



# The Mud Hands

## Lucas County Master Gardener Newsletter

### Calendar Corner

#### IMPORTANT DATE

**CHANGE—The Ornamental Grass Dig & Divide at 577 Foundation is on FRIDAY, April 28th, rather than the 29th.** 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. with the potluck and plant exchange on SUNDAY, April 30th from 1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m. Call 577 to RSVP at 419-872-0305. Please dress for the weather.

**March 23rd** EAB Meeting open to the public at the Ward Pavilion at TBG at 7:00 p.m.

**March 24th** We have 20 people signed up for the Beroske Greenhouse Tour. Please meet at the OSU @ TBG office at 9:00 a.m. for carpooling. Let us know if you're going directly to the Greenhouse for our 10:00 tour, so we'll know whether to wait for anyone here.

**April 6th** – MG Tour of Dwarf Conifer Collection at Hidden Lake Gardens. We will meet here at TBG at 10:30 a.m. and stop for lunch on our way to Tipton. Expenses include your lunch and entrance fee to the Gardens. (If you're a TBG member, bring your card along)

**April 8th**—EAB Workshop for homeowners, woodlot owners, and firewood dealers. 9:00 a.m.—12:15 p.m. Evergreen High School, 14544 CR 6, Metamora, OH. \$20.00 includes general update on EAB, Firewood regulations, Managing EAB in your backyard, What should I do

with the ash in woodlot? How can I utilize harvested ash trees?

**April 10th** - MG Monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Stables Room at TBG Conference Center. This month's topic is Tree Diversification for Replacing Ash Trees. So far we have 17 signed up. Please join us.

**April 19th** Create your own Topiary with Ottawa & Sandusky County MGs. Contact Donna Foss at 419-334-8452.

**April 24th** Metroparks EAB meeting open to the public at Oak Openings Metroparks Lodge at 7:00 p.m.

**April 28th** Our very first 2006 Clean up at OSU @ TBG. 9:00 a.m.—Noon, bring a dish to share for lunch.




The Defiance County Master Gardeners are planning a road trip to David Taylor's Ornamental Grass Nursery on **Monday, May 22nd**, at 9:00 AM. Taylor's is located in Churubusco, IN. This is a September 2005 road trip re-visit. For more information contact Lucas County MG Mary Weakes at (419) 337-6822 or tedtuff@adelphia.net

**May 20th & 21st**—Old Fashion Flower Day. Come be part of Old Fashion Flower Days at the Lucas County Fairgrounds. We've been asked to be there to answer questions, promote the horticulture hotline, and promote the MG Program. We will need help with both the set up and volunteering during the event, and tear down. If we're going to do this, we need to have ALL shifts covered. Please call Mary at our office to sign up immediately. (See Page 2)

**OSU Extension at Toledo Botanical Garden, Lucas County**

### March 2006

#### Special points of interest:

-  Termite Hoax
-  EAB Quarantine Expanded
-  Volunteer Opportunities

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## Job Opportunity

The 577 Foundation in Perrysburg is looking to hire seasonal staff with the following responsibilities:

- Landscape maintenance (weeding, planting, trimming, composting, etc.)
- General maintenance (cleaning, painting, general repairs.)
- Leading tours for children up to seniors in an outdoor environment.
- Greeting visitors at the Foundation.
- Other responsibilities as assigned.

35-40 hours per week at \$8.75 per hour

For more information, contact Jay Wagoner at 419-872-0305 or email:

[jwagoner@577foundation.org](mailto:jwagoner@577foundation.org)

## Boutique Gardening: Beyond Organic and The Chef's Garden™

By Joyce Lane

Are you a foodie? Do you yearn for trips to Whole Foods in Ann Arbor or Columbus? Do you wonder why we don't see more specialty or heirloom fruits and vegetables in our local stores and farm markets?



A cure for this ailment would be a trip to The Chef's Garden™ in Huron, Ohio. Owned and operated by the Jones family, their introduction to "fancy foods" via a former food editor of Cleveland's *Plain Dealer* led them to become the leading grower of

artesian products for the world's top chefs. They grow over 600 varieties of vegetables, micro greens, edible flowers and herbs. The Chef's Garden™ is also working with the Heritage Seed Savers Association to preserve and bring back seeds. Per their website, The Chef's Garden™ grows 80 varieties of heirloom tomatoes.

