

July 2016

# Green Thumb Prints



Newsletter of the Hancock County  
Master Gardener Volunteers

*Gardening is our Passion . . . Education is our Purpose*

## WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Flower of the Month (Lupine) by Bill Jones
- Our Favorite Books/Authors
- Gypsy Moth by Patty Woodard
- Info on MGV 2016 Food Challenge Contest
- Alternatives to Volcano Mulching
- Field Trip Photos, Training Info, etc.

## Dates to Remember!

*See MGV Calendar of Events on Page 13. For more information and additional training*

**Saturdays, 8:35—9:00:** Let's Go Gardening on WFIN 1330.

**Saturday, July 9:** Kingwood Center Gardens presentation by designer & author Christina Salwitz.

**Thursday, July 14:** 6:00. MGV Picnic at the Christa Gupta's.

**Friday, July 15:** Diagnostic Workshop by Seneca MGVs.

## Upcoming Events

**August:** Tentative field trip to Schooner Farms and Hancock County Fair. **September:** State MGV Conference.

## Coordinator's Corner

*by Bill Jones*

At the end of June, we had passed the 1200 growth-degree-day mark. The chicory is in bloom along the roads so the squash vine weevil is active in our gardens wilting our squash and zucchini. Also, the ironweed will soon be in bloom and that will signal the sounds of the annual cicada. Brood V of the periodical cicada hatched in eastern Ohio but we were not a part of that event. Thank goodness!

If any of our Interns are having trouble getting their hours in, please contact me so we can get you involved with some of the good opportunities this summer.

With the blooming of the littleleaf linden tree we are experiencing the emergence of the Japanese Beetle and they are here with a vengeance this year. Linda Casey will have an article in the Courier on July 23 discussing this annual summer pest.

Many thanks to Laurie Pressel for her excellent article in the Courier on June 25 on local gardens and arboretums to visit. Thanks to all who provided input into her article.

You still have time to register for the Diagnostic

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## ***Coordinator's Corner— continued***

*(Continued from page 1)*

Clinic in Tiffin on July 15. This should be a very informative training and I plan to attend. Let me know if you want to carpool.

Hopefully, you have been listening to our “Let’s Go Gardening” radio program with host, Vaun Wickerham. If you have missed our shows, they can still be listened to on WFIN.com.

Our annual picnic will be held on Thursday, July 14 at Christa Gupta’s. I hope to see you all there. Remember to bring a hot or cold dish and your own table service and a chair. We will eat at 6:00 PM.

Enjoy the summer and continue to help your friends and neighbors with their gardening questions

*-Bill*

## **MGV Summer Picnic Thursday, July 14 6:00 PM**

**At Christa Gupta’s homestead  
8377 Tawa Creek Drive,  
Findlay**

**Bring:**

One dish (hot or cold)  
Your own table service  
Chair  
Drinks

If you can attend, please let Marilynn Beltz know by July 7 at 419-306-7470 or [mbeltz@woh.rr.com](mailto:mbeltz@woh.rr.com).

Come and enjoy the good company of your fellow MGVs and good food!

## **Lawn Care**

There is not much to do once summer heat arrives except mow the lawn. Continue to mow often enough to remove only one-third of the length of the grass blades each time. Keep the mower blade at 3 inches or higher to help grass plants withstand heat and possible drought.

Be sure to leave the clippings when you mow (unless you have waited way too long and the clippings are so long that they clump). They will decompose rapidly because they are mostly water.

To minimize soil compaction, avoid unnecessary walking on the lawn. Grass is likely to be stressed now, so do not aerate, fertilize, or treat for pest and disease problems while it struggles with heat, humidity, and drought.

Source: Gardening in Ohio,  
McKeown & Smith

**Container plants** can add much beauty to a garden of any size, and they don’t have to be a lot of work if:

- Cluster pots together. This makes watering and grooming go quicker, and water loss will be slowed.
- Look for flowering plants labeled “self-cleaning;” this means you don’t have to deadhead them. Try foliage plants, too, like coleus, sweet potato vine and small ornamental grasses, for easy appeal.
- To water container plants, the rule of thumb to go by that is safe for most plants is to water them when the soil is dry about an inch below the surface. To determine this, stick your finger down into the soil up to your second knuckle and if it feels dry at your finger tip, your plant needs water.

