

# Green Thumb Prints

Newsletter of the Hancock County  
Master Gardener Volunteers



January 2010

*Gardening is our Passion  
Education is our Purpose*



## WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Winter gardening for kids
- Will warm weather wilt plants?
- How does a tree grow?
- Smiley Park in Van Wert
- Gardener's pledge

## Dates to Remember!

**Thursday, January 14:** MGV Monthly Meeting, Extension Office, 7:00 p.m.

**Thursday, January 14:** Brown Bag Advanced Training, 6 pm, Extension Office

**Friday, February 19:** Registration closes for 2010 MGV Training Classes

**Monday 1/25 - Wednesday, 1/27:** CENTS (Central Environmental Nursery Trade Show), Columbus

**Mondays, 3/8 - 5/17:** MGV Training Classes. 4 Saturday mornings included

Schedule online or in workstation

More info on Page 6



## Coordinator's Corner

By Nancy Kronberg

Welcome to 2010!

### 2010 Training Class Update

All forms have been posted to our web site. Time is short - only 6 weeks until the registration deadline!

Immediate Needs: Publicity

-Volunteer to work with Peg to create flyer

-Volunteer to head committee to distribute flyers & contact media

Other Needs will be addressed at January 14, 2010 MGV meeting.

### New "Brown Bag" Advanced Training begins January 14.

At our November planning meeting, a new type of advanced training was introduced. Sharon Hammer Baker is setting up speakers for these mini-classes. Prior to several mgv meetings, mgvs will have an opportunity to fulfill their education requirements via "Brown Bag" sessions. Class will start PROMPTLY at 6 pm so that we can conclude by 6:50 pm. Anyone who is working and doesn't have time to stop for food prior to the class is welcomed to bring something along and eat while we learn. We used this idea with our OCVN (Ohio Certified Volunteer Natural) classes and it works just fine. Personally I would like to begin at 5:45 but that can be discussed at the January meeting.

This month's topic is "Conifers: Simple Identification of Basic Evergreens in the Landscape." Nancy K will be presenting.

Check out these links for a preview of what will be discussed:

<http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/1000/pdf/1081.pdf> Evergreen Trees for Ohio

[http://forestry.about.com/cs/treeid/a/con\\_tree\\_id.htm](http://forestry.about.com/cs/treeid/a/con_tree_id.htm) A website I'm investigating as a conifer id source.

Also try this web link: <http://www.cnr.vt.edu/dendro/dendrology/idit.htm>

Please RSVP if you are attending to Nancy ([kronberg.3@cfaes.osu.edu](mailto:kronberg.3@cfaes.osu.edu))

Should be a fun session with a unique door prize!

Until Thursday,

Nancy

# WINTER GARDENING ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS



In the summer months, it's sometimes hard to keep kids out of the garden, especially if you've marked off an area just for them to grow their own vegetables and flowers. But what about winter, when chilly temperatures force you inside? What can you do to keep your children interested in gardening? The answer is "plenty!"

Here are some ideas to get you started thinking about indoor gardening projects for your family, scout troop, or other youth group. I'm sure you'll come up with others.

- 1. Windowsill gardens.** When snowdrifts keep your kids inside, try cultivating a windowsill garden. All you need is a sunny spot and a few containers of soil. Herbs are an excellent choice for windowsills.
- 2. Peculiar plants.** What kid wouldn't be fascinated by an insect-eating plant? Many garden centers sell Venus flytraps in their houseplant section. Then visit your library or search the Internet for more information on the natural habitat and growth habits of this unusual plant.
- 3. Watch seeds sprout.** Line a glass jar with a damp paper towel and insert several zucchini seeds between the glass and the towel. Place a lid on the jar, leave it on the kitchen counter, and check the paper every day to make sure it's still moist. Seeds should sprout in a few days. Or try bush beans instead of zucchini.
- 4. Kids' gardening clubs.** If you haven't visited your garden center lately, you might be pleasantly surprised to discover the trend towards kid-friendly shopping experiences. Some centers host kids' gardening clubs or special workshops such as building a birdhouse or starting seeds indoors.
- 5. Read a book.** Books like *Peter Rabbit* or *The Secret Garden* can spark your child's interest in gardening. Ask your local librarian or bookstore owner for other suggestions.
- 6. Decorate while you wait.** Let kids indulge their natural creativity by painting inexpensive terra cotta pots to use next spring, for repotting houseplants this winter, or for birthday and thank you gifts.

