

Green Thumb Prints

Newsletter of the Hancock County
Master Gardener Volunteers



March 2011

*Gardening is our Passion
Education is our Purpose*



WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- **Seed Damping Off**
- **Honeyberry, an Intriguing Plant by Robert Campbell**
- **Website & Events Update**
- **Snow, Frost, Cold Weather, More**

Coordinator's Corner

—By Nancy Kronberg

Enough winter precipitation!

Lots of advanced training opportunities are scheduled. There's still time to come to "Ready, Set, Sow" on Tuesday, March 1 (6 - 8 pm). Dick Deerhake and I will be the instructors. There are even a few door prizes!

At the February meeting I quickly went through our updated website. See page 8 for a recap.

I have attended two workshops recently, Camtasia Studio and Moodle. I will be using both to put together some advanced mgv training modules that can be accessed from your computer. I will also be revising the recordings of the training classes so they can be used for review. So much to do...

Stay safe,
Nancy

Dates to Remember!

See page 8 for detailed information on finding these events!

Saturday, March 5: Spring Garden Preparation, Pat Flinn, Oakwoods, 10:00. Register w/Park District (419-425-7275)

Wednesday, March 9: Ash Wednesday

Thursday, March 10: Brown Bag Presentation, 6 pm, Ext. Office, Cathy Z., Growing Vegetables.

Thursday, March 10: MGV Monthly Meeting, Extension Office, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 13: Daylight Saving Time Begins

Tuesday, March 15: Rain Garden Workshop Session 1, Extension Office, Cheryl Rice 6:30 pm Free!

Wednesday, March 16: Northern Ohio Small Fruit School, Extension Office, Steve Prochaska, \$10 fee

Wednesday, March 16: WFIN Phone Club, 9:00—10:30; starring Dick Schweitzer & Bill Lanning

Thursday, March 17: St. Patrick's Day.

Saturday, March 19: Art of Gardening, Lima.

Tuesday, March 22: Winter Tree ID, see page 3.



Northern Ohio Small Fruit School

March 16, 2011

12:45 pm - 4:15 pm

OSU Extension - Hancock County
7868 CR 140, Suite B
Findlay, Ohio



Program Topics:

- ❖ Getting Started Growing Small Fruit - The Basics
- ❖ Strawberry Production at Polter's Berry Farm
- ❖ Drip Irrigation for Small Fruit Production
- ❖ Sources of Small Fruit Plants
- ❖ Additional Information on Fruit Production



Speakers:

Steven Prochaska, Associate Professor - OSU Extension, Crawford County
Steve Polter - Polter's Berry Farm
Dan Kamburoff - Columbus Irrigation Co., LLC.

Program cost: \$10.00 Payable at door

RSVP to:

kronberg.3@cfaes.osu.edu or call (419) 422-3851
Or register online at
<http://hancock.osu.edu/topics/master-gardener-volunteer-program>



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Seedling Damping Off

One of the first problems of the season in the home vegetable garden is the disease known as pre-emergence or post-emergence damping-off. When damping-off occurs, you don't get much warning. Your first sign that the problem has hit your new plants is the total collapse of a few seedling, the green leaves are still intact, but the stem has characteristically withered away right at soil level. Young seedlings are the most vulnerable.



Fungi in the soil attack seeds and seedlings as they begin to germinate and grow. Pre-emergence damping-off occurs when the seed or seedling dies before it reaches the surface, whereas post-emergence damping off occurs when the seedling emerges and grows to a height of an inch or two, then wilts and dies. Plants that are attacked by these fungi but do not damp-off are often stunted. A constricted stem at or just below the soil line is a sign that the plant underwent a fungus attack during the growing season.

Once a seedling has been attacked by the damping-off fungus (actually, there is a complex of microorganisms, any of which may cause the trouble), it can't be revived. The lifeline between root and stem has been cut off. However, you can try to prevent the problem by following several practices.

Cause

Damping-off is caused by several fungi including the water molds such as *Phytophthora* and *Pythium*. These fungi occur in all soils, are water loving organisms, and thrive in wet or poorly drained soils. Slow-growing or weak plants are more susceptible to damping-off than vigorous fast-growing seedlings. If the plant can grow roots faster than the fungus can decay them, the plant will survive and be healthy.

