OAGC Convention returns to Maumee Bay in June

A great 85th Ohio Association of Garden Clubs Convention, focusing on gardening and using its bounty, is in store for OAGC members, June 1-3, 2015, at Maumee Bay State Lodge and Conference Center in Oregon, Ohio.

Mark Miller, Ph.D., our Monday night keynote speaker, will inspire you to add veggies to your landscape with “Edible Landscaping,” a sharing of gardens, pictures and ideas. Dr. Miller works as Educational Manager at Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens in Columbus. He has thirty years, plus, working as a landscape designer in many areas and has served as Program Manager/Horticultural Instructor/Author/Researcher for many other organizations:

American Horticulture Society, U.S. Peace Corps, Ohio Cooperative Extension Service; Environmental Education Partnership; Columbus Topiary Park and The Ohio State University.

Tuesday evening, “Delicious Designs,” with Past OAGC President Mary Lee Minor and Past OAGC Secretary Marlene Purdy, will feature dynamic designs using luscious gifts from the garden. Both ladies, OAGC judges and former teachers, are well-known to our members, both in service and in award-winning designs. Minor has been an Ohio State Fair flower show designer for many years, winning in many categories. Purdy has followed the same path at the state fair flower show and has won many ribbons, also. Be prepared to enjoy every minute.

Wednesday afternoon, Denise Ellsworth, a noted speaker for environmental issues will present “Backyard Biodiversity,” inspiring you to grow for the birds, butterflies and insects in your own backyard. Ellsworth serves as Program Director, Honey Bee and Native Pollinator Education, Department of Entomology/Extension, College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, of The Ohio State University. She will share the secrets of luring the right insects to your yard to entice an assortment of birds, adding color and movement to your gardens. The Convention Reservation form can be found on page 15.
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Treasurer (Position vacant. Interested parties should contact Marlene Purdy at mpurdy@oagc.org)
Secretary Vicki Ferguson 2853 Circlewood Ln. Dayton, OH 45458-9440 937-885-6163 vferguson@oagc.org

WHERE TO SEND IT: Membership changes and dues: Membership Chair; Donations to the OAGC Foundation: OAGC Foundation Treasurer; submissions for In Memoriam, Via the Grapevine and Stepping Stones: The Garden Path editor.
A note from our president:

Dear Garden Buddies,

This is not the best time of year to garden, but it is the best time to plan a garden. Think about what super foods you can sneak into your landscaping: bramble fruits as a hedge, strawberries as a ground cover, beautiful healthy greens with fluffy carrots to edge the beds.

Consider planting bright-colored sweet peppers, glossy eggplants, green, purple or yellow wax beans, squash and pickles draped on the fence and luscious red and yellow tomatoes in all their glory.

Convention will be early this year, June 1, 2, 3, 2015, and it would be cool to see who has veggies and/or fruits to show at the convention horticulture show. Broccoli grown in big pots can head by June. Some of our southern Ohio members might come up with early, early tomatoes. Others with a greenhouse might, too.

Convention 2015 is featuring Edible Landscaping with Mark Miller, Ph.D. from Franklin Park Conservatory in Columbus. He will inspire us to ‘foodscape’ our surroundings and raise chemical-free produce, plus offer veggie-cooking secrets.

OAGC members, past OAGC Secretary Marlene Purdy and past OAGC President Mary Lee Minor, great award-winning designers, are preparing a romp in the vegetable patch to find beautiful items to add to their designs.

Other speakers will teach us the plants and flowers needed to support our bees and how to raise two cute chickens in a cute coop and get two fresh eggs every morning. Another dynamic speaker will teach us about super foods and good health. We will learn how to carve veggies into roses and use them to garnish the buffet dishes or how to arrange a fruit to center the buffet. A workshop on composting will further create good healthful gardens. Get your registration in early, especially if you desire a room close to the action.

Exhibitors’ and Judges’ School (E and J) is coming up April 13 and 14. We plan to have more vendors and more evening programs with each school, so get registered and come. Bring a friend and enjoy two days learning and shopping.

Nature Study Retreat is coming the second week of June. Join the group and swamp-stomp. That is what our local science teacher named his student forays into the spring woods, Swamp-Stomping.

Please support our friends at Brent and Becky’s Bulbs (check it out on page 7) and our friends at Bluestone Perennials; OAGC gets a cut. Donate to the OAGC Foundation for the fund of your choice. Support Wahkeena Nature Preserve and Mohican Outdoor School, they need funds to help schools transport students for a day in the woods. Consider sending your year-end Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA to the OAGC Foundation. If stocks are donated to the OAGC Foundation, you may save on capital gains taxes. Contact your financial advisor for the rules and procedures for donating from your IRA.

Nudge the local paper to use your garden club news, they need more readers and today’s readers are looking elsewhere for world news, but they like reading about their neighbors in the small local papers. And … in keeping with the push to become the premier garden group in the state, sign on to Pinterest, gab on Facebook and try Twitter-ing. Start Crowing about OAGC and what we have to offer!

Crowing for OAGC,

Peggy Case, OAGC President

Hellstrip Gardening: Create a Paradise between the Sidewalk and the Curb

A book review by Diane Daniels

The hellstrip is the strip between a street and a public sidewalk but also includes areas between driveways, parking lot islands and various planting strips. In Hellstrip Gardening by Evelyn Hadden, whether you live in the city or country, you’ll find many design possibilities in this book. Hadden uses stunning color photographs to showcase hellstrip gardens across the country.