Kid-safe, durable paints can be purchased at most craft shops.

- 7. Get a jump on spring.** Plan a visit to your local garden center to buy seeds. Or let your child help select varieties from the seed catalogs. Then start seeds indoors to plant outside after the last frost. Ask the experts at your garden center or check your favorite gardening book to determine when to start seeds.
- 8. Worm farm.** Line a large cardboard box with a garbage bag. Fill it with soil, organic matter, and a few worms. Keep it shady and moist, but not too wet. Add kitchen scraps (vegetables only!) Worms will help teach your kids about the interdependence of plants and organisms as they turn vegetable kitchen scraps into valuable compost.
- 9. Garden crafts.** There are several projects you can try with your kids, depending on their age and interest, such as hand-painted plant markers or homemade whirligigs to put between rows to frighten off birds. Your local craft store should have all the supplies you need.
- 10. Terrariums.** Carefully place some soil and a few mosses and plants (with roots) inside a clean mayonnaise jar. Keep your indoor garden moist with a plant mister, and cover the opening with clear plastic wrap.
- 11. Feed the birds.** Stock up on birdseed and suet at your local garden center, and feed the birds this winter. Have your child keep a record of all the species of birds that come to the feeder and what date each first was spotted.
- 12. Pot People.** Draw or paint faces on small clay pots, then fill with soil. Plant grass seed, water, and watch the "hair" grow.
- 13. Build a birdhouse.** Birdhouse kits and plans are available at most garden centers and craft shops. This is a great activity for a cold winter's night.

Source: Dr. Leonard Perry  
University of Vermont Extension  
Dept. of Plant & Soil Science

## Will warm winter wilt plants?

### Reasons why we should **not** hope for warmer winter weather!!

Source: Cornell University

If the weather turns a little warmer this month (hard to believe?), will this wither and hurt our plants? The answer is, "It depends."

Besides the particular plants involved and its location, how your plants fare depends on how quickly cold temperatures return, how cold it gets, and other environmental factors.

A sudden drop to subzero temperatures following warm weather in January could severely stress many plants. But most plants should acclimate okay with a gradual return to more normal winter temperatures. Some flower buds would be killed. So we may see fewer blooms on flowering trees and shrubs the following spring. That creates concern from commercial fruit growers as they will harvest less fruit if too many flower buds die. But for most of us, it just means we'll see fewer flowers.

#### The long haul—

If you believe in global warming, we should see more warm winters in the future. David Wolfe, a Department of Horticulture scientist at Cornell University, studies climate change, caused in part by increasing carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere, and his results show a warming trend. In the Northeast, lilacs are blooming four days earlier on average than they did in the 1960s, Wolfe points out. Warmer temperatures are also affecting cultivated crops like grapes (blooming six days earlier) and apples (blooming eight days earlier).

If the climate warms, below shows what gardeners and growers can expect:

- Warmer winters may allow gardeners to grow some plants that before could only grow in milder climes. For example, the wine grape industry may benefit from warmer winters.
- On the other hand, aggressive weeds and invasive plants will also move north. Studies show those species are better equipped than crops to take advantage of the increasing carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere.
- Pests and diseases that were held in check by the cold may become more of a problem. Lifecycles of beneficial insects may get out of synch with the pests they help control.
- Natural ecosystems will shift north, with oak-pine forests replacing maple-beech-birch forests in some places, for example.
- Less reliable winter snow cover may hurt over-wintering of some perennial crops and flowers.

- Hotter summers may cause heat stress even in warm season crops like tomatoes.

