

President's comments

By Jim McCracken

Mother Nature seems to be finally giving us “normal” early June weather. It's still plenty wet in many areas of Shelby County, especially for the farmers who have not planted their crops yet. The forecast for the next two weeks is lower precipitation than was experienced in May, while temperatures are comfortable in the 70's for highs.

With gardening in full swing two major problems or concerns always exist, the first being weeds. My advice is try to determine a weed control program that you are comfortable with, is affordable, and most importantly works for you. This weed control program may vary with the type of gardening you use. Types include in ground, raised beds, or container gardening. Traditional ground gardens will have the biggest challenge due to the vast soil exposed. My experience is with ground gardening and mulching can be your best friend. My motto is, “Mulch as Much as Possible.” Besides weed control it protects against wind erosion and you will reduce watering requirements. Materials that can be used for mulching include: newspaper, cardboard, plastic (does not decompose) straw, leaves, grass clippings (not sprayed with weed killer). I never mulch sweet potatoes (increases vole damage to the crop) and green beans (mulch increases mold damage to the beans). All other vegetables I try to mulch whenever possible.

The second major gardening difficulty is pests. You must learn what is attacking your plants and when is the peak problem likely to happen. By exploring the internet you will discover the answers to both questions. By keeping your plants as healthy as possible for as long as possible will reduce pest populations. Stressed plants are more likely to be affected sooner and with greater damage.

Use MG acceptable practices to control many of your pests:

1. Rotate your vegetable crops
2. Plant crops with wind pattern from west to east (increases air flow in garden)
3. Proper spacing of plants/rows (air flow, proper nutrition given to plants)

4. Remove the bug pest and eggs sacks in early stages to keep plant healthy
5. Planting at proper times for that vegetable
6. Companion planting reduces many pests
7. Pruning your plants will increase air flow, increase production, reduces fungus
8. If spraying the crop is required, read and follow all directions. Drawbacks are: chemicals on the food to be eaten, you in many cases may also kill beneficial insects.

No gardener has all the answers needed for the “perfect garden” rather we use our past experiences. Use what works for you, if you experienced a failure don't repeat it. Hopefully you are able to mulch this year and keep your insect pests at bay. As always, “Happy Gardening!”



Onions were mulched with leaves.

Garlic plants were mulched with straw.



Red raspberries were mulched with cardboard & leaves.

June Meeting
Wednesday, June 15, 2022 @ 2p
at Extension only, no Zoom

Volunteer Coordinator's comments

By Doug Benson



As we approach the official beginning of summer, I trust that everyone is in full gardening mode. To some extent the weather has been a challenge with all the rain. Of course, it has been spotty with amounts varying by up to two inches in just a few miles. Finding dry days to mow my lawn has been a real challenge, and I haven't even applied any fertilizer since November. I can't imagine what it will look like after I am gone for eleven days. I suspect I will have to mow it twice the same day.

Finally, Matt and I have established a timeline for recruitment and training of new volunteers. We will be publicizing the program during the last half of June and begin accepting applications July 5. We will begin interviews with applicants August 2 and have an orientation meeting September 6. The main training will utilize the online training modules and be self-paced. We will have several in-person sessions that will be open to you for refresher training as well as to allow you and the trainees to meet each other. We may ask some of you to share your expertise with the trainees. I will have a separate article with more details about the program.

The Memorial Garden is looking good. As many of the purple flowers are fading, the yellows and reds are becoming more dominant. We had a good mulching session, though the heavy rains we had a couple days later did wash some of the mulch away. As the blooms fade, we will need to do some deadheading; and weeding is always necessary task. If you have some spare time, please stop by for an hour or two. We have identified a location for the azalea that Sonnie Bernardi is donating in Bob's memory. It will be planted over by the climbing rose on the east side. We just need to find a suitable plant.

The garden at the fairgrounds also needs some attention. The Sidney High FFA power washed the blocks in the retaining wall and relocated some of them to smooth out the lines. The result is a trench that they will hopefully backfill. A few of the existing plants may need to be relocated to provide a clear view of the memorial monument that the fair board is erecting. I would appreciate some assistance in making some decisions about plantings when I return from vacation. Feel free to stop over and see what you think.

Youth activities are on the horizon. Several of us will be helping with Conservation Day Camp June 29 and 30. On the 29th Becky, Marily and Teresa will be doing an

activity about flowers and pollinators. I think they are planning to dissect flowers. On the 30th Doris, Mary, Dave Slagle, and I will be helping the campers make seed bombs using clay, potting soil, and wildflower seeds. Join all of us in praying for good weather.

