



Older Wiser Loving Saints

The O.W.L.S. Newsletter

April - June 2023

Upcoming Events

April: Hike at Charleston Falls

Description: Walk, talk, and eat! Easy walking on flat trails. Lunch at restaurant follows.

Date: Thursday, April 27th

Times: At Falls by 11:00 a.m.; Harrison's Restaurant in Tipp City at 1:00

Location: Charleston Falls Preserve, Tipp City

Sign up: OWLS table in church lobby

* **If riding the van** – Please be at church by 10:15 a.m. To reserve a seat, contact Diane Warden.

* **NOTE: If rain/bad weather, event will be cancelled.**

Cost: Self pay at restaurant in Tipp City.

May: Denominational Retreat

Speakers: Jeff Miller (District Superintendent) and Pam Miller; Doug Anthony: worship leader; Don Dillavou: drama.

Dates: Tuesday, May 9th (dinner) through Thursday, May 11th (breakfast)

Registration required. Register for the Legacy Retreat online at the following URL:

<https://ovdcma.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1489210>

Cost: Costs vary. Check website for details.

Registration DEADLINE: April 25 at 5:00 p.m.

Location: Higher Ground, West Harrison, IN

* **If riding the van,** contact Diane Warden.

Upcoming Events, Cont.

June: Church Picnic

Description: The OWLS will provide chicken. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. OWLS will provide water; otherwise, feel free to bring a drink.

Date: June 15th

Time: Starts at 5:30 p.m.

Location: Shelter at Rotary Park, 2260 Dayton-Xenia Road, Beavercreek.

* **NOTE: If heavy rain/bad weather, event will move into the Commons and Ray Miller will continue his Lawn and Landscape presentation.**

Cost: None. Free-will offerings are welcome.

Recent Events



On January 12th, over 35 folks attended the **Lunch and Game Day Event** at Hillside.



On February 9th, 41 folks attended the **Cedarville University performance of "Our Town."**



On March 16th, 40 folks attended the **Brunch and Learn Lawn Care (Part 1)** presentation hosted by Ray Miller.

Over →

Featured Article: Lawn and Landscape - Best Tips

In March, I did a Lawn and Landscape program for the OWLS. There were many questions, so I'll summarize most of them here.

- **Dead grass?** If you think a patch of grass may be dead, you can check by grabbing it and then tugging firmly. Dead grass will pull up, but live grass doesn't pull up, which means the roots are still alive.
- **Skunk/Mole activity?** If you notice mole and skunk activity in your yard, it means you have grubs. The best time to treat for grubs is late spring/early summer. June is a good time to treat for grubs.
- **Grubs?** White grubs come mostly from June and Japanese beetles. You can check for grubs by lifting a one foot square of sod. If you see more than two grubs you should treat your lawn.
- **Natural weed killer?** If you want to use a natural weed killer, use 1 cup salt, 1 gal. white vinegar, 1 tablespoon Dawn. Spray this mixture directly on the weeds. **Note:** this home brew will also kill grass.
- **Pruning trees?** The best time to prune deciduous trees is October through March. There are fewer bugs and molds at this time of year and the tree sap isn't flowing.
- **What not to plant in your flower garden?** If you want a lower maintenance flower garden, don't plant perennials that have a square stem. They are in the mint family and spread vigorously. Some of these include monarda (bee balm), bunny ears, catnip, lemon balm and lavender.
- **Poison from walnut trees?** Walnut tree roots emit a chemical called hydrojuglone. This is a defense mechanism to ward off encroaching plants. This chemical will kill tomatoes.
- **Best time to plant trees?** In theory, you can plant trees any time of the year. However, there are optimum seasons to plant them. Your chances of success increase if you plant deciduous trees in the fall and evergreens in the spring.
- **Toxic to cattle?** Taxus yews and wilting wild cherry leaves are toxic to cattle, so plan accordingly.
- **Toxic to plants?** Don't use fresh wood chips around ornamentals. As the wood chips start decaying, they produce tannic acid which may kill plants. Seasoned mulch is safer to use.
- **Frost free?** The frost free date for Dayton, OH is May 10th. We rarely get frost after this date, so plan accordingly for planting frost-sensitive plants.
- **Pruning surface roots?** You should prune surface roots (tree roots growing above the ground). It won't harm the tree and it removes tripping hazards. You may have to dig underneath the root to saw all the way through it. You can use an axe to chop it or a pruning blade in a reciprocating saw. A chain saw will work, but it is not a good idea to plunge the saw into the ground.
- **Stumped?** Stump removal is expensive and messy. So if you want to get rid of a bush like honeysuckle yourself, you can saw it off close to the ground and then tie a black garbage bag around the stump and leave it there for 1-2 years. The sun will bake the stump and eventually kill it.

Ray Miller