#### Making the most of the warm weather—

**Lawns:** The good news is that warm temperatures in early winter encouraged root growth in existing lawns and strong establishment of young seedlings in new lawns planted last fall. The bad news is, if temperatures drop too fast, lush top-growth may be more prone to freezing damage. Advice: Avoid walking on lawns as much as possible until the soil dries out and grass starts growing again in spring. If temperatures return gradually to winter norms, grasses should "harden off" and be fine in spring. Fluctuating temperatures, alternate freezing and thawing can kill grasses, especially in low-lying areas where water collects and ice forms. Note those areas now and plan to improve drainage before next winter. Replant other bare spots this spring before weeds have a chance to move in.



**Fruit trees and grapes:** Some fruit trees are more susceptible to damage than others. Fruit trees need a certain amount of cold weather between 32 F and 48 F before warming temperatures make them break bud and flower. Those cultivars with a short "chilling requirement" could flower with prolonged warm temperatures. Some stone fruit cultivars (peaches, plums, cherries) are especially susceptible, while many apples are less vulnerable. Pruning could be put off until late February or early March if possible, leaving more flower buds on trees and vines when pruning, and hoping we don't get a midwinter thaw followed by a severe cold snap.

**Trees and shrubs:** Most woody plants have evolved to deal with a brief spell of unseasonably warm weather.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Will warm winter wilt plants?

—Continued

(Continued from page 3)

With most woody plants in the Northeast, buds won't open during the first warm spell and then get killed by a return to cold temperatures because buds require a period of cold temperatures to break dormancy. But we now grow many ornamental trees and shrubs far from their native range. Some of these trees and shrubs have shorter chilling requirements, and may begin to flower prematurely if we have prolonged warm weather in winter. We would probably lose some of those flowers for the season, but the long-term health of most plants probably won't be affected.

**Berries:** If you mulched your strawberry patch, the plants should be fine. They're mostly oblivious to the weather. Blueberries are slow to respond to warming temperatures. Blackberries and some raspberry varieties are another story. Like some fruit trees, their chilling requirements may have already been met, their buds may swell and they're ready to take off. A rapid chill could freeze the buds, and canes will begin to die from the top down. But even if the entire cane dies, healthy new canes will emerge in spring.

**Perennial flowers:** Most bulbs and perennial flowers should come through the winter just fine. The buds of these plants are at or below ground level, and often protected further by mulch or leaves. It's common for the leaves of some bulbs, such as grape hyacinth and early daffodils, to emerge in fall or winter. The leaves may suffer some damage. But the flower buds are still deep underground and well-protected from cold weather.

**Vegetable gardens:** The warm weather in December is wonderful if you happened to plant cover crops or cool-season greens such as kale. But in this situation, vegetable gardeners and commercial growers should be on the lookout for pests they may not have had to deal with following colder winters. One example is a flea beetle that thrives and spreads wilt in sweet corn following unusually mild winters.

### New Fact Sheets!

1132 - Soil Testing Is an Excellent Investment....

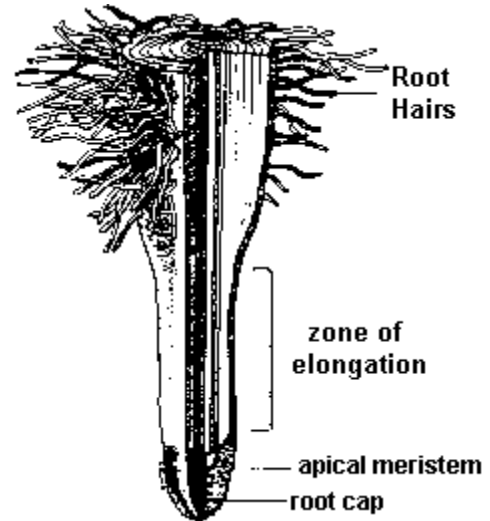
2201 - Cabbage Worms

2205 - IPM Integrated Pest Management for the Home Vegetable Garden

Mgvs have been asked to help update older fact sheets - anyone interested?

