

# Green Thumb Prints

Newsletter of the Hancock County  
Master Gardener Volunteers



October 2011

*Gardening is our Passion  
Education is our Purpose*



## WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- **New Species only found in Hancock County—all MGVs must read, Page 2**
- **Secret Donations**
- **Beautiful Blue by Bob Campbell**
- **October Gardening Tips**
- **Over-wintering**
- **Revised Field Trip/Adv Training Page—to be inserted in Policies & Procedures**

## *Dates to Remember!*

**Fridays:** 9:00 or anytime. Demonstration garden.

**Wednesday, October 5:** Nancy's Retirement/ Recognition Dinner. Bring one hot and one cold dish. Extension Office, 5:30 PM.

**Thursday, October 6:** JoAnn Reeds presentation on tulips, Library, 7:00 PM. Preregistration required.

**Thursday, October 13:** MGV Monthly Meeting, Extension Office, 7:00 PM. No brown bag presentation.

**Saturday, October 22:** Nancy's last day.

## **Upcoming Events**

**Thursday, Thursday, Nov., 10:** Brown Bag with Bill Patch on horticulture in the parks.

**Wreath Workshops:** Wed., Nov. 30 (5:30-7:30), Sun., Dec. 4 (1:30-3:30), Tues., Dec. 6 (5:30-7:30). Details next month.

## *Coordinator's Corner*

*by Nancy Kronberg*

It hardly seems like I have been a master gardener volunteer for 13+ years and coordinator for 12 of those. I have enjoyed leading this premier group of volunteers. Under Marilyn's and Bill's leadership, it will continue to thrive. Look for continuation of many opportunities and some new ones. Change for the appropriate reason can and will be positive.

That being said, I urge all of you to dig in and support your new leaders. Stretch your comfort zone. Welcome new challenges. Every step you take increases your knowledge. Remember also I was once a very timid newbie mgv and didn't do public presentations or radio shows. I availed myself to as many seminars and learning opportunities as fit into my schedule and budget. Thus the ever so longwinded coordinator that I have become!

Gardening has become a true passion for me. I am taking very few of my Findlay garden plants with me. The thrill and challenge is in the creation of a new garden appropriate to my new home. I will leave this garden for someone new to enjoy.

I will be hosting a mgv adoption event this Friday from 9 - 11 am. Feel free to stop by 2217 Saratoga and select from garden items and plants. If anyone can use a 35 gallon rain barrel, let me know so I can have it ready. Only charge is a donation to the mgv program if you would like to do so. If that time doesn't work, give me a call and we can make other arrangements.

I'll close this final column with best wishes to everyone. I won't be a stranger as I'll still have email. As soon as I have the new one set up, I'll send it to everyone. I also plan to contribute to GTP occasionally.

I hope to see many of you at the October 13 meeting. Until then, happy fall gardening.

*Nancy*

Horticulture Portfolio.

# A relatively new species found only in this area.

Non-invasive  
Bulb

**Latin Name:** *Semperviridus pollex* 'Nancium'

**Meaning of Latin Name:** evergreen thumb

**Common Names:** Nancy, Nanc, Coni

**Plant Family:** *Kronbergacea*

**Location Seen:**

- Among fellow gardeners and volunteers in between spruces, pines, and firs
- Rummaging through Lowe's back bargain bins.

**Concise Description of Plant and Growth Habit:**

- Evergreen
- Begins early spring indoors under neighbor bedroom illuminating bright lights
- Patiently grows with new dirt diggers
- Unique rhizome-taproot system
- Rapid candle growth when in vicinity of nursery
- Biennial cones

**Pest problems or landscape limitations:**

- High prices nurseries
- Gnomes in fairy garden
- Grows best in Krom. composted soil

**Comments and Notes:**

- May be found wondering among evergreens
- May come knocking on your door if your conifers can be trimmed

**References:**

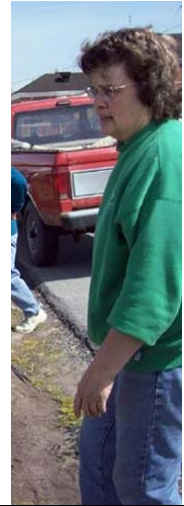
I.M.M.G. "Femina Pinus Cultivars."

Fact Sheet Agriculture and Natural Resources, HYG-1234-56. OSU

Extension 2010. Web 31 October 2010.

Fers, Con I. *Evergreeners*. Saratoga: Kronberg, Inc., 1998. Print.