Control

- Maintain good air circulation around seedling by keeping the soil level high in the growing containers and thin seedlings to avoid overcrowding. A fan placed near your plants helps to keep the air moving.
- Avoid overwatering. Water from bottom only.
- Sow seeds in a sterile medium such as finely milled sphagnum moss or vermiculite. Soil can be heated to kill pathogenic organisms in the soil. Place soil 3-4 inches deep in a pan and preheat the oven to 200o F. Place the soil in the oven and check the soil temperature occasionally with a meat thermometer. When the soil temperature reaches 160o F, turn off the stove and keep the oven door closed for 30 minutes. This procedure will pasteurize the soil rather than sterilize the soil. Soil that is sterile is much more susceptible to recontamination by plant pathogens. Do not mix unpasteurized soil with pasteurized soil. Surface sterilize tools, work tables, and containers with a weak solution of sodium hypochlorite (1 part household bleach + 9 parts water) to prevent contamination of soil.
- Presoak seeds in a small amount of water containing one or two crushed garlic cloves (garlic has fungicidal properties). You can also treat seedlings with a garlic spray (Blend one clove of garlic with one quart of water and strain). Seeds often can be purchased pre-treated with fungicide. Packages having seed treatment will be clearly marked. If not already treated, a fungicide can be added to the seed packet.
- Sprays of chamomile or nettle tea are sometimes used on seedlings to help prevent damping-off.

Sources:

University of Vermont Extension, Department of Plant and Soil Science
The New Seed-Starters Handbook by Nancy Bubel

Something has injured the bark on some of my small trees and shrubs this winter. What could be causing this?

You may see rodent injury to trees and shrubs in the spring, especially if there has been snow cover over the winter. Ornamental and fruiting plants often become a food source for mice, voles, and rabbits when their normal food supply is covered with snow. Rodents will feed on the bark and young stems of apple, crabapple, roses, barberry, hawthorn, euonymus, viburnum, mountain ash, and other woody plants. Damage can be extensive, and complete girdling of trunks and main stems can kill plants, while partial girdling creates wounds for borers and disease organisms to enter, not to mention general weakening of the plant. You can protect stems and tree trunks with hardware cloth formed into cylinders or plastic collars placed around them. Rodent repellents are also available that can be sprayed or painted on trunks and stems. (Source: OSU Plantfacts)



Close-up of vole injury on an apple tree

New Online MGV course!
Counts as advanced training



INTRODUCTION TO DIAGNOSTICS FOR MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS

Approaches to Plant Pest Diagnosis

Sponsored by the North Central IPM Working Group
Developed by Denise Ellsworth, OSU Extension and
Sarah Ellis, OSU Department of Plant Pathology



About the Course:

"Introduction to Diagnostics" was created specifically for Master Gardener Volunteers, to help in understanding the steps involved in plant pest diagnosis. Consisting of narrated PowerPoint presentations, handouts, fact-sheets and other resources, "Introduction to Diagnostics" will help new and experienced volunteers gain confidence in the diagnostic process. Access this on-line course at your convenience anywhere you have internet access. Upon completion, participants will earn a certificate for 3 hours of continuing education credits.

To Enroll:

Visit the eXtension website, campus.extension.org and set up an account using the "Create an account" link on the left side of the page. It's free, easy and secure. Once you have that account created, log into the site, scroll through the available course categories and select Master Gardener. Then select "Introduction to Diagnostics," and pay for the course (\$10). Once payment is complete, you can view the course website and get started. Participants will have access to the course for 10 weeks after payment.



Winter Tree ID

"Branches, Buds, & Bark"

This "First Tuesday Advanced Training" will focus on the basics of tree identification with emphasis on winter branches. The session will be held March 22, from 1-3:30 pm at Hancock County Agricultural Service Center, 7868 CR 140 Findlay OH. Cost is \$5 and registration is appreciated.

“HONEYBERRY – An Intriguing Plant”

By Bob Campbell

In the spring of 2010 I read an article by Jennifer Schultz Nelson, of the University of Illinois Extension. A new (to her) plant was intriguing her. Honeyberry, of the Honeysuckle family, produces berries similar to blueberries in color and taste. Unlike many honeysuckles, it is not considered invasive. Its “soft grey-green foliage,” she adds, “is a nice addition to the landscape.”