The book covers earth friendly strategies to transfer dead space into a colorful garden. The reader will learn how to tackle challenges of soil and water issues, foot and vehicle traffic, utility lines, street trees, piled snow and road salt, and restrictive regulations, laws and associations. Profiles of 100 suitable plants for hellstrip gardens are included. The book is available from OAGC Sales for $19. ISBN-10: 1604693320.
**2015 OAGC Convention Flower Show, June 1-3, 2015**

**Horticulture Rules and Schedule (Note: Artistic Schedule will be posted on line soon.)**

1. Entries will be accepted from 9 am to 1 pm, Monday, June 1, Judging begins at 1:30 pm.
2. Adult exhibitors MUST BE REGISTERED for convention in order to be eligible to enter.
3. Horticulture entries must be grown by the exhibitor. Container grown plants should have been in the exhibitor's possession for at least three months.
4. Exhibitor MUST furnish own clear glass containers, size suitable for the exhibit. Water picks will be furnished for miniature roses. Packaging peanuts will be available for use as wedging for heavy cultivars.
5. Each horticulture entry tag should have the exhibitor number provided by the horticulture chair.
6. Only correctly named horticulture exhibits, with the variety name written on the entry tag, will be eligible for an award.
7. Junior entry tags must be completely filled out by junior exhibitor before entering the show.
8. An exhibitor may make as many entries as desired in any class, providing each is a different named variety.
9. An exhibitor may not enter a cultivar in an ‘any other’ class if there is another class for it or they have already entered that cultivar in a previous class.
10. Classes may be withdrawn, eliminated, combined, divided or sub-divided, if the number of entries warrant.
11. Horticulture classes will be judged according to the Ohio Association of Garden Clubs Inc. rules by the standard system of judging - one first, one second, one third. More than one honorable mention may be given for worthy entries. Judges' decisions are final.
12. Adult Awards will be: Awards of Merit: best entry in Roses, Section 1; best cut flower exhibit, Sections 2 and 3; best cultivar exhibit, Section 4; best cultivar hybrid, Sections 5, 6, and 7; best horticulture entry, Section 8; Green Thumb award for horticulture excellence in a cut flower exhibit, best entry Sections 1, 2, and 3; Outdoors Growers Award for cultural perfection, best entry, Sections 4, 5, 6 and 7; Container Growers Award for cultural perfection, best entry Section 12; Gold Medal and Silver Medal for best entries Section 9; Best of Show, Mary Alice Earhart Memorial Award, best overall horticulture exhibit in show; Sweepstakes, exhibitor totaling most points. Points totaled are: 1st: 5; 2nd: 3; 3rd: 2. In case of a tie, Honorable Mentions will be counted as 1 each; Runner-up Rosette, second place sweepstakes.
13. Junior Awards will be: Awards of Merit, best cut annual, biennial or perennial flower exhibit in Section 10; best hosta entry in Section 11, best vegetable or fruit entry in Section 12; Best of Show will be awarded for best overall junior exhibit in all junior classes; Junior Sweepstakes will be awarded to the junior exhibitor totaling most points. Points totaled are: 1st: 5; 2nd: 3; 3rd: 2. In case of a tie, Honorable Mentions will be counted as 1 each.
14. Named hostas will be classed using the American Hosta Society (AHS) Show Classification List. If a hosta specimen is an unnamed or unregistered variety as recognized by AHS, it will be placed in Class 26 for adults and 52 for Juniors. The list will be available at convention in the show preparation room and can be found at: http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Judging.html. All leaves entered should be representative of the plant as a whole and should be taken from plants approaching maturity.
15. Convention horticulture exhibit entry tags will be available at the entry table. The small entry tags should be used for the miniature rose exhibits. Prior to Convention, entry tags are available from the State Horticulture Chair, Jane Adkins, 4426 Clark Place, Grove City, OH 43123-3538. Phone 614-875-5059 or email: jadkins@oagc.org.

**ADULT DIVISION**

**Section 1 - Roses**
1. Hybrid Tea, one bloom, any color, named, disbudded, with foliage attached
2. Hybrid Tea, full bloomed, any color, any variety, named, one bloom, disbudded, with foliage attached
3. Floribunda or Polyantha, any variety, named, one spray, not disbudded, with foliage attached
4. Grandiflora, any variety, named, one spray or one disbudded bloom, with foliage attached
5. Shrub, any variety, named, one spray, not disbudded, with foliage attached
6. Miniature, named, any variety, any color, one bloom, disbudded, with foliage attached
7. Miniature, named, any variety, one spray, not disbudded, with foliage attached
8. Any new variety rose for 2015

**Section 2 - Annuals**
9. Fresh cut everlasting, named, one bloom, one spray or one spike, any variety, foliage attached
10. Any round form, named, one bloom, disbudded, foliage attached
11. Any spike form, named, any variety, one spike, foliage attached
12. Any spray form, named, one spray, not disbudded with foliage attached
13. Any new variety for 2015

**Section 3 - Biennials or Perennials**
14. Single Peony, named, any variety, disbudded with foliage attached
15. Double Peony, named, any variety, disbudded with foliage attached
16. Iris, named, any variety, keeping foliage attached when available
17. Any round form perennial or biennial, named, one bloom, disbudded with foliage attached
18. Any spray form perennial or biennial, named, any variety, one spray, not disbudded with foliage attached
19. Any spike form perennial or biennial, named, any variety, one spike, foliage attached
20. Any flower grown from a bulb, corn, tuber or rhizome not listed elsewhere in the schedule
21. Any new variety for 2015

**Section 4 – Hostas**
22. Miniature, registered size = length x width equals less than 6"
23. Small, registered size = length x width equals 6", but less than 30"
24. Medium, registered size = length x width equals 30", but less than 64"
25. Large, registered size = length x width equals 64", but less than 120"
26. Giant, registered size = length x width equals 120" or greater
27. Unnamed and/or unregistered hosta

**Section 5 - Herbs - Named, any variety, one stem**
28. Fresh cut perennial herb
29. Fresh cut annual herb

**Section 6 – Shrubs, named, any variety, one stem, not to exceed 24" in length**
30. Blooming or berried

**Section 7 - Vegetables and Fruits**
31. Plate of 3 same variety vegetable, plates will be provided
32. Plate of 3 same variety fruit, plates will be provided
Section 8 - Container Grown Plants,
Pot not to exceed 12" in diameter (no hanging baskets) and must sit flat on the table. One variety plant per pot (may be multiple stemmed)
33. Flowering plant, named, any variety
34. Foliage plant, named, any variety
35. Cactus, named, any variety
36. Succulent, named, any variety

Section 9 - OAGC Medallist Collections
(Awarded every other year. Entries in Section 9 must be preregistered with the Horticulture Chair, Jane Adkins, (contact information on previous page) by May 15. Each class has a limit of 10 entries. Exhibitor is responsible for his/her own staging.)
37. Gold Medal Class: Fifteen (15) different varieties of one cultivar of blue ribbon quality required, labeled
38. Silver Medal Class: Eight (8) different varieties of one cultivar of blue ribbon quality required, labeled

