

Green Thumb Prints

Newsletter of the Hancock County
Master Gardener Volunteers



April 2011

*Gardening is our Passion
Education is our Purpose*



WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- **Search for True Blue by Robert Campbell**
- **Philadelphia Flower Show by Linda Dyar**
- **Witchhazel, Spring Fertilizers**
- **Recipe, training, meeting minutes, more**

Dates to Remember!

Mondays: MGV Workstation, 9:00-noon. See page 3

Friday-Sunday, April 1-3: Leisure Living Show.

Saturday, April 2: Plants to attract wildlife to the backyard, Linda Dyar, Oakwoods, 10:00.

Saturday, April 2: Herbs, Feasel's Garden Center, 10:00, Ruth Furiate presenting.

Saturday, April 9: Square Foot Gardening, Huron County MGVs. See Page 3.

MONDAY, APRIL 11: REGISTRATION DUE FOR MGV RECOGNITION DINNER.

Tuesday, April 12: Rain Garden Workshop, Extension Office, 6:30-8:00pm. Please Register. See page 9.

Wednesday, April 13: Diagnostics 101. See page 5

THURSDAY, APRIL 14: 2011 MGV RECOGNITION DINNER, BIRCHAVEN HATFIELD DINING ROOM, 7:00, PLEASE REGISTER NOW!

Wednesday, April 20: WFIN Phone Club, 9:00-11:00, Ruth & Cathy Z

Saturday, May 7: Let's Go Gardening, register online or call Tracey Pierce.

Coordinator's Corner

—By Nancy Kronberg

The calendar may say it's spring but the weather isn't very spring-like! At least the sun has been shining and the rain isn't as prevalent.

I have contacted Dave Shetlar, our OSU Bug-Doc and author of the biweekly **PEST EVALUATION AND SUPPRESSION TECHNIQUES** newsletter; commonly known as P.E.S.T. I updated the Hancock County mgv e-mail list and everyone should start receiving it. Some of you are on two of his lists so you may get two e-mails. Better that than not at all. I encourage you to read each issue at your leisure. Many of your questions as to what is happening in the "bug" world will be answered. This is a password protected newsletter. The password will be listed in your e-mail. It is free to mgvs but should not be distributed to friends or commercial entities. See sample page on page 2.

Buckeye Yard & Garden Line, known as BYGL, will begin around April 1. I will subscribe the interns. If any perennials aren't not receiving BYGL, let me know and I will subscribe you. This is an extremely valuable diagnostic tool. The website is <http://bygl.osu.edu> Past issues are available and color photos are included in the online version.

Don't forget to sign up for Let's Go Gardening. Go to the MGV web page and click on "service opportunities." We will be in 5 garden centers all on Saturday, May 7th. Contact Tracey Pierce if you have questions or want to sign up.

If you haven't registered for the Spring MGV Recognition dinner, please do so now. We have enough door prizes so we can omit the "White Elephant" donations. Sounded good at the meeting! If you want the vegetarian selection, please contact Marilynn Beltz.

(Continued on page 2)



Engaging people to strengthen their lives and communities through research-based educational programming.

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One Government Ctr.
419-213-4254

OSU Extension Horticultural Hotline on site at Toledo Botanical Garden

Monday-Wednesday-Friday
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

419-578-6783

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Master Gardener 2011 Lecture Series OSU Extension Lucas County

Lucas County Master Gardener Speakers Bureau will be presenting two lectures this spring.

Our first session is on Monday, April 24th from 6:30-9:00 p.m. The second session is Tuesday, May 17, 2011

The Lucas County Master Gardener Speakers Bureau is proud to have the OSU Extension State Master Gardener Coordinator, **Pam Bennett present: Extending Your Outdoor Living Through Extension**

Monday, April 25th, 2011
6:30 – 9:00 p.m. at the Conference Center at Toledo Botanical Garden.

This program is open to the public and carries a \$15.00 fee payable at the door.

Learn how to enjoy your personal landscaping environment with the addition of:

- Edible Landscaping
- Container Vegetable Gardens
- Savory Herb Gardens
- Low Maintenance Annuals with High Impact

RSVP to 419-578-6783

Basic Home Food Preservation
Join OSU Extension, Lucas County's Susan Zies & Patrice Powers-Barker as they provide updated information on Basic Home Food Preservation.

