

News You Can Use

For Montgomery County Master Gardener Volunteers

December 2017

We are Ohio State University Extension trained volunteers empowered to educate others with timely research-based gardening information.



On October 17, 2017, an *Evening of Illumination* at the Dayton VA Medical Center historic Grotto Gardens was held to commemorate 150 years of service to Dayton-area Veterans. The Dayton VA, American Veterans Heritage Center, in partnership with Montgomery County Master Gardener Volunteers, have worked diligently to restore the gardens to the tranquil, healing environment it once was.



At the *Evening of Illumination*, the VA Center dedicated a stone plaque honoring fellow Master Gardener Bob Neff for his leadership in restoring the Civil War Era Grotto Gardens and for his countless volunteer hours spent researching, restoring, and reinvigorating these gardens.

Congratulations Bob!

Thank you for all you've done in making this historic site come alive. All who visit these beautiful gardens, fountains and lighted pathways thank you and your fellow volunteers who made it happen.

Please visit the Grotto at the VA Center Facebook page for photos of this significant event.

What's the Buzz?

Here it is November and the holidays are almost upon us. Everyone has put the vegetable garden to sleep, pulled in and cleaned up the houseplants, removed the last of the summers annuals, planted fall annuals and bulbs for the spring. Time to sit back, relax and spoil the Grandchildren!

While you're quietly sneaking candy to the Grandkids, take some time to make sure your garden journal is up to date. This is a very valuable tool for the gardener. You can record the performance of new annual or perennial plants you tried so you can remember why you won't be repeating that mistake. It is also a good idea to record weather conditions along with the growing degree days to help track insect and disease pressure. Your journal will give you the tool for a prevention approach versus defensive measures.

Maybe you should consider giving a garden journal as a gift to a gardener on your list this year!

– Kim



GMCMGA Annual Banquet Highlights

November 1, 2017, the Greater Montgomery County Master Gardener Association (GMCMGA) again held the Annual Banquet at The Presidential Banquet Center in Kettering, Ohio. Thank you to the Program Committee for a wonderful evening!

The Program Committee also had the 2018 packets available for pick-up, which included: GMCMGA pocket calendar and the 2018 continuing education programs offered through the GMCMGA, with program descriptions, dates and registration information included. Please review the programs and sign up for the classes you want. **Registration is due no later than February 15, 2018.** Please note – some of the classes can accommodate a limited number of participants, so register early to reserve your spot.

Return a copy of your registration with your check for the fee made payable to GMCMGA no later than Feb. 15, 2018 to Judy Wanamaker, 2849 Meadow Park Drive, Kettering, OH 45440. Your cancelled check is your receipt.



Photos courtesy of Gail Carone



Donna Zobrist accepting the 2017 Golden Watering Can Award from Sue Howorth and Janet Hickey

Milestones for 2016 Hours

500 Hours exceeded for the first time in 2016:
Anne Lawhorne, Gail Carone

750 Hours exceeded for the first time in 2016:
Karen Beal, Charles Dickerson, Terry Calcutt and Jeanne Keffer

1000 Hours exceeded for the first time in 2016:
Pat Durbin, Jane Falck

1250 Hours exceeded for the first time in 2016:
Judy Payne, Christine Vagedes

1500 Hours exceeded for the first time in 2016:
Yvonne Dunphe, Joan Stoppelman

1750 Hours exceeded for the first time in 2016:
Bob Neff

2000 Hours exceeded for the first time in 2016:
Janet Hickey, Judy Wanamaker



This is a gentle reminder to pay your membership dues before December 31, 2017 if you haven't already done so.

If you are an active or (inactive member who plans to recertify), or a 2016 Intern who wishes to join the Greater Montgomery County Master Gardener Association, please remit a check for \$15.00 made payable to GMCMGA and mailed to GMCMGA, c/o Treasurer, P.O. Box 292421, Stroop Road Facility, Kettering, OH 45429.

Continuing Education in Review



The Program Committee offered the last CE class for the year on Nov. 4. "Propagating Native Plants" was presented to a group of attentive MGVs at the Marianist Environmental Education Center, M.E.E.C., on the Bergamo Campus.

Why Should We Grow Native Plants?

