

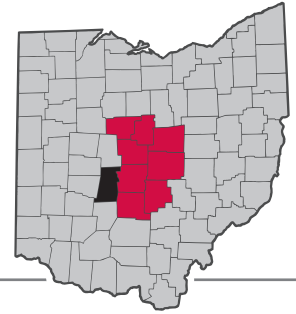


## MADISON County

### HEART OF OHIO EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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#### STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- The **Cloverbud Program**, for youth ages 5–8, used the *Cloverbud Activity Manual* for hands-on educational purposes. One hundred twenty-four Cloverbud members participated in the county fair Show-n-Tell event and received participation ribbons and Cloverbud rosettes.
- The **Dorothy Lewis, Freda and Roy Barnhart and Mary and Frank Jenkins 4-H Fund** provided \$738 of grant money to help promote nutrition projects, healthy living skills and leadership training, opportunities and recognition.
- **4-H CARTEENS** is a bi-monthly program offered through the juvenile court system to help first-time traffic offenders receive a reduced sentence by attending a two-hour educational program. Directed by two adult key leaders and 17 youth volunteers, the program taught 114 youth and worked toward the goals of reducing the number of repeat juvenile traffic offenders, decreasing the number of teen traffic offenders and increasing teen awareness of traffic/vehicular safety.

#### PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- The **Madison County Junior Fair** was organized and managed by 35 older youth volunteers and 31 adult volunteers. Members were provided educational lessons on communication, sportsmanship, evaluation and dealing with people. Members utilized skills prior to and throughout the fair that related to leadership, responsibility, decision making and customer service in the management and operation of a county fair.

- Participating in **Madison County 4-H** were 759 youth between the ages of 5 and 18, with 139 adult volunteers providing leadership to 39 county 4-H Clubs. Due to their involvement in Madison County 4-H, adults, youth and communities learned about leadership, citizenship, life skills and the philosophy of “To Make The Best Better.”
- Approximately 300 individuals visited 13 **4-H Cloverville Stores** and participated in educational opportunities that highlighted how 4-H has been “Making The Best Better” for 111 years.
- Ninety-two youth experienced outdoor educational activities at the five-day “**Surviving a Safari Adventure**” at 4-H Camp Clifton in 2013. Guided by 14 trained camp counselors and counselors-in-training and seven adult volunteers, campers developed self-esteem, learned new crafts and demonstrated life skills through a variety of hands-on activities.

#### ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Fifteen adult volunteers participated in the **Master Gardener Program** providing volunteerism, continuing education and service to Madison County residents totaling 1,412 hours. This includes monthly meetings (96.5 hours), continuing education (241 hours), Madison County Fair/4-H (51 hours), Gwynne Conservation Cabin/Farm Science Review (144 hours), Horticulture Hotline (25 hours), London Elementary Butterfly Garden (17 hours), community workshops (30 hours), horticultural written articles (8 hours), speakers

bureau/speaking engagements (136 hours) and 2014 State Master Gardener Convention (74 hours).

- The **Master Gardener Training Program** was conducted for eleven new interns; it included 50 hours of classroom study covering a wide variety of materials including botany, soil, seed planting, plant propagation, annual/perennial plants, pruning and composting. The interns are now working on their first year's required 50 volunteer hours through the development of the Traveling Fairy Garden Program, the Master Gardener Speakers Bureau, a Master Gardener Volunteer Trainee Manual and conservation articles for the residents of a local lake community.
- The Masters Gardeners taught, promoted and assisted several **public workshops**. The Master Gardeners participated in the Chamber of Commerce Community Expo at London Elementary. Children created newspaper pots and planted pumpkin seeds. The Giant Pumpkin Challenge Workshop was conducted at the Gwynne Conservation Cabin, teaching participants horticulture specifics about growing giant pumpkins. The Master Gardeners also sponsored a giant pumpkin growing program/presentation at the 2013 Farm Science Review.
- The **London Elementary Butterfly Garden** is in the fifth growing season and was created by the Master Gardeners. Over 1,000 students at London Elementary utilize the 30x40-foot garden year-round as a hands-on outdoor learning environment where they study natural habitats, soils, insects and plants. Each year the third grade classes raise painted lady butterflies from caterpillars. Once the butterflies are hatched from their chrysalides, they are released into the garden.
- **Why Trees Matter/Heritage Tree Program** continues its annual program to recognize one of the county's historic trees. Now in its fifth year, the Heritage Tree Program names a historic tree of significance each year as the honoree and places a permanent plaque on the tree. The *Madison Messenger* wrote a story about the tree and the Heritage Tree Program in conjunction with Arbor Day. Photos of the five Heritage Trees were displayed as part of an educational exhibit at the Madison County Fair.
- Delaware, Union, and Madison County Master Gardeners are planning and hosting the October **2014 Master Gardener State Convention** at Ohio Wesleyan University. Our county's primary focus is logistics, signage and volunteers coordination. The bus tour planned for Madison County is expected to feature several stops including conservation areas.
- Collaborative programming continues between OSU Extension and **Action for Children (AFC)**, which is housed at

the Madison County Extension office. Action for Children has worked with the OSU Extension office of Madison County for over twenty years. Action for Children continues to provide families with quality early learning resources and up-to-date child care referrals through phone consultations, emails, publications, etc. AFC also provides technical assistance to early childhood educators needing advice or support with programmatic concerns. AFC hosts workshops throughout the year that focus on a variety of educational domains. The Ohio Professional Development Website is now widely utilized by providers to register for classes in Madison County as well as surrounding counties in Central Ohio allowing for more educational opportunities.

- AFC of Madison County liaises with multiple agencies in the county: Department of Family and Children First, Department of Job and Family Services, Head Start, Early Childhood Collaborative Committee, Tolles Technical School, Community Action, Madison County Health Department and others. Through these partnerships information and resources are shared and AFC has a solid presence and stake in the Madison County community.
- Emphasis on **Step up to Quality (SUTQ)** training continues to be a priority initiative this year for Madison County. SUTQ is a voluntary quality rating system administered by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. The system recognizes and promotes early care and education programs that meet quality benchmarks over and above minimum health and safety licensing standards. Currently, the Head Start programs are 4-star rated. A center in London has one star, and two Type A programs have one star each. The goal is to help all centers and licensed child care providers achieve quality status over the next few years.