We are only a few weeks away from the county fairs. We have not had a meeting for the Shelby County Fair yet, but one is in the offing. I have already indicated that our preference will again be Tuesday (Senior Day). We will need a committee to come up with a plan for a craft activity. I would also like to completely redo the display board, as it has looked almost the same for the last six or seven years. We will also probably continue our involvement in the Auglaize and Mercer county fairs. It's going to be a busy end of June and beginning of July.

Finally, a few words about the hotline. We haven't had a lot of calls, but we still need to be prepared. You can find a fairly up-to-date schedule on the county website under the Master Gardener tab (shelby.osu.edu). To keep up with current plant and pest issues, check out Buckeye Yard and Garden onLine (bygl.osu.edu) regularly. If you have had bagworms in your trees in the past, now is the time to start checking as the little ones have begun hatching.

In closing, let me remind you that because of the predicted high temperatures, the meeting scheduled for Jim McCracken's will be held at the Extension office at 2:00. There will not be Zoom coverage. The next night, Thursday, June 16, Janet Nelson will be presenting "It's About Thyme" at the Amos Public Library starting at 6:30. I hope many of you will be able to attend both activities. Unfortunately I can't, as I will be spending the week with my nephew and his family just outside Baltimore. Enjoy, and I will see you again soon.

Editor's Note: Are you missing these? At least they are not back again this year in June.



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2022 Training program

By Doug Benson

As mentioned in my comments article, Matt and I have finally put together a plan for training new volunteers. We will be publicizing the program during the last half of June and begin accepting applications July 5. We will begin interviews with applicants August 2 and have an orientation meeting September 6. This year's training program will use a hybrid model with initial training using a self-paced online course. Trainees will also participate in several in-person sessions.

Cost of the online training is \$200, with \$50 being refunded if the trainee fulfills all the requirements to become a Master Gardener Volunteer within twelve months of completing the online course. The fee covers access to the online program, a comprehensive training manual, a shirt, and incidentals. OSU Extension also requires an online background check. In-person training will be provided by OSUE experts as well as experienced Master Gardener Volunteers (some of you). Upon completion of the training sessions, the trainee will become a Master Gardener intern and will be expected to provide 50 hours of volunteer service during the coming year.

If you know of prospects, let Matt or me know, as some of you have already done. We want to get the word out and hope to get a good number to participate.

Some current horticultural problems

By Doug Benson



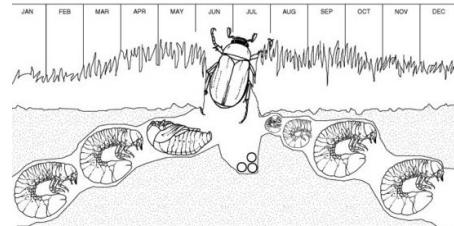
As I mentioned in my comments, now is the time to begin scouting for bagworms. Right now they will be quite

small, perhaps only a half-inch long. If you have had them in the past, look carefully; you may see them actually moving. While they are small, Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) can be effective and do less harm to other insects. As they grow larger, stronger chemicals will be necessary. Check out OSUE fact sheet HYG-2149 or Joe Boggs' BYGL post on May 27.

The arrival of Japanese beetles is just around the corner. According to OSU's Growing Degree Days Phenology Calendar, the adults should start emerging when the GDD reaches 970. In Sidney the GDD on June



8 was 871. With the forecasted hot weather coming next week, we could easily reach 970 soon. Begin scouting for the early arrivals. If you can eliminate those early scouts, you may be able to reduce their numbers. Check out OSUE fact sheet ENT-46 for some good information.



Finally, and potentially more dangerous, is the threat of poison hemlock and wild parsnip. Both are now readily apparent along fence rows and in other undisturbed areas. Every part of PH is toxic to both humans and livestock – it's what reputedly was used to kill Socrates. WP, on the other hand, can cause serious blistering of the skin when exposed to the sun's rays. Joe Boggs wrote an excellent article with great pictures for the May 16, 2021, BYGL. It is entitled "Poison Hemlock and Wild Parsnip are Bolting and Blooming." You can find it by using the search feature on BYGL (<https://bygl.osu.edu/>). Please educate your family members, especially the kids, as well as your friends and neighbors who frequent the outdoors. Don't let them be fooled by confusing these two with their harmless common relative, Queen Anne's Lace (AKA wild carrot).



Wild parsnip (yellow) and poison hemlock growing together along Russell Road in Sidney.