## How Does a Tree Grow?

All plant growth is the result of cell division in specialized tissues called **meristems**. The newly formed cells differentiate and undergo structural changes to produce the different organs of the plant. Once completed, the cells then become part of the plant's permanent tissue, which is fully differentiated and not capable of cell division. In trees, meristems are located in three places: the **root tips**, the **cambium**, and the **buds**.



## Tree Roots

### Growth

Tree roots possess an **apical meristem** (meristematic tissue found at the tip) that is protected by a **root cap**. The root cap sloughs off its oldest tissues to provide lubrication as the root is pushed through the soil. As the apical meristem grows, it cuts off new cells through cell division, and a **zone of elongation** is formed directly behind it. In this area, the new cells are enlarging and differentiating into specialized root tissue. The rate of root growth is quite variable throughout a growing season. Roots usually begin to grow before the tree top does, although root growth is cyclic and responds to environmental changes such as soil depth, water supply, aeration, mineral supply, and temperature.

### Form

Trees' root systems are made up of large, permanent roots (which mainly provide anchorage and transport), and many small, temporary **feeder roots** and **root hairs**. It is these small parts of the root system that are the primary water and nutrient absorbers. Many of these small roots function for only one or two years, and then either die or become part of the large root system. Most tree roots do not penetrate very deeply into the soil. Unless the topsoil is bare or unprotected, trees will concentrate most of their absorbing roots in the top 6 to 18 inches of soil, where water, nutrients, and oxygen can be found. Tree root systems cover more area than one might expect -- usually extending out in an irregular pattern 2 to 3 times larger than the crown area. However, on a dry weight basis, the "root

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# How Does a Tree Grow? - Continued

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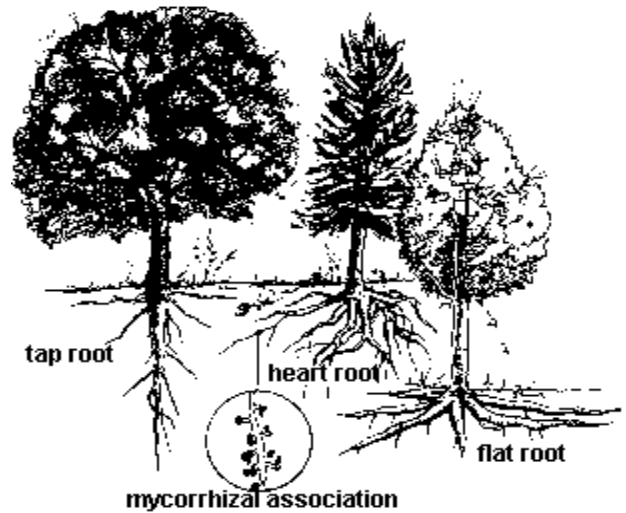
to shoot" ratio is around 20 to 80%, making the top four to five times heavier than the roots.

The type of roots formed initially is specific to a given species; with age the initial root form is often modified by the growing environment. Such things as soil hard-pans, water tables, texture, structure, and degree of compaction all influence the mature root form. There are three basic classes of tree root systems:

1. **Tap root** (hickory, walnut, butternut, white oak, hornbeam)
2. **Heart root** (red oak, honey locust, basswood, sycamore, pines)
3. **Flat root** (birch, fir, spruce, sugar maple, cottonwood, silver maple, hackberry)