**Source:** Jeannette Miller



**What a beautiful Fall Plant!!!**



**Ready for wreath making classes!**



**Blossoms entire year. Photo taken in sum-**

**Nancy:** We will truly miss you! Over the years, you have shared with us your enthusiasm, knowledge, horticultural ambitions, and lots of fun. We and Hancock County are very fortunate to have experienced your leadership. Best wishes to you as you begin your adventures in the South.

***Salvia azurea*:**  
**Another Beautiful Blue**  
**By Bob Campbell**



In April I shared some thoughts about my search for true blue. I couldn't include *Salvia azurea* at that time, since I did not plant it until a month later. But now that August is here (and almost September) it is a 2 ½ foot tall plant, just opening its first blooms. And are they ever blue and beautiful!

Also called "Prairie Sage, New Mexico form", *Salvia azurea* was introduced a few years ago by High Country Gardens. It was first "grown from seed ... collected just east of Santa Fe, NM."

I'm a lover of sage both for the scent it delivers with a passing breeze and for the long lasting color it adds to the garden. In addition to these assets, according to High Country Gardens, *Salvia azurea* brings three more.

- *The first is a special blue.* Their catalogue photograph does not do it justice, revealing a dark blue with violet overtones. Their verbal description is better: "The flowers are as blue as the NM sky on a September afternoon." That fits what I'm seeing in my garden, a beautiful sky blue.
- *A second asset is strength:* "These plants are strong stemmed, upright growers..." In its first year of growth for me, only five stems have shot up. But they are strong, especially for their height. One stem did require support after some strong winds went through. I doubt that even this much will be needed next year.
- *Finally, it is hardy to Zone 4, and in words I love to hear, it is happy with "most soil, including clay."* It seems to have taken well to my clay based soil this year. Hopefully it will join the various other varieties of sage that have thrived in it for several years.

If so, it will be a welcome addition, flowering from early fall on, its sky blue a pleasant contrast to the deep pink of the Knockout Rose which it will live beside.

Information and plant source: High Country Gardens, [www.highcountrygardens.com](http://www.highcountrygardens.com). (Mail order catalogues are available, and can be ordered from their website).

**NW Ohio Urban Forestry Seminar (Ohio Division of Forestry)**

Thursday, 11/3 Bluffton University \$15/person

Topics: Proper tree planting, invasive plants, exotic critters, Asian Longhorned Beetle update

Special Guest: Dr. Dan Herms, OSU to talk about his groundbreaking tree/fertilizer research

Sponsored by the City of Ottawa, Ohio

Registration form will be posted on our website and copies will be in workstation

This is inexpensive , nearby advanced training.

# Master Gardeners Donate to Secrest Arboretum

from [newsmedia@cfaes.osu.edu](mailto:newsmedia@cfaes.osu.edu)



September 16, 2010 tornado damage

Wooster's Secrest Arboretum celebrated its continuing recovery from tornado damage on Friday, 9/16, which was the storm's one-year anniversary. Ohio's Master Gardener Volunteers added some icing to the cake. The group surprised Ken Cochran, the arboretum's program director, with a check for \$50,084 to go toward the arboretum's renewal efforts. Coupled with 2,080 hours of in-kind labor valued at \$43,784, the group's total donation to the arboretum equals \$93,868.

"We're very blessed to work for a group of dedicated volunteers who went over and above," said Pam Bennett, Ohio State University Extension's state Master Gardener coordinator. In all, cash donations came from Master Gardeners in 38 Ohio counties.

"It's been quite an experience" to be part of the arboretum's recovery, said Erik Draper, an OSU Extension educator who works with the volunteers, in presenting the gift to Cochran. "We're so grateful for the work you do."

Receiving such support, Cochran said, is "one of the most rewarding parts of my job. (But) it's your arboretum. We're here to facilitate however we might. We use the term 'public-private partnership.' We're all in it together."

An EF-2 tornado hit the arboretum, the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center of which it's a part, and nearby homes on Sept. 16, 2010, causing an estimated \$25 million to \$30 million in damage to the campus alone. The arboretum lost about 1,600 trees. So far, workers and volunteers have replanted some 1,000 new ones.

Total donations to the arboretum's renewal fund stand at more than \$400,000, said OARDC Director Steve Slack, with \$150,000 still needed to hit the fund's goal. Also noted during the ceremony was an earlier \$300 donation by students at the Montessori School of Wooster. "That says a lot about our future," Slack said, "and it's a pretty exciting future."

Details on the arboretum's tornado renewal fund are at <http://go.osu.edu/Ex3>.