Tuesday, May 17, 2011
6:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Reynolds Corner Library, 4833 Dorr Street, Toledo, OH 43615

Free and open to the public. Please reserve a seat by calling 419-213-4254 or emailing:

powers-barker.1@cfaes.osu.edu

If you are interested in becoming a Lucas County Master Gardener Volunteer we will begin recruiting in August, 2011 for the 2012 class. Call Barb Northrup 419-578-6783 x 10 or email northrup.10@cfaes.osu.edu

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EDUCATION



Sample Page

The P.E.S.T. Newsletter

PEST EVALUATION AND SUPPRESSION TECHNIQUES

Editor: David Miller (782) 301-0003 23 March 2010
Landscape (Home) Extension Specialist, The Ohio State University Extension 104, 11, No. 2

Comments

What an incredible winter we've had, and I'm sure that it's not really over yet even though spring officially started on the 20th. I know that many of you are hoping that the long winter cold and heavy snow cover may have knocked back the insects, but alas, I'm sorry to tell you that such weather is actually ideal for most of our insects and mites!

While most of you are previous subscribers, there are always new folks and everyone can use a few reminders about this publication.

It's really hard to believe, but the P.E.S.T. Newsletter is in its 19th year of publication! If you had told me when I started that I'd be doing this for two decades, I would have thought you were crazy! But, here we are, still going fast and furious. I started this newsletter the year after I joined Ohio State. University faculty stated that I'd be fired if I produced a newsletter like my predecessor (Dick Miller who produced *Bug Scope*), yet you in the Green Industry kept asking me if I was going to have a newsletter! Haha, what to do? I soon found out that Dr. Miller was spending over half of his time and 1.5 secretaries' time to produce his newsletter! No wonder the university folks were annoyed. I asked our publications office if they could help me and they said yes, but needed a 50 to 40 day lead time for each newsletter. Well, that wouldn't do to make things tricky!

It then dawned on me that ONLA had full-time editors and put out the equivalent of a magazine every month! I called them and asked if they could handle the subscriptions, copying and mailing. The answer was an immediate, "yes!" The deal was struck and even though we now offer PDF versions and a web site, ONLA is still the agency that distributes this newsletter. SO, if you have any questions about your subscription (changes of address, didn't receive it, thought you were registered, but are no longer getting it, etc.), please contact the ONLA office (300-825-3062).

Occasionally, someone asks if I get any profits from this newsletter and the answer is, "not directly!" (I'm trying to learn political obfuscation techniques!) Historically, there is a little money left after ONLA takes out the printing, mailing and handling charges. What remains has been returned to Ohio State as funds supporting our Extension Nursery, Landscape and Turf Team. I think we can all agree that this is a fair trade!

The RULES...again.

I've already mentioned that you should contact the ONLA office about subscription issues.

However, if you have issues with the CONTENT of the newsletter, I do BugDoc, and the person to contact! Actually, I rarely get complaints about the content, but folks come up with either questions that they'd like me to address, PERFECT! However, I do use such requests as fodder for the next P.E.S.T.! Rest assured, I usually protect the "innocent" by not including names and places! LOL!

By far, the best way to contact me is by email: shelter.1@osu.edu. You can TRY to call me and leave a phone message at: 614-292-3762, or you can FAX me a note at: 614-292-9783, but I really like playing phone tag. Email messages are better because you can attach pictures! Don't be afraid to take a digital image of pest situations! Pictures are great for letting me see what may be going on around the pest problem.

I know that some of you are still getting hard copies in the mail, but I'd really like to encourage you to begin receiving the newsletter as an email PDF. Just let the ONLA folks know your preference. No matter how you receive the P.E.S.T., the information continues to be posted on our web site:

<http://bugs.osu.edu/Entomology/pentetro.htm>

On that page, click on the "Give" button and enter in "post" as the user name and the first password for this.

Coordinator's Corner (continued)

Now for Doodle. Sounds pretty weird but it is simply an online survey application. We have a subscription (there is a free version also) and I will be using it often. So far it has been used for the upcoming Four Star Greenhouse tour, Leisure Living Show, and Let's Go Gardening. We also have another survey option that I have used for the Advanced Training and MGV dinner. I hope everyone is finding it to be user friendly and a time saver. Just click the web link and answer the questions while sitting at your computer. No phone calls to remember or e-mails to answer. What could be easier?