“Tulip Time” Visiting the 92nd Tulip Festival, Holland, Michigan

By Nancy Russell

TULIPS, TULIPS, AND MORE TULIPS!! AS FAR AS THE EYE COULD SEE!! These beautiful flowers



greeted Dave and I in Holland, Michigan for its annual Tulip Festival, May 7 – 15, 2022. Called “Tulip Time” this year marked the 92nd year the festival has made its appearance featuring the tulip.

Tulips came to Holland, Michigan with Dutch settlers back in 1847. This small band of settlers were dreaming of a life without the financial depression and religious oppression of their homeland, the Netherlands. Through hard work and resilience, the Dutch built their beloved Holland. Unfortunately, it was on October 9, 1871, their town was

almost wiped out from one spark that nearly burned everything to the ground (the same day as the great Chicago Fire). The citizens of Holland, through hard work and resolve, built back their town from the ashes, stronger than ever.

The idea of Tulip Time was introduced in 1927 by Miss Lida Rogers, a biology teacher at Holland High School. She suggested, at a Woman’s Literary Club meeting, that Holland adopt the tulip as its flower and set aside a day for a festival. At the meeting’s end she read the poem “Come Down to Holland in Tulip Time.” The next year funds were appropriated to purchase 100,000 bulbs from the Netherlands. Residents could purchase them at one cent a piece.

So, in 1929 thousands of tulips bloomed and Holland invited visitors to come during a week in May. There was so much interest shown, it was decided to make Tulip Time an annual event with WW II and the pandemic being examples of a few interruptions. Then in 2001 due to continued warm weather and global warming, the festival was moved up a week and shortened to 8 days because the tulips were blooming earlier and experiencing shorter bloom time. The pageantry and special features – tulips, flower shows, parades, Klompen dancers with their authentic costumes, and music – however, have remained pretty much the same formula as the early years of the festival.

To get the most from our visit, I requested Holland’s visitor’s guide. What I learned after receiving my copy is the cover picture only ever features a tulip. Contest submissions for the cover must feature a tulip photograph that will stand out when placed among other brochures. The Holland Area Visitors Bureau selects the final cover image while the general public votes on the People’s Choice Award from a field of the top ten photos. We were able to see a display of covers from the last ten years.



Our day at the festival started at Windmill Island Gardens. This 36-acre botanical garden gets its name from the only authentic Dutch windmill operating in the United States. 5 stories high, De Zwaan is over 200 years old and still grinds grain. We climbed to the platform where on a day with wind, the blades would sweep and turn. Costumed guides on each level of the windmill would explain the workings of the windmill and what weather conditions were needed to start and stop the blades’ turning. From the platform we could see rows of tulips of every color and shape: hybrids, parrots, and doubles, just to name a few. A closer look as we walked the rows of flowers, had each tulip variety named and country of origin. Also featured at the gardens was a replica of a small Dutch village. There I added to Holland’s economy by ordering my own bulbs delivered this fall. Better have my deer defenses ready for next spring!!

After driving from the garden, our next stop was into the town of Holland. Parking the car in a downtown garage we walked to Centennial Park. Originally Holland's marketplace, this Victorian-era park has over 43,000 tulips planted there in beautiful patterns radiating out from a fountain and other places of interest. It was a beautiful place to stop and rest especially since it was hot just like back home in Sidney. A short walk to the heart of Holland's downtown we learned the sidewalks are heated in winter. This encourages shopping and dining despite the snowy weather. I especially liked that idea because there was a Chico's and Talbot's, places where I enjoy shopping as well as other specialty shops. Lunch was at the New Holland Brewery. Very Good!!



Before leaving the downtown and driving to Veldheer Tulip Farm on Route 31, we had to do the Curbside Tulip Lanes. Winding through Holland's neighborhoods and the historic district, we viewed resident-planted curbside beds of tulips, that stretched the full length of many streets, up to 6 miles in all (estimated to be near 122,000 tulips!). Like the beds at Windmill Island Gardens, there were many colors and varieties of tulips.



Our next stop was Veldheer Tulip Farm, home to Holland's only tulip farm. What began as a hobby for Vern Veldeer planting 200 bulbs in 1950, volunteers now plant up to 5 million bulbs a year! We received a catalog, once admission was paid, of all the varieties planted at the farm.

When I saw a tulip I liked, the catalog listed its type and variety name. The tulips, as well as daffodils and other spring blooming bulbs, were platted in beds around 3 feet wide. The farm was quite extensive, but we were able to get through most of it. The farm also had a gift shop that you could watch carvers making wooden shoes and purchase inexpensive Delftware items. An interesting but unexpected feature was a herd of bison adjacent to the tulip farm.