As one who loves the blueberry taste, I had tried to grow blueberries a few years ago. But their love of acidic pH went counter to my Findlay alkaline soil and required constant corrective soil amendment. My amended soil was also too clayish for them. And after a couple of years, they died. I tried replacing them with serviceberry, which requires a little higher pH, but also did not like my clay-based soil. It hung in three or four years, but did not prosper or produce and eventually died.

Honeyberry intrigued me as it did Jennifer Nelson. Honeysuckle has taken well to my soil, and I thought that here might be a plant, producing blueberry-tasting fruit, that actually likes me and my soil!

I planted two last year. The garden catalogues all stress that Honeyberries are not self-fertile, and at least two varieties must be planted near each other. Logee’s, from whom I purchased mine, offer *Lonicera caerulea* var. *edulis* ‘Blue Moon’ and *L. caerulea* var. *edulis* ‘Blue Velvet.’ At maturity they will be three to four feet tall and wide. Both are late bloomers, flowering in May with fruit ripening in July and August. Both are hardy to Zone 3. Territorial Seed Company offers *L. caerulea* var. *edulis* ‘Berry Blue’ and ‘Smokey Blue’, the first growing to eight feet tall, the latter to three or four feet. Berries Unlimited may well be the leading grower of Honeyberry, offering in 2011 eighty-one varieties.

I have no success story at this point. Nor any story of failure. The plants were six inches when planted and grew to about a foot their first year. They looked healthy at season’s end, and I hope to taste their first fruits this spring. In case anyone else might be intrigued by this plant, here’s a bit of information.

IS THE HONEYBERRY A NEW OR OLD PLANT?

According to Donna Dawson, Honeyberry (*Lonicera caerulea* var. *edulis*; also known as Edible Honeysuckle) is a native of Siberia, which tells us much about its hardiness. It existed in a wild form in the early Middle Ages. Its fruits were used as food and as medicine for treatment of various diseases. The Russian traveler Vladimir Atlasov discovered honeyberries in the end of 17th century in Kamchatka Peninsula and noted not only their quality but also their hardiness. The berry was also appreciated in Asia for centuries because of its versatility.

Modern researchers have developed many new species. The Soviet Union introduced Honeyberry in 1956 and recommended it for widespread gardening. Honeyberry is still relatively unknown in the U.S.A., but has gradually been appearing in more mail-order and web-site garden catalogues.

WHAT DOES HONEYBERRY LOOK LIKE?

Here are two close-ups, taken by Berries Unlimited.



Images by Berries Unlimited, 807 Cedar Lane, Prairie Grove, AR; used by permission

WHAT IS THE pH NEEDED TO GROW HONEYBERRY?

Almost all the growers and researchers agree with Berries Unlimited, that these plants “can grow in a wide

(Continued on page 5)

“HONEYBERRY – An Intriguing Plant” - Continued

(Continued from page 4)

range /of pH/ ranging from 5 to 8.” Jennifer Schultz Nelson says that Honeyberry “tolerates even the poorest of soils.”

The majority indicate a preference for the high side. DNA Gardens says that in their experience: “Honeyberries thrive on prairie soils that are naturally alkaline (high in pH). We are sometimes asked for blueberry plants on the farm and I say, forget blueberries! We can't grow them in our soils and honeyberries make an excellent replacement. Blueberries require a pH of 4.5 to 5.5. Much of our soils have a pH of 7 to 8.” Donna Dawson recommends a “pH from 5.5 to 8.5” but adds that the plant “prefers 7 or more.”

Others are of a different opinion. Berries Unlimited recommends an “ideal pH” of 6.5. Scot Plants Direct goes even further, saying that Honeyberries “need acid soils with a low pH.”

So the verdict is not unanimous, but I'm encouraged enough to give it a try!

WHAT ARE HONEYBERRY'S OTHER CULTURE REQUIREMENTS?

Jennifer Schultz Nelson says that Honeyberry's “two main requirements are full sun, and absence of standing water.” Donna Dawson says “they are not fussy about soil, and grow well in most types, although the best is loose, drained, and well-fertilized.” For much of the United States, she adds, they thrive in sun or shade, although in the northernmost areas of the hardiness range, they prefer full sun.