Carol Kinn and Mary Miller are working with the Fostoria Farmer's Market. They are hosting an "Ask the Master Gardener" booth on Saturday, May 21. There will be a gentleman from Shiloh who is bringing his organic compost/fertilizer to sell. Contact Mary or Carol if you would like to assist with this project.

I have passes for the Leisure Living Show if anyone can use them. You don't need a pass if you are working. If you are coming with someone, they can use the pass. I will leave them in the booth for you pick up. Be sure to wear your name badge and MGV shirt if you have one. Not a problem if you don't have one; just dress as a "cleaned up gardener"!

The First Tuesday Advanced Training schedule has changed. I have opted to NOT hold the April 5 or May 3 classes. Instead we are promoting the Rain Garden Sessions as they apply to both rain garden folks and home landscapers. See page 9 for details. These workshops are free!

We have done very well with all of the winter workshops and advanced training. Part of the money raised is being used for display materials for the LLS and County Fair.

Sandy Reinhardt, Christa Gupta, & Sharon Hammer Baker are reading Christa's Monarch book to Whittier School students on Wednesday, April 6. Each child will be making a monarch bookmark. Each of the three grades will be given a butterfly rearing kit. Workshop proceeds paid for the supplies. Christa is also dressing as a Monarch butterfly! Watch for photos!

Happy Spring,
Nancy

Average Last & First Frost Dates

According to the Farmers Almanac

CITY	LAST SPRING FROST	FIRST FALL FROST
Cincinnati	4/13/11	10/23/11
Cleveland	4/30/11	10/23/11
Columbus	4/26/11	10/13/11
Toledo	5/1/11	10/8/11

Effects of cold weather:

- ♦ **Light freeze:** 29 [degrees](#) F to 32 degrees F — tender plants killed, with little destructive effect on other vegetation.
- ♦ **Moderate freeze:** 25 [degrees](#) F to 28 degrees F — widely destructive effect on most vegetation, with heavy damage to fruit blossoms and tender and semi-hardy plants.
- ♦ **Severe freeze:** 24 degrees F and colder — damage to most plants.

When should I apply spring fertilizers to my lawn?

Most homeowners place too much emphasis on spring and summer lawn fertilization. Some fertilizer is needed during spring and summer, however, over-application can cause diseases and other problems and result in "summer lawn nightmares." If the lawn was fertilized late last fall, then you need to make only one application in late April or early May, using three-quarters of a pound of actual nitrogen per thousand square feet. If no late fall fertilizer was applied, you should make two applications this spring; one the first week in April, and the other about the last week in May, using three-quarters of a pound of actual nitrogen per thousand square feet each time. (Source: OSU Plantfacts)

SQUARE FOOT GARDENING

Saturday, April 9, 10:00—Noon

Huron County MGVs, Huron

Registration necessary

419-465-2698 or rosp@hughes.net

Workstation Schedule:

April 4: Norma Smith, John Andrews
April 11: Cathy Grossman, Barbara Phillips
April 18: Jim Barnhill
April 25: Laura Inkrott, Sandy Reinhardt
May 2: Norma Smith, John Andrews

Listen Up !!!

Our Master Gardener Volunteer Radio Stars will be on WFIN Radio's Phone Club Wednesday, April 20 from 9:00 to 11:00 am. This is always a great radio program so try to listen in. If you'd like to volunteer or sit in, contact Marilyn Beltz.