- Well adapted to local habitats and conditions
- Attractive – diverse forms and colors (wildflowers, shrubs, vines, trees, ferns and mosses)
- Help preserve local genetic populations and biodiversity

Key points to remember when propagating native plants:

- ✓ **Seed Collection:** phenology; tools; seed ethic; color changes of plant and flower head; seed changes; and seed dispersal methods
- ✓ **Cleaning:** separating seed from debris; proper handling – dry or moist; tools; and techniques for removal
- ✓ **Storage:** temperature; humidity; and seed viability
- ✓ **Seed Treatment:** germination requirements depend on type of plant
- ✓ **Planting:** direct seed; sowing seed in pot/trays; and transplanting seedlings to larger pots to plant in spring



MGVs learning how to sort debris from viable seed for storage (and taking plenty of notes!)

MGVs who attended the program were invited to stay after and join a group to go into the *Brother Don Geiger Restored Prairie* and collect seed from "little bluestem" prairie grass.



Schizachyrium scoparium, commonly known as **little bluestem** prairie grass



Take hold of stem below flower heads and gently strip the flower heads from the stem while capturing in your hand. Place in paper bag.



Photos courtesy of Gail Carone

Special thanks to our hosts:
Michelle, Tara and Peter

Excellent Books to add to your Gardening Library:

- "Bringing Nature Home" by Douglas Tallamy
- "Newcomb's Wildflower Guide" by Lawrence Newcomb
- "A Guide to Wildflowers in Winter" by Carol Levine
- "The Tallgrass Restoration Handbook" edited by Stephen Packard and Cornelia Mutel

Reflections on the Fairgrounds and a Golden Watering Can

Donna Zobrist

On October 21, seven Master Gardener Volunteers put the beds at the Fairgrounds to bed for the last time. Thank you to Janet Hickey, Jeanne Keffer, Marjie Holcomb, Judy Payne, Kathleen Tiller, Rose Monnin, and Donna Zobrist. I am here to tell you that it was hard. I don't mean the work. We had a beautiful day and seven very capable women. It was the idea that was hard.

My attachment to and fondness for the Fairgrounds is almost lifelong. So, when I saw the Roundhouse from a distance, I began to feel the tears. I arrived a little earlier than the others and it got worse when I was pulling annuals out of the front bed and a very nice man stopped to chat. He said, "I'll bet this is hard for you. You must really hate this." I realized that I did really hate leaving this very historical location and I had to give myself a pretty stern talking to so that I didn't burst into tears. I didn't want him to think that gardeners are a hysterical bunch and question ever talking to one again! We did end our work session with a walk through the Roundhouse which was decorated spectacularly in an underwater theme for a Masquerade Ball. I think it made all of us feel good to see it in its glory.

On a positive note, I went to the public meeting held on November 2 by the University of Dayton and Premier Health regarding the future of the downtown Fairgrounds site. I was delighted to see a great turnout and impressed by the process that was used. We were seated at round tables and worked with a small group, giving our individual ideas. These were transferred to a large poster as we discussed them and each of us was given five sticky dots to mark our favorite suggestions. The posters were displayed at the end of the meeting for all to view. I will tell you that every poster I looked at mentioned restoring and maintaining the Roundhouse at its current location. We can only hope! My other hope is that the new owners take the input from the community seriously.

Finally, I would like to thank the GMCMGA for honoring me with the Golden Watering Can Award at our wonderful banquet on November 1. I feel very privileged to be in the company of Janet Hickey, Bob Neff and Susan Pearson, who were previous recipients, and the other nominees for this year. Congratulations to Gail Carone, Jeanne Keffer and Judy Wanamaker who have all made, and continue to make, invaluable contributions to our organization. The flower arrangement in the watering can is beautiful and the Diane Harm print that accompanied it will be treasured forever.

Photo of the
Historic Roundhouse
at the Montgomery
County Fairgrounds
Dayton, Ohio



In closing, here is a little poem
(not mine!) to reflect on the
change of seasons.

"The greens of summer give way
The grasses are turned to hay
The old leaves begin to fall
Plastic flowers fill the mall."

Photo courtesy of Gail Carone

Submit information for "News You Can Use" to Gail Carone: getcarone@hotmail.com

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Montgomery Co. Master Gardener Volunteer Program

December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
No Committee or Board Meetings this Month						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21  First Day of Winter	22	23
24	25 Christmas & President's Day observed OSUE Office CLOSED	26	27	28	29	30
31 						