

Shelby County Master Gardener

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President's comments

By Dave Slagle

Saying hello Master Gardeners. It has been a crazy spring for most of us, which has been the weather with its ups and downs.

Doug and Riley Kaye have been working to put programs and other new ideas on the table for us. Also, we have some committees doing a great job of volunteering and coming up with some new ideas.

So looking forward to the next week's meeting in The People's Garden at Agapy.

Thank you for everyone's efforts to make SCMGV a better organization. 🌱

Program Coordinator's comments

By Doug Benson

It appears that summer is finally arriving, though the way the temperature is bouncing around, it's really hard to tell. One thing for sure, the grass and the weeds are growing well. I find myself mowing every time we get two or three straight dry days because it takes that long for my yard to dry out enough that I don't leave ruts when I mow. I'll probably pay the price now because last week when we had several dry days, I was able to put a dose of weed and feed on the lawn. That's the first fertilizer I've applied since last November. I can tell that the feed part is working, but I'm not sure about the weed part.

For the first time in several years, I can report success with my spinach planting. The last two years I've been lucky if two or three seeds out of 100 germinated, but this year it's different. Since I only want enough spinach for fresh salad, I just planted three little eighteen-inch-long rows, and sixteen seeds germinated. I've cut enough spinach from those plants to fill a gallon storage bag twice, and they continue to produce. I need to make the

third cutting probably tomorrow, and the spinach has been really clean and tasty.

As far as Master Gardeners is concerned, I've been spending quite a bit of time for the last week and a half preparing for my Thursday night talk at the library. Conelia and I have been meeting on a regular basis to put together our program about insects in the garden and the landscape, and we probably have more material than we'll be able to cover. By the time you read this news article, the program will be over; and I hope it will have been well received. Working with Conelia has been fun; she's been good at finding facts and especially pictures for our presentation. Just a reminder that we will not be having a program in July because of the County Fair.

I don't have anything to report about the County Fair, but we do have a planning meeting scheduled for Friday, June 20, so I will have more to report after that. As I mentioned before, I've already put in the word that we would like to have building responsibility on Senior Day again so all of us can get in free. I will probably be asking for some assistance in updating our display board and planning what kind of things we will include in our exhibit. If you have ideas or suggestions about what kinds of information we should be making available, please let me know.

The Memorial Garden continues to show lots of color, but it also shows lots of weeds. The idea of having people sign up for a week seems to be going all right; the only problem is that a lot of the heavy - well not heavy in in terms of physical weight - falls on those who signed up for the first several weeks.

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Next Meeting: June 18 at 2 pm
at The People's Garden at Agapy
(Bring a chair)

(Continuation of Program Coordinator comments.)

If anyone who had not signed up but has some free time could stop in and spend an hour or so, it would really make it a lot easier on the ones that have signed up. We have purchased two of the collapsible hoses that were authorized at our last meeting. One is a 100-foot hose, and the other is a 50-foot hose, so putting them both together should be allow us to reach just about any place in our garden area. Carol Strayer donated a splitter for the water spigot that will allow us to use two different hoses at the same time. Thank you, Carol.

The hotline has not been especially busy, but that could change at a minute's notice. Many times are available especially in July, August, and September. You can sign up at Hands on Connect by looking for the project called "Hotline 2025." When you select a date, you can see whom, if anyone, else has already signed up to work. I set the sign up to three people. If all three spaces are taken and you try to sign up, you'll be placed on a waiting list. After you complete your volunteer time at the hotline, be sure to go back into Hands on Connect and record your hours, otherwise you won't get credit.

Registration is now open for the State Master Gardener Volunteer Conference in Wooster. The conference is October 9 and 10 at the Secrest Arboretum on the campus of the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center. The cost for the conference is \$75 if you register by August 31. From September 1 through September 25, the cost rises to \$99, and registration closes the 25th. Read all about the conference at [2025 Master Gardener Volunteer State Conference](#). I nominated Janet Nelson for an Outstanding Master Gardener Volunteer Award. The winners will be announced during the awards luncheon on Friday, October 10. We've never had a winner from our group, so it would be great if Janet were the first.

Remember, our June 18th meeting will be at The People's Garden at Agape. We will be able to tour the garden and have our meeting in an air-conditioned building. Please remember to bring your own chair. Because we're meeting at a remote location, I do not anticipate having the meeting covered by Zoom, so hopefully you'll be able to make it in person.

I really don't have much more to say, so I'll conclude the way I always do. Keep volunteering and keep reporting your hours in Hands on Connect. Enjoy your gardening, keep in good health, and I hope to see you on Wednesday at the meeting. 🌱



To our fathers, grandfathers and to our members who are fathers.

Spray Drift into Trees

By Rylee Kay Puthoff, ANR Educator

I have been noticing an increase in the number of tree calls I receive regarding tree illnesses. Or what



is suspected illness. The impacted trees have mainly been oak, but I have received calls about sassafras and Callery Pear having curled and deformed leaves. What is causing this? One of the

most likely causes at this time of year is commercial herbicide applications. As most have noticed, this spring has been particularly windy. This leaves farmers in a sticky predicament. They can either choose not to spray due to the wind, risking a yield loss due to weed pressure, or they can spray, even though it might be windier than advisable.

While this is technically an issue on the pesticide applicator's behalf, oftentimes incidents go unreported since there is no desire to start a conflict between neighbors. However, the best way to have an incident documented is to contact the Ohio Department of Agriculture and file a report. Oftentimes, there will be a small warning on the farmer's behalf, and the incident is documented. I can help walk you through the process if needed.