Cranberry Delight Spread

Served at the March MGV meeting

From Terrie Cortez

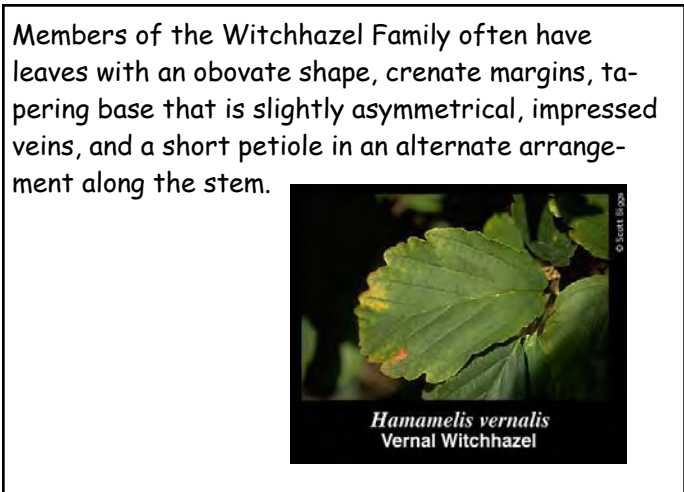
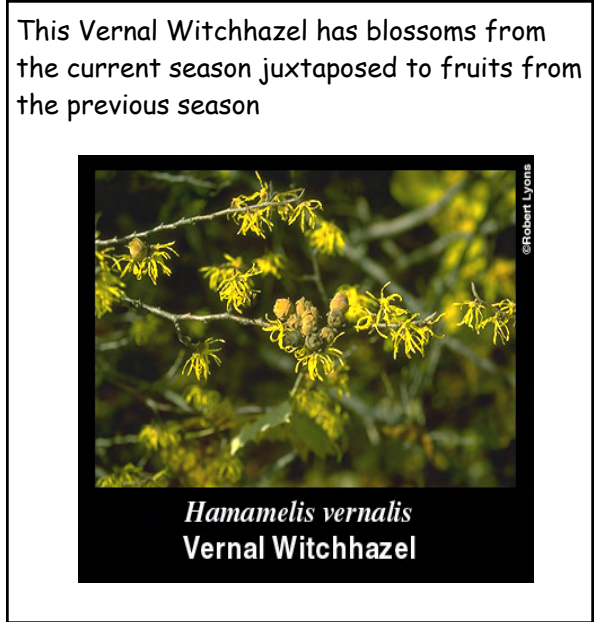
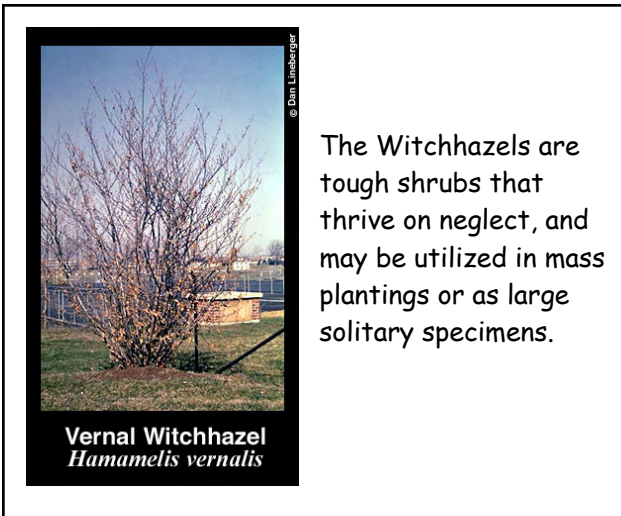
- 1 Pkg. (8 oz) cream cheese, softened
- 2 Tbsp. frozen orange juice concentrate, thawed
- 1 Tbsp. sugar
- 2 tsp. grated orange peel
- 1/8 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/4 cup finely chopped dried cranberries
- 1/4 cup finely chopped pecans
- Town House Original Crackers or Keebler Club Original Snack Sticks

In small mixing bowl, beat cream cheese, orange juice concentrate, sugar, orange peel and cinnamon on medium speed of electric mixer until fluffy. Stir in cranberries and pecans. Refrigerate at least 1 hour. Garnish as desired. Serve with crackers. Yield: 12 servings. (It's delicious!)

Witchhazel

Source: Plantfacts, osu.edu

In early spring, the Vernal Witchhazel bears fragrant, spidery, red-yellow flowers on bare branches that **smells so good!** These are followed by mid-green leaves that turn yellow in the fall. Witchhazel is one of the earliest flowering garden shrubs and it attractive to bees, butterflies, and birds. It's also deer resistant. If planted this year, you won't be able to enjoy the flowers and fragrance until next year. Zone 4-8, Light full sun to part shade, Height 10-15', Width 10-15'.



When grown in the open, Vernal Witchhazel forms a rounded to spreading shrub that is nondescript (but pest and disease free) during the Summer months.



DIAGNOSTICS 101 FOR MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS

Hosted by Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers

Presenter: Denise Ellsworth, Summit County Extension Educator

WHEN? Wednesday, April 13, 2011

WHAT TIME? 10 am - 3 pm

WHERE? Hancock County Agricultural Service Center, Findlay

FOOD? Please bring a sack lunch, we will provide drinks and light snacks.

