

Shelby County Master Gardener

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION



Volume 30, Issue 2 March 2025



President's comments—

By Dave Slagle

Hello, Master Gardeners!

Spring is upon us, both in Ohio and Florida. I'm sure you are enjoying the change.

Hope you all have made the best of the winter weather.

Doug is doing a wonderful job of keeping us informed of what is available both locally and around the state.

Janet is doing a fine job running the meeting for us.

I look forward to seeing everyone in April. 🍀

Program Coordinator's comments

By Doug Benson

As Rodgers and Hammerstein said, "Oh, what a beautiful mornin', Oh, what a beautiful day, I've got a beautiful feelin', Everything's goin' my way." After the cold, blustery winter we've had, let's hope that spring and summer will be as pleasant as this week has been. I don't think we could ask for much more in early to mid-March.

Though our February meeting was a bit long, I think it was quite productive. We heard about some ambitious plans for community gardening space in Wapakoneta. We received the report about our 2025 library seminars, the first of which will have occurred by the time you read this newsletter. The committee has put together a series of programs that should provide something of interest for just about every gardener. I'm looking forward to learning what topics the Mercer County gardening seminars will cover. We also made tentative decisions about continuing the hotline as in the past, sponsoring Junior Fair flower and vegetable awards, building supervision during the Shelby County Fair, and helping with Conservation Day Camp.

We also considered some additional topics during the meeting. Two committees were formed. One will investigate possible destinations for one or more group field trips to be taken during the new year. The other committee will be investigating possible venues for our annual banquet in October. While the banquets have been good at Arrowhead, there have been logistical and financial issues. Thus, we want to explore other possibilities. Thanks to those who have volunteered to serve on these committees, and we look forward to their reports.

Another topic that comes up every year is how to care for the Memorial Garden. Along with support from the county commissioners, we have put considerable time and money into making the garden an inviting and educational showplace representing our organization. As we all know from working in our own gardens, time and effort are necessary; and none of us is getting any younger. Some discussion was held about dividing the garden into smaller sections and asking various members to take responsibility for those sections. No decision was reached, but as the growing season is just about here, we need to make some kind of decisions quite soon. Bring your thoughts and ideas to the meeting next week so that we can perhaps reach a decision.

At Rylee Kay's suggestion, we are going to begin something new starting with this next meeting. Members will be asked to volunteer to give a short 5-to-10-minute **Flash Talk** about some gardening topic during each meeting. The topic will be the volunteer's choice and will have a dual purpose. One is to give the volunteer practice in making public presentations; the other is to provide the membership with new information and continuing education credit. Nancy Russell has volunteered to give the first presentation this coming week. We are looking for volunteers for the future meetings.

Once again, the normal reminders. Continue to enter your volunteer and continuing education hours in Hands on Connect. Keep submitting articles and information for the newsletter. When it comes time, sign up for a turn or two at the Hotline. Help your fellow Master Gardeners by sharing information about new or interesting plants, good gardening centers, and continuing education opportunities that you come across.

I look forward to seeing you either in person or on Zoom at our meeting this coming week, Wednesday, March 19 at 2:00 pm at the Extension office. In the meantime, enjoy this beautiful weather and keep healthy. 🍀

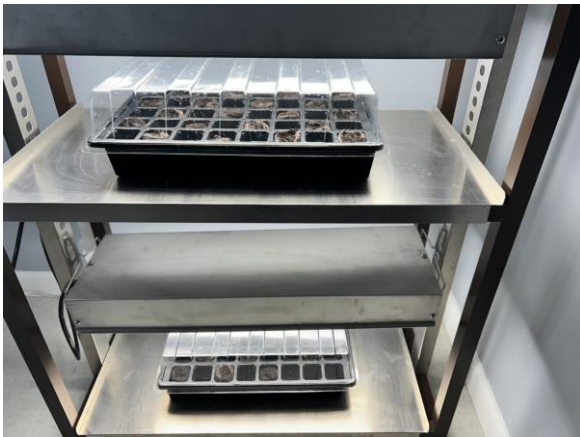
Next Meeting: March 19th, 2 pm
at OSU Extension & on Zoom

SPRING Officially begins on March 20th!

