OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

June 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:

Dates to Remember!

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Thursday, June 9: Brown Bag Presentation, 6:00 PM, OSUE (Extension Office).

***Thursday, June 9*:** MGV Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, OSUE.

***Tuesday, June 14*:** Field trip to Columbus, meet at OSUE at 8:00 AM. See Calendar of Events pg 14.

***Monday, June 27*:** MGV Presentation by Cheryl Miller on "Attracting Songbirds," 1:00, 50 North.

***Sunday, June 19*:** Father's Day.

Upcoming Events

Thursday, July 14: MGV Picnic, 6:00 PM, Contact Christa Gupta.

See MGV Calendar of Events on page 14 for more information and additional training.

Coordinator's Corner

by Bill Jones

Hopefully, you are finishing up your planting and beginning to feel a little less pressured to get all of the spring work done. I know I have been slow in getting it all done this year. It is partly due to the weather but mainly due to age.

Our weekly radio program, "Let's Go Gardening" with host, Vaun Wickerham, has been getting good reviews. It is presented each Saturday on WFIN at 8:35-9:00 AM. If you would like to hear the earlier shows, simply Google WFIN.com—Shows—Lets Go Gardening—Bottom of Page: Let's Go Gardening Archives. If you would like to take part in this project, please let me know. We have had 6 MGVs participate so far.

We are planning a day-trip on Tuesday, June 14 to The Franklin Park Conservatory fpconservatory.org, the Topiary Park topiarypark.org and the gardens at Columbus Commons columbuscommons.org, if time permits. Linda Casey has made the arrangements as follows:
Date: Tuesday, June 14, 2016
Time: 8 AM at the OSUE (Extension office) for carpooling
Cost: $11.00 per person

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Coordinator's Corner—Continued

(Continued from page 1)

Lunch is available for purchase at the conservatory or you may brown bag it. Please contact Lauri Inkrott, ainkrott@woh.rr.com, by June 1st if you are interested in attending.

Thanks to all who attended our May meeting at my house and shared in the annual plant exchange. We had great weather and lots of plants to give new homes. The Dietsch's ice cream was enjoyed by all.

The Community Garden is taking shape and thanks to each of you who have helped Karl and Lynn in getting the garden planted. We are competing in a state-wide competition to see which MGV groups can provide the most produce to the needy. Karl will be weighing everything we give to Chopin Hall and other agencies to report to the state project. Your hours in this project not only count toward recertification, but they also help to feed the hungry.

We have seen several instances of black spots on maple leaves resulting from the cool, wet spring. These spots have been diagnosed as Maple Blister and Tar Spot on Maple. The fungal infections may cause the leaves to fall but it won't cause any harm to the tree. To manage the infection, it is advised to rake up the leaves and dispose of them to prevent re-inoculation of the fungus. No treatment with a fungicide is recommended.

Remember to keep a daily record of the number of contacts you make with the public. We want to keep track of the number of questions we answer as Master Gardener Volunteers. Your monthly total should then be recorded on the clipboard at our regular meetings.

Bill

A Better Way to Grow Tomatoes

From Dick Schweitzer

All tomatoes should be grown in cages. You will need to build some good cages. I like cages that are created from concrete wire builders used to make concrete. This wire can be purchased at any lumberyard. Get a piece that is 30 inches wide and 5 feet tall. Use a steel post to secure to cage and keep it from falling over.

In the middle of each cage, dig a hole about 6 inches deep and one foot wide. Put some fertilizer in the large hole. I like to use this for fertilizer: 1/3 cup of sugar, 3 cups of bone meal, and 2 cups epson salts. Place a large handful of the fertilizer in the large hole. Do not use nitrogen which is easy to over do and the plants will get too large. Plant one plant in the middle of each cage. After the soil is very warm mulch with leaves or grass clippings about 4 inches deep. They will take very little water.

As tomato plants grow, cages will keep them off the ground so they don't rot.

This should give you large fruit that is insect free.

June Brown Bag

You are the presenter! Teach us what you have learned from your favorite gardening book. What is one thing that you use year after year in your garden that you have learned from a book? Please bring that book with you and share your knowledge.

Helpful Hints & Tips

- To remove the salt deposits that form on clay pots, combine equal parts white vinegar, rubbing alcohol and water in a spray bottle. Apply the mixture to the pot and scrub with a plastic brush. Let the pot dry before you plant anything in it.

