Hardin County Extension News Release
For Further Information Contact:
Mark Badertscher
Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Educator
Phone – 419-767-6037
E-Mail – badertscher.4@osu.edu
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Spring Garden Seminar

*Hardin County* – This week’s wintry weather reminded us that we still have time to plan our spring gardens. Believe it or not, spring is around the corner and so is the OSU Extension spring garden seminar. ‘This is How Your Garden Grows’ is the planned seminar being offered by the OSU Extension, Hardin County Master Gardeners this year. Get your seat reserved while you can. Plenty of topics are on the agenda for this event which will get your thoughts turned to gardening and away from snow and ice.

This year’s spring garden seminar will feature four expert speakers. Bill Jones will speak on ‘Phenology.’ The use of plant phenology correlates with the life phases of various insects and can be used in Integrated Pest Management. By relating bloom times to growth degree days and insect development, we can determine when to scout and apply insecticide applications if needed. Bill became a Master Gardener Volunteer (MGV) in 2001. He has served as president and volunteer coordinator of the Hancock County MGVs and has served on the State MGV Advisory Committee under two state coordinators. His gardening interests include trees, shrubs, annuals, perennials, vegetables, turf, weeds, and insects.

Candi Scheiderer’s presentation will focus on ‘Planting Urns and Planters. Container gardening has gained popularity because we want the enjoyment and benefits of gardening with smaller spaces and less time. Add a splash of color to your deck or brighten your garden all season long. You can grow your own vegetables almost anywhere and with less work in a container. All you need for successful container gardening are plants, a container, potting mix, and a plan! Container gardening is the quickest and simplest way to achieve virtually instant results and enjoy plant color around your home and garden. Best of all, you can easily change out your containers each season to have an entire year of beautiful containers. Candi has always loved making someone’s day. From her career as a critical care nurse to her life as co-owner of Scheiderer Farms, Candi finds that nurturing, whether its people or plants, is the common thread to having a joyful life.
‘Selecting Plants to Avoid Invasive Insects’ will be the topic discussed by Amy Stone. Non-Native Plants and Pests Gardeners Don’t Want to See – Everything related to gardening is good...right? While we would love to say yes, unfortunately there are some unwanted guests that we may encounter or should be on the lookout for. Learn about some of these non-native pests and what you can do to help fight the invasive species battle. Amy is Lucas County OSU Extension Educator for Agriculture and Natural Resources. She loves plants and has been known as the “Invasive Queen”, taking on outreach and educational efforts on invasive species through her work with OSU Extension statewide.

David McPheron will be the final speaker of the day with his talk on ‘Propagation Methods.’ Have you ever tried to start plants from seeds only to not have success? You are not alone! We will look at starting plants from seed, cuttings, and division. What does it take to get a seed through the ground and to a transplant size to put into your garden? Find out why some seeds will not grow the first year. It may not be as difficult as you think. With a degree in Horticulture, Dave has been active in the horticulture industry for over 40 years. He owned a design/install landscape company, garden center, and now is putting his energy into propagating and growing Ohio native plants. He owns Star Farms Native Plants in Kenton. He is an OSU Extension Master Gardener Volunteer and is the Hardin County Volunteer Coordinator of this group. He also participates in the online ‘Ask a Master Gardener’ program.

‘This is How Your Garden Grows’ will be held March 19 at the Mid-Ohio Energy Cooperative Community Room, 1210 W Lima Street in Kenton. The seminar is open to the public, no matter how much gardening experience you have. The cost is $40, which includes a continental breakfast, lunch, handouts and door prizes. For active OSU Master Gardener Volunteers, the fee is $30. Doors open on the day of the event at 8:30 am, the program starts at 9:00 am and ends at 4:00 pm. The registration deadline is March 14 with a limited class size. For more information about this event, call Kim Thomas 419-674-8012.