

# Shelby County Master Gardener

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION



Volume 29, Issue 3—April 2024



## President's comments--By Dave Slagle



April Showers will bring May flowers. That is an old saying, but we all know that it is true. So, today as I write this, it is raining. Even with all the rain that we have had, I am sure we still need more rain. Right?

Although, I have not, as of yet, gotten my lawn covered with fertilizer.

There are several education opportunities available in April and May. Doug has been busy sending out information and reminders. April 16th will be our next meeting event in Celina and we all can welcome Rylee Kay Puthoff as the new Extension ANR Educator.

The Victory Garden seed distribution will be taking place this Saturday, April 13th at various area libraries. I want to thank those members who volunteered to hand those seed packets out.

Memorial Garden work will soon be needed and we look forward to doing that together. Hope to see you on the 16th. 🌱

### Celina Trip & SCVMG Meeting Schedule for Tuesday, April 16, 2024

- 11:30AM- 12:30PM Lunch at CJ Highmarks
  - 12:30PM - 12:40PM Travel to C.A.L.L.
  - 12:45PM - 2:15PM Tour of C.A.L.L.
  - 2:15PM - 2:20PM Travel to Mercer Co. Ext.
  - 2:25PM - 3:30PM April membership meeting
- See driving directions on pages 6 and 7.

### 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	Rylee Kay Puthoff



## New Ag and Natural Resource Extension Educator



Rylee Kay Puthoff

Hello Master Gardeners! My name is Rylee Kay Puthoff, and I am the new Shelby County ANR Extension Educator. I thought I would introduce myself in the newsletter as well as at your upcoming meeting. I go by Rylee Kay, and I recently graduated from Wilmington College

with a bachelor's degree in Agronomy, minoring in Sustainability. While in school, I focused on soil science and preservation. I was a member of the Agronomy Club, Aggies (Collegiate 4-H), and was a student-athlete on the swimming team.

I grew up in Miami County, Ohio and graduated from Miami East High School and Edison State Community College in 2021, and was a member of 4-H, FFA and the Miami County Jr. Fair Board. I did not have a green thumb as a kid and raised chickens, lambs, hogs and rabbits. I once tried to grow a garden for a 4-H project; well... it is safe to say I managed to grow more weeds than flowers that year. That year, through some honesty and a miracle, I received the Clock Award for an Outstanding Project at the Ohio State Fair. To this day, I have no idea how my garden of weeds managed to win.

Funny stories aside, I am excited to get to know the Master Gardeners program and be able to work with all of you! I encourage you to reach out with any questions, and feel free to call or stop by the office! 🌱

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## Coordinator's comments

By Doug Benson



I've traveled extensively in the United States and Canada and seen many spectacular sites, but I think Monday's total eclipse was truly "out of this world"! I hope all of you

had the opportunity to share in such a wonderful event. Luckily, we were able to view the spectacle without having to travel, unless we chose to do so. Perhaps the fact that the sky cleared and the temperature was comfortable will be an omen of good gardening weather to come.

The next few weeks should be quite eventful for SCMGV. By the time you read this, we will have had our second library program. I anticipate that Dave McPherson will have enlightened and inspired many of us to incorporate more native plants in our landscapes. All three counties have plans for distributing 300 Victory Garden seed packets in their respective counties. Thanks to all who will have been or will be involved in the planning and distribution.

More than 20 members have signed up to go to Celina Tuesday for lunch, a tour of the C.A.L.L. food pantry and hydroponic growing operation, and our monthly meeting. During the trip, you will have the opportunity to meet our new ANR Educator, Rylee Kay Puthoff. I know she is eager to meet you. Thanks to Ryan McMichael and Janet Nelson for working on the plans for the field trip. As I mentioned in an earlier email, for those wishing to carpool, I suggest meeting at the Extension office by 10:30 a.m. Please let me know, so that no one is left behind. If some of you want to arrange your own carpool, go for it.

We will try to move the meeting along as quickly as possible, so we can get back home before dark (ha, ha). We will try to keep committee reports short and to the point. I won't have as much as usual to say because my state coordinators' monthly conference is the next day. I will have a sign-up sheet for the first month or two of the hotline. I will also try to have information about where we plan to locate the "plant by number for birds" garden that arrives in late April. If you have specific topics to present, get them to me ASAP, so we can get them on the agenda. I will be sending out the agenda and March minutes Sunday or Monday, so you can be ready to move on them. I will also resend the

travel directions. I don't anticipate putting this meeting on Zoom, since almost everyone plans to attend.

