

What's Blooming Now?

Amy Roskilly, MGV Intern

For the past 10 years I have been trying to get a handle on my inherited crazy yard. It was overgrown with weeds (still fighting those), terrible soil, and void of any organization. As I incorporate more plants into the small gardens, I'm careful to be sure I plant so that something is blooming throughout the spring, summer and fall. I do this for my honeybees – although, honestly, I think they head elsewhere to forage, as I mostly see bumblebees and native bees in my yard. I do this for myself for aesthetic purposes. And I do this because other wildlife can benefit from constant sources of pollen and nectar and parts of the plants as they grow.

In the early spring, the first thing that comes up is dandelions and clover. To me, these aren't weeds. I let them freely grow and reproduce, and they make bees happy when they break cluster and come out of their hive after a long winter. But then the real fun starts. From April into the fall, things are popping in my gardens. This is my small attempt at Phenology – the study of how the biological world times natural events. I know there is way more to it than that, but if we can encourage others to do even this, our pollinators and other wildlife will be even happier with us.

Here are the dates of first blooms I recorded this year.

April 18 – Lilacs
 May 6 – Columbine
 May 8 – Clematis
 June 5 – Ohio Spiderwort
 June 15 – Poker Plant
 June 22 – Bee Balm
 June 22 – Culvers Root
 June 24 – Daylilies
 June 24 – Common Milkweed
 July 18 – Cup Plant
 July 18 – Rattlesnake Master

July 19 – Woodland Sunflower
 July 28 – Swamp Milkweed
 August 1 – Sunflowers (my favorite plant!!)
 August 14 – Wild Senna
 August 15 – Goldenrod
 August 26 – Sedum, Autumn Joy

Many of these are still going strong. The ones that are done blooming, I just leave so birds can eat seeds and use the materials for nests and so critters can hide in them over the winter. This year, I also added in some Blue Stars, Foxglove and Marsh Blazing Star. At the end of the blooming season, I leave my garden messy. I rake leaves into the gardens and just let it go. I wait as long as I can to do some cleaning up in the following spring, because I know that wildlife is using that habitat. Over the winter, my soil is being fed by decaying roots, birds are using the debris for nests, bees and other creatures are burrowing in the mess, and I love seeing the cycle of life taking place in my gardens. I know that, soon enough, it will be spring again and will start all over.





Clematis—May 6



Columbine—May 6



Ohio Spiderwort—June 5



Poker Plant June—15



Bee Balm—June 22



Common Milkweed—June 24



Culvers Root and Daylilies—June 24

Attracting pollinators to our gardens is always a gardener's goal. When Amy submitted her article to the Trumpet Vine, she allowed us to choose which photos to use. Trumpet Vine has included all of them.

We think the reader will agree that the photos, bloom dates, particular plants, and colors will inspire us to try some or all of Amy's plants in our gardens.

From early Spring to Autumn, pollinators will find so many eye-appealing samplings for their enjoyment!



Culvers Root—June 22



Cup Plant—July 18



Rattlesnake Monster—July 18



Woodland Sunflower—July 19



Swamp Milkweed—July 28



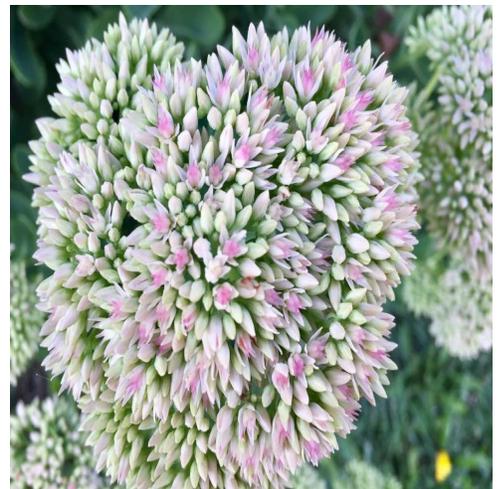
Sunflower—August 1



Wild Sienna—August 14



Golden Rod—August 15



Sedum, Autumn Joy—August 26

**AN INTERVIEW WITH
JEAN ANDORKA, MGV
EMERITUS WITH HONORS, 2015**

by Terry Foster, MGV 2003

Jean Andorka's love of gardening was passed to her through generations of her family. Jean holds pleasant memories of her grandmother's tiny yard, amass with fruits, vegetables and flowers. Even now she can picture the Zinnia, Sweet William, and Lily of the Valley tucked in her grandmother's garden. Jean's father had his own green thumb, and tended his garden of vegetables, roses and phlox. Naturally, this became Jean's passion as well. Jean became a Master Gardener Volunteer in 1999 in order to further her knowledge of gardening. She liked the idea of being around others who shared her keen interest, and wanted to work with the public to share information and ideas. Jean's background in education made the MG program a perfect fit. She found her place in a wide range of volunteer activities.

Jean worked the Hotline, the elementary school program, helped with the herb garden at Ben Franklin, Plants in the Park, and assisted with the MG booths at the Home & Flower Show and the Cuyahoga County Fair. She also served on the Continuing Education Committee, the Speakers Bureau and the Library Committee. Jean enjoyed her volunteer time and found the public eager to learn and ready to share as well. Following her many hours served, she was granted MGV Emeritus with Honors status in 2015.

Jean has enjoyed visiting gardens both here and abroad. She remembers strolling through the extensive gardens at Hampton Court in Surrey, England, but her favorite are the smaller and more whimsical gardens like Chanticleer, outside of Philadelphia. She found it to be more manageable and more relaxing than a larger place like Longwood Gardens.

As for her own garden, Jean views it as a canvas to work her love of the landscape. What she creates is focused on her personal enjoyment of her garden. On a side note, as a neighbor and a friend to Jean, I must add that her garden is a highlight in our neighborhood, and I never tire watching it change through the seasons.

I first had the pleasure of meeting Jean and walking around her lovely yard when she was part of a tour of west side MGV home gardens. It wasn't long after that when I joined the ranks of MGVs myself.

Jean's advice to her fellow MGVs: continue to serve the public with grace and humor, and remember not to take yourself too seriously. Well said!

Photos of Zinnia, Sweet William and Lily of the Valley from Microsoft Clip Art.