- To prevent the line on your string trimmer from jamming or breaking, treat with a spray vegetable oil before installing it in the trimmer.

- Turn a long-handled tool into a measuring stick! Lay a long-handled garden tool on the ground, and next to it place a tape measure. Using a permanent marker, write inch and foot marks on the handle. When you need to space plants a certain distance apart (from just an inch to several feet) you'll already have a measuring device in your hand.

- To have garden twine handy when you need it, stick a ball of twine in a small clay pot, pull the end of the twine through the drainage hole, and set the pot upside down in the garden. Do that, and you'll never go looking for twine again.

- Clay pots make great covers for protecting young plants from sudden, overnight frosts and freezes.

- To create perfectly natural markers, write the names of plants (using a permanent marker) on the flat faces of stones of various sizes and place them at or near the base of your plants.

- Got aphids? You can control them with a strong blast of water from the hose or with insecticidal soap. But here's another suggestion, one that's fun for kids; get some tape! Wrap a wide strip of tape around your hand, sticky side out, and pat the leaves of plants infested with aphids. Concentrate on the undersides of leaves, because that's where they like to hide.

- A quick way to dry herbs: on a hot summer day, lay a sheet of newspaper on the seat of your car, arrange the herbs in a single layer, then roll up the windows and close the doors. Your herbs will be quickly dried to perfection. What's more, your car will smell great.

Let's Go Gardening

WFIN
WFIN.COM 1330

Saturdays 8:35– 9:00 AM

Hosted by MGV intern Vaun Wickerham and Bill Jones. Regular participants have been Marilynn Beltz and Barb Phillips.

Listen in for information about issues facing local gardeners.

Make magic in your garden with these tricks:

Choose perennials that can be sheared back after they bloom, encouraging a second bloom later in the summer. These include salvia, coreopsis, border phlox, yarrow, catmints, and veronica.

Put pots and other objects to clever use hiding bare or boring spots where a plant has died, spring bulbs, or cool-season annuals have gone dormant or where perennials have not yet reached full size.

Use curving paths whenever possible; they will subtly slow down visitors and make them notice the plants.

Thank you Bill Jones -

for hosting the MGV plant exchange. Many plants were brought and exchanged and the ice cream was delicious! The weather was beautiful and a good time was had by all!

Wasps are our friends?!

Wasps don't exactly win popularity contests, so why is the federal government releasing millions of them in 24 states — on purpose?

Spathius galinae wasps will be used to fight emerald ash borer infestations.

First of all, these aren't what you think of when you think of wasps. They're tiny, they aren't yellow, and they don't sting humans. These wasps are actually on our side: a bug army deployed in a desperate attempt to save our dying trees.

The US Department of Agriculture hopes that these special wasps will be a key ally in the fight against emerald ash borers, invasive beetles whose larvae have destroyed trees across vast swaths of northern and eastern America in just a few decades. Scientists don't want to douse half the country in pesticides, so they're trying a craftier approach by enlisting the emerald ash borers' natural enemies. This isn't the first time the government has tried this clever strategy, but the effort has never reached across so many states at once.

The USDA found four types of wasps to try against the emerald ash borers. They all lay their eggs inside borer eggs or larvae, killing them before they turn into wood-munching beetles. Government scientists spent some time figuring out how to make these wasps happy before their deployment and made sure that the wasps wouldn't go after anything besides emerald ash borers.

Once released, the wasps will track down emerald ash borers by sniffing at ash trees — they can actually smell the difference between healthy trees and infected ones. Each wasp will zero in on a target by feeling out the vibrations the beetle larva causes as it roots through the tree. Then, the wasp lays its eggs on the baby emerald ash borer. When the wasp eggs hatch, the baby wasps will feed off the emerald ash borer, killing it.

While the wasps can't save trees that are already damaged, they can — scientists hope — reduce emerald ash borer populations enough to protect trees that are healthy.

Why make such a fuss about some bugs? It turns out that the 8 billion commercial timber trees those pesky beetles want to destroy are worth about $280 billion, all told. Replacing all of the ash trees we've planted in cities and towns would be another $25 billion.

The wasps won't be fighting emerald ash borers alone, though. Woodpeckers, which enjoy a nice snack of borer larvae, are another key ally.