I imagine many of you are already working in your gardens, especially when the weather cooperates. We will need to do the same thing with our Memorial Garden soon. I did mow the grass for the first time last weekend. Lots of daffodils, Jonquils, and grape hyacinths are really brightening the garden. Unfortunately, so are the purple deadnettle and dandelions. The garden needs some serious weeding before it gets out of control. Be watching for a call to arms when some good, dry weather is forecasted. Also, feel free to stop by in some spare time and launch a surprise attack. The three "plant by numbers" beds by the drive also need to be tended so we can figure out what is still there.

Finally, my usual comments: Keep recording your hours on HOC, keep up with the regular updates on BYGL, avail yourself of the many continuing education webinars and in-person programs, and share your knowledge and experiences with the rest of us by contributing to the newsletter.

See you soon! 🌱

## Master Gardener Spare Time Activities



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## Fields of purple and “aha” moments

By Janet Nelson



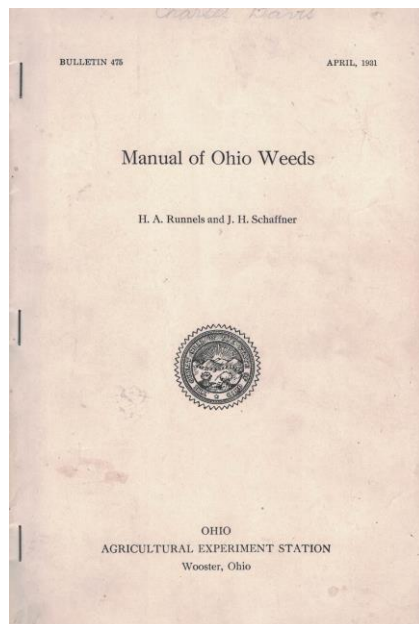
Fields of green or is that fields of purple? Early April in west central Ohio brings fields of purple. Yes, you

guessed it...purple deadnettle. There is much information about *Lamium purpureum*. Joe Boggs, in his usual entertaining way, has a fantastic article in the BYGL. Generally, in the spring, I reread that article to refresh my memory. However, this week I had an aha moment. I noticed the plant’s square stem and realized it must be related to the mints. Sure enough in Joe’s article, it mentions that.



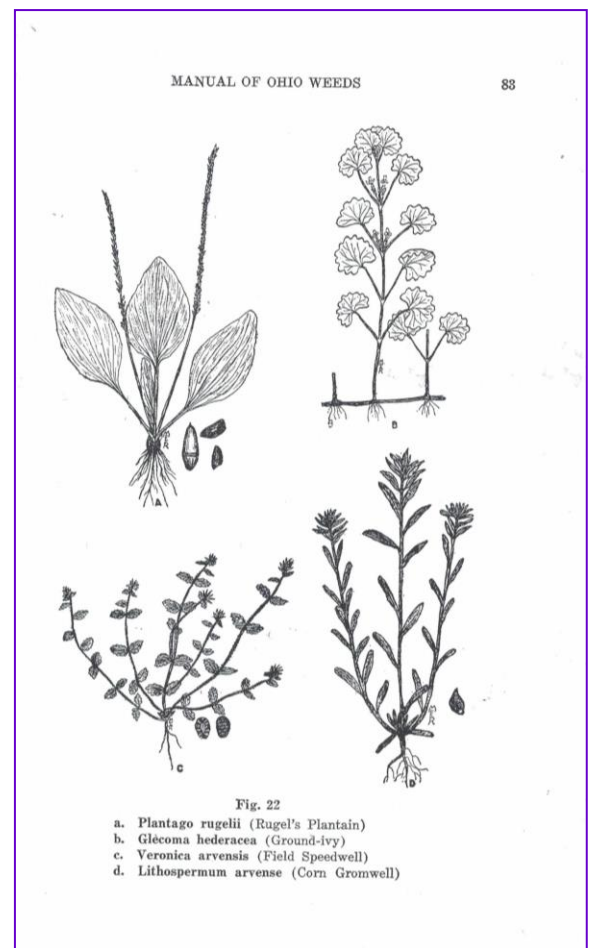
There is no need to repeat the information that you too can access. We have unlimited access to information now. Instantly, we can pull a computer out of our pocket and pull up the BYGL, or take a photo and send it to a site for identification. The list goes on. Now, compare that to the past.