Peat Pellets By Missy Francis

Like everyone, I am anxious to get into my gardens. When I returned from Florida, the garden seeds I ordered from Burpee had arrived. I had decided to plant a couple of kinds of lettuce, spinach, peas, bush beans, beets, cucumber, squash, and several varieties of tomatoes in my raised beds this year. I do not have a large garden area, but I do enjoy growing fresh food. We do not have a large harvest of any one vegetable, but we do get enough to have a few meals.

The other year, I purchased an indoor grow unit and have been starting some of my seeds indoors. I have had good



success with this and will be starting my tomatoes from seed this year. I had heard about “peat pellets” and decided to give them a try this year. I purchased a box of Jiffy, biodegradable seed starting peat pellets.



I have enough pellets to start thirty-six seedlings. They say the benefit of using the pellets is there is less watering, and it is easier to transplant when the time comes. The pellets were simple to use. I unwrapped the pellets and put them into my trays and added warm water and let them soak until they were about 1-1/2” high. They were soggy, so I let them dry for a day and then added my seeds. I covered the tray and put them

under my grow lights. I will let you know how this worked, as I should have germination is 7-10 days! In the meantime, I will be doing winter clean up in my yard. May need to invite the grandkids over to play pickup sticks. 🍀

Lawn and Garden Talks for Mercer County From Ryan McMichael

Mercer County OSU Extension will be holding 2025 Lawn and Garden Talks at 6 pm on the last Wednesday evening of each month from April to September. The talks will be held at the Mercer County Agriculture Center, 4978 Mud Pike, Celina, OH. A schedule of talks is below:

- **April 30:** “Next Level Exteriors: New and Exciting Trends in Landscaping” - Steve Stone, Nature’s Green Nursery
- **May 28:** “Honey Bees Are in Trouble, What Can I Do to Help?” – Mark Beougher, Beougher Honey Farms
- **June 25:** “Major Garden Debate: Raised Beds vs. Traditional” - Caden Buschur, OSU Extension Darke County
- **July 30:** “All Fertilizers Are Not Created Equal, So What’s Best for My Plants?” - Ryan McMichael, OSU Extension Mercer County
- **August 27:** “From Stem to Showpiece: Crafting Cut Floral Radiance” - Marily Schweitzer, Master Garden Volunteer
- **September 24:** “Fungi Farming: Growing Your Own Mushrooms” - Kayla Wise, OSU Extension Williams County



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**HAPPY
ST. PATRICK'S
DAY!**



Master Gardener Library Series

Plants, Not Decor, How to Grow Indoors

March 13

Master Gardener Judy Westerheide will give a presentation on houseplants.

The Green Menace

April 10

Agriculture Educator, Rylee Kay Puthoff will discuss invasive weeds and their management.

New Plants of 2025

May 8

Master Gardener Ann Heeley will give information about plants for 2025.

The Good, The Bad, & The Ugly

June 12

Master Gardeners Conelia Dixon and Doug Benson will discuss the role of insects in a garden.

The Problem Plant

August 14

Master Gardener Volunteers will help solve your plant concerns. Plants welcome!

Winter Preparation

September 11

Master Gardener Karen Seger will give ideas for bringing your plants inside for the winter.

Dates:
Second Thursday
(March -Sept)

Time:
6:30 - 7:45 pm

Location:
Amos Memorial
Public Library
230 E. North St.
Sidney

Please join the Shelby County Master Gardeners as they host a Garden Library Series that is open to the public with no registration required! Refreshments and door prizes provided.





List compiled a few years ago, so details may be outdated.

