

# GREEN THUMB PRINTS

Gardening is our Passion ..... Education is our Purpose

May 2020

## Upcoming Events:

All in-person activities for the Master Gardener Volunteers are on hold at least through July 6 or until further notice from Karl.

Our May 14 meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on ZOOM.

We will be voting on several items.



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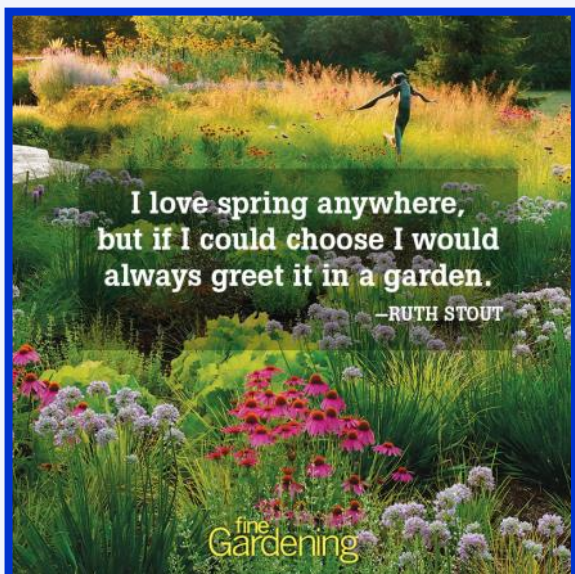
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## *Coordinator's Corner*

I hope you all have been able to get outside and work in your gardens. It has been a different spring, but if you are like me there has been much time to organize and work on things around the house.

As you have been told, President Drake suspended all in person activities regarding the Master Gardeners until July 6. With things changing on a day to day basis, I am hopeful that this will be loosened soon to allow us to do some project work. However, until then no projects involving face to face work can be completed.

Our May 14 meeting will be a Zoom meeting. Thanks to all those who joined me in trying it out and hearing about how we will function during this meeting. We will be voting via Zoom on some business so brush up on being able to communicate within the manage participants function. We will be using the thumbs up and thumbs down symbols to vote during the Zoom meeting. We are asking for everyone to remain on mute during the meeting unless you are asked to speak and to keep your video turned off to allow for better performance of the meeting. You can use the chat box to communicate during the meeting. It will be monitored so we address your points and questions. We are hoping that we do not have to continue to have Zoom meetings in the future, but until then this is a way to keep things progressing while complying with President Drake's mandate.

The Master Gardener portion of the Hancock Extension website was updated. It includes a section for all the recorded webinars over the past couple months. These webinars are a good way for you to get your education hours in for the year. You can review our website at <https://hancock.osu.edu/program-areas/master-gardener-volunteers>. Please take time to update your hours on VMS through April 30.

If you have any needs or questions, please feel free to call or email me and I will see if there is any way to assist you. Please be safe and happy gardening in a social distancing way.

*Karl Farwig*

## *Rambling Rose*

### *May 2020*

Welcome to May! The Top 5 things I miss the most during this new normal are my family, hair stylist, manicures, Master Gardener, and hair stylist. Yes, I did list hair stylist twice since I miss her twice as much!

I really do miss seeing, talking and sharing the love of gardening with everyone of you. I hope that you find the comfort, joy and peace of being able to go outside and start the tone of year so dear to our hearts.

With this new normal comes the difficult acceptance of cancelling all OSU Master Gardener events through July 6, 2020. This includes Mother's Day Let's Go Gardening, May Plant Exchange and meeting, Community Garden, OSU Front Gardens, June meeting, and June Field Trip. We are hoping that Sharon Milligan may be able to reschedule that trip after July 6.

The Executive Committee has been active with Zoom calls to keep the organization current. The decision was reached to have a Zoom call with the membership in order to vote on the policies that were presented at the last regular meeting. In addition, the 2020 Master Gardener Budget has been completed and will be discussed and voted on during the virtual meeting. We hope as many members as possible will be able to join the call on May 14, 2020 at 7:00 pm. Additional instructions on the Zoom process was sent to each member.

Thanks to Karl for the excellent job updating our website on the Hancock County OSU Extension website. Please check it out and see all the current information available to all. The one thing left to do is have a new picture taken for the main page. Betsy had planned on having the Executive Committee wear our MGV shirts and spell OHIO at the next meeting and now we have to wait until hair salons have reopened and we can stand close enough to take a picture!

Thank you to Doris Salis and the Ask A Master Gardener project for continuing to answer the questions from the community! They have been very creative with face time, pictures, etc. to continue this important project during this time. Thanks to every member for staying safe and for being a Master Gardener!

I miss you all and look forward to talking with you at the May 14 Zoom meeting. Please contact me with any issues, concerns, or questions.

*Rose*





# Master Gardener Spotlight

## Kay Sidaway

**1 Master Gardener Class:** 2006 (14 years)

**2 Gardening Interests or Areas of Expertise:**

Major interests include grasses and native gardening. Using grasses and native plants, Kay makes all attempts to make flowerbeds self sufficient (no watering, occasional weeding). In the yard at home she has flowers and plants EVERYWHERE!