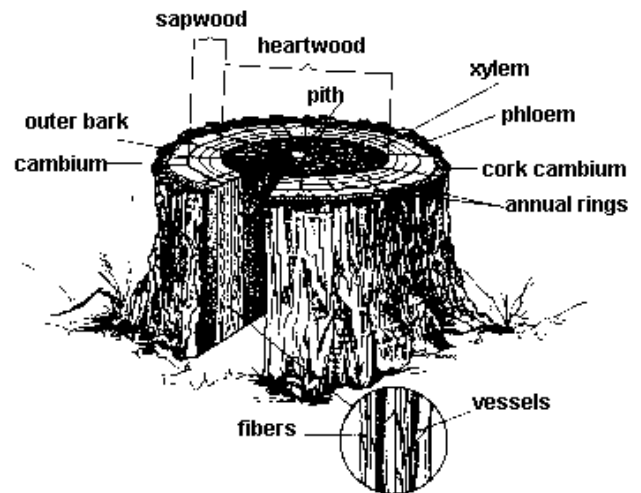
## Mycorrhizal Association

Roots of most species of trees are invaded by soil fungi to form root-fungus structures called **mycorrhizae**. The mycorrhizal association is beneficial to both the tree and the fungus. The tree supplies carbohydrates and other growth requirements to the fungus, and the fungus increases water and mineral uptake (particularly phosphorus) of the host tree by increasing the total absorptive area of the root system. There are more than 2500 different fungi which form mycorrhizal relationships with trees; often there are several different fungi associated with an individual tree. The presence of this association is necessary for establishment and growth of many trees; its absence has often reduced the success of new tree plantings, especially on old field sites. Nurseries are now careful to maintain the mycorrhizae populations in the nursery beds.



## Tree Trunk

Growth in the diameter of plants is due to the cell divisions in the **cambium**, an extremely thin cylinder of meristematic tissue found just under the bark. New cells are formed on both sides of the cambium each year. Those to the inside make up the **xylem**, which conducts water and nutrients; and those to the outside make up the **phloem**, which transports sugars, amino acids, vitamins, hormones, and stored food. In the xylem, the fibers provide strength and the vessels allow water and nutrient flow to the leaves. The **annual rings** found in tree stems are a result of variations in growth rate and in the type of wood produced early and late in the growing season. Within each ring, the lighter wood is **springwood**, formed early in the season with larger, thin-walled cells; the darker, thick-walled cells of the **summerwood** are formed later in the year. When counting the rings to determine the age of a tree, both of these bands are included in one year. The environmental conditions of an individual tree, most notably the amount of moisture and light available, are recorded each year in its rings. The width of these rings may be used as a measure of the health and vigor of the tree.



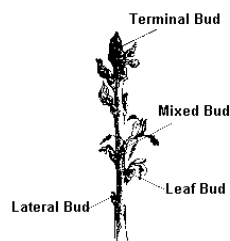
A cross-section of a tree stem reveals differences in its basic structure. **Heartwood** is found at the center of the tree. It is composed of old xylem tissue that is no longer living, but still retains structural strength and infection-resisting ability. **Sapwood** is the living xylem inside the cambial layer that is actively involved in fluid transport. Researchers have found that the number of annual rings still living at any time is highly variable, ranging from one to 20 rings depending on the species. The living phloem cells just to the outside of the cambium, the **inner bark**, provide nutrient transport. The **outer bark** is composed of dead phloem cells that are pushed to the outside, and sloughed off by the tree over time.

# How Does a Tree Grow? - Continued

(Continued from page 5)

## Tree Crown

Like roots, trunks and branches grow in length from apical meristems found in **buds**, which are essentially telescoped shoots, leaves, and/or flowers. Buds containing all of the above are referred to as **mixed**, while those containing one or the other are referred to as either **leaf buds** or **shoot buds**. The **terminal bud**, located at the apex of the main stem, forms the trunk of the tree over time. **Lateral buds**, formed at the leaf axils and nodes along the trunk, grow into branched and flowers. Within the bud, two growth habits are possible, fixed growth and free growth. **Fixed growth** occurs in species such as pines, hickory, and oaks, where the buds contain a preformed shoot. All of the components of next year's shoot are contained in the bud formed this year; the number of leaves and nodes is predetermined by this year's environmental conditions. The length between leaves and nodes is influenced by the environmental conditions the tree encounters next year. **Free growth**, in species such as cottonwood, willow, and silver maple, occurs when buds contain shoots with some preformed leaves, but which are also capable of forming additional leaves. These species can continue to grow as long as environmental conditions are favorable. **Re-currently flushing growth** occurs on many shrubs. These species produce a series of buds at the tip of the same elongating shoot in waves or flushes. Some fixed growers, under favorable growing conditions, are also capable of a second flush of growth in one season.



