

Green Thumb Prints

Newsletter of the Hancock County
Master Gardener Volunteers

July 2011

*Gardening is our Passion
Education is our Purpose*



WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- **Asian Longhorned Beetle**
- **Hail Damage by Bob Campbell**
- **Petunia integrifolia by Bob Campbell**
- **Meeting minutes and more**

Dates to Remember!

Fridays: 9:00, demonstration garden (or whenever)

Thursday, July 14: **NO MGVS MONTHLY MEETING.**

Wednesday, July 20: WFIN Phone Club, 9:00-11:00.

Wednesday, July 27: Diagnostic Workshop

Upcoming Events

August 3: Green Industry Session 2011. Info will be available soon.

GET WELL SOON AND BEST WISHES TO RUTH FURIATE. WE HOPE YOUR RECOVERY IS SPEEDY!

Coordinator's Corner

by Nancy Kronberg

I'm back from very hot Atlanta. The crepe myrtles were absolutely gorgeous. Fresh peaches were available. The granddaughters were delightful. I'm home until August 1 when I return for one more week. Now it's time to play catch-up here in Ohio!

Regrettably Cathy Zernechel has requested to become inactive for a while. Thankfully her business is doing very well which leaves very little free time. We will need a new secretary. That detail will be handled at the September meeting.

The Diagnostic Workshop is Wednesday, July 27. I have included the flyer in this newsletter. You can register online or send in the form. In any case, you will need to submit the \$25 fee. We do need to have at least 25 attendees to hold the workshop. I will be posting the workshop on the state site and notifying neighboring county coordinators. This should be a very beneficial educational opportunity especially now that the Asian Longhorned beetle (ALB) has been found in Southern Ohio. See the article on page 2 for more information regarding ALB.

I have created a Doodle poll for mgvs to sign up to attend the picnic. If you respond to the poll, there is a link to the map to Tracey's house. You can also contact Tracey for directions. Be sure to bring chairs, table service, and a dish to share. Tracey is serving brats & burgers so an rsvp is important. Please sign up your friend/spouse that will be attending. If you prefer, send Tracey an e-mail saying you will be attending. The link will be sent in a separate e-mail.

I will be creating a Doodle poll so you can sign up to help in the mgv booth at the fair. We will have 3 time slots daily to fill and you can choose as many as you would like! I will be gone Saturday & Sunday helping my mother celebrate her 90th birthday. Thankfully that is in Grand Rapids, Michigan and not Atlanta!

Back to catching up. Doing a little each day while it is cool helps prevent extra stress! I'm not a perfectionist gardener which also helps.

Nancy

Asian Longhorned Beetle Find Means More Bad News for Ohio's Forests, Tree Industries

Sources: Dan Herms , David Shetlar , Cindy Meyer
(OSU Extension & OARDC)



The discovery of Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) infesting trees in Ohio points to a worrisome trend of exotic, invasive pests attacking the state's forests and urban tree resources while potentially dealing yet another blow to nursery and forest-products industries. A wood-boring insect from China first identified in the United States in New York City in 1996, ALB was found on three maple trees at a residence in Bethel, Clermont County, in southwestern Ohio. While the [emerald ash borer](#) (EAB), another invasive beetle that hitchhiked its way to North America from Asia in wooden shipping material, kills ash trees by feeding on the tissue right under the bark that transports water and nutrients, the ALB larva feeds on the interior of trees. Eventually, this causes the trees to lose their structural integrity, literally crumbling apart.

Unlike EAB (which only attacks ash trees), Asian longhorned beetles feed on a variety of hardwood trees, including maple, birch, elm, poplar, ash, horsechestnut and buckeye. Such feeding behavior makes ALB particularly dangerous.

Unfortunately, it is inevitable that invasive insects will continue to colonize Ohio and the rest of the U.S. as global commerce increases, and because agricultural inspectors are spread thinner and thinner due to the increased volume of imports and declining state and federal budgets to support their efforts. According to ODA, if not controlled, ALB could decimate maple trees in Ohio, impacting up to \$200 billion worth of standing timber, adversely affecting maple sugar processors, damaging the state's multi-billion dollar nursery industry, and diminishing Ohio's popular fall foliage season. The U.S. Forest Service estimates there are more than 7 billion board feet of maple in the state.

