

Garden experts at MUM

Duo will discuss helpful plant combinations.

By Ginny McCabe
Contributing Writer

MIDDLETOWN – Miami University Middletown's Verity Traditions program will present Companion Gardening on Friday night at Verity Lodge.

Experts Alfred Hall and Patty Burbacher, co-founders of Hamilton Urban Garden Systems (HUGS), will teach participants how certain plant combinations help each other grow, how to use garden space efficiently, and how to prevent pest problems and attract beneficial insects.

Alfred Hall, executive director of HUGS said, "The class focuses on how to use companion planting to improve the flavor of herbs and produce that you grow, how to efficiently use space by growing above ground with plants that grow down into the ground, like a tomato with a carrot. It's also about controlling pests."

As far as other helpful tips, they will also talk about the value of research.

"We have had Mr. Hall come to two previous Verity Traditions programs, and he was very popular. He talked a little bit about companion gardening at both of those, and people expressed an interest," said Ruth Orth, Verity Traditions program coordinator and public affairs and marketing, Miami University Middletown.

Verity Traditions will continue on July 15 with "Middletown Theatres Through the Ages" as Sam Ashworth explores the history of Sorg Opera House, Dixie Auto Cruise-In and Paramount Theatre. On Aug. 7, Terri Chatfield from Ohio State University's Butler County Extension Office will discuss developing a signature salsa recipe, growing fresh herbs, making fruit salsas, preserving salsa with "Salsa: Hot Stuff!" On Aug. 28, Dr. Steph Burk will present "Getting the Most Out Of Your Visit to the Vet." (There will be an ice cream social prior to the talk, beginning at 5:45 p.m. Talk will begin at 6:15.) The September program, "The Wright 'B' Flyer Museum," which is set for the 18th will allow attendees to learn more about the history of the Wright brothers as they enjoy a visual display of the Dayton museum. Programs will begin at 6 p.m.