

# Shelby County Master Gardener

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION



Volume 31, Issue 2—March 2026



## President's comments

By Nancy Russell

### In like a Lion, Out Like a Lamb

The weather outside is very windy. There are pockets of blue sky peeking out among the fat, fluffy clouds and temperatures are cooling off compared to the most welcomed warming trend we experienced toward the end of February. It's the type of quickly changing weather patterns that highlights the unpredictable, harsh weather of early March.

So where did this saying – In like a lion, out like a lamb - originate?

Folklore has it that if March begins with stormy, cold and “roaring” weather (a lion) it will likely end with calm, mild, and “gentle” weather (a lamb). Likely? Hopefully? Not sure? That remains to be seen. My research revealed that this saying was often cited in 18<sup>th</sup> century farmers’ almanacs to explain the general gradual warming trend of the Northern Hemisphere. It, however, is not a reliable predictor of weather and often reflects hope for spring rather than guaranteed weather.. Some astronomy connections link it to Leo the Lion, the rising constellation in the east in early March and Aries the Ram (the lamb) being more present by month’s end.

As for me, there are sounds and signs spring is coming whether it is “roaring” or “comes on gentle feet.” The return of the red-winged blackbird with its loud notes, the eastern bluebird fluttering around the backyard nesting box or daffodil leaves already an inch high in the flowerbeds are some of my reliable predictions that winter is loosening its grip and spring will soon be here. Happy spring, everyone!

PS Thank you for your expressions of condolences upon hearing of my brother-in-law Terry’s (Dave’s oldest brother) recent passing. Dave was really

touched by the sympathy card from February’s meeting signed by all present members. I was too. Thank you. 🍀

## Coordinator's comments

By Doug Benson

As I sit here listening to the wind roar, I can't help but think what challenging weather Ohio presents – sunny and high 70s to cloudy with a low near 30 the next day; flooding to severe drought 40-50 miles apart; stagnant air to 60 mph wind gusts. Even the plants are confused – I had forsythias blooming in November. According to OSU’s Phenology Calendar (see a separate article), the 20-year average “growing degree day” accumulation for April 11 in Sidney is 43. Today it is 100, the highest in those 20 years. As the saying goes, “If you don't like the Ohio weather, just wait a day.”

One thing that is also challenging but more predictable is our Shelby County Master Gardeners schedule for the year. We're already off to a good start having had our first meeting last month in February. Our next meeting as has already been noted is going to be rather unusual, in that we will be meeting at the Mercer County Extension office in Celina this coming week. We had to change our meeting location because of the unavailability of the meeting rooms at our Extension office, and Ryan McMichael offered us a great opportunity to combine our meeting with some continuing education. The meeting is scheduled from 2:00 to 3:00, after which there will be an MGV-only presentation on "growing small fruit" led by OSU Extension specialist, Dr. Gary Gao. Ryan has invited Master Gardener Volunteers from several other counties to attend that presentation. I strongly encourage you to attend the meeting and that presentation, if possible. Be sure that you notify the Mercer County office if you plan to attend so that

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**March 18 Membership Meeting at the Mercer Co. OSU Extension Office at 2:00 p.**

**(Coordinator comments continued from page 1)**

they have adequate handouts. (go.osu.edu/smallfruit) or (419) 586-2179. At 6:00, Dr. Gao will be making a presentation for the general public about growing brambles; you are welcome to stay for that program if you wish.

Early in the week I will be sending out the February minutes, the March agenda, and the link to the Zoom coverage of the meeting. Topics that will come up at the meeting include an update on the plans to plant the 250th memorial oak tree, an update on the library programs, and a discussion about whether to have “flash talks” again this year. And just as a reminder, because of room unavailability, we will be holding our April meeting off site as well - probably at the meeting room at the Amos Library.

In just over a week, we will have our first library program on Thursday, March 26, at 6:30. Amanda Hurley from the Soil & Water Conservation office will be presenting a program about using native plants for landscaping and as an attractant for pollinators. Spread the word among your friends and neighbors so we can have a good turnout for her program.

I encourage you to check out BYGL, Buckeye Yard and Garden onLine, on a regular basis. You'll find a lot of interesting updates about things that are happening in and around Ohio. One change to note is we no longer need to report spotted lanternflies (SLF). The entire state has now been quarantined because they are so widespread. If you see the lanternflies or their egg masses, destroy them. Also, the destructive box tree moth (BTM) that attacks boxwood shrubs is now as close to us as Miami County. BYGL has some good information about how to detect the presence of box tree moth and differentiate its damage from other possible causes on boxwoods.

A couple of other reminders: we will need to be thinking about Memorial Garden cleanup within the next month once the weather gets settled down. We will begin hotline sign-ups during the April meeting, and you need to keep up with recording your hours in Hands on Connect. One last concern is that we would like to have a training class later this spring or early summer. If you know of someone who might be interested, check with them

and then pass along their contact information to either Rylee Kay or me. In the meantime, enjoy the weather, and hopefully we'll see you next Wednesday in Celina. 🌱

**Recent Photos of the Memorial Garden  
Provided by Doug Benson**



**Reminder--This month's library series presentation:  
March 26, 6:30p at Amos Memorial Library  
“Let's Go Native” – Amanda Hurley  
Growing native plants to attract pollinators**

# Phenology: What? So What?

By Doug Benson

Note: I used artificial intelligence to help me draft this article.