The mere discovery of ALB in Ohio could have an immediate impact on the economy. Whenever this type of invasive insect is discovered, there follows a cascade of quarantines and restrictions on wood and tree products. This has a major influence on nursery production companies, forest-products companies, landscape tree care companies, etc. If infestation is discovered early enough, it is possible that successful eradication can be done as in the Chicago area."

Unlike unsuccessful eradication attempts for EAB in Ohio and other infested states, ALB is being effectively contained in the other four states with known infestations (Illinois, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York) and in Toronto, Ontario in Canada.

ODA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) are now surveying the southern part of Bethel and the surrounding area to determine the extent of the infestation there. Crews will inspect tree species susceptible to ALB for signs of the insect, employing ground surveyors and specially trained tree climbers.

What citizens can do to help

Federal and state officials are asking residents to help minimize the spread of ALB and other dangerous in-

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Asian Longhorned Beetle Find—Continued

(Continued from page 2)

sects by not moving firewood (where larvae can hide unseen), choosing instead to obtain firewood locally when going camping or enjoying other activities outdoors.

Community members can also help by being vigilant, checking their trees for symptoms of Asian longhorned beetle, and contacting the Ohio Department of Agriculture or OSU Extension if they find suspicious beetles or signs of an infestation. In fact, the find in Clermont County was made possible by a homeowner who noticed something was wrong with his maple trees and contacted a forester with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources."

USDA is also enlisting the help of private citizens, the nursery and landscape industries, and natural resources professionals as "beetle detectives," encouraging them to look for signs of ALB in their neighborhoods. Details on how to become involved are available at <http://www.beetledetectives.com>.

Residents who think they know of an ALB infestation are encouraged to call ODA's toll-free ALB hotline at **855-252-6450**.

Community members in southwest Ohio who have questions about this beetle and its impact can call OSU Extension's Southwest Ohio Asian Longhorned Beetle Information Line at **513-946-8980**.

Identifying the beetle

Signs of ALB infestation include perfectly round exit holes (about 3/8 to 1/2 inch in diameter) made by adult beetles on the bark as they emerge from trees; notches or pockmarks on tree trunks and branches where female beetles deposit eggs; frass (wood shavings and sawdust) produced by larvae feeding and tunneling; early fall coloration of leaves or dead branches; and running sap produced by the tree at the egg-laying sites, or in response to larval tunneling.

Most active during the summer and early fall, adult ALBs are 1 to 1 1/2 inches in length; have long antennae banded in black and white (longer than the insect's body); have a shiny, jet-black body with distinctive white spots; and may have blue color on their feet.

For photos of ALB, infestation symptoms and additional information, go to <http://www.beetlebusters.info>.

DISCONTINUATION OF WORKSTATION

By vote at the June MGV meeting, the group decided to discontinue manning the workstation. Workstation hours ended June 27th.

NO MEETING!!

No July MGV Monthly Meeting.

Next get-together will be the August 11
annual picnic!!!!

Watch for e-mail with sign up link!

WHAT THE HAIL DID TO THE FLOWERS

UNFORTUNATELY FOR MANY RESIDENTS OF FINDLAY, HAIL STONES THAT HIT THE NORTH END OF FINDLAY MAY 25TH (2" IN DIAMETER). STRANGELY, AT BOB CAMPBELL'S HOUSE, THE ONE THING THAT SUFFERED NO DAMAGE WAS THE BLUE GLASS GAZING BALL!