# JUNE FLOWER OF THE MONTH-LUPINE

By Bill Jones



*Lupinus* is a genus that comprises about 280 species. *Lupinus polyphyllus* (Garden Lupine) is a species native to western North America from southern Alaska and British Columbia east to Alberta and western Wyoming, and south to Utah and California. It commonly grows along streams and creeks, preferring moist habitats. It is in the legume family (Fabaceae).

The *Lupinus polyphyllus*, arrived in Britain from North America in the 1820s. Almost a century later, George Russell, a horticulturalist from Britain, started to breed the famous Russell hybrids (*Lupinus X russellii hort*). The *Lupinus polphyllus* originally were of basic colors and had large gaps in the flowering spike. Without the use of modern day plant breeding techniques, George Russell (1857-1951) took to ruthlessly pulling out any plants which he deemed to be unacceptable in growth or display. He spent two decades single-

mindedly trying to breed the perfect lupine, crossing *L. polyphyllus* with *L. arboreus* and one or more annual species (maybe *L. nootkatensis*). Almost all garden lupines today are hybrids of the true Russell hybrids due to their ease of cross pollinating with one another. The garden hybrids are highly poisonous because they are full of toxic alkaloids and should never be eaten.

They prefer reasonable drainage, full sun to partial shade, dislike lime, and need to be protected from drying out. In general they do not require an overly rich soil (in fact, manure rots their crowns), as they have the ability to absorb airborne nitrogen through nodules on their roots. Lupines are not especially long-lived, but can be kept vigorous by dividing them every other year in the spring. Propagation may be by seed or cuttings. Cuttings are the only sure way of propagating a particular form or color you like. These should be taken early in the spring, just as the plants are starting to grow.

Slugs and the lupine aphid are common pests. Mottled or curled leaves may indicate that the plant is suffering from a virus. Plants with the virus should be destroyed. By dead heading the flowers spikes as they start to produce seed, a second and even a third flush of blooms is possible.

The endangered Karner blue butterfly's annual life cycle is closely tied to that of the wild blue lupine, *Lupinus perennis*. About mid-April, wild lupines sprout from rhizomes and forms clumps of flowering stalks. Two generations of Karner blue butterflies are produced each year. The first brood begins around mid-April, when eggs laid the previous summer hatch. Tiny larvae crawl up the lupine stems to feed on the new leaves. Peak bloom is reached by mid- to late May, when flowering lupines may create a sea of blue in the open meadows of oak savannas (Oak Openings in Toledo) and pine barrens. About the time of peak bloom, the year's first brood of Karner blue larvae pupate. Adults are usually flying from late May through early June. During the flowering period, the first-flight adult butterflies lay eggs on or near the lupine plants. The season's second brood of larvae feed through mid-July and the second-flight adults emerge through mid-August, depending on weather conditions.



This butterfly may be seen locally at the Kitty Todd Nature Preserve west of Toledo on Old State Line Road north of Toledo Express Airport .

## Our Favorite Books and Authors

At our June brown bag education we shared some of our favorite books and authors. Many shared that the tips and practices they use were passed down from their parents and grandparents. Most of us like to use Google and Internet search engines for research. Intern Bob Dunson says his Master Gardener Volunteer Handbook is his favorite resource. Linda Laux uses a smart phone application called “My Garden Answers”.

We also like periodical publications. Marilyn Beltz swears by “The Old Farmer’s Almanac” for advice on when to plant. She also likes Ohio Gardener Magazine, which is available through [statebystategardening.com](http://statebystategardening.com). Linda Laux also enjoys this magazine and has purchased it for family members by the state they reside in. Donna Johnson listed Birds and Blooms Magazine as one of her favorite references. It is available through [birdsandblooms.com](http://birdsandblooms.com). Garden Gate ([gardengatemagazine.com](http://gardengatemagazine.com)) is one of Barb Sherman’s favorites. Mother Earth News ([motherearthnews.com](http://motherearthnews.com)) is another magazine mentioned as a reference.