# October Gardening Tips

## Flowers

Nights with freezing temperatures return in October. Some gardeners welcome the first killing frost and look forward to more time for relaxing or planning next year's gardens. Others wish to prolong the season and are prepared to cover tender plants whenever freezing temperatures are predicted. Sheets or lightweight tarps spread loosely over plants such as petunias, begonias or impatiens will trap the heat stored in the ground overnight and prevent freezing damage. Sometimes plants protected for one or two nights will keep growing and blooming for several more weeks until the really cold weather arrives. Tropical plants are becoming popular additions to many decks, patios and porches. As the name implies these plants have no frost tolerance and must be brought indoors or covered before any freezing temperatures. Some plants such as hibiscus and mandevillas can be carried over the winter in your home next to a patio door or large window where they will receive good light. Tulips provide more spring color than nearly any other plant and are best planted in October. Drifts of a dozen or more bulbs of one variety make the most impact and can be easily planted by digging the whole planting area 6"- 8" deep, space the bulbs according to the package directions, fill in the soil and water well. Bulb fertilizer may also be incorporated below the bulbs. Garden cleanup in the fall should include removing any diseased plant tops but healthy perennials, ornamental grasses and some annuals can be left standing for winter interest, to catch snow and provide seeds for birds.



## Trees and Shrubs

Fall is a great time to plant trees and shrubs. The new plants will have several months to grow new roots and will be ready to grow early next spring. Consider adding some plants with great fall color such as sugar maple, ginkgo, burning bush or hardy blueberries including 'Northblue', 'Northsky' and 'Polaris'. Trees that bleed or are susceptible to disease if pruned in the spring may be pruned now. This includes maples, birch, black walnut, oaks, honey locust and mountain ash. Prune young trees to a single central leader; remove broken, crossed or rubbing branches; and gradually remove lower branches. Always make proper pruning cuts just beyond the branch collar but not leaving stubs. Continue watering trees, shrubs and evergreens until the ground is frozen. 4" -6" of woodchips, bark or other mulch spread under trees and shrubs will help hold moisture and reduce winter injury if we don't have insulating snow in mid-winter.

## Lawns

Continue mowing as long as your grass is growing. Most modern mowers also do a good job of mulching tree leaves if they aren't too thick. Heavy accumulations of large leaves from oak and maple trees should be raked and composted. If you only fertilize your lawn once a year October is the best month. Even after the grass leaves stop growing in late fall the roots continue to grow and fall fertilization insures that your lawn goes into winter in good condition and helps with early green-up next spring.

## Fruits and Vegetables

The best apples including Honeycrisp TM, Regent, Honeygold, Fireside and Keepsake are available in October and are available at local orchards, fruit markets and grocery stores through mid-winter. If you grow your own apples pick them just when the color and flavor peaks and while they are crisp and juicy. Squash and pumpkins should be harvested when they have bright color and a thick, hard skin. These vegetables will be abundant in farmer's markets and stores and make a colorful and healthy addition to fall dinners. Clean up fallen apples, apple leaves with spots, over-ripe vegetables and tomato plants that had disease problems this year and dispose of them off of your property. Many of the disease and insect pests overwinter in plant material and good sanitation will reduce pest problems next year.

**Source:** University of Minnesota Arboretum

**Website:** [www.arboretum.umn.edu/octobergardeningtips](http://www.arboretum.umn.edu/octobergardeningtips)

# *Over-wintering*

Perennials such as tuberous begonias, gladioli, cannas and dahlias are an integral part of many home landscapes. They put on excellent displays of color until a killing frost. Unfortunately, they will not survive our harsh winter weather outdoors and must be dug in the fall and stored indoors through the winter months. Cultural and winter storage requirements for several commonly grown tender perennials are provided below.

## **How do I over-winter my gladiolus bulbs?**

Carefully dig up the plants with a spade in late summer/early fall. Gently shake off the soil from the bulb-like corms. Then cut off the foliage 1 to 2 inches above the corms. Dry the corms for two to three weeks in a warm, dry, well-ventilated location. When thoroughly dry, remove and discard the old dried up mother corms located at the base of the new corms. Remove the tiny corms (cormels) found around the base of the new corms. Save the small corms for propagation purposes or discard them. Place the corms in mesh bags or old nylon stockings and hang in a cool, dry, well-ventilated location. Storage temperatures should be 35 to 45 degrees Fahrenheit.