Berries Unlimited recommends frequent watering. Honeyberry's roots are shallow, usually less than 18 inches deep. ..Honeyberry bushes need at least 1 to 2 inches of water per week /but/ do not apply water after early September unless soil is very dry.”

Berries Unlimited also recommends “mulch four inches deep and twenty-four to thirty-six inches around honeyberry bushes.” Mulching “maintains uniform soil moisture.” It also “reduces soil temperature, and controls weeds.” As it decomposes, it will “improve soil structure /and aid/ in the nutrient uptake of /the/ bushes' root system.” Mulching will “significantly increase honeyberries growth and yield.”

ARE HONEYBERRY'S PRONE TO DISEASE AND PESTS?

Jennifer Schultz Nelson provides this encouraging word: Honeyberry “has no significant pest or disease problems.” Donna Dawson agrees: “Pests and diseases pose no problems.” Scot Plants Direct says that in their experience “No insect or disease damage has been observed or reported.”

As far as disease goes, the plant seems to be equipped with innate protection. DNA Gardens says that research on one variety, Blue Belle, “indicates a very high content of anthocyanins and polyphenols. Polyphenols are plant phytochemicals with antifungal and anti-bacterial properties that defend the plant from disease invaders.”

No pest problems, however, may be an exaggeration. Jennifer Nelson admits: “The local rabbit population investigated my new Honeyberry bushes and mowed one down nearly to the ground.” While this hasn't happened to me /YET!/ she has encouraging news if it does: “As with the honeysuckle bushes near my parents' house, the Honeyberry bush is a survivor, little green shoots rising like a Phoenix from the brown stump the rabbits left.”

Some also warn us that birds enjoy this fruit as much as humans and can quickly devour a crop of it, unless it is protected with netting.

DOES THE HONEYBERRY REALLY TASTE LIKE BLUEBERRY?

I sampled a lot of forums on this question, and have determined that I will have to taste one to find out! As beauty is in the eye of the beholder, taste seems to be in the tongue of the taster.

For many, if not most, the taste of blueberry and honeyberry were almost identical. Often used descriptive words for the honeyberry taste were: blueberries, intense taste of wild blueberries, tastes like a wild blueberry and extremely flavorful, very blueberry-like in appearance and taste, sweet and zesty, like blueberries but with an after taste of honey. DNA Gardens summarizes the majority viewpoint this way: “Honeyberries have been likened to blueberries in flavor but without the seeds. ...You can eat them fresh or with cream and sugar. What ever you do with a blueberry, you can do with a honeyberry.”

A minority registered a different report. One couldn't say what it tasted like, but was sure that it “isn't like that of blueberries.” Some compared the taste to raspberries, or blackberries, or even rhubarb!

(Continued on page 6)

What's so Good about Snow? From the Lawn & Garden Point of View!

While we got soooooo tired of shoveling snow, driving on slippery roads and getting wet feet, the abundant snow fall was a blessing in disguise for lawns and gardens. There are three key ways that snow helps lawns and gardens (so maybe we should not have complained about all that snow).

First, snow acts as an insulator. An adequate layer of snow actually protects less than hardy plants from extreme cold. Roots even continue to grow under the snow when temperatures are not too cold and earthworms and soil microbes keep at work as long as the soil doesn't freeze. A good example is strawberries. Left unprotected strawberries may suffer winter injury when temperatures drop below 15 degrees, but can tolerate below zero temperatures when covered by snow.

Second, snow helps water the landscape during the winter. Evergreen trees require moisture during the winter, and can suffer desiccation during dry periods. Once dormant and nestled beneath a few inches or more of snow, these plants are kept quiet and moist. The water from snow is great for evergreen trees and especially helpful to broadleaf evergreens - magnolia, rhododendron, and boxwoods.

Third, snow delivers an estimated five pounds nitrogen from the atmosphere to the soil. Nitrogen is an important plant nutrient that is found abundantly in the atmosphere and is essential to plant growth. It is actually through the action of lightening that nitrogen becomes available, and is delivered to the soil by rain and snow. That is a benefit that shows up green in the Spring.

For serious gardeners, snow also adds to the beauty of gardens and landscapes. Snow is a beautiful foil for winter landscapes. White snow really makes things like seed heads on ornamental grasses, bright berries on holly and early blooming garden plants like witchhazel stand out.