Recently, I was gifted a copy of the “Manual of Ohio Weeds” dated April 1931 from the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station in Wooster Ohio. The manual is in black and white with 158 pages. The foreword says, “The control of weeds is one of the most difficult and expensive operations in Agriculture; it is also one of the oldest problems.” It goes on to say, “While the control of weeds involves all practices in agriculture, one of the first fundamentals to consider is the identification of the plants.”



The manual contains directions for sending plants for identification and detailed descriptions of plants. The information on purple deadnettle has not changed much. Although suggestions for control, include “Practice hoeing or hand pulling before the bloom periods of early spring and autumn.” (Was that even realistic in a field back in 1931?) Interestingly it also suggests using “smother crop such as clover or alfalfa” in late fall.

The manual contains illustrations of some of the plants (no photos and no YouTube videos). The foreword notes, “One hundred and five of the illustrations contained in this Manual were made from drawings prepared by Mrs. Margaret E. Runnels.” It continues to give credit to a few other illustrators.



Thus, I will conclude with my second “aha” moment. Maybe it is time for me to appreciate the talent and beauty of the past without putting my computer too far away. 🌿

## An Unexpected Visit to the Key West Garden Club – March/2024

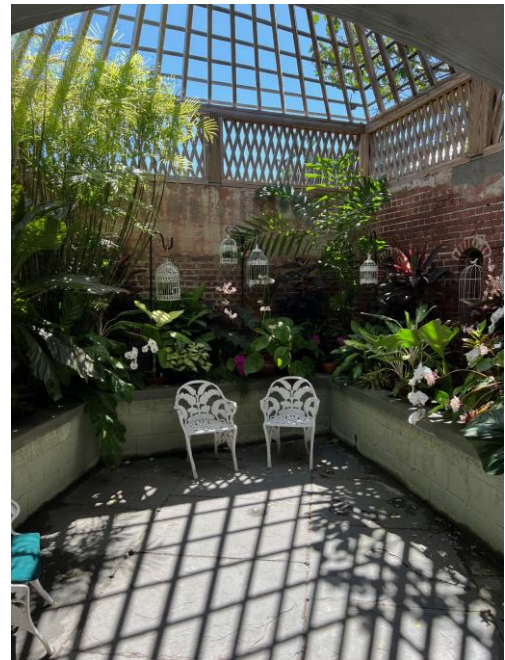
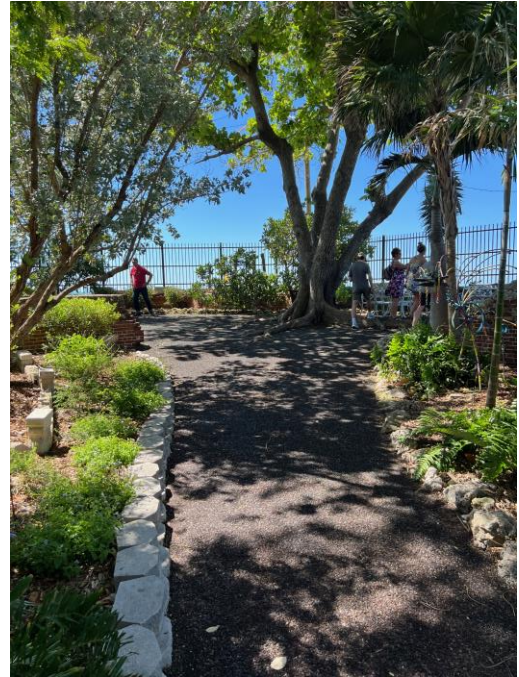
By Jill Dickman

Our family recently took a spring-break vacation to the Florida Keys, with the intent of seeing three national parks. Our grandchildren are ages five through 12, and through their parents and us, they have developed an interest in the natural world.

We landed in Key West and had a scheduled ferry trip out to Dry Tortugas National Park for the following day. Therefore, we had time to eat dinner the day we arrived and found a perfect restaurant on the beach. As we took in the sights, I noticed an old brick building about 200 feet down the beach. My husband and I walked over and found the Key West Garden Club's seaside garden in a Civil War-era brick fortress.