Lone Pine Publishing ([lonepinepublishing.com](http://lonepinepublishing.com)) offers many publications related to gardening. Several of our MGVS like “Gardening Month by Month in Ohio”, “Perennials for Ohio” and “Best Garden Plants for Ohio” by Debra Knapke. You can find these publications in many garden centers and at the link provided above, just follow the “U.S. Titles” link.

Bill Lanning and Dick Deerhake listed “Crockett’s Victory Garden” by James Underwood Crockett as a favorite along with “The New Victory Garden” by Bob Thomson. Bill Lanning also mentioned a book called, “Victoria’s Secret Garden”. While there are several volumes of this book available on Amazon, I feel this is an inside joke between the “Bills”.

Bill Jones uses “Park’s Success With Seed” every year. This book is available though [Amazon](http://Amazon) and has been updated several times. It is a great resource on seed starting.

Other books and authors include:

“Trowel and Error: Over 700 Organic Remedies, Shortcuts, and Tips for the Gardener” by Sharon Lovejoy. Noreen Walters noted that she has enjoyed many of the books by Sharon Lovejoy.

“Illustrated Guide to Gardening” by Readers Digest. This is Cheryl Miller’s favorite.

“Supermarket Super Gardens” by Jerry Baker. John Leiendecker likes this book.

“The Garden Primer” by Barbara Damrosch is Linda Jones favorite.

Marge Miller and Marilyn Beltz mentioned “Rodale’s Illustrated Encyclopedia of Herbs” by Claire Kowalchik. They both mentioned books on herbs by Ortho.

Another Ortho product is “The Ortho Home Gardener’s Problem Solver”. Karla Dennis listed this along with “The Vegetable Gardener’s Bible” by Edward C. Smith and “Annuals, Perennials and Bulbs” by the editors of Creative Homeowner.

“Garden Open Today” and “Garden Open Tomorrow” by Beverly Nichols topped Bob Campbell’s list.

Intern Sherri Federici likes “Putting Food By” by Janet Greene as a reference for preserving her garden

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## Favorite Books/Authors—Continued

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produce.

“The Complete Garden Flower Book: Annuals, Perennials, Bulbs, Shrubs, Climbers” by Catie Ziller was mentioned as well.

“All New Square Foot Gardening” by Mel Bartholomew was Lauri Inkrott’s pick and where she learned to plant tomatoes on their sides in a trench in shallow soil.

Linda Casey noted Cottage Gardens, a Better Homes and Gardens Special Interest Publication as one of her favorites. You can usually purchase these at Meijer or Walmart and is also available at [bhgspecials.zinio.com](http://bhgspecials.zinio.com).

All of these books are available through [Amazon](http://Amazon). Thank you all for your input! Now we can expand our gardening library!

### 3 Rules for attracting Hummingbirds

- **Plant what they like.** If you are looking for new plants for the garden, you might as well use those that are easy to grow, look great and attract hummingbirds. Salvia ‘Black & Bloom’, Monarda, Cuphea, Mexican Bush Sage, Penstemon digitalis and Agastache are excellent plant selections.
- **Protect them.** It may not seem like it, but they do rest and nest. Provide plenty of safe perches, away from the reach of marauding cats, for the birds to rest and stake out their territory. Watch your hummers and you will see that they are attracted to small limbs and bare branches. So don’t prune too carefully; leave a few bare twigs and branches here and there for the hummers.
- **Encourage spiders.** Hummingbirds love to use spider webs when building their nests. The next time you see a newly spun web, leave it be. It may be just the building block your hummingbirds are looking for.

## Refreshment List

Thanks to those who volunteer to bring refreshments to our MGV Monthly Meetings. We look forward to the delicious treats!

August: Sherri Federici  
Lynn Farwig  
Ann Woolum  
Jan Gallegos

September: Not needed

October: Rose Morrison  
Linda and John Leindecker  
Judi Clymer  
Marty Davis

November: Sharon Hammer Baker  
Noreen Walters  
Linda Jones  
Cheryl Miller

December: Christmas Potluck

## Summer Care

- With the onset of summer heat, the organic material in the mulch around perennials and other plants begins to decompose, and the layer will grow thinner. Spread fresh material to maintain 2 to 3 inches in depth. Pull or spray any weeds that may have become established when the mulch was thin.
- Mites may infest plants such as chrysanthemums that are stressed by heat and drought. Look for light stippling on the leaves and fine webbing around stems. Control mites with insecticidal soap or a miticide. Check after a week or two to be sure they have not returned.