COST? \$10.00 (WHAT A DEAL!!!!) You may pay at the door.

WHY? Denise Ellsworth, Summit County Extension Educator, will teach OSU Master Gardener Volunteers how to approach diagnostic challenges that come to us in person or on the phone. The session will teach the overall diagnostic approach, with emphasis on the "20 Questions" of plant pest diagnostics, as well as signs and symptoms of plant pests. "Diagnostic Fundamentals" is targeted to new Master Gardener Volunteers or those looking to improve their diagnostic skills. First Detector Certification will be offered also.

QUESTIONS? Call Extension Office (419-422-3851) or

Email Nancy: kronberg.3@cfaes.osu.edu

RESERVATIONS? Extension Office (419-422-3851) or **Online:**

<http://hancock.osu.edu/topics/master-gardener-volunteer-program/events-hort-natural-resources>

PLEASE REGISTER BY MONDAY, APRIL 11

A place to visit—

New Leaf Landscape—Garden Center

0395 ST 235, Ada
Phone: 419-634-0351

927 E. Columbus, Rt. 67 Kenton
Phone: 419-675-2718

Hours: M-F 9-5, Sat 9-? Depending on weather

Website: <http://www.newleafgc.com>

Let's make this a monthly column - send your suggestions to Kay!

A Search for True Blue

- by Bob Campbell

Part of our development as human beings is acquiring likes and dislikes. Some of us relish the taste of broccoli while others cannot stomach it. Various aromas become pleasing to some of us, while for others they are rank odors.

As gardeners, along with shape and texture, we like or dislike various colors. My sister could not see why I had so many blues in my gardens. For her blue was blah. For me (at its best) it sparkles with peace and joy! It is not the only quest for me, but it is an important one, to find and grow plants that produce flowers of the truest blue. The search has resulted in disappointment, partial satisfaction, and occasional elation.



Iris siberica 'Caesar's Brother'

I am most disappointed when a plant's blooms do not match the picture and description in the garden catalogue (probably a good argument for buying more at our local nurseries where we can see the actual color!). I do not remember the catalogue in which I first saw the photo of *Iris siberica* 'Caesar's Brother'. But the bloom was not only described "gentian blue"; it was also pictured that way. It turned out to be an attractive plant. But as the picture below from my garden shows, it has but a tinge of blue and a good deal more of purple. I do not regret having the plant, but it was not what I was looking for.



Veronica 'Royal Candles'
with *Salvia* 'Red Fox'

Some of the blues I have grown have satisfied in part – sometimes even in large part. *Veronica spicata* 'Royal Candles' has given me a lot of joy. It is compact, and stands up well to the wind. For the most part the foliage stays neat, and there is little lower growth die-back, sometimes a problem with veronics. Best of all it is blue ... but not the dark blue candles, as advertised. I would call it a soft blue, even a dull blue. It is just a little bit on the "blah" side, as my sister would have said.

Another partially satisfying plant has been *Veronica spicata* 'Sunny Border Blue'. Like 'Royal Candles', it is a sturdy plant, but taller (1 ½ to 2 feet compared to 15-18 inches) and more prone to disease. Its blooms are bigger and make more of a statement, but are more a dull blue than pure blue.

A brighter blue than the Veronics has been *Platycodon grandiflorus* (Balloon Flower, pictured below as well as right back V. 'Sunny Border Blue'). Strangely, this one has turned out close to a pure blue for me, while the catalogues sometimes indicate more of a purplish-blue. It has been a reliably hardy plant, surviving seven years so far. It is tall (2-3'), and now and then needs staking (especially after storms). It also needs deadheading to achieve the maximum bloom period of two or more months (July-August or sometimes longer).



Balloon Flower
with *Callirhoe digitata* and Oriental Lilies



Veronica spicata 'Sunny Border Blue'
in Foreground

A Search for True Blue—Continued

(Continued from page 6)

Now to the blues that have elicited a response of elation! The first is a climber, *Clematis integrifolia x durnadi* ‘Roguchi’, also called Roguchi Clematis. I got this from Select Seeds in 2008; it grew 2 1/2 feet the first year, producing four blooms. In 2009 and 2010 it grew to 6 feet, and was loaded with blooms. Select Seeds said the blooms would be navy-blue, and they were true to their word. They were also supposed to be fragrant, but my nose has not picked up the scent! But my eyes have immensely enjoyed the deep blue color the past two years. The only problem I have encountered so far was mildew in late summer and fall of last year.