JUNIOR DIVISION
Section 10 - Juniors - Annuals, Biennials, Perennials
39. Single Peony, named, any variety, disbudded with foliage attached
40. Double Peony, named, any variety, disbudded with foliage attached
41. Iris, named, any variety, keeping foliage attached when available
42. Any round form annual, biennial or perennial, named, one bloom, disbudded with foliage attached. (Examples: Zinnia, Marigold, Aster, Shasta Daisy, Gloriosa Daisy, etc.)
43. Any spike form annual, biennial, perennial, named, one spike, foliage attached. (Examples: Salvia, Larkspur, Delphinium, Hollyhock, Bells of Ireland, Liatris, Gladiolus, Snapdragon, etc.)
44. Any spray form annual, biennial, perennial, named, any variety, one spray, not disbudded with foliage attached. (Examples: Chrysanthemums, Phlox, Petunias, Lisianthus, Statice, Yarrow etc.)
45. Any flower grown from a bulb, corm, tuber or rhizome not listed elsewhere in the schedule
46. Any new variety for 2015

Section 11 - Juniors - Hostas
47. Miniature, registered size = length x width equals less than 6"
48. Small, registered size = length x width equals 6", but less than 30"
49. Medium, registered size = length x width equals 30", but less than 64"
50. Large, registered size = length x width equals 64", but less than 120"
51. Giant, registered size = length x width equals 120" or greater
52. Unnamed and/or unregistered Hosta

Section 12 - Juniors - Vegetables and Fruits
53. Plate of 3 same variety vegetables, plates will be provided
54. Plate of 3 same variety fruits, plates will be provided

Section 13 - Juniors - Container Grown Plants, pot not to exceed 12" in diameter (no hanging baskets) and must sit flat on the table. One variety plant per pot (may be multiple stemmed)
55. Flowering plant, named, any variety
56. Foliage plant, named, any variety
57. Cactus, named, any variety
58. Succulent, named, any variety

Belated Convention Awards
Two OAGC Award winners who were unable to attend the 2014 convention were pleasantly surprised this past fall when presented with their awards.

The OAGC Service award was presented to Juanita Wilkins by 1st Vice President Geri Rea.
The OAGC Daisy Stickelsel Conservation Award was presented to a surprised Robyn Wright-Strauss by OAGC Foundation President and past OAGC President Babs Sabick.

Congratulations to both of the winners!

OAGC and the Ohio Historical Society Connection Continues
Marian Moockel
In July, I met with David Dyer and Erin Cashion, Natural History Curators at the Ohio Historical Connection in Columbus. We walked through the gardens around the bird feeding station and pond. It was helpful to see what was blooming and growing in the middle of summer. I have visited the site three times now and have a record of what is there in three growing seasons.

As this article goes to press, plants are being researched and ordered for either fall or spring planting. There are many native plants in the garden and there is need for more. The goal is to entice birds and butterflies and other insects into the viewing area. What and when depends on the availability of the chosen plants. As we have more details, information will be sent to clubs in the Columbus area asking for planting assistance. If you or your club would like to be involved with this project please contact me at mamoeckel@woh.rr.com and I will include you in the information loop.
Department News

Club Contests Department
Kathy Muse, Chair

Thank you to all the clubs who sent their program, therapy and publicity books in for scoring. These contests and the forms are a great tool to help your club keep your members informed of all activities and provide needed information to keep your club connected. I am amazed at the creativity and ideas exhibited by the clubs.

It is evident that your clubs are very active in your communities. To keep your community informed, check to see who maintains your local community website calendar; perhaps that is the Visitor and Convention Bureau or the local Chamber of Commerce. See if they are willing to include your garden club activities and contacts on their site.

Design Study Department
Sharon Ware, Chair

While winter is in the air, spring will be just around the corner and my thoughts turn to Exhibitor’s and Judges’ School April 13-14. The Design Study session will be on Framed Spatial and Hanging Designs, Type 2 staged in a frame.

What exactly are these two styles of floral designs? Pages 365 and 366 in the OAGC Exhibitors’ and Judges’ Handbook give the definitions and characteristics for each of these.

To understand the word ‘frame’ first study the definition. The Wikipedia definition of a frame is “A frame is a structural system that supports other components of a physical construction.”

To support the components in our floral designs, the frame must be sturdy enough to stand on its own, which may incorporate some kind of ‘feet’ – either attached or sitting into. These should not dominate, but blend with the frame structure. It is NOT a picture frame.

A flower show schedule states the dimensions the designer has to work within and these framed styles must be within those dimensions. Typically, a creative design will have a space of 30” by 30” with a height of 48” to 50” or unlimited. A good size frame for this is 24” wide by 44” tall.

Materials chosen to be the focal point inside the frame will need to be suspended properly. In the Framed Spatial, the material cannot move, while the Hanging Design, Type 2, may move, but it is not motorized. Oftentimes large pieces of wood are selected for the focal point, but other creative materials can be used.

Exhibitors’ and Judges’ School Department
Naomi Ormes, Chair

Exhibitors’ and Judges’ School #3 will be held on April 13-14 at Deer Creek State Park Lodge. We will be studying Traditional, Basic, Miniature and Small designs, Mechanics, Daffodils, Tulips and other Spring Blooming Bulbs, Judging and Judging Procedures, Cacti and Succulents and Plant Identification. The registration form can be found on page 15. Deadline is March 13, 2015.

Flower Shows Department
Jan Seabold, Chair

Our newly elected President Peggy Case recently asked, “What do you have to crow about?” One way a club can crow about their accomplishments is through compiling and submitting a Flower Show Contest Book following their flower show. Everything needed to do that can be found on pages 63-64 of the OAGC Handbook for Garden Clubs.

The show could be documented using a notebook or binder. The name of club, region, theme and date should be noted on the cover. It should be neat in appearance and include a table of contents, the floor plan and flower show schedule.

Photographs are an important tool to document the event. Class signs should be easy to read. Be sure to document publicity of show - both before and after publicity. You’ll want your book to be distinctive so include some information that makes your flower show special. I look forward to scoring the contest books.
Junior Gardeners Department

Deborah Graham, Chair

The OAGC 2015 Spring Regional Junior Gardener Contest will be “Succulent Dish Gardens.” The junior gardener should select a container that is no larger than 12” in diameter. A shallow container that is at least 4” deep works well. Using a recycled or repurposed container would also be fun and inexpensive for the project. Make sure that there are holes for drainage or a layer of pea gravel in the bottom of the container as succulents don’t like wet feet. Use a cactus potting soil mix or regular potting soil with some sand added to ensure healthy growing succulents.