Source: Iowa State University Extension & University of Missouri

“HONEYBERRY – An Intriguing Plant” - Continued

(Continued from page 5)

Lidia Delafield Stuart, owner of Berries Unlimited, shares the variety of tastes of Honeyberry she experienced as a young person. In an e-mail to me she wrote: “I am from Far East of Russia where the berries grow in the forests and in the gardens - everywhere - so we got used to eating them in June for ever! And I love all of them- sour, bitter, sour-sweet, bitter-sour, sweet ... It is the whole spectrum of taste. Very interesting! The same with the shape of berries and with the size ...”

HOW MUCH FRUIT CAN WE EXPECT TO GATHER FROM THE HONEYBERRY?

There is no absolutely sure prophecy on this one, of course. As with everything we grow, results depend on our particular growing conditions, as well as differences in seasonal weather – amounts of sunshine, rain, etc. But according to Donna Dawson, given reasonably good conditions, we can expect each plant at maturity to bear from five to nine pounds of berries.

CAN HONEYBERRY BE USED AS AN ORNAMENTAL?

Most of the information comes from the growers and sellers. Most of them agree with DNA Gardens: “The bushes make attractive ornamentals. They have yellow blooms that attract wild bees and tame bees. Bees like them which helps pollination. They are broad shrubs, with no suckering. Height ranges from four to six feet depending on the variety.”

Donna Dawson is quite impressed with the Honeyberry's ornamental possibilities. “/It is/ nicely shaped ... /and/ bears beautiful cream white flowers in early spring, followed in early summer by some of the juiciest, most delectable berries you will ever taste. The foliage is an attractive velvety grayish-green, in the fall changing into yellow shades.”

Information Resources:

- Donna Dawson, www.ICanGarden.com, a Canadian internet gardening resource site, article dealing with Honeyberry, 9/20/2010
- [Jennifer Schultz Nelson](mailto:janschult@illinois.edu), Unit Educator, Horticulture, Macon County Unit, University of Illinois Extension, Decatur, IL, janschult@illinois.edu

Information and Plant Resources:

- Berries Unlimited. 807 Cedar Lane, Prairie Grove, AR 72753 USA, <http://www.berriesunlimited.com> (Located near the research facilities of the University of Arkansas, Berries Unlimited is a wholesale grower and licensed propagator of many varieties of small fruits such as Blackberries, Blueberries, Raspberries and Honeyberries. Their website is filled with detailed information on how to best care for these plants.)
- ♦ DNA Gardens, <http://www.dnagardens.com/Articles/Honeysuckles%20storming%20prairies.htm>
- Logees Tropical Plants, WWW.LOGEES.COM
- Scot Plants Direct: <http://scotplantsblog.co.uk/>
- ♦ Territorial Seed Company, <http://www.territorialseed.com>

The Myth of Wound Dressings

"Apply wound dressing after pruning to insure against insect or fungal invasion"

The Myth

Although Alex Shigo debunked the myth of wound dressing decades ago, it still persists, particularly among those with some product to sell. More recently, “green” companies have peddled collagen, pectin, hydrogel, and aloe gel as “natural” tree healers. These hucksters claim that “the surface will heal over quickly and insects are repelled by the bitter taste.” Not one shred of scientific evidence is ever offered to substantiate these miracles.

The Reality

Tree wound dressing: A petroleum-based product used to cover freshly cut wood to inhibit decay or insect infestation. Yikes! Think about this stuff – a petroleum-based product. Does this sound like a substance that would be beneficial to a living tissue? Would you use it to treat a cut on your own skin? If the idea repels you, carry that feeling over to plant health care.

Wound dressings do:

- seal in moisture and decay
- sometimes serve as a food source for pathogens
- prevent wound wood from forming
- inhibit compartmentalization
- eventually crack, exposing the tree to pathogens

Wound dressings do not:

- prevent entrance of decay organisms
- stop rot

For some inexplicable reason, some people are compelled to “manage” a process that plants have evolved over millions of years. Every year, trees form hundreds of tiny abscission layers as leaves senesce and fall. Wounds left from branch breakage are callused over and compartmentalized.

It’s important to recognize that trees do not heal. Instead, they isolate damage through formation of lignified wood that physically and chemically repels invasion. Callus develops at the edge of the wound and gradually expands towards the center. This wound wood remains for the life of the tree; bark does not regenerate itself the same way our skin does.