Source: original article on Tech Insider
www.businessinsider.com

August Flower of the Month – Hosta

By Bill Jones

Hosta is a genus of about 23–45 species of plants commonly known as hostas, plantain lilies (particularly in Britain) and occasionally by the Japanese name giboshi. The name *Hosta* is in honor of the Austrian botanist Nicholas Thomas Host. The rejected generic name *Funkia*, can be found in some older literature.

The flowers are produced on erect scapes, generally taller than the leaf mound, that end in terminal racemes. The only strongly fragrant species is *Hosta plantaginea*.

Hostas originally came from Japan, China, and Korea. They were first introduced to Europe in the late 1700s and then came to the United States in the middle 1800s. The plants are low maintenance and are widely available with more than 2,500 different cultivars on the market.

Hostas are considered shade-tolerant plants, but most do not thrive if grown in deep shade. Hostas grow best in an exposure with morning sun and afternoon shade. Some cultivars will tolerate some afternoon sun, although plants grown in full afternoon sun (especially variegated plants) will show signs of marginal burning on the leaves in the summer months.

In general, the blue-leafed hostas require shade, while the gold, yellow, and white-leafed hostas can tolerate more sun.

Though spring division is easiest, summer division is preferred and can be done in August, at least 30 days before the first fall frost date. Warm soil and higher humidity at this time promotes better root growth, and plants may put on a little growth spurt at this time.

Hosta Virus X has recently become common, and plants that are infected must be destroyed as the disease can be transmitted from plant to plant by contaminated sap. Symptoms include dark green "ink bleed" marks in the veins of yellow-colored leaves, and/or tissue collapse between veins, and an irregular mottling of the foliage, yellow ringspots, or small yellow dots or flecks on the leaves.

Hostas are edible by humans and are called "urui" in Japanese cuisine. The parts eaten and the manner of preparation differ depending on the species; in some cases it is the shoots, others the leaf petiole, others the whole leaf.

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August Flower of the Month – Hosta - Continued

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The miniature *Hosta* 'Baby Bunting' grows to only a few inches in diameter, while other cultivars reach 8 feet wide and even larger. *Hosta* 'Blue Angel' and 'Sum and Substance' are examples of very large plants that need to be given ample room to grow.

Deer, slugs and snails are nocturnal foragers and are the most common pests of hostas.

Winter protection is generally not necessary. A standard layer of organic mulch already present during the growing season will help insulate the soil and prevent cycles of freezing and thawing. Providing some extra mulch for winter protection can be helpful, especially for plants transplanted late in the season.

For plants that need a little support:

Get supports in place early in the season, preferably before the plant actually needs them. If you wait until the plant is sprawling to place your supports, you'll risk damaging its stems, its roots, or surrounding plants as you try to work in their midst.

Be sure that supports are anchored deep in the ground so that they won't blow over in strong wind or collapse under the weight of the plant.

Supports are utilitarian, but they can also add visual appeal. Site plants that need support at the center or corners of a bed, or within any space that could benefit from a vertical element.

Status of the Community Gardens— PLANTED

Thanks to Karl Farwig and his helpers for all their work!

The Old Oak Tree

Part III

What the Old Oak Tree Has Done for Humans

By Bob Campbell

In February, I began this four part series on The Old Oak Tree. I shared some of my personal history and bonding with The Old Oak Tree, but followed that with a conclusion I reached after reading William Bryant Logan's OAK - the Frame of Civilization: that Oak is big in the history of civilization. Oak is the frame of civilization, at every turn wedded to our human history. Unconsciously, that history is embedded within us, and helps to explain the bond that comes to us. In parts I (refer to the January/February newsletter) and II (refer to the March newsletter), I shared about what the Oak has contributed to us by what it *is*, and why it elicits our appreciation and provides inspiration for human life.

Now in part III, we come to what The Old Oak Tree has *done* for humans. In part IV, we will end with some thoughts on growing Oak in northwest Ohio.