See you for the meeting! 🌱

Rylee Kay Puthoff

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Cornelia receives award

By Doug Benson

The 2025 Outstanding Senior Citizen for Shelby County is our own Conelia Dixon. She received the award recently at the Senior Center on Senior Citizens Day. She received the honor for the work she does at The People's Garden and around the community.



In typically modest fashion, Conelia indicated that the honor for the award really goes to her “mission, The People's Garden.”

Conelia started The People's Garden at about the same time that she became a Master Gardener Volunteer about 12 years ago. At that time the garden became one of our Master Gardener projects, beginning with just four raised beds. Through Conelia’s persistence and dedication and with the help of other Master Gardeners and many community volunteers, the garden now has 56 raised beds. Conelia uses the knowledge she has gained through the Master Gardener program and through her own studies to guide volunteers in raising fresh produce for clients of the Agape Distribution Center.

In addition to her work in the People's Garden, Conelia also gives garden talks to various community groups and assists others who are starting their own community gardens. She also writes regular articles for the *Sidney Daily News* reporting on the works of the People's Garden.

Conelia is an excellent representative of the Master Gardener program, and we heartily congratulate her on receiving such a well-deserved honor. Thank you Conelia. 🌱

Fun Factoid

Iceland Has No Mosquitos!

Iceland is one of the few places on Earth where mosquitoes don't exist even though they are common in neighboring countries. The reason is that Iceland's climate changes so rapidly they do not have sufficient time to complete its lifecycle. The other place on earth where there are no mosquitos is Antarctica.

Thinking about visiting Iceland. It is becoming a popular destination. Temperature in Iceland for the next 10 days ranges from high of 58 degrees to low of 44 degrees; dress warm. 🌿

AHS Membership benefits

By Carol Strayer



The American Horticultural Society members can enjoy free admission, magazine, discounts, and other reciprocal membership benefits at more than 380 public gardens and arboreta throughout North America through the AHS Garden Network.

AHS offers seven annual membership levels:

- Senior \$35, reciprocal for one adult 65+
- Individual \$50, reciprocal for one adult
- Dual/Family \$70, free or reduced reciprocal for two adults and children 17 and under
- Others listed on website

I believe the standard for a free or reduced reciprocal admission to one of the network gardens is that garden has to be at least 80 miles from your home address. So for example, the Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens in Columbus would qualify, but Cox Arboretum in Dayton would not (but ask anyway).

Website: [AHS Garden Network - American Horticultural Society](https://ahsgardening.org/ahs-garden-network/) or <https://ahsgardening.org/ahs-garden-network/>.

Here is a quick look at the network member gardens:

[AHS-Garden-Network-List-6.9.25.pdf](#) or <https://ahsgardening.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/AHS-Garden-Network-List-6.9.25.pdf>.

I have visited one in the Cayman Islands, Kahului, Hawaii, and most of the ones listed for Florida. I was surprised at the Florida gardens in that a lot of them had a display of macaws without cages within their gardens. Also listed for Ohio are the OSU Secrest Arboretum and the OSU Chadwick Arb. & Learning Center Garden. Since they are both over 80 miles away, the admission should be free with your AHS membership card. 🌿

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ROAD TRIP!!

Submitted by Janet Nelson



Do you want to get away but not go too far from home? You want to experience tropical gardens, fluttering butterflies, desert, etc.?

Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens is Central Ohio's premier botanical garden and a regular favorite of mine. It is an easy ride for a one-day adventure, approximately two miles from downtown Columbus.

It dates back to 1895 when the city of Columbus built a grand Victorian-style glass greenhouse in the park. It is known today as the John F. Wolfe Palm House. In 1992 the Franklin Park Conservatory became the host site for AmeriFlora '92, a six-month international horticulture exposition. I was fortunate to attend the event and it was memorable. The renovations included a \$14-million expansion of the conservatory. This addition expanded the park to total 58,000 square feet. Then in 1994, the Conservatory debuted *Blooms & Butterflies*, becoming the first conservatory in the nation to showcase a seasonal butterfly exhibition. It continues today and the grandkids (me too) love seeing the hatching butterflies and in are awe as the multiple butterflies make the Palm House their home. In the early 2000's, the Conservatory presented *Chihuly at the Conservatory*, and it is now a permanent collection.



The conservatory now includes:

- The Palm House is a tropical paradise filled with palms and the current home for hundreds of butterflies.
- The Desert Biome, features year round blooms from cacti and succulents
- The Rain Forest Biome is packed with tropical plants. The heat and humidity make it a great retreat during the winter.
- Himalayan Biome includes a variety of conifers, deciduous trees and shrubs, flowering plants and vines.



If you are fortunate to visit during the warm season you can venture outdoors into Franklin Park. You will experience 88 acres of gardens including the Daylily Garden, Wells Barn Garden, Celebration Garden, the Crane Conifer Garden and Ornamental Grass collection and of course the Grand Mallway.

An extensive bonsai collection is located in the courtyard. And for you tree lovers, Franklin Park and Conservatory is home to 1,593 trees, including 169 species.

Alas, but that is not all! There is a two-acre Children Garden with multiple educational programs during the growing season.

Franklin Park Conservatory is a quick road trip filled with hours and hours of world-class horticulture, art and nature-based exhibitions. The Conservatory offers something for everyone at any time of year. Fill your gas tank and hit the road for a memorable day. 🌿