**3 Hancock County Master Gardening Activities:**

Kay was the newsletter editor for 10 years and tries to help out with projects as time permits. She is the current committee chair of social and fundraiser projects and is also responsible for apparel.

**4 Community Activities:**

Church organist for decades

Leipsic Food Pantry

One of her favorite activities: just being outside!

**5 Other Interests or Interesting Information:**

Kay was born and raised in Wood County on a farm with 2 brothers, assorted animals and a piano. After attending Jackson Twp. School and McComb High School she graduated from the University of Findlay with degrees in Business Admin. and Business Systems Analysis. Employment over the years included the HHWP Community Action Commission, United Aircraft Products, Putnam County Sheriff's Office, and BSSA/Sheriffs' Jail Linkage System. Although she is retired, she still works part-time in the office at church and plays the organ almost every Sunday.

## Ask A Gardener Program

Submitted by: Peggy Biolchini

The Ask-A-Master Gardener Program is still available to the public by calling the Extension Office. Questions are beginning to arise as people are staying home and getting outside in their own backyards. Doris Salis is the Chairperson this year and has received the following questions from the Extension Office.

### Questions & Answers:

- \* **Lack of buds on bottom branches of a Yellow Delicious** – *Pruning tips were given*
- \* **Blue spruce and White pines dying from bottom up** – *Advised to check for cankers or fungal disease; trees were older and perhaps past their lifetime. Advised the person to either prune or remove tree.*
- \* **Identification of egg sacs on spruce** – *Egg sacs were from a praying mantis and advised customer to remove them if it really bothers them but it would be best to keep them as they are beneficial insects.*
- \* **Use of spraying for Emerald Ash Borer** – *this question is still pending.*
- \* **Question about hostas with frost damage** – *MGV explained that each shoot is a leaf and if one gets damaged, another one will form. Customer was directed to the [www.americanhostasociety.org](http://www.americanhostasociety.org)*
- \* **Question on raised beds; soils, plants to use** - *this question is pending.*



## Spring is Not Closed, So Dig In

By Tim Brugeman-The Courier-April 25,2020

<http://findlaycourier.oh.newsmemory.com/?publink=12c90e1b6>



# The Blooming Bounty of Spring

Submitted by Linda Casey

In the warming temperatures and increased daylight comes a tidal wave of green. The dormant trees awaken, migratory birds return from their southern winter homes and fill the air with a diversity of songs. However, few things encapsulate spring better than the emergence of our woodland wildflowers.



Beginning in March, as the soil thaws, our state's woodlands give way to a profusion of ephemeral (meaning it dies back after flowering in the springtime) wonders that peak in late April through May. Dozens upon dozens of different species awaken, grow and bloom, then set to seed and return to oblivion--all in the matter of a few months.

A number of species have a narrow window of opportunity to be seen at their prime, including the delicate blooms of the bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*). Its whorl of snow white petals last only a day or two in early spring. It gets its unique name from the blood-colored sap in its stems and rhizomes.



Bloodroot

**(Continued)**

## The Blooming Bounty of Spring (Continued)



Trout Lily

Many of our native spring wildflowers are long-lived perennials that come back from an underground bulb or rhizome season-after-season. It's a game of patience as some can take nearly a decade to reach flowering maturity. One of those is the dainty trout-lily or fawn-lily with their fleshy, speckled leaves. Dense carpets of immature single-leaved plants can aesthetically cover the forest floor. Not until they earn that second leaf will they flower in either golden yellow or creamy white, depending on the species. It's important to remember never to pick the flowers of a trout-lily as that is a death sentence for that plant and many of our other species.



Dutchmans' breeches

Squirrel Corn

Two of our more unusual spring bloomers are the closely-related, and often found together, Dutchmans' breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*) and squirrel corn (*D. canadensis*). Both come with lacy, finely-dissected leaves of a delicate appearance in shades of green and silvery teal. Their names are as unique as their looks with one resembling a pair of pants drying on the clothesline. Squirrel corn gets its common name from the nodule-like yellow tubers that cluster along the rootstock.

(Continued)



# The Blooming Bounty of Spring

## (Continued)



**Trillium**

It wouldn't be spring in Ohio without the appearance of the beloved trillium. These stunning wildflowers are some of the most popular and sought after of all spring's masterpieces. Ohio is currently home to seven different species that range across the state in a variety of habitats. One of those, the large-flowered trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*) has the honor of being our official state wildflower and can be found in just about every county. Much like the aforementioned trout-lilies, trillium can take nearly a decade to flower and live for multiple decades upon maturation. So the next time you're standing among an impressive display of these plants, consider the time and energy it took to give you such a sight to enjoy.