**Our MGV Field Trip to the  
Franklin Park Conservatory & Arboretum  
& Columbus Park of Roses on June 14th.**





# The Gypsy Moth

## By Patty Woodard



Trapping of the Gypsy Moth in Hancock and neighboring counties has been on-going since 1998. It also exists in nineteen states from Maine to Wisconsin, south to Illinois and North Carolina. The invasion of the moth was due to an experiment gone horribly wrong in 1869 when an attempt to start a silkworm industry near Boston, MA, failed. The gypsy moth has become a major pest in the northeastern US and SE Canada. The growing cycle of the gypsy moth begins in Aug-Sept. when the female moth lays tan colored egg masses 1.5 inch in diameter, containing up to 1,000 eggs! They are found on tree trunks, outdoor furniture or sides of buildings. The eggs masses winter over and hatch in early spring. The larvae move to the leaves of the trees and begin to eat, mostly at night. Heavy infestation can cause feeding in daylight hours. The moths grow by molting five times for males and six times for females. Feeding occurs in the “instar” stage between each moult, and rises as moults continue. In July, the gypsy moth appears from a cocoon. Both male and female moths exist only to reproduce when the male flying moths find the females (too heavy to fly). After the eggs are laid, both sexes die by September.

The gypsy moth in the larvae stage feeds on hundreds of species of plants in North America. Most common hosts are oaks and aspen. When densities of the caterpillar moth reach high levels, trees may become completely defoliated. Several successive years of defoliation, along with other factors, may ultimately result in tree mortality. Despite over 100 years of presence in North America, researchers are still at a loss to explain and predict the extent of the changes in forest vegetation likely to take place through gypsy moth disturbance. A major concern is the potential loss of economically critical and ecologically dominant oak species. Most studies of forest compositional changes with gypsy moth defoliation indicate that less susceptible species will dominate the forest. So in effect, forests may have fewer gypsy moth problems in the future.



Aerial spraying has taken place over the last 20 years with pesticides in order to suppress outbreak gypsy moth populations. Most treatments are sprayed under joint programs of state governments and the USDA Forest Service. **The number of traps placed in Hancock County and Wyandot Counties in 2016 will be approximately 392, respectively. Placements are mostly dedicated to 2 mile grids.**

### Tip:

Avoid disturbing the soil too deeply, as this can stir old weed seeds to the surface. Try to weed while weeds are still small. Apply mulch to prevent more weeds from sprouting.

# Food Donation Contest



# MGV 2016 Challenge

Help feed the hungry in your community - one garden at a time

Join Ohio MGV groups to feed the hungry in your community by donating garden produce to those who help feed the hungry or food insecure\*. Groups include - churches, agencies, food banks, summer food program, groups, etc.

During the recent Buckeye Summit the CEO Feeding America Diana Aviv notes "no one comes knocking on our door from the grocery store; that is why food becomes the low priority." People have to choose between housing, electricity, medicine and food comes in last.

**800 MILLION** PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD ARE UNDERNOURISHED

**2 MILLION**  
 **ARE IN OHIO**

**14 billion**  
 pounds of food were wasted in 2014

THE **UNITED STATES** HAS ONE OF THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF LIVING IN THE WORLD, BUT **14 PERCENT OF AMERICANS FACE FOOD SHORTAGES**



**OVER 5 MILLION** **SENIORS LACK ADEQUATE FOOD**  
(SOME PAY FOR HEALTH CARE OR MEDICINE INSTEAD)

**HUNGRY CHILDREN** ARE MORE LIKELY TO STRUGGLE IN SCHOOL ACADEMICALLY AND BEHAVIORALLY



**MORE THAN ONE-THIRD OF RURAL AMERICANS LIVE IN POVERTY**  
and are more likely to find themselves in a food desert without access to healthy food

**25-40%** OF FOOD GROWN, PROCESSED OR TRANSPORTED IS WASTED IN THE U.S. EACH YEAR



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## MGV 2016 Challenge—Continued