The things that Oak has done are too numerous to examine in one article. Logan lists a few of them: building material for roadways, frames, doors, palisades, hinges, fences, barrels, coffins, boats, bridges; the first furniture and houses and barns, using the joint that came to be called mortise and tenon; also, firewood and ink from oak galls for writing. (pages 93-96)

> **For ten thousand years oak was the prime resource of what was to become the Western world. Through *Dru-Wid,* "oak knowledge," humans learned to make homes and roads, ships and shoes, settles and bedsteads, harnesses and reins, wagons and plows, pants and tunics, sword and ink.** (p. 97)

For this article I want to focus on three of oak's contributions that made a difference in the history of our world. For the purposes of this article, I can only highlight them. In Logan's book, you will find a far more detailed and extensive description of each.

1. Buildings and Architecture

People today appreciate the special quality of oak as a building material. In several of the churches I served, the people took great pride in "the solid oak pews" they sat on. Some lamented the cushions that now covered their oak pews.

The history of oak for buildings and architecture goes back long before our time.

Logan says: "Between the fourth and the eighteenth centuries in the north of Europe, 95 percent of all buildings were made from oak, cut by hand and shaped into halls, houses, barns, and churches through the use of three principal joints - scarf, mortise-and-tenon, and lap -- with dozens of variations and combinations of each." (p. 154)

Those uses go back to even earlier uses of oak for building structures. Logan includes a reconstructed picture of a structure that goes back to 1475 B.C. It is a building at Bargeroosterveld in the Netherlands and is the forerunner of oak architecture. It was discovered by peat diggers in 1957. It is small, the whole structure

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The Old Oak Tree—Part III Continued

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capable of fitting inside a circle 13' in diameter.

Made of oak, "it contained every carpenter's joint needed for houses or anything else that would be made of oak for the next three thousand years. Not only that, it had been beautiful." (p. 114) Logan describes at great length here the beginnings of building methods necessary for the history of oaken architecture to begin. Those with a background in carpentry will appreciate the in depth discussions of the subject, and of developments that would follow.

Logan singles out two masterpieces of oaken architecture that are our inheritance as a human race.

One is the Greensted church in an Essex suburb in southeastern England. "You see tall, flat boards. Years of use and abuse have colored them a rich deep brown, in places almost black. Yet when you come close, you look straight into the heart of oak trees that were cut and split one thousand years ago. (p. 151)

He also believes that "The greatest work of art of the European Middle Ages is not a painting, not a sculpture, not a cathedral. It is 660 tons of oak, the timber framed roof of Westminster Hall." It was made by Hugh Herland for Richard II in the years A.D. 1393 to 1397.

> **For the six centuries since, architects, scholars, engineers, and archaeologist have argued about how he did it … no room was as audacious, as beautiful, or as intelligent as the roof of Westminster Hall. Three years before building commenced, Hugh Herland was gathering oak timbers for the job and bringing them to his framing yard in Farnham, Surrey, thirty-nine miles from the building site."**

The imaginative and meticulous methods used in creating this oak roof are described in detail by Logan. You might want a degree in architecture to understand the complexities of Hugh Herland's undertaking, but Logan's summary statement says it all: "No one thing holds up the roof of Westminster Hall. In this, it is like the oak of which it is made: No one thing makes it superior." (p. 160, 162)

2. Oak as a food source for animals … and for humans.

Who of us has not spent time watching squirrels? I've enjoyed their playful chasing of one another, and their nest building, but most of all their eating acorns. One of my older church members lived alone, except for a squirrel who had befriended him. He had taught a squirrel to come to the back door and eat out of his hand. It was always fun to see!

As a child I loved to watch the squirrels carry their acorns from under our old Oak Tree either to eat them or to bury them in the yard.

Once when I was in a mood for writing silly verse, I mused:

"To a Squirrel"

I saw a squirrel scamper
up an old oak tree,
his swishing tail a-sayin'
"I'm as carefree as can be."

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The Old Oak Tree—Part III Continued

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I think I'll be a squirrel
and find an old oak tree,
and while the world worries
be as carefree as can be.

While others run the rat race
in their little ruts,
I'll be sittin' lookin' down,
a-munchin' on my nuts!

The acorn for the squirrel is more than fun and laughter. It is an important source of food. I don't have an oak tree in my back yard, but I have squirrels, and the acorns keep coming, and I keep finding them in my backyard, or buried in a garden bed, probably as a gift from my neighbor's oak tree across the street

Acorns are a food source, not only for the squirrels, but also many other animals. Jim Abrams, in *The Courier* for October 31 of 2015 notes how "white-tailed deer" and "wild turkeys", along with squirrels " concentrate near areas with heavy crops of white and chestnut oak acorn." Abrams also says that "numerous studies have linked the abundance of acorn mast crops to body condition, winter survival, and reproductive success" of various wildlife, including white-tailed deer, wild turkey, black bears, gray squirrels, and ruffled grouse." Last year' acorn production was below the average of 29% fruit production for white oaks, and 41% for red oaks. The winter of 2014-2015 was a rough one not only for our gardens but a lot of living creatures.