**Wood Poppy**

Speaking of impressive displays, the wood poppy or celandine poppy (*Stylophorum diphyllum*) in large numbers is a stunning sight to behold as well. Its fern-like foliage is adorned with large, fuzzy buds that unfurl into luscious globes of golden yellow. Wood poppies are prolific seeders and can quickly colonize large patches in their high-quality, moist woodland homes. Much like many other spring woodland wildflowers, a wood poppy's seed contains a fleshy structure known as an elaiosome. Rich in lipids and proteins, the elaiosome attracts numerous species of ants, which take the seeds back to their nests as food for their larvae. This in turn helps the poppies, trillium, spring beauty and trout-lily spread their seeds farther and wider than they could on their own.

**(Continued)**



## The Blooming Bounty of Spring (Continued)



**Marsh Marigold**

A heavy majority of the forest's flowering plants have come to do their thing in early spring to reduce their competition for sunlight to a minimum. During the months of March, April and into May, the forest canopies are bare or just beginning to leaf out. This allows the herbaceous layer of the understory to harness its solar energy before the leaves significantly darken the woodland floor for the rest of the growing season. Without that advantageous timing, species like the marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*) would never get its opportunity to flower in Ohio's swamp woods and forested seeps.



While these wildflowers are a welcome sight after a dreary, gray winter, their purpose goes much deeper. A seemingly endless number of birds, insects, butterflies, moths and mammals rely on the returning wildflowers and flowering trees as a source of nectar and nutrients upon their re-emergence. The wildflowers and their pollinators have a silent but mutual contract agreement that allows our natural world to function in a stable, healthy manner.

**(Continued)**

# The Blooming Bounty of Spring

## (Continued)



**Violets**

When it comes to spring's most diverse group of wildflowers, none can compete with the violets. Many may be fine with saying there's a purple one, a white one and a yellow one but there's so much more to it than that! Ohio is home to nearly 30 species of native violet and all follow the same irregular flower pattern but can vary wildly in their leaves, size and habitat. They may be small but their sheer diversity make them a fun group to study and admire, even if only the ones common in your lawn.



**Irises**

Irises aren't only wildflowers of summer's rain gardens and wetlands but spring's woodlands as well. The dwarf crested iris (*Iris cristata*) and the state threatened vernal iris (*I. verna*) are both early blooming species that add a wonderful touch of purple and electric blue to our forests.

With spring in full swing across the state, I hope you find time to take to the woods in search of spring's woodland wildflower bonanza. Many of Ohio's fine state parks, state forests and state nature preserves are home to majestic displays that only last a few weeks a year and are well worth seeking out. We're aware that these uncertain times are limiting many aspects of life as we all practice social and physical distancing. Please check Ohio's Coronavirus Update for Stay-at-home restrictions.





## **IT'S Time To.....**

### **HOME (Indoor plants and activities)**

- Many indoor plants can be moved to shady locations outdoors but only after danger of frost is past. Plants will dry out more often outdoors, so keep a close eye on soil moisture. Sinking the pots in soil will help slow down moisture loss.
- Now is a good time to take cuttings of houseplants to increase a collection or share with friends. Root cuttings in media, such as vermiculite, perlite or potting soil. Roots grown in water tend to be weak from lack of oxygen and do not adjust well to planting in soil.
- Fertilize houseplants according to label directions. Foliage plants require relatively high nitrogen fertilizer; flowering houseplants respond best to fertilizer high in phosphorus.

### **YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals and fruits)**

- Prune early spring-flowering trees and shrubs after flowers fade.
- Plant balled-and-burlapped or container nursery stock, and water thoroughly.
- Remove and destroy overwintering bagworms from landscape trees and shrubs.
- Follow a spray schedule to keep home-orchard crops pest free. While trees are in bloom, use fungicide sprays without insecticide to avoid injury to bees. Follow label directions.
- Thin fruits of apple trees, if needed, about three weeks after petal fall. Apples should be about 8 inches apart.
- Apply fungicides to roses to control diseases, such as black spot.
- Purdue turf experts recommend that if you are going to fertilize your lawn in May, apply three-fourths-to-one pound N/1,000 square feet with a product that contains 50 percent or more slow-release fertilizer. Try to schedule the application prior to a rain or irrigate following application to move the fertilizers off the leaf blade.

### **GARDEN (Vegetables, small fruits and flowers)**

- Plant frost-tender plants after danger of frost has passed for your area. This includes warm-season vegetables such as tomatoes, peppers, eggplant and vine crops as well as most annual flowers and tender perennials, such as cannas, gladiolus, dahlias, tuberous begonias and caladiums.
- Pinch chrysanthemums and annual flower plants to keep them compact and well-branched.
- Make successive plantings of beans and sweet corn to extend the season of harvest.
- Thin seedlings of early-planted crops such as carrots, lettuce, spinach and beets to their proper spacing.
- Harvest early plantings of radishes, spinach and lettuce.
- Harvest asparagus by cutting or snapping spears at or just below soil level.
- Harvest rhubarb by cutting, or grasp the stalk and pull it up and slightly to one side.
- Control cucumber beetles, carriers of bacterial wilt, as soon as cucumber plants germinate or are transplanted to prevent disease.
- Remove blossoms from newly set strawberry plants to allow better runner formation.
- Remove unwanted sucker growth in raspberries when new shoots are about a foot tall.





# THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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