The succulent dish garden should have at least 3 different varieties of succulents in them. Using a larger succulent for your focal point and then adding a mounding or a trailing type helps to ensure an interesting landscape to your succulent dish garden. Small rocks or pieces of old wood may also be used to finish the landscape. Along with the dish garden the junior gardener should have a 3” x 5” card which has their name, age, club and region on it and the names of the succulents used in the dish garden.

This contest is for all ages but regions should have a 6-11 year old division and a 12-18 year old division. Regional Junior Gardener Contest entries should be judged at the regional levels and then displayed at the regionals. Prizes and ribbons for the contest winners should be decided upon by each region. The first, second, and third place winners from each age group of each region may also display their dish gardens at the OAGC 2015 Convention at Maumee Bay State Park Lodge June 1-3.

Junior gardeners will enjoy making succulent dish gardens. Encourage your junior gardener to participate in the OAGC 2015 Spring Regional Junior Gardener Contest.

Membership Department

Kim Long, Chair

“Let’s give OAGC something to crow about!” My local club has been affiliated with OAGC for over 62 years. But yet, no one seems to know we are here! What can we do? Here are some more simple ideas to consider. Challenge each of your members to invite a friend or even the boss to your next meeting and offer a prize to the one with the most guests. Remember to make your guests feel welcome and ask for their input and ideas of what they would like to learn and do.

Another must is to follow-up with guests with a gentle reminder of your next meeting. One of our regions is having a membership drive with a cash prize of $100 to the club attracting the most new members.

Libraries are also a happening place for people of all ages! Make bookmarks with club meeting information to be given out or host a monthly child-friendly event at the library as one of our Region 16 clubs has done. The result? A new junior garden club! Hang up posters or pass out club brochures at local sporting events as we all know how involved parents are with their children. We just might have to go to a football game or volunteer at the concession stand.

Print up business cards. They are inexpensive and are easily handed out. A simple conversation can promote your club! Word of mouth is great! Civic participation is a huge must! Having a booth with kids making pet rocks was a huge hit at our local “National Night Out” in August. We ended up with people inquiring about our club and gained a new member as a result! So, participate in your local fairs and or festivals.

Publicity is hard to achieve with many local newspapers. Publicize your club successes and events with photographs. Host an “Open House” complete with refreshments, club displays and brochures inviting the public to come to see what we are all about. Raffle items are also a huge hit. Check with your local chamber of commerce or township to see if they will host a spotlight on civic organizations with the meeting to be opened to the public. Even a simple yard sign with club information put on public property will get a look from someone driving by.

And lastly, we have to accept that technology has taken over the world! A club website is well worth the effort as well as a Facebook page. We just might have to get our children or grandchildren to show us how to do it but it can be done!
Nature and Beautification Department
Mary Martin, Chair

As gardeners we are so aware that nature provides us beauty which we not only enjoy but for which we care for. Conservation is part of our makeup as gardeners. Together we do so much to help the environment, our communities, our neighborhoods, our families and our very soul. Gardens and nature itself offer us solace, peace and renewal on so many levels.

The OAGC Beautification Contests not only offer recognition of clubs that have worked together to beautify their communities but may begin a conservation project at the same time. Nature and conservation work hand in hand. As a result of the union of nature and conservation we offer beauty to those who view our projects.

This year I would like to suggest that our clubs and members create permanent and/or temporary projects that combine nature and conservation as they project beauty. One garden that does it all is a butterfly garden. The butterfly garden can fit almost anywhere and it can include flowers, herbs, fruit trees and even berry plants.

Butterflies are wonderful and beautiful pollinators. They don’t ask for much in return just a comfortable home, some water, a little mud and a variety of plants to flutter among.

There are many books, magazine articles and web sites to help you begin your plans for a butterfly garden. A few sites for reference are:

http://www.naba.org/4
http://www.flora-quest.com/butterflies.html
http://www.livemonarch.com/free-milkweed-seeds.htm
http://www.cherylharner.blogspot.com

January through March is the perfect time of year to research, plan and assemble the items needed to begin a beautification project. If you have not thought of a place that may need such a project contact a local nursing home, library, school or historical society that may have just the spot.

Head to the Hills at Nature Study Retreat

The 2015 OAGC Nature Study Retreat will be held June 7-12 at Camp Oty’Okwa, a privately owned and preserved 700-acre gem in the Hocking Hills area that is owned and operated by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio. Visit their website http://www.campotyokwalodging.com/index.html to see all they have to offer.

The setting is ideal for nature study as there are many parks and nature preserves within a short distance, including Wahkeena and the Hocking Hills area, abounding with unusual terrain and beautiful nature trails. A full-time naturalist will assist in identifying the flora and fauna.

Coultrap Lodge will provide a relaxing atmosphere for campers and includes a great room with a stone fireplace, comfortable seating area and kitchen facilities. The great room opens onto a deck, which overlooks the woodlands and the front porch runs the full length of the lodge making it an ideal location for birding. The provided meals are healthy and nutritious and served 3 times a day in their new dining room. No one goes hungry!

Regular activities include a plant auction where you can bid on plants that attendees bring to auction each year. Some rare and unusual plants always show up at our retreat so you won’t want to miss this event. Many times we enjoy a picnic lunch away from camp at one of the nearby preserves. We also have evening programs and usually an optional nature related craft.

Once you have attended an OAGC Nature Study Retreat you will want to come year after year as the camaraderie of this group is without equal in our organization. For the small fee of $245 you will enjoy a week with lodging, food and programs, not to mention the field trips to nature preserves in the area. Where else can you get so much for so little?

We offer a Junior “Camper-ship” allowing a first time junior to receive half off the registration fee. If you know of a junior, who will be accompanied by an adult, be sure to have them submit a letter explaining why they would like to attend. Send the letter to the retreat coordinator, Jan Harmon, information included in the application form on page 14.

Be watching the spring issue of The Garden Path for more information. Don’t be shut out. Get your reservation in as soon as possible to take advantage of the early fee discount.