Phenology is the study of recurring biological events and their relationship to weather and climate. Long-term observation of events in nature compared to temperatures enables scientists to develop predictive information about events like the flowering of plants and seasonal appearance of insects. All of these events depend primarily on temperature with 50°F being the base temperature. The accumulation of the time that the average daily temperature is above 50° is expressed in “Growing Degree Days“ (GDD). If the average temperature for the day does not reach 50°, there are no growing degree days counted. On the other hand, on a day on which the average temperature is well above 50°, there will be multiple growing degree-days. (Example: High temperature is 80° and low temperature is 60°, the average temperature would be 70° minus the 50° base equals 20 growing degree-days). The GDD never goes down; it either stays the same or increases. A new count is started every January.

Fortunately, we do not need to do the research and the calculations; Ohio State maintains a website that allows us to enter our specific zip code and find out our current GDD and see a chart of what plant and insect events are going to be happening. Armed with this knowledge, farmers, gardeners, landscapers and others can make good decisions about when to plant and pest control. It should be noted that the GDD for a listed event is not absolute but will be reasonably predictive. Information is updated every day.

The website for The Ohio State Phenology calendar is <https://weather.cfaes.osu.edu/gdd/CalendarView.asp>. You can type in your own Zip code and even look back to see what was happening on a given day in the past. Clicking on “Summary” gives a twenty-year history of the GDD for that particular date. Click on “View Full Calendar” to see the complete calendar for the year. Clicking on the name of the plant or insect gives you a good picture and, in some cases, additional information. Give it a try. 🌱

## Be a Newsletter Contributor

Have you attended an interesting gardening class, watched an interesting YouTube video or Webinar or made a presentation, remember to take a few photos and share story with other master gardeners in the monthly newsletter. Have a DIY idea that you would like to share even if you haven't made it yourself yet?

Email your articles for the April newsletter by April 8<sup>th</sup> to [carolstrayer@yahoo.com](mailto:carolstrayer@yahoo.com).

This space is reserved for you!

## Call to Dinner at the Round Table On the Menu: Terro Liquid Ant Killer



Photo provided by Doug Benson

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## Is Almost that Time Again

Disclaimer: List was made a few years ago so everything may not be up to date.

### Member List of 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 <a href="https://amherstgreenhouse.com">https://amherstgreenhouse.com</a> Opens April 16 <sup>th</sup> ? 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 <a href="https://andysgarden.com">https://andysgarden.com</a> 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 <a href="http://www.blueacregardens.com/home.html">http://www.blueacregardens.com/home.html</a> Opens April 17 <sup>th</sup> -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 <a href="https://crosswayfarms.com/">https://crosswayfarms.com/</a>	Ann Rhyan	Sidney Hardware N. Main St., Sidney OH 45365
		Ann Rhyan	Shelby Landscaping 2150 St. Marys Ave., S Rt. 29 Sidney OH 45365 <a href="https://shelbylandscaping.com">https://shelbylandscaping.com</a>
		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 <sup>st</sup> (333-acre plant nursery) <a href="https://natorp.com/nursery">https://natorp.com/nursery</a>	Ann Rhyan	Kah Nursery 17447 Pasco-Montra Rd Botkins, Ohio 45306 <a href="https://www.kahnursery.com">https://www.kahnursery.com</a>

Recommended By	Online Sources
Ann Heeley	<p><u>Totally Tomatoes</u>, <a href="https://www.totallytomato.com/">https://www.totallytomato.com/</a>  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>, <a href="https://www.classicviburnums.com/">https://www.classicviburnums.com/</a>  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>, <a href="https://www.johnscheepers.com/">https://www.johnscheepers.com/</a>  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>, <a href="https://www.easytogrowbulbs.com/">https://www.easytogrowbulbs.com/</a>  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>, <a href="https://hartmannsplantcompany.com/">https://hartmannsplantcompany.com/</a>  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>, <a href="https://www.sandhillpreservation.com">https://www.sandhillpreservation.com</a> (heirloom seeds)  Heirloom Seeds &amp; Poultry  1878 230th Street, Calamus, IA 52729  (563) 246-2299</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accept orders via mail with payment in the form of check or money order.</li> <li>• Provide rare varieties that are difficult to find elsewhere.</li> <li>• Offer assistance when looking for a rare and unusual variety.</li> <li>• Grow around 80% of the seed we sell.</li> </ul>
Carol Strayer	<p><u>Garden Crossings</u>, <a href="https://www.gardencrossings.com">https://www.gardencrossings.com</a>  Zeeland MI</p>
Carol Strayer	<p><u>Bluestone Perennials</u>, <a href="https://www.bluestoneperennials.com">https://www.bluestoneperennials.com</a></p>