Clematis ‘Roguchi’

Along with *Clematis* ‘Roguchi’, the two plants eliciting the greatest elation for their blue have both been gentians. This should not surprise us. So often catalogues that want to proclaim the virtue of blue in any plant will call it “gentian blue.” Gentian has become the standard for blue. And rightly so!

My first experiment with gentian was several years ago, with one of the smaller ones: *Gentiana septemfida* (4-8 inches tall). The blooms were an intense blue, but came on very late in the season; and the plant died of disease after a little over a year.



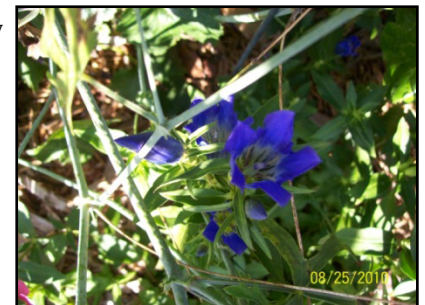
Gentiana dahurica with *Gaillardia grandiflora* ‘Arizona Sun’

I have had more success and joy with *G. dahurica*, now in its third season of growth for me. Its blooms are an intense blue and appear in great numbers in July and in lesser numbers into September; it has the glossiest of foliage of gentians I have grown so far. *G. dahurica* is a taller plant than *G. septemfida*, at maturity reaching one foot tall with one foot spread. It likes full sun to part shade, is hardy to Zone 4, and requires just ordinary garden soil. I have planted it partially beneath *Rosa Fru Dagmar Hastrup* and next to *Gaillardia* ‘Arizona Sun,’ where its blue complements the orange.

G. dahurica ‘Nikita’ and *G.* ‘True Blue’ are 2010 additions to my gardens. I planted them to the north and to each side of a pink ‘Knockout’ rose. ‘Nikita’, of which I took no pictures, is the shorter of the two (six to sixteen inches at maturity); its blooms come on in late summer through fall. It is hardy to Zone 5. It needs only ordinary garden soil, and likes either full sun or part shade.

‘True Blue’, pictured below, is supposed to reach two to two and one-half feet with one and one-half feet of spread. Its bloom period is from July through September. It is hardy to Zone 4. Like ‘Nikita’ it requires just ordinary garden soil and likes either full sun or part shade.

In its first year, ‘True Blue’ attained about eight inches height and a foot spread, and by August it had produced just a few blooms. But ah, what an exceedingly satisfying true blue! For now, my search for true blue has ended with *G.* ‘True Blue.’ I will not say my search is over. But if I never find a truer blue, I’ll still be a very gardener!



Gentiana ‘True Blue’

Plant Sources (other than those purchased locally)

Clematis integrifolia x durnadi ‘Roguchi’: Select Seeds Antique Flowers, 180 Stickney Hill Road, Union, CT 06076-4617

Gentiana dahurica: McClure and Zimmerman, 335 S. High Street, Randolph, WI 53956, www.mzbulb.com

Gentiana ‘True Blue’ and *Gentiana dahurica* ‘Nikita’: Roots and Rhizomes, P.O. Box 9, Randolph, WI 53956-0009, www.rootsrhizomes.com

A MUST SEE FLOWER SHOW

by Linda Dyar

When thinking of your travel plans for next year, consider visiting the Philadelphia International Flower Show. It begins the first weekend in March and runs for eight days. It is the oldest flower show in the country first held in 1829. It has been managed by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society since the 1960's. This year's 2011 theme was Springtime in Paris. It was artfully displayed by florists and nurseries, including Ireland which was one on this year's major sponsors.

As you enter the show visitors are overwhelmed by the fragrance of thousands of spring flowers in full bloom. You walk under a faux Eiffel Tower surrounded by 25,000 tulips. All thoughts of cold, dreary wintry weather are quickly a thing of the past, as one walks by fascinating exhibits such as a floral carousel, a wedding at Notre Dame and other similar displays.

This particular display of a 19th century salon was done by a Philadelphia floral design company and demonstrates the level of beautiful attention to detail that was evident throughout the show.