2015 Convention Lodging Information

A block of rooms has been reserved for Ohio Association of Garden Clubs at Maumee Bay Lodge and Conference Center. Call 800-282-7275 and ask for the OAGC block of rooms. Total cost for rooms per night are: Single or double, $114.32; triple, $128.36; and quad occupancy, $142.40. Call now and inform the staff of any special ambulatory needs. These room rates are guaranteed until April 15, 2015.
A Garden for You and Wildlife
Marian Moeckel

It is important to remember to leave some of your garden cleanup chores for the spring. The stems of cone flowers, black-eyed susans, milkweeds and goldenrods provide seeds and cover for small birds in your garden. Even rose hips are a valuable food source. While birds are feeding they are vulnerable to predators such as Coopers Hawks, Sharp-shinned Hawks and cats. Although all creatures need to eat, it is nice to provide some cover while the birds eat at the buffet you have provided.

If you have the space a brush/stick pile is a great refuge for wildlife. The spaces inside provide hiding places for birds and furry friends to hide and stay protected from the elements (snow, wind, rain, not carbon, oxygen and silicon.)

If you haven’t done so already, clean your bird feeders and get them outside for the winter season. One way to keep down the number of starlings and house (English) sparrows at your feeder is to use black oil sunflower seeds exclusively. It does not guarantee that these nonnative birds will stay away but it does seem to control the populations around our home. Whole raw peanuts in the shell are a great addition to the feeder. Blue Jays, woodpeckers and titmice love them. A cage of suet, either raw from the butcher or grocery or a processed suet cake, are great sources of energy for many birds. And, do not forget to put out some water, if you can. Birds use fresh water year round just like we do. In very cold weather a heater helps keep it open. A plastic plant saucer with some water and perhaps, a flat rock in the middle is an inexpensive winter bird bath.

Something else that will help you connect with your out-of-doors is reading/subscribing to a nature-oriented publication. There are many great nature/conservation organizations that have great monthly publications that keep their readers apprised of what is happening in the natural world. The National Audubon Society membership includes the magazine, Audubon, and membership in the local Audubon Society and their publication. There are also many local Audubon Society organizations that have great monthly meetings, programs and field trips. The following are but a small sample of possible publications/organizations that might be of interest:

National Audubon Society: www.audubon.org
National Wildlife Federation: www.nwf.org
Bird Watcher’s Digest: www.birdwatchersdigest.com
Natural Resources Defense Council, OnEarth: Membership@NRDC.org
Sierra Club: www.sierraclub.org
Nature Conservancy: www.nature.org
National Geographic: www.nationalgeographic.com

Tech Time
Vicki Ferguson

There is no denying the impact the internet has on the way we communicate these days. Though it might sound ‘hip’ to post, pin, tweet, update and be linked-in there is much more to social media than that. If a club is constantly doing the same old thing the same way, it will not grow. It is not enough these days and it is time to keep up with the times. It is time to hit the internet.

Take the OAGC Pinterest boards for example. There are currently 60 ‘boards’ of ‘pins’ on Pinterest. What is a board? What is a pin? Think of it like a good old-fashioned cork board and thumbtacks. When an interesting site is found on the internet and you want to remember or refer back to it later, you would ‘pin’ it to one of your boards on Pinterest. When a pin is saved to one of your boards, you can not only see the image but an additional click will take you back to the original website - no more remembering a long and detailed URL or website address.

First you’ll need to go to www.pinterest.com and create an account. Once you have an account, you can search for friends or interests and ‘follow’ them and the boards they create. That way, your newsfeed will have many more interesting projects, pictures and so much more to check out. The OAGC Pinterest boards are varied and include: floral designs by type, container gardening, recipes, fungus, ideas for working with children and LOADS more! Analytic statistics show that currently our boards get an average of 9000 views a month! Follow us on Pinterest!

The brand new OAGC Facebook page is nearing 100 ‘likes’ and is an instantaneous way to connect with OAGC friends and fellow gardeners around the world. Like us on Facebook! Harold Wilson once said, “He who rejects change is the architect of decay.” Let’s not go the way of the dinosaur.

Support our friends at Bluestone Perennials

www.bluestoneperennials.com
Use the code: S5OAGC415
Code deadline: April 1
**Via the Grapevine**

(Please send all submissions directly to the editor of The Garden Path)

**Region 1**

**Friendly Town and Country GC:** Jan. 5, Flower Stake workshop by Carole Rives; Feb. 12, “Honeybees and Honey” by Mike; Mar. 12, “Hardy Bulbs” by Mary Nelson. Contact Carole Rives at 419-669-4057.

**Region 2**


**Happy Hours GC:** Jan. 5, dinner at Casa Lu Ai in Lima; Feb. 5, “Rain Barrels” by Amanda Richard, mini-talk “Drip Irrigation” by Richard Schneider; Mar. 5, “Wisdom of Curtis Young” Van Wert County Extension Agent. Contact Alice Winter at sabrinam_45801@yahoo.com.

**Muchinippi GC:** Mar. 18, “Patio Gardens” by Village Green, White Memorial Library, in Waynesfield. Contact Pamela Kennon at 937-935-1545 or pk45895@yahoo.com.

**Region 3**

**College Hill GC:** Jan., make cards for veterans; Feb. 5, “Fairy Gardening” at Stockslager’s Garden Center in New Lebanon; Mar. 5, “Pruning Bonsai Trees” by John Porterfield. Contact Barbara Hall at 937-898-6709.

**Leaf and Blossom GC:** Mar. 2, “Sprintime in the Park” DVD by Betty Brazier. Contact Caralynn Appenzeller at 937-833-5733.

**New Neighbors GC:** Jan. 20, “All About Blooming Shrubs” by Cleve White; Feb. 17, “Groundcovers for Sun and Shade” by Cliff Deterring; “Woody Plants and Perennials for Year-Round Cuttings” by John Scott. Contact Jeannine Phlipot at 937-298-6177.

**Region 4**


**Flores Amo GC:** Jan. 19, gardening video at Westover Retirement Center in Hamilton; Feb. 16, rain gardens/rain barrels at the OSU Extension Office; Mar. 16, fairy gardens workshop. Visitors welcome. Contact Midge King at 937-738-3353 or oldmidge@zoomtown.com.