Source: ISU Extension

## Tree Form

The final form of a mature tree is determined by the dominant growth of some buds and shoots at the expense of others, a phenomenon known as **apical dominance**. In pines and most conifers, the trunk or main stem grows more each year than the other branches, and the branches attached to the trunk grow more than the secondary branches. Strong apical dominance in these species results in a very orderly growth habit that forms a conical tree; this type of growth habit referred to as **excurrent** growth. Most deciduous trees do

not show strong apical dominance and therefore typically exhibit less orderly growth. Instead, many shoots grow at the same rate, many branches form, and it sometimes becomes difficult to identify the main stem. These species are referred to as **decurrent** or deliquescent growers, and usually have large spreading crowns.

### 2010 Master Gardener Volunteer Training Information

Applications are now available for the 2010 Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteer Training Class! Registration is now open for the 2010 Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteer Training Classes. Sessions begin Monday, March 8 and conclude Monday, May 17. Four Saturday mornings are also included in the schedule. Monday session times are 5:30 - 9 pm. Saturday sessions are 9 am - 12 noon with optional 1-3 pm outdoor "Walk & Talk". The course fee is \$125 which includes training manual, handouts, soil test, hand lens, and speaker fees. The mandatory fingerprint background check is not included. Previous horticultural knowledge is helpful but not required. Participants must be willing to contribute 50 volunteer hours within the year following training. Applications must be received by February 19, 2010.

*Roses are red, violets are blue,  
but they don't get around, like the dandelions do.*

—Slim Acres

# Smiley Park in Van Wert

## —what Area MGVs are doing



Anyone taking a drive down Leeson Avenue in Van Wert would be hard pressed to miss the city's new children's garden at Smiley Recreational Park. The garden, designed, developed, and maintained by Ohio State University Extension Master Gardener volunteers, is attracting visitors from around the world and recognition for its creativity. Recently, it was named a 2009 Ohio Outstanding Master Gardener Volunteer Project.

An OSU Extension Master Gardener and proponent in the development and maintenance of the Smiley Park Children's Garden, Louise Hartwig, states, "The land was offered to us by Smiley Park and we thought a garden would be good for the city, adding to the people's enjoyment, as well as be an attraction for people who visit Van Wert. We chose a children's garden because we wanted to create a place of fun as well as education."



Construction of the Smiley Park Children's Garden began in 2006 and officially opened in 2008. A walk through the garden takes visitors to over 20 points of interest. Some highlights include the butterfly house, an official way station for Monarch butterflies, and a place to experience the transformation of caterpillar into butterfly; the 100-Aker Woods where the story of Winnie the Pooh and his friends comes to life; the Healthy Me Garden, which emphasizes eating more vegetables; the Enabling Garden, designed for people with disabilities; the Secret Garden, a special place of respite and sharing amid three weeping mulberry trees; the Rainbow Garden, which highlights plants from around the world; and the Sun Dial Garden, which teaches youth how to tell time with the sun.

The community support – from monetary to material donations to gardening involvement – makes the Smiley Park Children's Garden so special. This garden brought a lot of people together. People in the community feel a sense of ownership with this garden. They can say that this garden is theirs and they are proud of that.



To date, Van Wert residents, community businesses and other interested parties have donated upwards of \$175,000 to support the garden. "If we went out and contracted the design and construction of the garden, it would have cost us \$400,000 to \$500,000," said Hartwig. In addition to material and monetary donations, nearly every aspect of the garden's development has been touched by the community. For example, the entrance to the garden was built by an OSU Extension master gardener with expertise in welding; the tiles found along the outside of the gazebo were made by area schoolchildren; the flower art was designed by local street artists; and benches, plants, street lamps, picnic tables and other items were donated by area residents and businesses.

The Smiley Park Children's Garden continues to expand. This spring, organizers plan to install a fossil garden, chronicling Ohio's ancient history. Limestone rock, embedded with hundreds of long-extinct plant and animal species, will be donated by an area rock quarry. The effort that the master gardeners have put into this project is amazing. They've put in thousands of community hours to make this garden a reality. The diversity of talent is broad – engineers, welders, art majors, educators, nurses – but when we are in the garden we all speak the same language.