Oak then, is a food source, and indirectly a source of much human enjoyment, for a variety of animals. But Logan makes a strong case for the theory that in the beginning of civilization oak was a primary source of food for human beings.

He points to a map of World Oak Distribution and notes that the "distribution of oak trees is coterminous with the locations of the settled civilizations of Asia, Europe and North America." It did not prove but did encourage his theory.

> **Oaks evolved millions of years before the first humans arrived . .. People went and stayed where oaks were. There is some basic symmetry between oaks and humans. We both like the same things we both have similar virtues, and we both have spread to the very limits of what we like. And wherever we have oaks have become central to our daily lives. We invented a whole way of living out their fruit and their wood, and by that token, they too invented us.** (28)

In a chapter on *balonoculture* (culture of acorn eaters or *balonophages*) Bryant tells how he was first introduced to the subject by his observations as a youth. The Indians of California, where he grew up, were an acorn eating culture. He thought it just an odd custom until later in life he was called on by a Jewish couple to evaluate a tree's ability to bear fruit. Under the law of their faith, a tree that was still bearing fruit could not be cut down. Then in reading *Genesis,* he saw that God had told Adam and Eve to "eat of the fruit of the

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The Old Oak Tree—Part III Continued

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tree." Not just snack on them. But live on their fruit. And "there was no mention of animals for food." (p. 38) Had he read on, Logan would also have seen that Abraham (the father of both Jewish and Christian religion), when he neared where he would settle, found a spot by the *Oak of Moreh* to build an altar. Later when he parted company with Lot, he and his family settled by the *oaks of Mamre).* Logan pondered that Genesis might not be just poetry, but a description of what people before agriculture still did. He remembered again the native California Indians of his youth. They were present when the first Europeans arrived in the late 18th century. Today there are still one hundred separate tribes. "Virtually every tribe, however, had one thing in common: acorns. Every territory contained oaks in its foothill and/or mountain section, and the acorns gathered were a central feature of the tribe's livelihood … acorn was everywhere a staple food … Throughout California, the annual autumn acorn gathering was the year's main event." (p. 67, 68)

Logan was intrigued by the thought: *Maybe the California Indians where he grew up were not the only acorn eaters, but the last of them*.

Along with the Bible, the oldest stories of humans supported his theory. In the 8th century B.C., the Greek poet Hesiod names "acorn-bearing oaks" as one of three foods preventing hunger. Likewise the poet Ovid asserted that prior to the age of agriculture, humans lived on acorns. Pliny wrote that "Acorns at this very day constitute the wealth of many races." When there was a scarcity of corn, people turned to acorns. Perhaps the oldest word for oak comes from Tunisia and means "the meal-bearing tree."

But what about those "modern scientific thinkers who knew the truth … Pre-agricultural man had been a hunter"? (p.37) Hunter, shepherding, and agriculture. This was the accepted order.

Logan notes that even more modern evidence is appearing that challenges this scenario. Evidence from the latest archaeological finds shows that the earliest humans did not just survive on "large game animals, but rather, anything they could lay their hands on, from turtles to snails to eggs to acorns." (p. 38) Archaeologists also discovered evidence that acorn eating *preceded* agriculture, that there were "*grinding tools* before there was any evidence that wild wheat had been cut for human consumption …" (p. 38)

What were people grinding? Wheat or other grain? But no evidence was found of the existence of the *sickl*e for *cutting* the grain to be ground.

What then? At the end of the last ice age, there were five fruit producing trees. "The one that had the proper nutritional characteristics to become a staple food was the acorn." (p. 39)

With these considerations, Logan reaches a conclusion, that grinding tools were for grinding acorns:

> **Postglacial man appeared among these stair-step mountains and valleys, ranging up the ladder to the mountains and high steppes to hunt game, such as wild sheep and goats, down to the watered plains to seek crabs, mussels, snails, and migratory birds, but living in the uplands where acorns were the staff of life, and where small wild grains fed the first domesticated animals.** (p. 51)

Among the most nutritious of all human foods, local oak uplands could harvest enough acorns in three weeks

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The Old Oak Tree—Part III Continued

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to last two or three years. (p. 55) Their only drawback was the leaching required to remove the tannins and other astringent compounds; to make them palatable they had to be ground and washed in water.