## **How do I over-winter dahlias?**

Several days after a killing frost, cut the plants back to within 2 to 4 inches of the ground. Carefully dig up the tuberous roots with a spade or shovel. Gently shake off the soil, then cut the stems back to the crown. Wash the tuberous roots to remove any remaining soil. Allow the tuberous roots to dry for about 24 hours. After drying, place the dahlia clumps upside down in boxes or other containers and cover them with vermiculite, peat moss or wood shavings. Store the dahlias in a cool (40 to 50 F), dry location.

## **How do I over-winter cannas indoors?**

Cut the plants back to within 4 to 6 inches of the ground a few days after a hard, killing freeze. Then carefully dig up the canna clumps with a spade or garden fork. Leave a small amount of soil around the cannas. Allow them to dry for several hours. Afterwards, place the cannas in large boxes, wire crates or in mesh bags. Store the cannas in a cool (40 to 50 F), dry location.

## **How do I over-winter tuberous begonias?**

Carefully dig up the tuberous begonias within a few days of a killing frost. Leave a small amount of soil around each tuber. Cut off the stems about 1 inch above the tubers. Place the tubers in a cool, dry area to cure for two to three weeks. After curing, shake off the remaining soil, then bury the tubers in a small box containing peat moss, vermiculite or sawdust. Store the tubers in an area with a temperature of 40 to 50 F. Do not allow the tubers to freeze.

## **How do I over-winter caladiums?**

Carefully dig up the caladiums when the foliage droops and begins to yellow with the onset of cool fall temperatures or wait until after the first hard frost. Place the plants in a warm, dry location for one to two weeks to cure. Afterwards, cut off the dry foliage and bury the tubers in peat moss or vermiculite. Store the tubers in a cool (60 to 65 F) dry location.

Source:

Iowa State University Extension

Article | Thu, 09/22/2011 - 14:11 By [Richard Jauron](#), [Willy Klein](#)  
[hortline@iastate.edu](mailto:hortline@iastate.edu)



# Master Gardener Volunteers

## Brown Bag Training & Meeting Minutes

### September 8, 2011 - 6:00 PM

Marilynn Beltz presented an informative program on "Houseplants". They began as herbs grown in the home for use during the winter months and has grown to include plants grown for enjoyment and home décor. She showed photos of some of her favorites and how they can add character to your home. Marilynn made us laugh by talking about CHAD - Compulsive, Horticultural Acquisition Disorder - which affects many of us!

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Bill Jones.

29 members were in attendance.

There was no official meeting in July or August, therefore no minutes were read.

Bill & Anita Lanning gave the Treasurer's report.

Coordinator Nancy Kronberg offered the following opportunities:

- Third Grade Days at Van Buren State Park will be led by Pam McCloud & Richard Klingler. Volunteer presenters, help with collection of specimens, set up & take down are needed. There will be 6 presentations lasting @ 25 minutes each. A script is available from Nancy or Bill. (Jeannette Miller has offered.)
- Help will be needed for the retirement party to be held at Brugeman Lodge for Gary Wilson on Sunday, September 18, 2011 from 2-5 PM. Contact Nancy or OSU extension office.
- Nancy announced that her last day as Coordinator will be October 22, 2011. She will be moving to Chattanooga, TN. Nancy will be greatly missed, especially by the newest interns she "fostered" this past year. Marilynn Beltz will be assuming the duties of coordinator along with Bill Jones assisting. Members will be expected to "step up to the plate" to keep our program top notch.
- Members were reminded that it costs \$10.00 / year for the program to list you as an active member. Members placed on the inactive list as of today: Mary Hanson, Cindi Chasse, & Cathy Zernehel.

Dick Deerhake & Bill Jones reported on the Research & Demo Gardens. The grafted tomatoes out yielded the seed grown 3-1. They were very pleased with the results. There are other tomatoes available. Discussion was held concerning the distribution to a charity organization that would be willing to come & pick. Bill & Dick are open to any suggestions for next year.

Discussion was held on the Fair Booth. Several members reported low interest during their work time, but a lot was due to the hot temperature in the building. (It was noted that the infamous "Popcorn Plant" was part of the Fair Booth display and that several attendees asked questions about it.)

"Field Trip & Workshop Notification Policy" updated handouts were gone over & discussed.

A "Work Areas" paper for MG volunteers to list their area of expertise & desire to chair or help was also distributed & gone over.

Speaker's Bureau - Ruth Furiate has several requests from Garden Clubs. If you would be willing to present a program, please contact her.