There are 10 acres of exhibits and everyone is worth seeing. For those of you that are design enthusiasts this is the show for you. The flower designs are beyond belief. There were couture hats, clothing, and floral displays of the highest level of excellence. For the house/atrium plant enthusiasts you see every plant imaginable, so many cacti, orchids, violets, ferns of uncountable species; not to mention a numerous display of every other house plant ever imagined. For the cutting edge greenie you will find roof gardens, rain gardens, rain chains of the most beautiful designs. For the shopper there are 100+ vendors that will meet any gardener's needs. There are also numerous clinics and educational sessions everyday and fellow Master Gardeners answering questions from their booth in the middle of the show.

To visit Philadelphia not only do you see a world class horticultural event but you are in one of the most historic cities in the US. Within walking distance from the Convention Center are the historic Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, Betsy Ross's house, Redding Terminal Market plus you are just a short bus trip to the renowned Philadelphia Museum of Art, Franklin Institute, and numerous art galleries, shops and restaurants.

Should you want to continue your garden trip, consider going to the DuPont's famous Longwood Gardens, in Kennett Sq, PA and the Bartram's Garden. The Bartram's garden is the oldest living botanical garden. It features an 18th century farmstead, native plants, wildflower meadow and wetland and is located just minutes from Independence Hall.

I encourage everyone to consider attending the breath-taking annual Philadelphia International Flower Show and the city of Philadelphia as a travel destination.

Rain Garden Workshop

Plan on attending free workshops to learn how you can "GO GREEN" at home by creating a beautiful rain garden. This session will focus on moving beyond perennials to include small trees and shrubs in the rain garden.

When: Apr 12, 2011, from 6:30 PM to 08:00 PM

Where: Hancock County Agricultural Service Center, 7868 CR 140 Findlay OH 45840

Contact Name: Hancock Soil & Water Conservation District

Contact Phone: 419-422-6569

Attendees: Workshops are free and open to the public.

A collaborative effort of Hancock Soil & Water Conservation District, and Ohio State University Master Gardener Volunteer Program.

Register by calling Hancock Soil & Water at 419-422-6569.

Other sessions include:

- May 10 - Rain Garden Workshop - native grasses: installation techniques & long-term management.

April Gardening Tips—

While it may be true that April showers bring May flowers, April also brings warmer weather, longer days, and our first chance to do some outdoor gardening. Peas, onions, parsnips, spinach, and other cool weather crops can all be planted in the garden towards the end of the month, provided that the soil isn't too wet.

Warmer weather means a new generation of gypsy moth and eastern tent caterpillars will hatch and begin feeding on leaves of many tree species. If infestation is heavy, entire trees can be defoliated, and even killed, by these insect pests. Stressed trees are more vulnerable to damage from defoliation. You can fight back if you act early. Before bud break which is when the eggs hatch, remove and destroy any egg masses you find on your trees. Gypsy moth eggs are buff-colored and may be found on trees, stones, fences, lawn furniture, and other protected places. The eggs of the eastern tent caterpillar are deposited in brownish masses, resembling a large raisin squeezed around a twig. Scrape off the egg masses and crush underfoot or drop into a pail of detergent and water.

Take a critical look at the plantings around your home. Are your hedges crowding the front entrance? Do any of your ornamentals need replacing or could they benefit from a good pruning? Plants have a way of gradually growing out of bounds. Take time now, before you get busy with summer activities, to decide what needs to be renewed or replaced.

You also might want to check for raised tunnels in your yard, a sure sign of hungry moles searching for grubs. Most garden stores sell grub control products that will eliminate moles and often skunks as well.

Other activities for April: fertilize fruit trees and lawns; place seedlings in cold frames around April 25 or later to harden off; celebrate Earth Day by adopting an earth-friendly practice such as composting or using organic fertilizers and pesticides.

Source: Dr. Leonard Perry, Extension Professor, Univ. of Vermont Extension, Department of Plant and Soil Science

Master Gardener Volunteer Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 10, 2011—7:00 PM

Bill Jones called the meeting to order with 29 members present. Cathy Zernechel was thanked for her presentation on Vegetables.

Cathy reported that there were several items on last meeting's report to be noted. Hopefully everyone read the minutes printed in the newsletter.

Bill and Anita Lanning reported the Treasurer's balance. There were still some receipts and expenses that needed recorded.