### Rules - Keep it Simple

- ☐ To participate, register on the doodle poll that will be sent to all counties. Once registered you will receive a copy of *Katie's Cabbage* to share with your group. Use this to engage in conversations, formulate ideas, and to motivate action.
- ☐ Brainstorm with your volunteers, make a plan. Research the groups in your community who are feeding the hungry. Discover their needs and grow food.
- ☐ Produce donated must be MGV connected and donated to feed the hungry.
- ☐ Using a bathroom type scale to weigh your food donations. Measure in pounds (not ounces) round up if needed.
- ☐ An evaluation will be provided at the end of the project. Please keep notes on anecdotes, quotes and take photos so we can tell our story at year's end.
- ☐ Submit your donation poundage on the survey provided on the following dates:

Wednesday, June 1

Monday, August 1

Thursday, September 1

Final Report due Monday, October 31 - Contest Ends

There will be three Divisions based on the size of the MGV group.

#### County MGV Program Membership Size (Check One)

- ☐ Small (1-25 members)  
☒ Medium (26-75 members)  
☐ Large (76 or more members)

**PRIZE - \$500 to one county in each category (sm., med., lg.) to be used in their community garden efforts. Winners must submit a summary of their efforts complete with quotes and photos.**

#### What does MGV connected mean?

This includes your demo garden, your MGV's home gardens, gardens you work on with others for food banks, etc... Food you "glean\*\*" from production fields.

This does NOT include community gardens where others are growing food and donated canned goods.

#### What else can we do?

Consider organizing an event to promote your efforts and allow others to share garden produce. What ideas can you share at May's coordinators' call?

\*Food insecurity refers to families who have to skip meals, limit dietary intake or adjust diets due to limited resources.

\*\* According to Wikipedia: Gleaning is the act of collecting leftover crops from farmers' fields after they have been commercially harvested or on fields where it is not economically profitable to harvest.

**Cultivate your passion for gardening at the  
2016 State Master Gardener Volunteer Conference!**

**Registration is open!**

**Sept. 16-17  
Sheraton Suites  
1989 Front St.  
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio**

**For complete information, go to “Conference at a Glance” at  
<http://u.osu.edu/mgv2016/conference-information/conference-schedule/>**

*Cultivating  
Passion*



**2016 STATE  
MASTER GARDENER  
CONFERENCE**



# **HANCOCK COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS**

## **MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES – JUNE 9, 2016**

Marilyn Beltz called the meeting to order at 7:15 following an educational brown bag session on individual MGVS's favorite gardening reference books.

There were 33 Master Gardeners in attendance.

### Treasurer's Report:

- Lauri Inkrott reviewed income and expenditures for May.

### Coordinator's Report:

- Bill Jones reviewed the link for the WFIN "Let's go Gardening" radio program. The archive for past programs may be found at WFIN.Com. Click on the "Let's go Gardening" tab and the various programs will be listed by date.
- Bill stated that MGVS 2016 interns will be updating numerous MGVS public educational posters which are used at our Fair booth, the community home show and other public events. Posters include Poison Plants, Phenology, West Nile Virus, trees, Japanese beetles and soils.
- Bill stressed it is important that MGVS's keep track (a count) of contacts made with the public during the month in reference to gardening questions.

The MGVS State Conference for 2016 will be held in Cuyahoga Falls, OH on September 16 & 17. The cost will be \$154.

Dick Schweitzer has some miniature roses that MGVS's may have.

### Field Trip

- Final plans were reviewed for the June 14, 2016 trip to the Columbus Conservatory.
- August 12, 2016 (Friday) is the date selected for the trip to Schooner Farms at Weston, Ohio near Bowling Green. Tentative plans are to leave the extension office (car pool) at 8:15.
- Discussion occurred in regard to a trip to Kingswood Garden (Mansfield, OH) on July 9 (Saturday). During this event foliage plants would be offered for sale (\$12 presale/\$15 that day).

### Community Garden

- Karl Farwig discussed a state competition for food produced by community gardens and given to charitable organizations. Karl will be sending us additional information as to guidelines for the competition.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25.

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Miller

# Alternative to Volcano Mulching around Trees

Volcano mulching continues to be an epidemic in the landscape. Did you ever wonder why we mulch around trees?