CORAL BELLS, BENT/BROKEN (PARTIALLY RECOVERING)



RUGOSA ROSES, A FEW BENT OR BROKEN TWIGS (BUT REMARKABLY STRONG AND STURDY ON THE WHOLE)



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WHAT THE HAIL DID TO THE FLOWERS—Continued

(Continued from page 4)

ORIENTAL LILIES (SHEARED AT TOP, SHREDDED DOWN THE MAIN STALK)



MONKSHOOD (HALF TAKEN OUT, BUT NEW GROWTH STARTING)



ASIATIC LILIES, SHEARED AND STRIPPED, LOST FOR THE SEASON



HOSTA DAMAGE (1-2' GROWTH, LEVELED TO THE GROUND, BUT LOOKING MUCH BETTER AS OF JUNE 16TH)



GERANIUM PSILOSTEMUN (2' TALL ON MAY 25TH, THEN TAKEN TO THE GROUND. NEW 1' TALL CLUMP AS OF JUNE 16)



(Continued on page 6)

WHAT THE HAIL DID TO THE FLOWERS—Continued

(Continued from page 5)

HELIOPSIS 'SUMMER NIGHT' (DEVASTATED AS OF MAY 25TH, ALMOST A FULL RECOVERY BY JUNE 16TH)



HIBISCUS 'BLUE RIVER II' (FIRST GROWTH COMPLETELY WIPED OUT. AS OF JUNE 16TH, 2' TALL WITH 2' SPREAD; PROBABLY LATER BLOOMS, MAYBE NO RE-BLOOM THIS SUMMER)



LADYBELLS (CLIPPED BUT COMING BACK)



KNOCKOUT ROSES (A LITTLE MORE KNOCKED OUT THAN THE RUGOSAS!)



HYBRID TEAS (THE LEAST STURDY, THE MOST DAMAGED OF MY ROSES; SET BACK AT LEAST A MONTH)



A FERN TAKEN DOWN BUT GROWING BACK NOW



(Continued on page 7)

WHAT THE HAIL DID TO THE FLOWERS—Continued

(Continued from page 6)

SUNDROPS (2/3 OF FIRST FLUSH DESTROYED; LATE SUMMER RE-BLOOM MAY DO BETTER)



HOSTA DAMAGE (1-2' GROWTH, LEVELED TO THE GROUND, BUT LOOKING MUCH BETTER AS OF JUNE 16TH)



Mark your calendar . . .

Green Industry Summer Session 2011

Registration materials will be available soon. Someone will need to take charge of organizing driving as Nancy will be out of town.

Timeline at a Glance

August 3, 2011				
11:00 a.m. Registration & Light Lunch		11:45 a.m.—12:45 p.m. Key Note Address: Matt Ross, OCC Urban Agriculture		
TRACK:	PESTS	THE PLANTS	DIAGNOSTICS	WORK PLACE SAFETY
1:00 p.m.—2:00 p.m. 15 Minute Break	How Herbicides Work Joanne Kick-Raack	Top 10 Sustainable Landscape Ideas Dr. Laura Deeter	Bio-based Insecticides Dr. Dave Shetlar	Industry Safety Gary Hanson
2:15 p.m.—3:15 p.m. 15 Minute Break	What's Your Label IQ? Joanne Kick-Raack	The Seductive Life of Plants and the Gardeners that Love Them Matt Ross	Difficult Clients & Difficult Diagnostics Tim Malinich	Industry Safety Gary Hanson
3:30 p.m.—4:30 p.m. Session Ends	Mode of Action Dr. Dave Shetlar	Oak Genera Dr. Laura Deeter	The Best & the Worst of 2010 Tim Malinich	Regulations Update Mark Fowler, PUCO Transportation

Master Gardener Volunteer Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 9, 2011, 7:00pm

Bill Jones called the meeting to order with 33 members present. Bill made some interesting comments regarding the grafted tomatoes they will be monitoring in the Demo Garden this year. Marty Davis was thanked for his presentation on Straw Bale Gardening.

Cathy Zernechel...no report. Plant exchange was scheduled last month

Bill and Anita Lanning reported the Treasurer's balance. Thanks were given to Ruth for all her hard work on lining up presentational speakers. It has made a lot of money.

Coordinator's Report:

Pam and Richard will be helping with Third Grade Days at Van Buren State Park.

Nancy is setting a date for the Interns to review exams and sharing portfolios.

