



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Deanna Vanden Heuvel Class of 2019

What an honor to be spotlighted in this issue. My name is Deanna Vanden Heuvel from the OCMGA class of 2019. A little background about myself. Gardening was always a part of my life. As a kid in 4-H, for 8 years, I took veggies and houseplants to the fair, as well as knitting, crocheting and sewing projects. We had a ¼ acre of cucumbers that we picked for Bond Pickling. We picked all summer to earn enough to pay for one bicycle. So I got a bike the first year and for the next three years I picked cucumbers to get my sisters each a bicycle. *eye roll*

I am currently an Accountant for an industrial services company. My goal is to combine my skill in accounting with my love of plants, flowers, trees and shrubs.

What attracted me to OCMGA was my eagerness to learn more about plants. I had the trial and error method which wasn't the best method. Also, all of the fun volunteering. Last summer I volunteered at the garden walk, at the county fair and spent time with the grounds committee. I have met so many wonderful people and made new friends. We have shared plants and seeds.

Spring is so exciting this year with all the new plants coming up. Weeding is my second most unenjoyable part of gardening. Here is a tip that has worked for me and may work for you. Since I work full time, my time to spend in the yard is limited before the sun goes down. My weeding became an overwhelming task that couldn't be done in an evening, which meant that I would



spend my weekends weeding and not being able to use my creative side. So here is what works for me. Each evening Monday through Friday I pick 100 weeds (or plants that have popped up where they shouldn't). One hundred isn't an overwhelming number in an evening and yet by Saturday morn I am delighted to walk through a weed free garden and can spend my weekend doing the "fun stuff."

As the days grow shorter and colder, then comes my most undesirable part of gardening. Digging up tubers and bulbs, to be packed away til spring, makes me sad that another season has come to an end. Good thing it is short lived as the seed catalogs are out shortly in preparation for next spring.

Thank you all for welcoming me into your organization.