There may be some benefit in treating wounds of trees particularly susceptible to certain diseases, such as oak wilt. Many regions in the country specify that oaks pruned in areas where oak wilt is a problem should be treated to prevent infection. While research supporting this advice is sketchy at best, it may be justifiable to use a fungicide or insecticide during spring or summer pruning. If pruning is done during the dormant season, the chance of infection is greatly reduced and wound treatment should be avoided.

Finally, the use of wound dressing “for aesthetic reasons” is never justified. In this case, the customer is not “always right.” Let these situations serve as opportunities to educate the tree owner.

The Bottom Line

Like all living organisms, plants have natural resistance mechanisms to fight insect attack or disease. Covering wounds with traditional sealants inhibits oxidative processes, which in turn will reduce callus formation & subsequent compartmentalization. Optimal pruning time for insect- or disease-prone species is in the fall or winter when temperatures and infection rates are lower. If you must prune a disease-prone species when insects or fungi are active (i.e. during the warmer times of the year), a light coating of an insecticide or fungicide may be warranted. Try sterilizing pruning tools. Such measures can help reduce the transmission of certain plant diseases to healthy plants. Control disease spread through preventative management practices such as disposal of contaminated organic material & use of disease-free compost & mulch.

Sources:

- Puyallup Research and Extension Center, Washington State University, Linda Chalker-Scott, Ph.D., Extension Horticulturist and Associate Professor.
- Iowa State University Extension

Hancock County MGV & OSU State MGV Web Site Updates

Link: <http://hancock.osu.edu/topics/master-gardener-volunteer-program> Many of our current events are located on this home page with links to more information.

Look for these links in the center of that page:

[Master Gardener Volunteer Program Information](#): policies & procedures

[Green Thumb Prints Newsletter](#): 2010 & 2011 Newsletters

[Internet Resource Favorites: BYGL, PEST Newsletter, Ohioline, etc](#)

[Events - Hort & Natural Resources](#): Advanced Training Opportunities & MGV Dinner registration

[MGV Service Opportunities](#): Let's Go Gardening & Leisure Living Show Signup, others will be added as necessary (i.e. Hancock County Fair)

OSU State Master Gardener Volunteer website: <http://mastergardener.osu.edu>. This website is also accessible by using the link on our mgv home page. It is in the right hand column under "Helpful Master Gardener Links"

The state calendar is up and running now. I have been adding our events to that calendar with links back to our events page. You can also access events that will be held in other counties.

I also added our demonstration garden to the Projects tab. This is a work in progress as I would like to have pictures uploaded and more individual garden information. Click on the projects tab and then scroll down to the Hancock County Demonstration Garden link. It will take you to more info about the garden including location, Google map to find it, and a link to our county home page. We are now entered in a drawing for \$500 to use in our office.

Entering this information is really very simple. Right now Bill Jones and I are the only Hancock mgvs that can add or update information. If there is a mgv that would like to do this, please let me know and I will get you set up.

While the weather remains questionable, take a break and browse! Please let me know if you have items need to be added. Currently we have two mgvs that don't use internet. They will be updated via newsletters. Registration is always accepted by contacting the extension office. They have all relevant sign up sheets.

2011 MGV Recognition Dinner

**Based upon 2010 Volunteer & Advanced Training hours*

Date & Time: 7:00 pm Thursday, April 14, 2011

Cost: \$20 per person (Interns do not pay/their guests do pay) *Mail registration fee to Marilyn Beltz

Location: Birchaven Hatfield Dining Room (link to directions: <http://www.birchaven.org>)

Link to make reservation online: <http://hancock.osu.edu/events/mgv-recognition-dinner> or call Marilyn

Menu:

Baby spinach with white balsamic vinaigrette dressing, swiss cheese, roasted red pepper, boiled egg and diced tomato.

Entrée Choice of 1: English style New York strip steak w/milenaise sauce or Bacon wrapped pork tenderloin finished w/an apricot barbecue sauce or Grilled portabella mushroom stuffed w/ fresh mozzarella and tomato

Oven roasted new red potatoes with sautéed baby green beans

Key lime pie and flourless chocolate cake w/raspberry preserves

Coffee, iced tea and water

If you prefer the vegetarian choice, call the extension office to register rather than registering online. That choice wasn't finalized when we set up the survey.