An all day diagnostic workshop will be held at the OSU Extension office on 7/27. Sign ups will be available online soon. A minimum of 25 people must be in attendance for this to happen. Cost is \$25.

Nancy has plants to share. See her after the meeting.

Sign ups for the Hancock County Fair will be available online.

See Nancy if you did not get a mug. She has extra for sale as well if you want more.

Updates on changes at the OSU Office include Gary Wilson taking an early retirement. His last day will be August 31st. He will be greatly missed. The MG program is slated to continue. More info on other changes will be forthcoming as they become available.

Cathy Zernechel reported that the pot recycling program with Feasel's and H&O was very successful for June. Cathy Brugeman reported that the contributions of containers filled the bins about 90 percent. It would be nice if for the rest of the summer, if we could have at least one MGV available at the recycling site to help with containers. The following dates available are 7/9, 8/6, 9/10. And 10/1. The hours would be from 10 – noon.

Dick Deerhake indicated that plots were planted at the Community Garden site. There are still plots at the Demo Garden still available.

Ruth said that the MGV presentation at Feasel's is 7/9 on container gardening

Marilynn Beltz is urging more people to volunteer for WFIN. The volunteers for June 15th is Nancy Kronberg and Barb Phillips. Pam McCloud will be joining them.

See Linda Dyar for any changes to address or email address, phone number, etc.

Barb Sherman indicated that order forms are available for MGV apparel.

Email Kay for any items of interest for the newsletter.

Public Library Liaison, Sharon Hammer-Baker indicated that August and October were still open for presentations. The topic is open on what you want to do

An interesting point of interest for a field trip was the Culinary Vegetable Institute in Milan, Ohio. They take a tour of their gardens and serve you lunch. The cost is \$25. More information will be forthcoming.

It was elected by the majority the Workstation will be discontinued as of the end of June.

The Brown Bag Training on 9/8 will be given by Marilyn Beltz on Houseplants. Plan to attend.

The MG picnic will be at the home of Tracy Pierce on August 11th at 6:00PM.

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 PM

Respectfully submitted

Cathy Zernechel, Secretary

Petunia integrifolia – Growing a Parent Plant

- Bob Campbell

With all the beautiful hybrids available, why go back to a parent plant? But that's what I did this year for the edging around my Sidewalk Bed.

According to The Plant Book, petunias are at the top of the list for intense selection by plant breeders; “Interestingly, from what they have revealed of their work, it seems to have been concentrated almost entirely on the one hybrid combination (*Petunia x hybrida*).” And, it adds, *P. x hybrida* “is believed to have originated as a cross between the white-flower *Petunia axillaris* and the pink to purple-flower *P. integrifolia*.”

I suppose it was partly curiosity that led me to this parent plant. I had grown some of the hybrid petunia children before. But what was the parent like?

And in part, it was good salesmanship on the part of J.L. Hudson Seed Company. Under *P. integrifolia* came this description: “Flowers an intense magenta with an almost black throat. Fast growing annual, prolific bloomer, non-stop violet flowers one inch wide from May thru first frost. Needs no deadheading.”

I liked just about everything in that description. I liked the idea of a black throat to temper the “intense magenta”. Fast growing is good. You want your edging to frame the picture of your bed as quickly as possible. May thru first frost is ideal for an edging plant, and is one of the reasons I've often gone with annual Vinca. Best of all, as one who must guard against too much bending, I welcomed the words: “Needs no deadheading.” One reason I had discontinued growing the hybrid petunia children was that deadheading was often recommended.

I was convinced, and sent in my seed order. I planted them indoors in March, allowing 10 weeks growth before planting outdoors. Hudson says they germinate in 1-3 weeks, and bloom in 90 days. I had close to 100% germination in just under a week, and had to thin them out by April 3rd. I had no problem with disease, and got to see a few blooms inside by late April. I transplanted them in mid-May and they



began their fast growing right away, providing some bloom by the first week of June. As of June 17, as you can see in the pictures, they were doing their job of framing the Sidewalk Bed.