## Master Gardener Volunteer Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 12, 2009

President Bill Jones called the meeting to order with 33 members present. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss business to be conducted for 2010. Bill and Nancy thanked everyone for the tax support. Brief introductions were given by everyone present.

- Cathy Zernechel agreed to stay on as Secretary.
- Jerry Bibler indicated that he wanted to step down as Vice President.
- Bill Jones is staying on as President next year.
- Nancy will be Volunteer Coordinator

For 2010 the following topics were addressed:

We will still be doing

The Fair without "Ask the Master Gardener"

Wreath making

Let's go Gardening

Leisure Living show will be done with less props and focus on what the Master Gardeners do.

To make the meetings more effective:

No topic discussion during introductions

Committee chairpersons should submit updates to Kay with little discussion during meetings

We will do advance trainings prior to meeting (6-6:50 PM)

Eliminate lengthy discussions---table topics that cannot be resolved in an acceptable time frame or set up committees to address them.

Nancy discussed the following:

1. The MGJV metal signs have been repaired. We are asked to check the nuts and bolts on them each time we take them out.
2. Nancy has the bug game at her house for safe-keeping if anyone needs to borrow it. She is in the process of developing a better way of setting this board up so it doesn't break so easily during storage.
3. Nancy passed around the wreath class schedule sign-up sheet and pot-luck sign-up sheet. Be sure you indicate on the pot-luck how many from your family are attending.
4. Nancy also indicated that the certificates for the new Master Gardener Volunteers will be presented at the Christmas potluck December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 PM. She urged all the new Master Gardener Volunteers to get their hours submitted to Linda Dyar before then.

Nancy went through the project/committee sheet. A new sheet with 2010 chairpersons will be updated and submitted via newsletter or email.

Bill Lanning indicated that the rototiller was repaired.

Norma was successful in growing and maturing cotton this year. She passed around samples.

Cindi Chasse made a motion to adjourn the meeting with a second motion by Sandy Reinhardt. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM. The next meeting will be December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 PM for the Christmas potluck and to present the new Master Gardener certificates.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Zernechel, Secretary



### Navigating the new Hancock County web site:

You may have noticed the changes to our Hancock County MGJV website. I have been working with Peg to keep our page as current as possible. I've also asked her to separate the training class forms into one link and all other forms/policies into another link. She handles all the extension websites but somehow manages to post my requests quickly. To get directly to our mgv home page, here is the link: <http://hancock.osu.edu/topics/master-gardener-volunteer-program>

You can also get there via the county home page (<http://hancock.osu.edu>). Click on the Master Gardener Volunteer Program link in the left hand column.

Training class information can be found on the mgv home page. Cost, dates of training, etc. are all there. Training class application links can be also found on the county home page as well as our mgv home page. If you know of someone who would like an application, refer them to these links. Of course, they can always have a copy mailed to them. I have contacted anyone whose name I already had and I know Duane has handled a request sent to him. I don't have to be the only one to send out applications!

The website is a work in progress. Any suggestions are more than welcomed.