Member List of Recommended Plant Stores

Recommended By	Garden Center	Recommended By	Garden Center
Suzann Lonsbury Doris Hibner (favorite) Ann Heeley	Amherst Greenhouse 644 County Road 126 (off Rt 117) Harrod Ohio 45850 419 648-6527 https://amherstgreenhouse.com Opens April 16 th \$11 flats of vegie plants, seed potatoes, sweet potato slips, onion starts, selection of ferns, bedding plants by flat, bulk veg. seeds; on Facebook	Suzann Lonsbury Pam Carter	Siegel's Country Store 242 E Broadway (US 36) Covington Ohio 45318 937 473-2808 Monday – Friday 8-6 Saturday 8-4 Closed Sunday Has heirloom tomato plants they grow themselves.
Suzann Lonsbury Nancy Russell Linda Jennings Ann Rhyan	Andy's Garden 2310 W. Market St (Rt 55) Troy Ohio 45373 937 335-5550 https://andysgarden.com M-F 9-6, Sa 9-5, Sun 10-5	Teresa Freisthler (favorite) Mary Delzeith	Star Greenhouse 13619 US RT 127N North Star OH 45350 419-336-7405
Suzann Lonsbury Teresa Freisthler Nancy Russell Ann Heeley	Blue Acre Gardens 200 Bulle Road Piqua Ohio 45356 937 418-5840 http://www.blueacregardens.com/home.html Opens April 17 th -June 5 Monday – Saturday 10-6 Closed Sunday also on Facebook	Mary Delzeith	Nature Green Nursery 2335 SR 119 Fort Recovery OH
		Mary Delzeith	Western Ohio True Value Hardware. 702 N Eastern Ave., Saint Henry OH
Teresa Freisthler Nancy Russell Ann Heeley	Crossway Farms Greenhouse (street/alley behind Sidney Cassano's) 117 Front St. Sidney OH 45365 937-210-1590 https://crosswayfarms.com/	Ann Rhyan	Sidney Hardware N. Main St., Sidney OH 45365
		Ann Rhyan	Shelby Landscaping 2150 St. Marys Ave., S Rt. 29 Sidney OH 45365 https://shelbylandscaping.com
Suzann Lonsbury Cheryl Michael (favorite) Ann Heeley	Meadow View Growers 755 Dayton-Lakeview Rd (St Rt 235 N) New Carlisle Ohio 45344 937 845-0093 http://meadowview.com/ Mar M-Sa 9-5, closed Sun Apr-June M-F 7-7, Sa 7-5	Ann Rhyan	Anna FFA greenhouse or online sale
		Ann Rhyan	Hardin Houston FFA greenhouse, or online, starts April
Suzann Lonsbury	Natorp's Nursery 8601 Snider Road Cincinnati Ohio 45040 Open March 31 st (333-acre plant nursery) https://natorp.com/nursery	Ann Rhyan	Kah Nursery 17447 Pasco-Montra Rd Botkins, Ohio 45306 https://www.kahnursery.com

Recommended By	Online Sources
Ann Heeley	<p><u>Totally Tomatoes</u>, https://www.totallytomato.com/ A great source for heirloom tomato and pepper seeds (plus hybrids) in addition to fruits, vegetables, herbs, and grafted plants; orders are shipped quickly, and they always include an extra packet of tomato seeds that are worth trying; AAS (All-America Selections) winners are highlighted; online and mail-order catalog available</p>
Ann Heeley	<p><u>Classic Viburnums</u>, https://www.classicviburnums.com/ Gary and Sue Ladman sell only one type of plant: viburnum; they grow and propagate over 200 varieties, and their website is very comprehensive; Gary responds personally to phone calls and emails about viburnums, even if your question concerns a viburnum that you didn't purchase from him; prices are very reasonable, and quality is superb</p>
Ann Heeley	<p><u>John Scheeper's Beauty from Bulbs</u>, https://www.johnscheepers.com/ The healthiest and biggest bulbs (except for caladium) I buy some from this company; vast selection of tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, allium, and hundreds of other bulbs are available; interesting and informative newsletter; online and mail order catalogue available</p>
Ann Heeley	<p><u>Easy to Grow Bulbs</u>, https://www.easytogrowbulbs.com/ In spite of the name, this company sells an eclectic assortment of bulbs, houseplants, fruits and vegetables, succulents, perennials, and potted plants; informative newsletters have colorful photos and great ideas; garden blog online; frequent free shipping events and sales; one drawback is daily emails from the company (use a separate email address to avoid inbox clogging)</p>
Ann Heeley	<p><u>Hartmann's Plant Company</u>, https://hartmannsplantcompany.com/ Michigan-based company specializing in berries (including 26 varieties of blueberries), so all of their plants can be grown in our Zone 6; wholesale and retail operation; Hartmann's grows and propagates all of their plants on site; shipping can be a little expensive, but their plants are guaranteed; the company welcomes tours of their labs, greenhouses, and nurseries</p>
Pam Carter	<p><u>Sand Hill Preservation Center</u>, https://www.sandhillpreservation.com (heirloom seeds) Heirloom Seeds & Poultry 1878 230th Street, Calamus, IA 52729 (563) 246-2299</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accept orders via mail with payment in the form of check or money order. • Provide rare varieties that are difficult to find elsewhere. • Offer assistance when looking for a rare and unusual variety. • Grow around 80% of the seed we sell.