The only thing we didn't get to see was Holland's Big Red Lighthouse because of traffic back through the city. I will have to get that on my next visit to Holland, Michigan.



All in all, it was a great trip to see a famous festival celebrating a flower that welcomes spring!!

To add additional information if anyone would like to make this trip, Dave and I stayed in Saugatuck, Michigan (13 miles from Holland) at the Beechwood Manor Inn where our host made breakfast to die for!! Saugatuck, along with the towns of Douglas and Fennville, are also towns that have many interesting attractions. Among some of those are extensive apple orchards and vineyards. We also visited the Indiana Dunes National Park near Porter, Indiana – very interesting! – and the University of Notre Dame in South Bend with its Golden Dome and the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.



The People's Garden June 2022

By Conelia Dixon



The People's Garden is better than ever in the ninth year of providing fresh food for the Agape Distribution food pantry serving thousands of hungry people each year.

Volunteers and donors are the keys to the growth of the garden. Recently we are welcoming a new volunteer who comes regularly on his days off to share his skills, doing whatever is needed at the time. He is Rikki Wise. Deb Grazioso is a very hard worker too, I call her the tornado in the garden, working to meticulously take care of many jobs. Annette and Michelle come regularly too, as do I. We try very hard to keep the garden functioning and beautiful. Larry and Dave Slagle came and prepared the ground for building the new ramp. Most of the renters come to take care of their garden beds regularly.

There are 16 garden beds rented out of a total of 55 raised beds...all in use. Things that have been harvested are rhubarb, lettuce, spinach, oregano, sage, green onions, and radishes. We received about 50 tomato plants that a friend donated...a lot of them will go to the pantry to give to shoppers to take home. We have all we can handle in the garden now. Thank you, Alex.



Dave and Larry Slagle preparing the ground for building the ramp.



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Editor's Note: The table below is a handout from Cuyahoga Co. Master Gardener Saturday Gatherings in the Garden 2022 Zoom Webinar on 05/28/22 with the topic: "Container Vegetable Gardening." The table lists minimal container sizes to use for specific vegetables to grow in containers. Also listed, is the varieties/cultivars best suited to growing in containers.

MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER PROGRAM – CUYAHOGA COUNTY



Container Vegetable Varieties

Vegetable	Container Size	Varieties / Cultivars
Beans, Lima	12" wide, 8-10" deep	Baby Bush, Fordhook Bush Lima
Beans, Bush	8" wide, 8-10" deep	Mascotte (AAS), Bush Blue Lake, Bush Kentucky Wonder
Beans, Pole	12" wide, 8-10" deep	Kentucky Wonder Pole, Blue Lake, Kentucky Blue Pole
Beets	6"-12" deep	Any Variety
Broccoli	20" deep	Any Variety
Brussels Sprouts	12" wide, 12" deep	Any Variety
Cabbage	2" deep	Derby Day
Carrots	10" wide, 10" deep	Oxhard, Little Finger, French Carrot, Adelaide, Caracas
Chard	8-12" deep	Any Variety
Chinese Cabbage	20" deep	Bok Choi, Toy Choi
Collards	12" deep	Any Variety
Corn	21" wide, 8" deep, need 3 plants to pollinate	Not recommended, Golden Bantam
Cucumber	20" wide, 16" deep	Mini Munch, Bush Pickle Hybrid, Patio Snacker, Spacemaster, Salad Bush Hybrid
Eggplant	16" deep	Patio Baby, Bride, Hansel, Gretel, Fairy Tale, Epic
Horseradish	5 gallon or larger	Maliner Kren
Kale	8" wide, 8" deep	Any Variety
Kohlradi	12" deep	Any Variety
Lettuce	10-12" deep	Any Variety
Onions	10-12" deep	Bunching type works best
Peas	12" deep	Little Marvel, Tom Thumb
Peppers	16" deep	Any Variety
Potatoes	20 gallon containers	Kennebec, Red Pontiac, Yukon Gold Fingerlings
Pumpkins	5 gallon Tub	Jack Be Little, Baby Boo, Small
Radish	4-6" deep	Any Variety, Avoid winter varieties
Spinach	4-6" deep	Any Variety
Squash, Summer	24" deep	Patio Star (Zucchini), most others
Squash, Winter	24" deep	Butterbush Hybrid, Bush Acorn
Tomatoes	24" deep	Sweet Pea, Tumbling Tom, Golden Nugget, Sun Drop, Tumbler, Early Girl, Celebrity, Patio Hybrid, Sweet and Neat, Micro Tom
Turnips	10-12" deep	Any Variety