We walked the brick pathways through beautiful arched courtyards which led to open-air rooms filled with cacti, bonsai, and the most beautiful orchid displays. The orchids appeared to be in full bloom. Sitting areas overlooked the Atlantic Ocean, which is a beautiful Caribbean blue/aqua/teal color. A gazebo is apparently a popular wedding site.



Admission to the Key West Garden Club is free from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., 362 days a year. Address: 1100 Atlantic Blvd., Key West, FL 33040. Phone: (305) 294-3210. Website: [www.keywestgardenclub.com](http://www.keywestgardenclub.com) 🌿



**CFAES**

Ohio State University Extension  
in Mercer County presents

## 2024 Lawn & Garden Talks

**When:** The last Wednesday of each month  
April through September  
Starting at 6:00pm

**Where:** The Mercer County Extension  
Office Conference Room  
4978 Mud Pike Rd., Celina

The Ohio State University Extension Office in Mercer County invites you to up your gardening game this year through education and discussion, using science-based information. Bring your curiosity and your questions. You could even bring insect and plant samples to inquire about! Come to whatever topic sounds interesting; attending all sessions is **not** required.

### April 24

#### Selecting Vegetable Plants and Seeds

With Ryan McMichael  
OSU Extension, Mercer Co.

### May 29

#### Drought Tolerant Landscapes

With Jacob Winters  
OSU Extension, Auglaize Co.

### June 26

#### Making Annual Flowers Last All Season

With Kendall Robinson  
Unique Roots

### July 31

#### Wildlife in Mercer County

With Brad Buening  
Wildlife Officer with Mercer  
County ODNR

### August 28

#### Utilizing Cover Crops in the Garden

With Ryan McMichael  
OSU Extension, Mercer Co.

### September 25

#### Success with Pollinators and Milkweed

With A Panel of Local Experts

**Pre-registration not necessary. All talks are free and open to the public.**

**For more information,** please call 419-586-2179 or visit [mercer.osu.edu](http://mercer.osu.edu).



College of Food, Agricultural,  
and Environmental Sciences

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## Information and Directions for Tuesday, April 16, 2024

### Location Addresses:

- CJ Highmarks - 1211 Irmischer Blvd, Celina, Ohio 45822
- CALL Ministries - 420 North Brandon Ave, Celina, Ohio 45822
- Mercer County OSU Extension - 4978 Mud Pike Road, Celina, Ohio 45822

### Schedule:

11:30AM- 12:30PM Lunch at CJ Highmarks  
12:30PM - 12:40PM Travel to C.A.L.L.  
12:45PM - 2:15PM Tour of CALL  
2:15PM - 2:20PM Travel to the New Mercer Co. Extension office  
2:25PM - 3:30PM April Membership Meeting

### Driving Directions from Shelby County Office to CJ Highmarks

Take I-75 North towards Wapakoneta – about 20 miles  
Take US-33 (Exit 110 Towards St. Marys) – You will turn left or west onto US-33  
13 miles – US-33 veers northwest, you will continue on OH-29  
Follow OH-29 for additional 7 miles towards Celina  
Turn right onto Havemann Road (stoplight- will see Bob Evans, Walmart, Goodwill, etc)  
About 1000 feet you will turn right again  
Turn right onto Irmischer Blvd – right next to Aldi's  
CJ Highmarks is located on the right as you travel on Irmischer Blvd.

### Driving Directions from CJ Highmarks to CALL Ministries

Head northwest on Irmischer Blvd  
Heading into subdivision of houses  
Turn left onto Wayne Street  
Go 2 Miles (pass Celina HS, Football Field, Go Across 127)  
You will go through 3 stoplights, last one is when you cross 127  
Turn left onto N Brandon Ave.  
This is directly before Westside Carryout  
CALL Ministries will be on your left  
Looks like an old factory, driveways on located on North and South Side  
Parking would suggested to park on South Side near gardens.

### Driving Directions from CALL Ministries to Mercer OSU Extension

Head south (left onto Brandon Ave)  
Turn right onto W. Market Street  
Market Street will become Mud Pike  
OSU Extension is about 2 miles out of town.  
It is located next to Mercer County Developmental Disability Building.  
OSU Extension Office is the located in the building that is on the right side of the parking lot.  
Map of Sidney to Celina

### Map of Sidney to Celina



### Map of locations in Celina

