

Shelby County Master Gardener

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION



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President's comments--By Jim McCracken

As lower temperatures arrive, jobs in the garden increase. A frost will bring an end to all warm weather crops such as tomatoes, peppers, beans, and sweet potatoes. Harvest these vegetables before that first frost. Use them fresh or process them into your favorite canned or frozen treasure. An experienced gardener will watch closely the forecast for wind speed and clearness of the sky along with lower temperatures in the 30's.

Fall also signals the time to begin clean up the garden. Remove and store tomato cages, trellis systems, and any other equipment one uses in their garden. Dig bulbs of flowers such as Cannas that must be stored indoors. Gather seeds for next year from flowers like marigolds or vegetables such as: green beans, bell peppers, butternut squash, and pumpkins. Seeds must be dried completely before storing them in a cool dry area. Remove weeds from garden before they go to seed. Destroy them in a burn pile, do not compost. If a fall tilling is done make sure to cover bare ground with mulch or manure. Fall is the best time to "feed your soil" with needed nutrients required for your 2024 vegetable garden.

Continue to raise and harvest cool weather crops such as: cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, Brussels sprout, kale, lettuce. Blankets or row covers may be needed to cover these vegetables if temperature fall too cold, into the 20's. October is the time to plant your 2024 garlic crop. Keys to successful garlic planting:

- Begin with loose fertile soil, you may need to amend your soil
- Use your largest bulbs from 2023 harvest, larger cloves yield larger bulbs
- Break into cloves, plant the point end of the clove upwards, space cloves 4-6" apart
- Cover cloves with 2 inches of soil
- Mulch planted area with 5-6" of clean straw
- Water to increase germination and keep straw in place



I want to thank the Shelby County Master Gardener members for your hard work and dedication to our organization. Hotline, Memorial Garden maintenance, committee work, special events, teaching of both youth and adults the thrill of gardening are just a few of the areas members excelled in this year.

Get to know the trainees that just gained full membership recently. Most of us would agree the real reward of MG membership is the new friendships that are developed. Remember a relative, friend, or neighbor nurtured the joy of gardening you possess. Gardening is a gift; make sure to pass it onto others in the future. 🌱

Coordinator's comments

By Doug Benson

It would seem that summer is finally over. In fact, as I write this I have switched from AC to heat, at least temporarily. I was going to take advantage of the mild fall weather to reseed some bare spots in my lawn, and I started to rough-up the dead grass so I could get some good soil contact. I got bare soil all right – the turf just came off in sheets. When I poured on some soapy water, up came the grubs. For the last several days my lawn is being core aerated by what I am guessing are skunks searching for the grubs. I spread some BioAdvanced Grub Killer Plus and watered in. It is considered a rescue treatment because trichlorfon, the active ingredient, kills on contact, whereas most other grub treatments are preventative and must be ingested. I've also filled in the bare spots and sowed some tall turf type fescue. Time will tell.



October Banquet
Wednesday, October 18, 2023 @ 6 p.m.
Arrowhead Golf Club

(Coordinator's comments continued from page 1)

Like summer, the hotline has officially ended, but calls continue. We have handled at least 75 issues, with insect and vegetable questions being the most frequent. I'll have some final numbers next month. Thanks to all, especially our interns, for all the help. I also want to note that while one trainee dropped out of the program, the other nine interns have all completed their 50 hours of volunteer service and will become full-fledged MGVs. They will receive their certificates and name badges during the banquet.

We will once again have our banquet at Arrowhead Golf Club Wednesday, October 18, starting with a social time at 6:00 and dinner being served at 6:30. Following dinner, our program will include the aforementioned presentations to our new volunteers, some awards, introduction of our new officers, and a review of 2023 and preview of 2024. We will conclude with members sharing thoughts and experiences from the past year.

We still have several activities yet this fall. On Sunday, October 22, we will have an informational display and craft activities at Forestry Field Day at Tawawa Park from 1:00 to 4:00. In addition to some paper activities, we are bringing back the buckeye necklaces. A committee has been busy assembling materials. I will set up two "opportunities" on HOC so people can sign up to assist – 12:30-2:00 and 2:00-4:30. You can sign up or just show up. The kids' activities require hands-on help, especially the necklaces.

We also need to take care of the Memorial Garden. As noted in an earlier email, we have received a grant of \$600 from the county commissioners to begin a major renovation. We were unable to secure the services of the Sheriff's work crew, so we are going to work with Sidney High's FFA group to do a lot of the heavy digging. Ann has already bought or ordered many of the plants and bulbs to be installed. Quite a few of our current plantings will be removed and made available to you for your home. Watch for a date and time to be announced. We will probably also complete our annual fall cleanup at the same time as this event. As part of the renovation, personnel from the county engineer's office will remove the overgrown crabapple tree on the Extension side of the garden. This will necessitate moving a lot of the hostas. You may be asked to nurse some over the winter. Again, watch for an announcement.

The state MGV office is still collecting "Grow Ohio" donation numbers. If you have donated produce or made cash donations to area food pantries, be sure to report the amounts to me. I have a report due next week and a final report in December. Your donations help those in need and provide a positive image for the MGV program. Also, continue to report your volunteer and continuing education hours in HOC.

Looking ahead to next year, hopefully the ANR educator position will be filled soon. Then we can begin planning for a possible new training class to begin in late winter or early spring. We will probably use the hybrid online method again and address some of the weaknesses we encountered in our first attempt. We will be having our library programs again, and the committee is seeking your suggestions for topics and presenters. Contact Ann Heeley, Julie Gilardi, Teresa Freisthler, Russ Stewart, or me with your ideas. Finally, we have new officers: Dave Slagle – president, Janet Nelson – vice president, Russ Stewart – secretary, and Linda Jennings – treasurer.

MG Officers & Leadership for 2024	
President	Dave Slagle
Vice President	Janet Nelson
Secretary	Russ Stewart
Treasurer	Linda Jennings
Volunteer Coordinator	Doug Benson
Extension ANR Educator	position open

Their willingness to serve is commendable, and they have every right and expectation that we will support them in their efforts to lead and move our organization forward. Please be ready to help when called upon. Let's have a great end of the year and a better new year! 🌱



Memorial Planting and Dedication of Azalea to Honor Robert Bernardi

Sonnie Bernardi says that Bob loved azaleas. She wanted to donate a red azalea to honor Bob for his dedication and joy in serving as a Shelby County Master Gardener Volunteer.

Bob became a master gardener with the class of 2013.





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