**Region 5**


**Bloom’ Betsy’s GC:** Jan. 15, “Fun with Houseplants” by John Anderson; Feb. 12, “Early Excitement in the Garden Center”; Mar. 12, “Winter Dreamin’ Hardscape Dreams or Plans.” Contact Anita Brown at garrybrown3@aol.com or 937-339-0926.

**Fleurette GC:** Feb. 10, Review 2015 Logan County Fair program and new plants; Mar. 10, “Shade Gardening” by Barbara South. Contact Judith Bozman at 937-468-7388.

**Rainbow Gardeners of Shelby County:** Jan. 21, garden therapy at Fair Haven Retirement Center; Feb. 10, visit Kah Nursery in Botkins; Mar. 10, visit school greenhouse with program by Nathan Sailor. Contact Barbara Hall at 937-468-7388.

**Region 6**

**Blossoms and Butterflies GC:** Mar. 19, “All About Bluebirds” by Jim Coffman. Contact Donna Bross at 419-934-9554.


**Region 7**

**Apple Valley GC:** Jan. 21, “Make Seed Tape and Seed Envelopes for Gifts” by Sue Devendorf, (bring seeds collected from your garden) and seed exchange; Mar. 18, “Traditional Flower Designs” by Jean Smith. Contact Sue Devendorf at SueD@pservices.com.

**North End GC:** Feb. 16, plan for landscaping project at Gill House; Mar. 16, Josh Dyer speaking at Lowe-Volk Park in Leesville. Contact Shirley Fearn at 419-468-1065 or shirliefearn@gmail.com.


**Region 8**

**Grow and Show GC:** Jan. 28, “Stalking for Wild Mushrooms” by Travis Smith; Feb. 25, “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle” by Kat Bennett; Mar. 25, “Pressed Flowers” by Sue Cowden. Contact Joan Picklesimer at 740-432-5764 or joan.picklesimer@gmail.com.


**Newark GC:** Feb. 13, “All About CSAs” by Bryn Walsh of Bird Haven Farm; Mar. 13, “Culinary Herbs” by Linda James. Contact Jean Jankowski at 740-587-4116 or jankowski@alink.com.

**Town and County GC:** Jan. 8, gardening video; Feb. 12, “Vermiculture” by Tammy Rodgers; Mar. 12, “History of Sunflowers” by Alice Hoover. Contact Judy Boyd at 740-826-0013.

**Region 9**

**Basil GC:** Jan. 19, “Gardening for a Lifetime” by Louise Smith, Master Gardener; Feb. 16, “Culinary Herbs from the Garden to the Table” by Mary Lewis, Master Gardener; Mar. 16, “Moss Gardening” by Linda Landis, Master Gardener. Contact Trudy Keck at 740-862-8206.

**Bylaws proposal**

In 2012 OAGC faced a dilemma when no one was willing to put their name on the ballot for 3rd Vice President. Susy Spence stepped forward and agreed to serve in that capacity with the understanding that she really had no desire to be state president. At the same time, the Executive Committee was contemplating the dropping of the 3rd Vice President position but needed time for transition.

These last two years have allowed for further review of the situation and, as a result, the Executive Committee is proposing a bylaws change eliminating the 3rd Vice President position. At the same time, Susy has agreed to complete the first year of her 2nd Vice President term at which time she would resign and allow for 3rd Vice President (the position to be eliminated), Suzy Parker to be appointed to finish the second year of the term. This would complete the transition needed with the following bylaws changes to be voted upon at the 2015 Convention. Proposed changes:

**Article IV, Officers and Duties**

Section 1: The elected officers of The Association shall be a president, a first(,) and a second (and a third) vice president, a secretary……..

Section 3: b. The first(,) and second (and third) vice presidents….In the absence or disability of (any) either vice president, the other vice president (s) shall (share) assume the duties…..

**Article VII, Nominations**

Section 1: ………It shall present to the annual meeting a slate of candidates for the offices of president, first vice president, second vice president, (third vice president,) secretary……..

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**Save a tree! Get The Garden Path electronically**

Do you get multiple copies of The Garden Path? Would you prefer to get the latest issue electronically and in color? To opt-out of the printed, snail-mailed version of The Garden Path, please email your request (include your garden club name and region) to: Vferguson@oagc.org.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region 1: Williams, Fulton, Lucas, Defiance, Henry, Wood, Paulding Counties</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonnie Allan*</td>
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<td>Bonnie Eddy</td>
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<td>Sue Hamlet</td>
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<td>Marlene Purdy</td>
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<th>Region 2: Van Wert, Putnam, Allen, Hancock, Mercer, Auglaize, Hardin Counties</th>
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<tr>
<td>Michele Bishop</td>
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<td>Paula Stemen</td>
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<td>Juanita Wilkins*</td>
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<th>Region 3: Darke, Preble, Montgomery Counties</th>
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<tr>
<td>Marilyn Fies</td>
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<th>Region 4: Butler, Hamilton, Clermont, Brown Counties</th>
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<tr>
<td>Naomi Ormes*</td>
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<td>Susy Spence</td>
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<td>Kathleen L. Zien</td>
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<th>Region 5: Shelby, Logan, Union, Miami, Champaign, Clark Counties</th>
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<td>Virginia Bowers</td>
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<td>Doris Hager*</td>
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<th>Region 6: Ottawa, Sandusky, Erie, Seneca, Huron, Lorain Counties</th>
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<tr>
<td>Peggy Case*</td>
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<th>Region 7: Wyandot, Crawford, Richland, Ashland, Marion, Morrow, Knox, Delaware Counties</th>
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<td>June Gebhardt</td>
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<td>Jo Ann Graham</td>
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<th>Region 8: Licking, Coshocton, Muskingum, Perry, Morgan, Tuscarawas, Guernsey Counties</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jean Walton*</td>
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<th>Region 9: Franklin, Pickaway, Fairfield, Ross, Jackson Counties</th>
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<td>Jane Adkins</td>
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<td>Nancy Annis</td>
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<td>Dottie Bates*</td>
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<td>Myrna Cordray*</td>
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<td>Jan Stein</td>
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<th>Region 10: Pike, Adams, Scioto, Lawrence Counties</th>
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<td>Faye Collins McGinnis*</td>
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<td>Jean Moore</td>
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<td>Beverly Norman</td>
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<td>Diane Reese</td>
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<th>Region 11: Hocking, Athens, Vinton, Meigs, Jackson, Gallia, Washington Counties</th>
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<tr>
<td>Shelia Curtis</td>
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<th>Region 12: Carroll, Harrison, Jefferson, Belmont, Noble, Monroe Counties</th>
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<td>Marilou Rupert*</td>
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<th>Region 14: Medina, Stark, Wayne, Holmes, Cuyahoga, Summit Counties</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jan Harmon</td>
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<td>Winter Address</td>
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<td>Vicky Puster</td>
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<td>Anita Roller</td>
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<th>Region 16: Madison, Fayette, Greene, Warren, Clinton, Highland Counties</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chieko Arikawa*</td>
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| Joy Culler | P.O. Box 613 | London, OH 43140 740-815-7149 | jkeller@hotmai.com |
| Barbara Myers | 188 East First St. | London, OH 43140 614-570-2776 | bjmuyers2302@att.net |
| Judy Stopkotte | 6059 Lundy Whitacre Rd. | Morrow, OH 45152 513-899-4685 | jstopkotte@embarqmail.com |
OAGC Foundation Notes