Coordinator's Report:

- Nancy put several sign up sheets on the back table of the meeting room and encouraged everyone to look them over during social time for volunteer opportunities.
- Nancy passed out certificates to a few of the interns that were not present at the Christmas party
- We still need a leader for Third Grade Days at Van Buren State Park. See Nancy if you are interested
- The Small Fruit School is next Wednesday, March 16th and the Rain Garden Session will be Tuesday, March 15th. Check website for details.
- There will be no Rain Barrel Workshop. It was determined that the materials were becoming too expensive to sell them at a good price.
- Nancy needs helpers for the Secret Arboretum workdays. She determined that it would be better to start these in May. See Nancy if you are interested.
- Sandy Reinhardt will be chairing the "Right to Read" program at Whittier School. It was suggested that we use Christa's Monarch book to read as part of it.
- Reschedule date for the Winter Tree ID is March 22.
- The Fostoria Farmers Market will have a booth for the Master Gardeners available to answer gardening questions. Need some volunteers for this soon. See Carol Kinn for details.
- Check the March Newsletter for other events happening

Recognition Dinner will be April 14th. You can register online for this event and send your money to Marilynn Beltz. The cost is \$20 a person. Interns do NOT have to pay.

The Pot Recycling program is moving forward. Nancy, Cathy, Kenn, Lori, and Cheryl will be doing a meeting with Ed Romanowski to discuss the program.

Call or email Dick Deerhake for plots at the Demo garden. The newest info on Community Garden sites were E. Main Cross (which floods all the time) and the Family Center (a better site). There is still a lot of planning and work involved before this program becomes active. More information will be forthcoming as available.

Ruth of the Speakers Bureau commented that the demand for speakers has greatly increased this past year. It was suggested that a waiting list be developed for future dates since the demand is more than the availability of speakers. Also, Ruth indicated that she is to forward the profile sheet to Nancy for review by the Interns. Ruth has had 19 speakers sign up to date. Feasel's will be hosting speakers from the MG program on several topics this year. Get with Ruth on the schedule.

Marilynn Beltz still needs volunteers for WFIN radio show this year. She added that the MGV Interns were welcome to shadow the Perennial Mgs. It would be an opportunity to observe how this program works.

Linda Dyar is still missing a few hour sheets from some member for 2010. You are urged to get them in soon. Also, please remember to turn in changes to your email address, telephone #, or home address so she can keep records updated. MGV Apparel can be ordered through Barb Sherman

If you are a coordinator for an MGV event, please be sure to forward any updated information to Kay so it can be printed in the newsletter. Any articles of interest are always welcome.

Four Star Greenhouse (Proven Winners) was elected as a field trip in April. Look for details online.

Master Gardener Volunteer Meeting Minutes—continued

(Continued from page 10)

The Workstation Hours are now being printed in the Monthly Newsletter. Please contact Cathy Zernechel via phone or email for availability of times.

See Dianne Solis about signing up for the Leisure Living Show which is April 1-3. You may also sign up online. Still waiting for info on booth location at the Cube.

Tracey Pierce has the “Let’s Go Gardening” scheduling available online at the MGTV website if you want to sign up. She has contacted all the places participating about the May 7th date and all were okay on that.

Other points of interest

- NW Ohio Glad Society will be holding their sale this Sunday
- Ruth observed 75 buzzards by the river this week. She also showed off a planting pot she received for a presentation she gave.
- Hancock County Clearing House will be holding their annual garage sale at Brinkman’s off Bright Rd the weekend of 3/19. They will be accepting donations there next week.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Cathy Zernechel, Secretary

Seedling Problems:

Skimpy Root Growth? This won’t be noticeable until you transplant the seedlings. This may be caused by:

- ♦ Poor drainage
- ♦ Low soil fertility
- ♦ Concentration of excess fertilizer salts
- ♦ Temperature too low
- ♦ Insufficient air space in soil mixture

Failure to Sprout? If your seeds don’t even sprout, this may be caused by:

- Temperature too low or too high
- Soil that was allowed to dry out
- Top watering that floated seeds off
- Seeds that were old and poorly stored
- Insufficient contact between seeds and soil
- Toxic substances in soil
- Damping-off disease
- Lack of light for those seeds that need light in order to germinate OR lack of darkness for certain seeds (mostly flowers but also a few vegetables) that need this darkness.

Source:

The New Seed-Starters Handbook by Nancy Bubel.



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