have outlasted the dinosaur that once fed on them. Today they are prized as sources of food, timber, herbal medicine and as some of the finest ornamental trees available. They grow very slowly, under a foot a year, but can reach a height of fifty to eighty feet.

The lineage of the ginkgo can be traced back more than 220 million years through fossil records. They have been cultivated in China for years and can be found on grounds that are more than one thousand years old. When I was in China, I saw them on temple and palace grounds; many streets were lined with ginkgo. We have several ginkgo trees growing in Coshocton County. The oldest one, probably over one hundred seventy-five years old, is the one at Fourth and Chestnut Street. According to OSU, the state champion is in Cincinnati, Ohio; it is over eighty feet high with a trunk diameter of one-hundred inches and a branch spread of one-hundred four feet.

Because they have been cultivated so long, many varieties of this tree have been developed. Most appealing are the male cultivars since they do not bear fruit. If you are interested in growing a ginkgo, be sure to research the various cultivars and choose the right one for your area.

## Sudden Oak Death

The Ohio Department of Agriculture has confirmed that the organism that causes Sudden Oak Death (*Phytophthora ramorum*) has been discovered on some rhododendron and lilacs that were shipped to Walmart and Rural King in Ohio. This organism can be deadly if it spreads to oak trees; it can also cause leaf spots and branch dieback on some other hosts.

If you purchased rhododendrons or lilacs from Walmart or Rural King this year, check your plants for signs of disease. On the side of caution, anyone who purchased these plants between March and May and suspect infection should dispose of them to stop more spread of disease. According to ODA, "*Plants can be destroyed by burning, deep burial or double-bagging the plant, including the root ball, in heavy duty trash bags for disposal into a sanitary landfill (where allowable). Consumers should not compost or dispose of the plant material in municipal yard waste.*" Do not compost any plant parts and be sure to sanitize any tools you may have used in dealing with these plants.

Find the ODA press release here: <https://agri.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/oda/divisions/plant-health/invasive-pests/p-ramorum-survey>

## My Mother's Day Gift

By Margaret Lowe, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer

I am anxious for autumn to come, even though it is the season I dislike the most because of plants dying, clean-up time, leaves to rake, and the thought of winter coming soon. However, as of Mother's Day, I now have a gift to run over my property that may help. I certainly hope it works on my chestnuts because they have those terrible burrs that are like needles and really are difficult to gather. I also have buckeyes, butternuts and hickory nuts – and wish I had pecans also.

This gift has a lifetime warranty, durable welded construction, a tempered steel wire cage, saves time, requires no bending over, holds about a gallon, and is stronger than ever. The company that sells this tool advertises that many of their best-selling items come from gardeners who send them their ideas for new and improved garden tools. I imagine a great time using this, but I probably am going to be somewhat disappointed just because I expect great success.

The gift comes in three sizes, small, medium and large. It reminds me of a child's toy with which I have seen children having a great time as they run and laugh. I hope I will be running and laughing, but I will have to keep that to a minimum or the neighbors will think I have lost it and need help!

This tool is the Garden Weasel Medium Nut Gatherer; it picks up nuts and more. I hope I can later report that this nut gardener does great using this nut tool. Ask me at the Fall Foliage Tour in October; I will have my nut gatherer with me at the Master Gardener Volunteer display. I will be the one running around at Doctor Darr's (where you get your map for the tour), holding a pole with a wire ball on the end.

## September Garden Check List:

- Place orders and plant spring-blooming bulbs and add bulb fertilizer to soil when planting.
- Plant peonies now, but make sure the crowns are buried only one and a half to two inches below ground level. Planting them deeper than two inches may keep them from blooming.
- Do not prune roses now. Tall canes can be loosely tied to keep them from being damaged from winter wind.
- Divide daylilies and other spring-blooming perennials.
- Cut off and dispose of diseased foliage. Leave seed heads on your black-eyed Susans; they are a great food source for goldfinches. Keep some hollow stalks for insects to use for hibernation.
- Destroy all diseased leaves and plants to prevent spreading disease.
- Finish planting new lawns or reseed thin patches and apply fertilizer to lawns.

## October Garden Check List:

- Sow seeds of perennials in cold frames now for next year's blooming plants.
- Rake leaves and add them to the compost pile.
- Keep cutting the lawn until it stops growing.
- Cut to the ground blackberry and raspberry canes that bore fruit this year.
- Divide overgrown clumps of rhubarb.
- Plant garlic bulbs for next year's crop.
- Add manure, compost and leaves to increase the organic matter content of the soil, as fall is a good time for improving your garden soil.
- Mark your perennials with permanent tags, or create a map showing their locations so you'll know where and what they are when they die back at the end of the season. This will help you avoid digging up something you intended to keep when you plant bulbs and plants this fall and next spring.
- One last effort at weeding will help to improve the appearance of your garden throughout the winter.

*"...and all at once, summer collapsed into fall." – Oscar Wilde*



## Upcoming Events

September 2	Labor Day	
September 10	Hands-on Perennial Program, MGVs at Clary's	5:30 to 7:30 pm
September 13	The Real Dirt on WTNS 99.3	9:00 – 10:00 am
Sept. 27 to Oct. 3	Coshocton County Fair	
October 11	The Real Dirt on WTNS 99.3	9:00 – 10:00 am
October 19 & 20	Fall Foliage and Farm Tour	Sat. 10 – 5; Sun. 12 - 5
April – October	Diagnostic Clinics	Tu. 9 am – noon; Th. 1 to 4 pm

Watch for **FREE** copies of “Keep It Growing” bi-monthly at: OSU Extension Office, Coshocton Public Library, West Lafayette Library, Sprout Garden Center, Garden Patch Greenhouse, Auer Ace Hardware, Tractor Supply, Clary Gardens, Buehler's, and Warsaw ShopWise. Available FREE via e-mail or the OSU-Coshocton County Extension website <https://coshocton.osu.edu/> 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

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Phone: (740) 622-2265

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