

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE



EVENTS

- January 5 - Volunteer Training Class Application Deadline
- January 17 – Master Gardener Classes begin
- January 20 – CFI, Seed Saving Adaptation, Athens
- January 22 – Monthly Meeting, 'Celebrating 20 Years of Master Gardening in Athens County'



BUGS AND BLOOMS



Bugs killed during winter

The mild winters over the last few years have given rise to the question "Will we see more insects in the coming year?" The bottom line is that overwintering strategies of insects are varied and complicated meaning that we can't paint with a broad brush to predict what effect, if any, our balmy winter temperatures will have on insect pests. This question is much like the late season call for predicting fall colors. About all we can say with certainty is that we will have insect pests during the upcoming growing season regardless of winter temperatures ... and leaves will change color at the end of the season.

December 2017



Master Gardener Training Classes

The 2018 training classes for future Master Gardeners will begin Jan. 17 and continue through April 11. Deadline for registration is Jan. 5. Applications can be obtained online at <https://athens.osu.edu/program-areas/master-gardener-volunteers>, at the County Extension Office or by emailing Ed Brown at brown.6000@osu.edu. There is \$110 fee for the materials and classes and trainees will be expected to fulfill 50 hours of class time and 50 hours of volunteer work in order to move from an intern to a Master Gardener.

We encourage current members to promote the Master Gardener training to friends and fellow garden enthusiasts.

In January, you will receive a request to volunteer at classes in order to grade exams and/or furnish refreshments. Of course, everyone is invited to attend classes, if you are interested in the topic that is being presented.

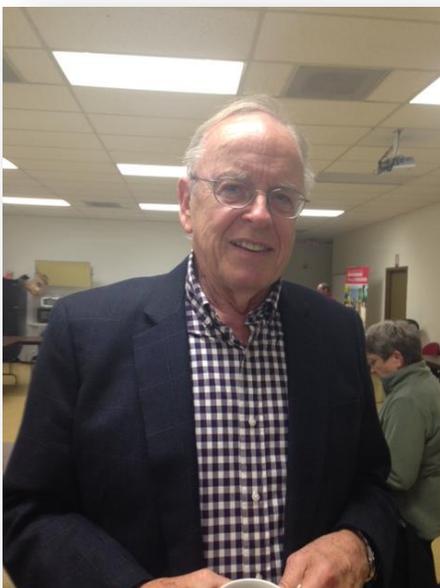




DECEMBER GARDEN

Enjoy the Garden in Winter

1. Put out bird feeders
2. Trim evergreens and make wreaths and garland
3. Order gifts for your gardening friends
4. Make sure that your watering equipment is drained and stored properly.
5. Invite a friend to become a Master Gardener. Classes start in January



Plant of the Month



Schlumbergera sp.
'Christmas Cactus'

- * Christmas Cactus commonly bloom in December.
- *To set buds, the plant needs either nighttime temps between 50-55 F. or 12 hours of complete darkness every night.
- * Bud drop can be triggered by too-dry soil or some disruption in temperature or light pattern.
- *Do not overwater and keep plant away from warm drafts.

Submit your January Plant of the Month to brown.6000@osu.edu

Project Spotlight

The Committee working on the Children's Garden presented a plan to diversify the labor and hours needed to maintain the garden. Instead of having one person manage, maintain and coordinate all the activities of the garden, the recommendation is to have a Coordinator and Team Leaders.

The suggested breakdown would include a:

- **Coordinator** – to maintain the records, track spending, assign and contact volunteers, update planting maps, and keep a tool inventory.
- **Education Team Leader** – to work with the Director of Children's Programming at the ACRC; schedule and coordinate Master Gardeners in use of the curriculum and to supervise the garden during class activity.
- **Maintenance Team Leader** – to work with the OSU Extension Officer to provide upkeep of the garden and equipment including soil testing and arranging for needed amendments; to provide direction and supervision of the Intern to insure regular watering, weeding and composting of the garden.
- **Production Team Leader** – Identify and arrange for purchase and planting of annuals for the raised beds; provide oversight of vegetable beds and transport to CFI; arrange for clean-up in the fall.

Digging Deeper

Don Jordan, professor emeritus, has spent many years in China and Japan and specialized in the study of Asia. At our November meeting, he spoke on the Zen or Meditation Gardens found in Japan. Dr. Jordan used Japanese landscape paintings to explain how the visitor should look at the garden and follow the path to achieve the calm necessary to clear your mind and meditate. He also showed several pictures of temple gardens and explained the work and care necessary to maintain these exemplary gardens.