The OAGC Foundation announces the resignation of Treasurer, Sharon Ware. Sharon’s Herculean efforts were responsible for the reemergence of the OAGC Foundation as the organization that was first envisioned. For that we owe her a huge debt of gratitude. We are currently looking for her replacement. Those interested in the position should contact the OAGC Foundation Chair of the Board, Marlene Purdy (info page 2).

On a happier note, the OAGC Foundation voted to grant funding to two worthwhile projects. Ecko Erik, the young man introduced to us at Convention 2013, received $250 to continue his recycling project of collecting jeans that are recycled into house insulation.

The second grant for $2000 was awarded to the Montgomery County Master Gardeners to further their work on the Grotto gardens at the Dayton Veteran Administration. This garden dates back to the turn of the last century. Many features of the original gardens were lost in the undergrowth and are being returned to their original condition. The grant money will be used to develop the boathouse garden. Please continue to support our OAGC Foundation. In turn, your contributions allow us to help others.

The OAGC Foundation is grateful for the following donations (August 5 to October 31):

Scholarship Fund
Anonymous donor (in honor of Sharon Ware), Des Fleurs GC, Vicki Ferguson (in honor of Louise and Ron Bennett) and Marabar Heights GC

Mohican Outdoor School Fund
Butterfly Kisses, Convention Raffle, Derby GC (in memory of Judy Sparks), Earth, Wind and Flowers GC, GE Foundation (matching funds), Groveport GC, Marabar Heights GC, OAGC Region 12, Rainbow Gardeners of Shelby County

Wahkeena Nature Preserve
Athens GC (Sarah’s Fund, Bird Food), Basil GC (Sarah’s Fund), Convention Raffle (Sarah’s Fund), Des Fleurs GC, Hillsboro GC (in memory of Wilfred Gruelle), Marabar Heights GC
OAGC Region 12 (bird food), Open Gate GC (bird food), Rainbow Gardeners of Shelby County
Slocum GC (Sarah’s Fund in memory of Colleen Lawhun) and Tan and Toil GC (Sarah’s Fund in memory of Alice Gray)

Nature and Conservation Fund
Convention Raffle, Harlem Township GC, OAGC Region 12, OAGC Region 3

General Fund
Donna Andrew (in memory of Joni Duncan), Karen Baker (in memory of Joni Duncan), Heather Barga (in memory of Joni Duncan), Louise Bennett, Dave and Andrea Chockey (in memory of Joni Duncan), Fleurette GC (in memory of Joni Duncan), June Gebhardt (in memory of Joni Duncan), Huron GC, Mary Jones (in memory of Joni Duncan), Larry and Debbie George (in memory of Arjanta Mansfield), Leaf and Blossom GC (in memory of Joni Duncan),
McGohan/Barbender Company (in memory of Joni Duncan), Allene Moore (in memory of Joni Duncan), Norm and Penny Perkins (in memory of Joni Duncan), OAGC Region 2, Rainbow Gardeners of Shelby County, Redbud GC (in memory of Betty Weaver), Redbud GC (in memory of Joni Duncan), Babs Sabick (in memory of Joni Duncan), Brooks Sexton (in memory of Colleen Lawhun) and The Wines Family (in memory of Joni Duncan)

Like us on facebook: www.facebook.com
“Ohio Association of Garden Clubs” Be in the know!

Follow us on Pinterest: www.pinterest.com
“Ohio Association of Garden Clubs”
Over 70 boards of floral designs and gardening information
Nature Study Retreat Registration Form  
June 7-12, 2015  
Camp Oty’Okwa in Hocking Hills  
http://www.campotyokwalodging.com/smallgroups.html

Name: _________________________ Region: _________  
Address: ______________________________________  
City: ____________________________ Zip: __________  
Phone: (        ) ___________________________________  
Email: _________________________________________

Full-time rates: ($5 discount if paid in full before May 1)  
Adult (18 or older): _______________ $245 full-time  
(After May 1, 2015 - $250)  
Junior (17 or under): _______________ $225 full-time  
(After May 1, 2015 - $230)

Part-time rates:  
Adult: $60 per day/night (includes 1 night, 3 meals)  
x ______ days = _____________  
Junior: $55 per day/night (includes 1 night, 3 meals)  
x ______ days = _____________

Daily rate:  
$ 35 (includes 1 full day, evening program, 2 meals)  
x ______ days = _____________

Junior Information:  
Fill in the following for juniors. All juniors must be accompanied by an adult. Juniors must provide an NSR Emergency Medical Form. Find it online at: www.oagc.org.  
NOTE: For first-time retreaters, a partial payment Junior Scholarship is available to children through age 17. Call Jan Harmon, NSR Coordinator at 330-769-2210 for details.  
Name of accompanying adult: ___________________  
Relationship to junior: _________________________

Attendance Summary:  
Attending how many days? __________  
Arrival date/time: ___________ Departure date/time: ___________  
To insure your place, a deposit of $25 is required and can be sent by April 15, 2015. (Balance should arrive on or before May 1, 2015. Later registrations will not receive the discount of $5.) You must be PREREGISTERED/PREPAID to participate in retreat functions.  
Make checks payable to: OAGC and designated for “Nature Study Retreat.”