Given our ugly wet May in 2011, I worried about some of the warnings of possible problems set forth by J. L. Hudson: “**Possible Problems:** Aphids, caterpillars, leaf miners, gray mold, bacterial soft rot, various leaf spots, cucumber mosaic virus, and impatiens necrotic spot virus.” So far, as June nears an end, none of these have materialized. They may still do so, of course. As nature keeps reminding us, we can never be sure about gardening outcomes!

What has materialized so far is a parent plant filled with possibilities for contributing to a flower bed!

One of the problems with hybrids as edging plants is that they can be overwhelming.

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Petunia integrifolia – Continued

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Hybrid petunias can be two inches wide. In containers, they can be an asset. But *En masse*, they can be gaudy! It all depends, of course, on your taste. But what I like about *P. integrifolia* is the way that it is underwhelming. The one inch blooms are just the right size, the black center tempers the glare, and it's nice to see some foliage space between the blooms. The edging calls attention to the whole garden bed, but does not take its place. It draws you in, but lets you go on to see what else is there.

The Plant Book lists another important asset. *P. integrifolia* “is a weather – and disease-tolerant species...” I'm not sure Hudson would agree with the latter assessment. But after the May 25th pounding by 2” hail for twenty minutes, I can vouch for the first half. Most all my plants suffered damage - some minimal; some severe; and in the case of one lilac bush at least, some fatal. But this parent plant, *P. integrifolia*, was a survivor. Some tomato beds in our north end were completely wiped out. But this plant was “weather-tolerant” and more importantly, hail-tolerant. I found no damage whatsoever to deal with.

Maybe the hybrids would have come through the same way. But I wonder if perhaps more strength abides in the parent species, which have a few million years under their belt for dealing with nature's adversities, than with the hybrid children which have only been around a century or two, or sometimes less than a decade.

Resources:

The Plant Book – The world of plants in a single volume, James Mills-Hicks, Publisher, 2001.

(First published in 1997 as *Botanica*)

The 2011 Ethnobotanical Catalog of Seeds, J.L. Hudson, Seedsman, P.O. Box 337, La Honda, California, 94020 USA; www.JLHudsonSeeds.net. (Seed as well as information source)



The Master Gardener *Green Thumb Print* is a publication of the Hancock County Extension Office, 7868 Hancock County Road 140, Findlay, OH, 45840, 419-422-3851. The Master Gardener Coordinator is Nancy Kronberg.

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Keith L. Smith, Ph.D., Associate Vice President for Agricultural Administration and Director, Ohio State University Extension TDD No. 800-589-8292 (Ohio only) or 614-292-1868



Diagnostic Update for Master Gardener Volunteers

What: Hone your diagnostic skills and learn more about diagnosing plant problems with this one-day class. The class includes presentations as well as hands-on samples that provide an opportunity for learning more about specific insect and disease problems. Participants will be given a chance to identify plant samples and learn about the specific problem. Each *county* in attendance will receive a copy of Whitney Cranshaw's "Garden Insects of North America." This 656 page book has lots of great color photos of many common pests that we come across on the helpline.

When: Wednesday, July 27, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Where: Hancock County Ag Service Center, 7868 CR 140 Findlay

Topics include: Becoming part of the national First Detector network, diagnostic skills necessary to work on the helpline, and hands on diagnostics in the afternoon. Participants completing this course will be Ohio First Detectors. Learn more about the program at <http://ppdc.osu.edu>

Cost: \$25.00 includes lunch, snacks, and any materials

Space is limited so register now!

6 credit hours are available to Master Gardener Volunteers for advanced training.

Diagnostic Update for Master Gardener Volunteers

Deadline to register: Wednesday, July 20, 2011

Register online: <http://go.osu.edu/MGVdiag>

Make \$25.00 check payable to: Hancock County Master Gardeners Inc.

7868 CR 140 Suite B, Findlay, OH 45840

Questions: Call 419-422-3851 or e-mail: kronberg.3@cfaes.osu.edu



Name _____

Telephone _____

Address _____

Email (print) _____

Please indicate any special dietary or other needs you have:

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