This enterprise is dedicated to Sustainable Agriculture and uses the slogan, "Growing vegetables slowly and gently, in full accord with nature."®. They believe by rebuilding the soil naturally will give a sweeter, better-tasting

product. Not only are their products organic, but also use an agricultural process that replaces the bad with the good.

In 2003, The Chef's Garden™ opened the Culinary Vegetable Institute™ (CVI) which provides the world's most innovative chefs with a place to share knowledge, experiment, and develop menus.

Veggie U is The Chef's Garden's non-profit organization committed to teaching children about good nutrition and eating habits and targets fourth-graders. Through hands-on activities, classes and educational kits, kids learn that vegetables taste great if grown properly. The project is primarily funded by their celebration held each summer.

Lunches with a tour are available for parties of 20 or more for approximately \$35.00. If any of you are interested in touring The Chef's Garden™, please contact Mary Flores at our office or email her at [mflores@ag.osu.edu](mailto:mflores@ag.osu.edu) Once we get a list of interested Master Gardeners we'll set up a trip.

For more information on The Chef's Garden™ go to [www.chefs-garden.com](http://www.chefs-garden.com).

## Calendar Update (Continued)

The Monroe County, MI Master Gardeners are sponsoring an Ornamental Grasses Seminar with Dr. Art Cameron, MSU, at Monroe County Community College **April 29, 1:30 PM**. For more information contact: Jennie Stanger at 734-240-3170.

## Pruning Workshop Thursday March 30, 2006

The Perrysburg Street Division staff, Perrysburg school grounds staff, and Master Gardeners from Wood and Lucas are invited to spend a day with Stephanie Miller, an Ohio Urban Forester.

### Program Schedule

9:30 -- 10:30 am - classroom time with Stephanie

10:30 -- 11:30 am - hands on practice at Woodlands Park

12:00 -- 12:30 pm - lunch

12:30 -- 3:30 pm - more practice at Woodlands Park

Please bring your personal pruning tools. Pizza will be provided or you may bring your lunch.

Call Judy Hagen at Perrysburg Street Division 419-872-8034 or [jhagen@ci.perrysburg.oh.us](mailto:jhagen@ci.perrysburg.oh.us) to register for pruning workshop.

## Longwood Gardens Tour Kennett Square, PA

MGs of Washington County are planning an exciting 2-day Road Show to Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania on **June 23-24, 2006**. Longwood Gardens is the world's premier horticultural display of 1,050 acres of gardens, woodlands, and meadows. Within the grounds, there are 20 outdoor gardens, 20 indoor gardens within 4 acres of heated greenhouses, 1,000 different types of plants and spectacular fountains. \$150 pp based on double occupancy. Call Kelly Nichols at 740-376-7431 for more details.

## From Mary Weaks:

I spoke with Steve Harvey, Northwest District Preserve Manager of ODNR, and here are some happenings at **Irwin Prairie coming up soon**.

April 6th at 7:00 pm Frog Hike

April 26th at 7:00 pm Rail / Snipe Walk

Call 419 535 3057 for reservations and meet at the Metro Parks location between Central and Bancroft, west of Irwin Rd. Be there or be square.....

## MG Monthly Meeting— March 13th

**Healthy Gardens, Healthy People**—The highlight of the March Master Gardener meeting was the opportunity to hear Steve Prochaska speak about the importance of “hooking” people on gardening.

With our nation's health care costs out of control and obesity at a national crisis level, it is critically important that people become aware of the life extending benefits of a healthy lifestyle. As Master Gardeners, we are aware of the value of

growing and eating fresh fruits and vegetables. We also know that planting and maintaining a garden is a great way to get physical exercise to keep our bodies healthy.

Our challenge lies in “hooking” consumers on the benefits of eating 5 servings of fruit and vegetables daily. Once they've tasted “fresh” and realize how easy and rewarding gardening can be, they too will become “hooked”. We must take people from where they are today. We must appeal to what is important to them in their daily lives. We need to teach that a garden need not be large, nor does it need to be difficult to maintain. Steve's thinking is that by getting a consumer to plant a “Sun Sugar” tomato plant in a pot, we will “hook” this person on gardening as soon as they grab their first handful of this delightful treat. He talked about the OSU research farm and the fall bearing red raspberry, “Caroline”. Every person sampling the berries this plant produces gets “hooked”. He shared with us the simplicity of planting and maintaining these berries. (I ordered mine the next day!) One of his personal favorite snacks from the garden is “Vates Blue” kale. I must admit he made it sound so good that I found myself at the Andersons' buying seed. He also talked about the use of low maintenance apple trees like “Liberty”, and some of the wonderful seedless grapes now available as privacy barriers in our landscaping.