Wed. Oct. 26 - "Rain Gardens" - Bluffton area,

Thur. Mar. 22 - "Herb Gardening"

April 10 - 6:30 PM - "Container Gardening"

WFIN - September 21 - will feature Bill Jones & Barb Phillips. Barb Phillips will be the chairman next year. (Shadowing by interns or other perennials is always encouraged.)

Membership & Hours - Reminder to turn in hours, change of mailing address, email address, phone numbers, etc. to Linda Dyar.

*(Continued on page 8)*

# Master Gardener Volunteers

## Training & Meeting Minutes

### Continued

*(Continued from page 7)*

MGV Apparel - Barb Sherman reported that the latest clothing order is in. See her after the meeting.

Newsletter - Kay Sidaway was given high praise for her excellent job of doing this. All members were encouraged to contact Kay with an article written by them for the following year.

Public Library/Media Liaison - Sharon Hammer Baker - reported that Jo Ann Reeds will be presenting a program on "Tulips" Thursday, Oct. 6, 2011 at 7:00 PM at the library.

There are 3 "Wreath Making Classes" scheduled to be held at the Findlay/Hancock County Public Library: Wed. Nov. 30 @ 5:30-7:30, Sun. Dec. 4 @ 1:30-3:00 & Tue. Dec. 6 @ 5:30-7:30. Cost is \$15.00 and limited to 25 per class. Volunteers will be needed.

Advanced Brown Bag Training: Bill Patch will be presenting "Horticulture in the Parks" Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM.

Misc. - Elephant Ear Garlic was available to those who ordered it. Bill & Anita offered a "Garden Keeper" book for sale.

The next meeting will be held October 13, 2011 at 7:00 PM. (Bill Jones will be attending the International MG Conference in Charleston, West Virginia and will not be present. That's also Third Grade Days at VB State Park! Going to be a busy day for all - Some will be exhausted!)

Thanks to Barb Phillips, Lauri Inkrott & Jeanette Miller for refreshments.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Pamela J. McCloud,  
Secretary - (Pro-tem)

On page 9 of this newsletter are revised Policies & Procedures which should be inserted into your Handbook. If you have any concerns or objections, please voice your opinions at the October MGV meeting.

**Welcome — Marilyn!**

**Congratulations and welcome to our new Coordinator, Marilyn Beltz. Nancy's shoes will be difficult to fill, but we have complete confidence that you will do a fantastic job! !!!!!**

**Reminder and Thank you!**

Thanks to Cathy Grossman, Kay Sidaway, & Norma Smith for providing refreshments at the October meeting.

**Thanks to Marilyn Beltz** for her interesting presentation on houseplants during the August MGV meeting. This was very educational and enjoyed by all.



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

## **Field Trip & Workshop Notification Policy**

Master Gardener Volunteers will be made aware of advanced opportunities for education and travel in a timely manner.

All pertinent information will be posted on the MGV website home page: <http://hancock.osu.edu/topics/master-gardener-volunteer-program>. For those who do not use the Internet, the information will be available in the workstation. Master Gardener Volunteers will be responsible for regularly checking these sources of information.

The best way to stay on top of what's happening is to attend the monthly meetings on the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM at the Extension Office. Information will also be included in the Dates to Remember section of the Green Thumb Prints newsletter which is published monthly and available online.

Adopted August 2003  
Revised April 2006  
Revised November 2008  
Revised September 2011

## **Education and Advanced Training Stipend**

The Hancock County Master Gardeners, Inc. will reimburse any Active Master Gardener Volunteer up to \$50.00 per year for seminars, courses, and programs which count toward the 6 hours of Advanced Training/Education Service required for recertification. **The coordinator must approve the expense prior to reimbursement. Coordinator will then notify treasurer that expense has been approved and that reimbursement check can be issued.**

## **Honorariums**

The Hancock County Master Gardeners, Inc. operates as a non-profit organization. The organization provides horticultural programs and instruction on a volunteer basis and without charge. Often, a group for whom a program has been presented will wish to provide an honorarium to the organization. All honorariums are to be given to the Treasurer. When an honorarium is provided (typically around \$25.00), it is acceptable for the Master Gardener Volunteer to be reimbursed for travel expenses at the rate of \$0.30 per mile but for not more than the total of the honorarium.

## **Locally Hosted Advanced Training Fees**

Master Gardener Volunteers attending locally hosted advanced training workshops or seminars shall pay the expense portion of the registration fee. The education and Advanced Training Stipend can be utilized for reimbursement of these fees.

Revised November 2008  
Revised September 2011