Mail check and all registration forms to:  
Marie Marquart, OAGC NSR Registrar  
21519 TWP. Rd. 59  
Jenera, OH  45481  
Phone: 419-326-5212

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OAGC SALES LIST  
Winter 2015

BOOKS

| Exhibitors’ & Judges’ Handbook (available spring) | $8.00 |
| OAGC Handbook for Garden Clubs (2010) | $5.00 |
| American Rose Society 2015 Handbook | $7.00 |
| Hellstrip Gardening | $19.00 |

FLOWER SHOW SUPPLIES

| Artistic Best of Show Rosette | $6.50 |
| Green Thumb Award for Hort. Excellence Rosette | $5.00 |
| Horticulture Best of Show Rosette | $6.50 |
| Indoor Growers Award, Container Grown | $6.00 |
| Judges Award of Distinction Rosette | $6.50 |
| Outdoor Growers Award for Cultural Perfection | $6.00 |
| Sweepstakes Rosette | $7.00 |
| 1st Place Flower Show Ribbon (flat) | $.43 |
| 2nd Place Flower Show Ribbon (flat) | $.43 |
| 3rd Place Flower Show Ribbon (flat) | $.43 |
| 4th Place Flower Show Ribbon (flat) | $.43 |
| Junior Sweepstakes | $6.50 |
| Flower Show Entry Tags (Pack of 250) | $13.50 |
| Miniature Flower Show Entry Tags (Pack of 50) | $2.50 |

GARDEN ITEMS

| Atlas Gloves (small, medium, large) | $5.00 |
| Tool Grip Gloves (small, medium, large, xlarge) | $5.00 |
| Handy Tool | $12.00 |
| Plant Markers - Heavy Duty (bundle of 25) | $15.00 |
| Soil Knife | $20.00 |
| Soil Knife Sheath | $9.00 |

Do not send money until shipping cost is tabulated.

ORDER TOTAL $______

POSTAGE & HANDLING** $______

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE $______

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: OAGC

SEND ORDER TO:  
State Sales Secretary, Babs Sabick  
1128 Darlington Drive  
Beavercreek, OH  45434-6304  
bsabick@oagc.org  
937-429-0987
85th OAGC Convention Registration Form  
June 1-3, 2015  
Maumee Bay Lodge and Conference Center  
1750 State Park Road #2, Oregon, Ohio 43616  
(800) 282-7275 or (419) 836-1466  
Registration Deadline: May 11, 2015

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:
Name: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
City/Zip: ____________________________ Region: _____
Phone: ( ) ____________________________ Email: ____________________________

STATUS: (circle what applies)
OAGC Past President Counselor OAGC Liaison
OAGC Active Judge OAGC State Exec
OAGC State Chair Regional Director

REGISTRATION OPTIONS:
Junior, 18 and under are FREE but must register
Adult, full convention $40 _______
Junior, full convention FREE _______
Adult, one day $25 per/day _______
Junior, one day FREE _______
Circle the days you are attending: Mon __ Tues __ Wed __

MEAL SELECTIONS:
(Note: Walk-ins are not seated for meals)
Monday, June 1, evening Banquet $29 _______
Tuesday, June 2, noon Luncheon $20 _______
Tuesday, June 2, evening Banquet $30 _______
Wednesday, June 3, noon Luncheon $19 _______
Please include list of dietary needs and ambulatory concerns

Juniors 11 or under meals are $10 each
Circle meals needed for Juniors:
Monday Banquet Tuesday Lunch
Tuesday Banquet Wednesday Lunch
Total meal cost for Junior _______ meals @$10 _______

Total enclosed for registration and meals: _______

NO REFUNDS AFTER MAY 11, 2015
Make checks payable to: OAGC. Mail this form to:
Michele Bishop, Convention Registrar
13606 County Road 25A, Wapakonta, OH 45895-8316
Phone: (419) 738-7237 Email: michelebishopmicheleb@hotmail.com

Exhibitors’ and Judges’ School #2  
Registration Form  
Monday and Tuesday, April 13-14, 2015  
Deer Creek State Park  
22300 State Park Rd. 20, Mount Sterling, Ohio 443143  
(740) 869-2020 - Exit 84 off I-71  
Registration Deadline: March 13, 2015

I wish to register for two days @ $80 _______
I wish to register for one day @ $40 _______
_____ Mon. _____ Tues.  

Optional Evening Choices (no fee):
_____ Student Judge Session (required for students)
_____ “Basic Mechanics” by Naomi Ormes (limited to first 30 registered)
_____ Design Study – “Framed Spatial/Hanging Designs, Type 2” by Sharon Ware (limited to first 20 registered)

Check One: _____ Exhibitor _______ Judge
______ Student Taking Test

Make checks payable to OAGC. Do not send cash. Mail by March 13, 2015. $5.00 late fee if postmarked after March 15. No refunds after March 15.

Mail to:
Naomi Ormes, E & J Chair
5064 Princeton Rd., Liberty Twp., OH 45011
Phone: 513-863-4620 Email: normes@oagc.org

Name: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________ Zip: __________
City: ____________________________ Region: __________
Phone: ____________________________
Email: ____________________________
Special Needs: ____________________________

PLEASE make hotel reservations directly with Deer Creek State Park by calling 800-282-7275. Mention ‘The Ohio Association of Garden Clubs.’ The rate of $79/night (single or double occupancy) guaranteed until March 13.
Keeping you informed

The following is a snapshot of items the Board of Directors affirmed at the 2014 fall state board meeting. Of general interest to the membership:

- to accept Designing Women Floral Club Region 2 (Mercer County) as a new OAGC club
- to pay board expense of $1,538.23
- to appoint Diane Daniels as state OAGC Secretary
- to reimburse Tom and Myrna Cordray $200 for 2014 convention challenge design class
- to pay board expenses of $544.21
- to amend the *OAGC Handbook for Garden Clubs* to reflect that the treasurer will be responsible for preparing the budget
- to summarize all changes to the *OAGC Handbook for Garden Clubs* and publish these changes via a change sheet and the website. In addition, these changes will be made to the respective pages prior to reprinting the handbook
- to present to the voting membership a bylaws change removing the 3rd Vice-president position
- to change the *OAGC Handbook for Garden Clubs* to remove the reference to reimbursing the regions for members-at-large