As Master Gardeners, we can have an impact on our nation's future health and quality of life. Share your enthusiasm and harvests with non-gardeners. Help them plant containers for fresh vegetables on their decks this summer. Every person who becomes “hooked” can look forward not only to the fun of gardening, but also reap the rewards of eating “fresh”. Healthy gardens lead to healthy people.

Next month's agenda is tree selection for replacing Ash trees. Join us Monday, April 10th at 7:00 p.m. RSVP to Mary at the office or email [mflores@ag.osu.edu](mailto:mflores@ag.osu.edu). **Great info Pat, Thanks!**

**Spring Arrives Real Soon!!**

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## Katrina Termite Hoax

After receiving MANY emails from you observant Master Gardeners we issued this press release regarding the Urban Legend on Formosan Termites from Hurricane Katrina debris:

COLUMBUS, Ohio -- News spreading like wildfire that a destructive structural pest is hitching a ride in mulch beyond the Louisiana borders of hurricane-impacted areas is simply a rumor, says an Ohio State University Extension urban entomologist. "No Formosan subterranean termites have been identified in Ohio from hurricane-impacted areas," said Jones. "A quarantine has been in place since October that forbids hurricane-impacted parishes in Louisiana to transport mulch, wood, or any other kind of wood waste outside their area. This material is being put into landfills." Nonetheless, the exotic Formosan subterranean termite has been widely distributed via commerce. It is established in parts of Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Tennessee. It is found in other states along the Gulf Coast that have not imposed quarantine on the movement of wood. Hence, movement of this species is possible. Furthermore, isolated groups of termites can survive and produce new reproductives and offspring. "These neotenic reproductives are sexually mature, and they serve as replacement reproductives for the termite queen, and king, she said."

Despite the rumors, Jones said that the information is a good reminder to homeowners to be aware of the potential spread of termites (native and exotic species) in landscaping timbers and mulch, particularly if these items have had previous contact with the soil. Subterranean termites nest in the soil, which provides an environment that satisfies termites' high moisture requirements.

"Mulch is a good food source for termites. Any species of termite, not just the Formosan subterranean termite, will feed on hardwood and softwood mulch," said Jones. "It's always a good idea to check mulch for termites when it is purchased." For more information on termites and how to reduce risk of infestation, log on to <http://ohioline.osu.edu> and refer to Bulletin 1209 and Fact Sheet HYG-2092C-00. On 3 October 2005, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry announced an emergency quarantine to stop the movement of any wood product from 12 parishes that were substantially impacted by Hurricane Katrina and/or Hurricane Rita. The information sent to the all-extension and all-agnr lists (posted Monday, 6 March) also included a statement from Matthew Keppinger, Assistant Commissioner, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and forestry. "All woody debris in the quarantined areas is going to an approved landfill within the designated quarantine area. There are a multitude of government (state and federal) agencies that are looking at this debris every day as it is deposited into these landfills. The contractors mulching and hauling the debris know the regulations and are abiding by them according to the quarantine requirements. If there is anyone with knowledge of debris moving out of a quarantine area, they should contact our 24-hour hotline @ 225-925-3763. These are serious allegations and will be taken seriously." According to colleagues at LSU, they may have unintentionally been the primary source for the rumor, which subsequently was greatly enhanced. Prior to the hurricanes, the LSU Ag Center published a pamphlet about not spreading the Formosan subterranean termite in infested railroad ties, utility poles, and other cellulose materials, including mulch: [http://www.agctr.lsu.edu/en/environment/insects/Termites/formosan\\_termites/](http://www.agctr.lsu.edu/en/environment/insects/Termites/formosan_termites/) It is possible that the Formosan subterranean termite could survive in Ohio, especially in heated structures.

In Ohio, any suspected Formosan subterranean termite samples should be sent to the OSU Plant and Pest Diagnostic Clinic (PPDC) for identification. The OSU Fact Sheet HYG-2121-04 outlines procedures for submitting insect (and related arthropod) specimens and their damage for identification; it is available on the web at <http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/2000/2121.html>. Further information detailing how to submit a pest specimen can be obtained from the website <http://ppdc.osu.edu>,

## Put Your Mud Hands together for:



Denise Hafner, Cathy Dollimore, Kathy Dollman, Rickye Heffner, Donna & Otto Adler, Jim Stiles, Phil Wesley, worked in the office stuffing envelopes, attaching labels, running mail, and many other office projects. Others that worked the hotline in February and early March included Alice & John Hoff, Jane Ruvolo, Jackie Ansara, Cathy Dollimore, and Kathy Dollman.