Myth: “We are protecting the tree and any above-surface roots from the mower and string trimmer.” That is great, but if the mulch is smothering the tree and inviting pests, disease and stress, then the protection is for not.



Myth: “We want to protect the drip line of the tree.” Let’s address the old belief that tree’s roots only reach as far as its drip line. Not true! As quoted in *Arborist News* (1) Tree root systems extend out 2–3 times the drip line, (2) most roots are in the top foot (30.5 cm) of soil, (3) roots extend out about 1.5 times the height of the tree and (4) more than 60 percent of the absorbing root system is beyond the drip line.

Myth: “Adding several inches of mulch each year is good for the tree and smothers out weeds.” Not really. As we just read, most of a tree’s roots are in the top foot of soil, so adding inches upon inches of mulch year after year only buries the roots, causing the tree stress.

## Alternatives to mulch:

If you want a lawn, let it grow up to the tree. Keep your lawn tall to suppress weeds and reduce the need for watering and gently pull any unwanted lawn away from the base of the trunk.

A better option: plant a carpet of groundcover. Sweet woodruff is easy to grow, easy to pull where it is not wanted, has shallow roots and is pretty hardy. In the shade? Opt for pachysandra.



Sedges: Ever see an oak out in a field of grasses and sedges, the breeze softly blowing? It’s stunning. Follow nature and replace mulch with native grasses and sedges.

Or let it go. The less we disturb the soil around the tree, and remember those roots are going way beyond the drip line, the healthier our trees will be.

Sounds like more work. Possibly, yes. But wouldn't you rather invest the time in an alternative to mulch than risk the health of a 30+-year-old oak or maple.

Source: Hortmag.com

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

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For deaf & hard of hearing, please contact Hancock County Extension using your preferred communication (email, relay services, or video relay services). Phone 1-800-750-0750 between 8 am & 5 pm EST Monday-Friday. Inform the operator to dial 419-422-3851.



## 2016 MGCV Calendar of Events (updated 6/26/16)

DATE	EVENT	TIME	COST	LOCATION	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	CONTACT
Saturday, July 9	Kingwood Center Gardens	10:30 - noon	\$12 in advance \$15 at door	Mansfield	Designer & author Christina Salwitz Talk and Demonstration	Call 419-529-6900 MGCVs of Richland County
Thursday, July 14	MGV Picnic	6:00 PM	Portluck	Christa Gupta's homestead	Volunteer	Christa
Friday, July 15	Diagnostic Workshop	9:00 - 4:00	\$35	Serford Vocation Center 793 E. 7th 20A, Tiffin	Review of insects & diseases	Susan Payne 419-447-5017
Friday, August 12	Schooner Farms	9:00 AM		near Bowling Green	Volunteer tentative field trip	Last Innot Gina Giffard
August - September	Fair Booth	Schedule will be provided		Fairgrounds	Volunteer	Marilyn Beitz Bill Jones Norman Walters
September 16 - 17	MGV State Conference	2 days	Varies	Cuyahoga Falls, OH	Cultivate your passion for gardening	<a href="http://usosu.edu/mgv2016/conference-information/conference-schedule/">http://usosu.edu/mgv2016/conference-information/conference-schedule/</a>
Monday, November 28	Wreath Class	6:00 PM		Library 50 North Fitzgerald Rd	Volunteer	Marilyn Beitz
Tuesday, November 29	Wreath Class	1:00 PM			Volunteer	Marilyn Beitz
Wednesday, November 30	Wreath Class	6:00 PM		Library	Volunteer	Marilyn Beitz
Thursday, December 1	Wreath Class	6:30 PM		Upper Room Church	Volunteer	Marilyn Beitz
Saturday, December 3	Festivals Event	TBD	N/A	Festivals	Volunteer	Marilyn Beitz
Sunday, December 4	Wreath Class	2:00 PM		Library	Volunteer	Marilyn Beitz
Tuesday, December 6	Wreath Class	6:00 PM		Library	Volunteer	Marilyn Beitz
Thursday, December 8	Christmas Portluck	6:00 PM	Portluck	Hancock Co. OSJE Office	Volunteer	Margie Miller / Marilyn Beitz