Please register by April 14 - we need to turn in count that day!

Master Gardener Volunteer Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 10, 2011

Bill Jones called the meeting to order with 33 members present. Introductions were made with comments on the signs of spring.

No report from the Secretary. Our last meeting was the Christmas Party.

Bill and Anita Lanning reported the Treasurer's balance. The wreath classes held last year made a huge profit.

Coordinator's Report:

- ◆ Nancy went through a review about the Master Gardener Website and gave a demonstration on signing up online for volunteer opportunities and other events.
- ◆ Reviewed the volunteer hour policy to clarify some questions about what was acceptable. Several examples were given.
- ◆ Third Grade Days at VB State Park. Bill Jones, Pam McCloud, & Richard Klingler will coordinate & assist.
- ◆ The date for Homework Central will be forthcoming. Needs some volunteers for this
- ◆ We will be setting up a day and location for Recycling Pots for H&O(located on 12 E). Cathy Zernechel, Lauri Inkrott, and Cheryl Miller agreed to help with the information flyer on this
- ◆ Nancy will get information on where to send additional donations for Secret Arboretum. She also suggested that maybe there could be a field trip to help with some of the clean up work there.
- ◆ Reschedule date for the Winter Tree ID is March 22nd
- ◆ A date will be determined to review exams and policies with the MG Interns
- ◆ Check the March Newsletter for other events happening

Recognition Dinner will be April 14th. Marilyn Beltz reviewed the menu. Reservations for this event are available online.

Dick Deerhake had sign up sheet available for the Demo Garden. Need to let him know the theme for your plot. Commented some about the community gardens. Not much happening yet that way.

Ruth of the Speakers Bureau stated she had 15 requests for speakers. Six of these requests have been filled. She stated that Feasel's was interested in hosting speakers from the MG program on the topics of Pruning 3/5, Wildflowers 4/2, and Container Gardening 5/7.

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

If your volunteer hours for 2010 have not been turned in, be sure to get them to Linda Dyar. There is a volunteer sheet available online at the MG Website or you can do an Excel Spreadsheet. Just be sure you break out the Education, Volunteer, and Workstation hours in separate categories with Total hours for the year.

MG Apparel can be ordered through Barb Sherman.

Four Star Greenhouse (Proven Winners) will be a possibility for a field trip in April. Look for details at March meeting.

Cathy Zernechel passed out a Workstation signup sheet which starts in April.
See Dianne Solis about signing up for the Leisure Living Show which is April 1-3.

Tracey Pierce had 5 places willing to participate this year for "Let's Go Gardening" which starts Mother's Day weekend. It was suggested that we try to do this in just one weekend as opposed to two weekends. The group voted for one weekend.

Advanced Brown Bag Training in March will be "Growing Vegetables" by Cathy Zernechel.

Other comments: Ruth had some plant cutting available. Nancy mentioned that Barb Dolce, a former MG, complimented our group as being very "warm & fuzzy." She misses us!

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Zernechel, Secretary

2011 Workstation Schedule

The blocks that are filled with yellow need volunteers. Contact Cathy Zernechel if you are able to help. Remember that interns need 2 sessions and can be added to a slot with a perennial mgv. I will also try to get this on the website as a survey for signup.

	MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER	ADDITIONAL MGVS (OPTIONAL)
APRIL 4	NORMA SMITH	JOHN ANDREWS
11	CATHY GROSSMAN	BARBARA PHILLIPS
18	JIM BARNHILL	
25	LAURI INKROTT (INTERN)	Need MGV to work with Lauri
MAY 2	NORMA SMITH	JOHN ANDREWS
9	CATHY GROSSMAN	
16		
23	DICK SCHWEITZER	BOB CAMPBELL
JUNE 6	CHERYL MILLER (INTERN)	BILL JONES
13	LAURI INKROTT (INTERN)	
20	JIM BARNHILL	
27		
30		
JULY 11	CHERYL MILLER (INTERN)	BILL JONES
18		
25		
AUGUST 1	BILL JONES	
8	BOB CAMPBELL	
15		
22		
29		
SEPTEMBER 12	BILL JONES	
19	KAY SIDAWAY	
26	CATHY GROSSMAN	



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