If you missed the MG Extravaganza on February 23rd you REALLY missed out The Special Events committee of Janet George-Ward, Nancy Birr, Paul Doran, Jeanne Lesniewicz and Rita McDougale outdid themselves once again. They had gorgeous centerpieces that were raffled off, each honoree received hand-made wool lapel flowers, and a keyboardist that provided very soothing background music.

Win Sturgeon for his very popular presentation on seedlings for our MG monthly meeting.

The Home & Garden Show booth would not have happened without Lucianne Phillips, Carol Schaefer, Martha Pacer, Mildred Barteck, Lina Barrera, Dennis Seffernick, Jean LeMasters, Mike Swartz, Sandy Fall, Chris Bloomfield, Beau Maugeri, Margie Black, Mary Eagan, Linda Besendorfer and last, but not least, Chris Coultrip.

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Desperately Seeking Hotline Help

We have no one signed up for the following dates: March 27, April 3, 5, 12, 14, May 5, 8, 10, 12, 15, 17, 19, 22, and 26th.

We could use 1 additional person for these dates: March 22, 24th, April 10, 17, 21, or 28, and May 3, 24 and 31st.

With Amy's constant involvement in EAB happenings across the state, our staff is picking up other projects, and could use more volunteers to back us up so we can keep the hotline running.

For those of you who have not spent much time on the hotline, it's really not as "scary" as you expect it to be. It's fun interacting with each other, and you get to learn so much more information while you're researching answers for our Lucas County residents. No one expects you to know the answers right off the top of your head, and our callers are usually pretty patient when we tell them we'll get back to them. Come help us out—it's fun!

**BYGL Diagnostic Walk** First one for the year is scheduled for Monday, May 1st from 1:00 - 3:00 pm. We will be meeting by the flag pole near the conference center at Toledo Botanical Garden. Please RSVP by contacting the OSU at TBG office!

**Native Seed Meeting** at the Buehner Center at Oak Openings Metropark April 25th, 7:00 - 8:30 pm. Come learn more about the native seed nursery and how you can help the Metroparks. Penny from the Metroparks will be leading the meeting which is sure to be educational and informational. Let our office know if you will be attending and we can let Penny know how many Master Gardeners will be attending. Penny will also be sharing ways to help in the native nursery at Blue Creek. If you are into natives - you don't want to miss this opportunity! The actual native seed planting will occur on Saturday, May 20 and Sunday, May 21 at Blue Creek (just one more volunteer opportunity).

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## Volunteer Opportunities

**Toledo Botanical Garden  
Children's Education Department  
Looking for Volunteers/Teachers Aid  
To assist in a series of scheduled Pre School  
Field Trips March – May of 2006**

The theme of this field trip is based on the story I Went Walking.....What did I see? With a combination of an interactive puppet show, shared reading experience and a scavenger hunt in the gardens, children will be introduced to the garden through a variety of multi –sensory learning opportunities. We need Volunteer/Teachers Aids to assist with the scavenger hunt, leading children to designated spots reinforcing story elements. These one-hour field trips are scheduled in the morning and afternoon at a variety of times.

**Volunteer/Teachers Aid Training Date is Tuesday, March 21 at 2:00 PM** in the Children's Education Department at Toledo Botanical Garden. Contact: Patty Toneff, Programs and Services Manager at (419) 936-2969 , or Email: rentals@toledogarden.org

**Phenology Garden** Our Phenology Garden still needs weekend monitors—if you live close by the garden, this is the perfect way for you to get in your hours, 15 minutes at a time. We still have openings for Friday, Saturday and Sunday. It's a quick and easy job, once a week. Please consider it and give Mary a call.

### **Egg Mass Scraping and Collecting**

City of Toledo's Park, on Hill near Richards (the park is on the south-side of the road)  
Wednesday, April 12th 6:00 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
Dr. Dan Herms is in need of gypsy moth egg masses for a research project he is doing this spring. We have the egg masses. Now we need volunteers to help scrap them from the trees and collect them for this project. Bring gloves (if you wish), and other tools will be provided. RSVP by contacting the OSU at TBG office at 419-578-6783.