**2010 Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers**

**Committee/Project Assignments**

*To be reviewed at January 14, 2010 Meeting*

	<b>Project/Committee</b>	<b>2010 Chairperson</b>	<b>Date (If Applicable)</b>
<b><i>Special Meetings</i></b>			
1	◆ Recognition Banquet	Marilynn Beltz	Thursday, 4/8 (?)
2	◆ Summer Picnic	Tracey Pierce	TBD
3	◆ November Planning Meeting	Cathy Grossman	Thursday, 11/11
4	◆ December Potluck	Marjorie Miller	Thursday, 12/2
<b><i>Community Projects</i></b>			
5	◆ Let's Go Gardening	Dianne Solis & Tracey Pierce	Saturday, 5/1 & 5/8
6	◆ Public Library Liaison	Noreen Walters	
7	◆ Leisure Living Show	Cathy Zernehel	
8	◆ Wreath Classes	Nancy Kronberg	Nov & Dec
9	◆ Front Garden Maintenance	Cathy Grossman	
10	◆ Rain Garden & Rain Barrels	Cathy Zernehel	
11	◆ Research & Demo Garden	Dick Deerhake	
12	◆ Fair Booth	Sandy R, Marilynn, NK, Kenn Trout	
13	◆ Speaker's Bureau	Ruth Furiate	
14	◆ Safety Fair (Health Dept.)	Noreen Walters	
15	◆ Community Gardens	Dick Deerhake & Linda Laux	
16	◆ Homework Central	Becky Patrick (maybe?)	March (Mon/Tues)
<b><i>Education/Training</i></b>			
17	◆ Advanced Training	Sharon Hammer Baker	
18	◆ Training Classes	Bill Jones & Dick Deerhake	3/8 – 5/17
<b><i>MGV Operations</i></b>			
19	◆ Membership List/Hours	Linda Dyar	
20	◆ MGV Library	Cindi Chasse	
21	◆ Workstation Schedule	Cathy Zernehel	
22	◆ Newsletter	Kay Sidaway	
23	◆ Media Coordination	Sharon Hammer Baker	
24	◆ Field Trips	Marty Davis	
25	◆ Meeting Refreshments	Barb Sherman	
26	◆ MGV Apparel	Barb Sherman	

## ***Gardeners, take this New Year's Day pledge***

*Article published in the Toledo Blade, December 30, 2009*

*Permission to use granted by Kelly Heidbreder*

***Repeat after me: I (state your name) do solemnly swear to resolve this year:***

To find all of my pruners, shovels, rakes, gloves, and other garden gadgets this winter and sharpen, fix, and clean all of them. I promise that I will scrub off all of the rusty edges and treat them with a fresh coat of oil. I will toss all of my gloves, whether they have a mate or not, into the washer.

To take a picture of my winter landscape and make plans for spring even before the first crocus has a chance to poke its head out of the ground.

To finally prune the neglected trees in my yard, starting with the crossing branches and damaged limbs first, then trim out the branches that are around the base of the trunk and any other volunteers that sprout straight up. I promise to step back and look at the general shape of the tree and bravely get it back to its original structure.

To apply a spring fertilizer in March or April that will help keep the weeds from crowding out my grass and defend my turf from grubs.

To rake my yard in the spring before I start mowing to remove all the winter debris and sticks that have been lying there for months. I also promise to have my mower blades sharpened before starting my mower this year.

To take a picture of my landscape in the spring and make plans to fill in the bare spots once the nurseries are open. I also swear that I will finally draw a map of my current property and landscape areas so I will have the start of a landscape plan.

To leave the lawn roller in the garage this year. I will remember that Kelly Heidbreder told me this doesn't

help make my lawn flatter, it just squishes all of the good air pockets and moisture out of the tender, spongy spring soil.

To edge my flower beds with a sharp spade to make each landscape area stand out from the lawn. I also promise to test my soil this season and see how I can make my yard, garden, and trees healthier.

To plant vegetables in my yard, even if it is just in a container on my deck. I will love picking my own fresh produce and will send Kelly pictures of huge tomatoes and squash in the shape of Jesus.

To take a picture of my landscape in the summer and clip my blooming flowers to enjoy inside. I will also share some of my favorite varieties with a special friend.

To do the tuna-can trick with my sprinkling system. I know from Kelly's preaching that I only need about an inch of water on my lawn each week and I will adjust my automatic sprinkler to do so. I promise not to leave the hose and sprinkler running all day long and will spend more time setting up a drip irrigation hose at the base of my plants instead of watering them from above. That way I won't need to e-mail Kelly as often next summer because all of the black spots and moldy coating on leaves will be gone.

To take a picture of my landscape in the fall and plant spring-blooming bulbs before winter. And to apply a winterizer fertilizer just after Thanksgiving dinner.

And I will plant one of Kelly's favorite shrubs in my landscape and think of her every time I snip off a huge hydrangea blossom and bring it inside.

OK, you can put your hand down. Great job! Happy New Year and may 2010 bring you lush green turf and dry, brown weeds.



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