**Bark Peelers** Any nice warm day (can be flexible) - to Search for EAB in the Ash Tree in the OSU at TBG Driveway We are in need of a few volunteers to peel back bark and collect the EAB

larvae in the tree before they emerge and can spread to other ash trees in the already infested neighborhood. This can be done when it is convenient to you.

### **Flower Show Help at the 577**

**Foundation**—May 9th, 8:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. Lori Fenton has signed up and we are looking for 3 more volunteers.

**Arbor Day at Ottawa Park**—Thursday, April 27, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

We need two volunteers to help at our Extension display highlighting some tree pests including Gypsy Moth and EAB. The audience will be high school students. Amy will be there, but with 500 students anticipated, a couple extra hands and mouths will really help. RSVP by contacting the OSU at TBG office.

### **Arbor Day at Monroe Community College's Whitman Center** in

Temperance Michigan Friday, April 28, 7:00 pm  
Come help spread Ohio's word about EAB. We will also be selling Ohio publications. Amy will be on hand, and again is in need of a few extra bodies to help with the display. This would be a great opportunity for some Lucas County MGs that live in Michigan. RSVP by contacting the OSU at TBG office

The first Arbor Day was April 10, 1872. It was the brainchild of Julius Sterling Morton, a Nebraska journalist and politician originally from Michigan. During his long and productive career, Morton worked to improve agricultural techniques throughout the United States, he served as President Grover Cleveland's Sec. of Agriculture. He felt Nebraska's landscape and economy would benefit from the wide-scale planting of trees. He set an example by planting orchards, shade trees and wind breaks on his farm and urged his neighbors to follow suit. Morton's real opportunity arrived when he became a member of Nebraska's state board of agriculture. He proposed a special day be set aside dedicated to tree planting and increasing awareness of the importance of trees. Nebraska's 1st Arbor Day was an amazing success. More than one million trees were planted. A second Arbor Day took place in 1884 and the young state made it an annual legal holiday in 1885, using April 22nd to coincide with Morton's birthday.

# Emerald Ash Borer Update

By Bob Gardner

Our Amy Stone presided over the MG EAB Specialist update at Delaware, OH, on February 27. Dan Herms, Curtis Young and Melissa Brewer were active participants. 30 EAB Specialists from all over the state attended.

The news for Northern Ohio was bleak; for central and Southern Ohio, guarded, and, for most specialists, frustration. The first part of the meeting centered on comments and ideas from members around the state:

Should a buffer zone be added along the quarantine boundary lines? Transporting contaminated wood up to the lines drawn would certainly spread over the line. A Michigan supplier transported hard wood to Dayton area.

Prosecutions seem slow and fines “wrist slapping”

Dan Herms presented an in-depth Power-Point update: Eradication of trees was ruled constitutional by the Ohio Supreme Court. Millions of trees have been removed in Ohio and more hot areas are expected in Toledo area. The wave of natural mortality of ash trees is expected to be around 10 miles/yr.

Removal of the ash tree canopy is encouraging invasive species such as buckthorn, garlic mustard, and honeysuckle.

Detection trees showed more spread than expected. A more extended detection tree program (15,000 trees) throughout the state is planned for this year and should show us about where we stand statewide. Volunteer help is needed to “give up” small ash trees.

Gov Taft has asked the Federal Government for \$50 million. President Bush requested \$32 million, but Congress granted \$10 Million for all states.

Federal funding has dropped from \$41 million in '04 to \$10 million in '06 and Ohio has received \$1.2 million so far. Budget cuts have forced an end to eradication of ash trees in N.W. Ohio. Eradication will continue in outlier infestations.

If funding is not restored, EAB will spread throughout Ohio and beyond; the quarantine will continue to expand and ash trees will be effectively eliminated from North America. In

NW Ohio, property owners are now responsible for ash tree removal. State recommendations for central and southern Ohio remain the same, not to treat healthy ashes with insecticides.

Recommendations for Northwestern Ohio have now changed. Removal of your tree(s) might be cheaper than repeated insecticide treatments. Where no insecticide treatment has proven 100% successful, several tempting options are available. Comparing various methods, drenching soil within 12 inches of the base of the tree with an insecticide containing Imidacloprid is the simplest to apply. Merit or Bayer Advanced Tree & Shrub Insect Control applied as directed, commercially or by you, is equally effective and equally expensive or inexpensive depending on trunk circumference. The 2nd year of application appears to be more effective, but yearly application is a must and then you might still lose your tree. Be aware of false claims by some companies.

Curtis Young emphasized that ash trees, unlike most other trees, fall when they die and therefore present a liability risk to municipalities and private landowner.

Northwest Ohio Master Gardeners must be alert to new treatments and changing policies of the state and federal government regarding EAB. It's O.K. to feel frustrated by eradication abandonment by the state knowing that our ash trees are being left to be devoured by the borer. Livonia, MI residents know that feeling. The bigger picture is what can MG do to help slow the spread here and save the trees not in the quarantine area until some “cure” is discovered?

**Legislative Luncheon** OSU Extension hosts an annual luncheon with our state legislature. We ask volunteers to host their local legislature in Columbus at this luncheon. We want to offer a heart-felt thank you to both Lucianne Phillips and Bob Regan for their determination in making local appointments with both State Senator Fedor and State Rep. Mark Wagoner. Because of these 2 MGs, our local representation will hear first hand of our community involvement.

## OSU Extension at Toledo Botanical Garden, Lucas

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## Bye Bye Garden Gate

It's sad to say goodbye to a good friend, but the ABE Center's Master Gardener newsletter, *Over the Garden Gate*, is being retired at the end of March. For those of you who subscribed to this newsletter, we know you're going to miss all of the information and great articles each month.



We know that many of you were active in putting out the *Garden Gate*, and we thank you for your past efforts.

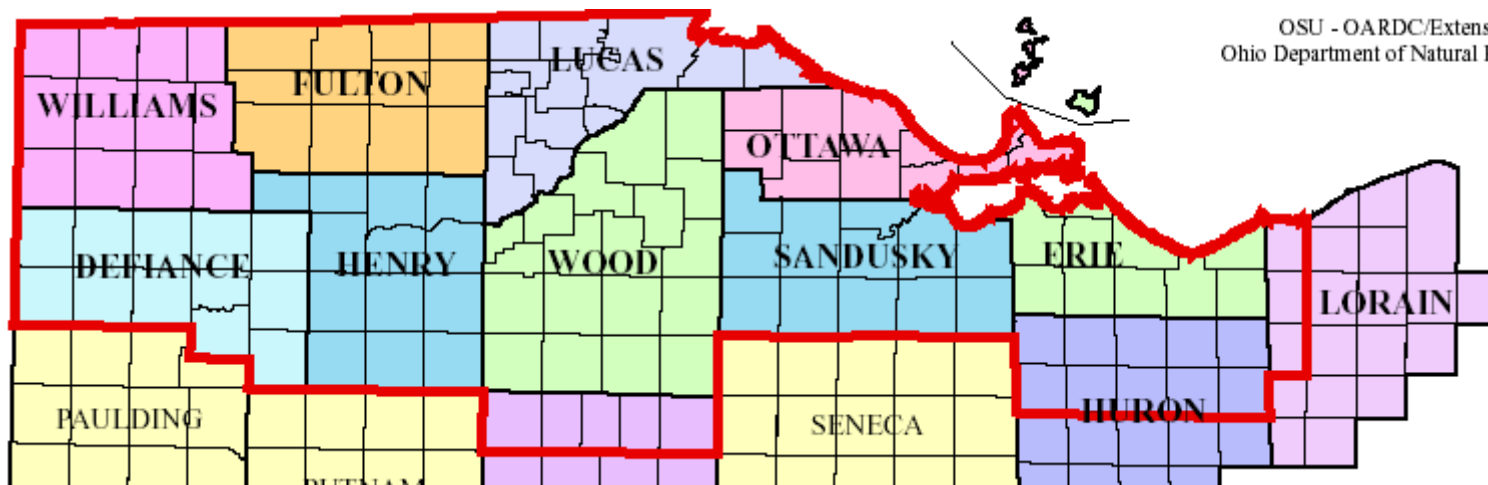
The Mud Hands could use your great expertise. Please feel free to contribute articles, happenings, MG's news and anything else you'd like to share with your fellow MGs. In addition to Lucas County MGs, we have MGs in both Wood and Defiance county who have asked to be on our distribution list. We welcome them and more!



The Ohio State University; the United States Department of Agriculture, and Lucas County Commissioners Cooperating.

The Consumer & Urban Horticulture Program Sponsored by the Cities of Maumee, Oregon, Sylvania, and Toledo; Monclova, and Sylvania Townships; Villages of Holland and Ottawa Hills; and Lucas County.

**New addition to quarantine area—Huron County:** Bronson, Clarksfield, Hartland, Lyme, Norwalk, Peru, Ridgefield, Sherman, Townsend, and Wakeman townships - Map below effective 03/08/06



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