Logan is convinced that for 3,000 years civilizations lived on acorns and people went where the oaks were; in the middle ages there were even laws requiring engaged couples to plant two young oak trees prior to their marriage.

But population increase took place, and migration, and cities, and agriculture replaced balonoculture. Still, the mighty acorn from The Old Oak tree played a key role in the survival of humanity, and in our being here to write and read of such things. And remnants of balonocultures continues on even today, as Logan discovered in a Korean supermarket in New York City, and in restaurants serving Chinese stew, or in Turkish porridge, or American Northeast Iroquois' acorns flavored with maple syrup, or in southern California's Cahuilla cooks' mixture of acorns with chia seeds. In these places and ingredients, as in the lives of his Native Indians in California, Logan suggests we have evidence of the surviving of age-old balonocultures.

3. Boat and Ship Building.

We are here today in our country, because of the Vikings and because of the Old Oak Tree. The Vikings were quick to learn the virtues of Oak for building boats. They learned its "lessons of cooperation, flexibility, persistence, community and generosity. And Oak became "the prime material of the crafts that helped hominids become humans." (p. 87) "What the temple was to the Greeks, the ship was to the Vikings," (Bryant, quoting Johannes Bronsted in The Vikings). (p. 88)

The Vikings made use of the Oak's ability to bend, not break. They joined long, cleft sections … to form their longships, boats that wriggled like eels through the waves." (p. 96) "Their craft moved through the seas like the dolphin, whose shape constantly adjusts to present less resistance to water and wind" (p. 133), who swims through rough waters and maintains velocity by wiggling."

Viking ships reached the coast of N. America 100 years before Columbus. Oak was the basic building material of their ships as well as their boats. Where oak was scarce, as along the Atlantic coast of Norway, fir was used.

> **But throughout Europe, wherever there was oak, the ships were made of it. More than 90 percent of the northern ships were oak. Without oak neither the Vikings nor the later maritime nations of modern Europe would have been able to cross the seas or circle the globe. Oak was the first choice for shipbuilding because it was strong, comparatively light, watertight, bendable, and above all, workable." (p. 135, 136)**

The making of oak ships "was a profound imaginative act, as important as the creations of the first great architects in Athens … Sailing … would by the nineteenth century join the people of the whole globe into a single communicating group." (p. 138)

"By the start of the nineteenth century, oak ships had delivered Europe from the medieval into the modern world." (p. 207) Ships built of oak became essential for world commerce, and for waging war to defend your

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The Old Oak Tree—Part III Continued

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homeland. "Oak ships had made the world a single … community." But depending on each nation's wealth of ships (and oaks), it was also an "unequal community." (p. 207)

An average ship "required three thousand loads of oak, or about sixty acres of century-old trees." (p. 220) "On average, to be useful for a big ship, an oak had to be seventy-five to eighty feet long and yield timber more than twenty inches on a side." 9p. 222

Oak played a vital role in one of the great encounters between British and American navies in the War of 1812. The oaks in Europe, where navies competed with merchant shipping, used three times as much oak as navies. European builders increasingly had to depend on centuries old trees. They also had to economize due to the shortage of trees.

But the designers of the *Constitution* faced no such limitations. The Americans had the best ship on the seas, made principally of live oak from the Georgia sea islands and white oak from New England. Through the skills of the seaman, and the quality of their ship, the *Constitution* outraced 7 English ships. "It was a formative moment for what would become one unvarying feature of the American character. Who could understand an outgunned, outmanned, and outdistance frigate that would just keep on going? . . . a lone American frigate had out-sailed an entire British squadron." (p. 239, 241)

Captain Hull, after re-provisioning in Boston, went on to destroy a small British brig, a larger one with a full load of timber, and a warship, the Guerriere. The *Constitution*, a rare ship built for both speed and power, survived the Guerriere's cannon balls. "One ball struck the Constitution's twenty-two-inch-thick white - and live-oaks sides, briefly hung there, and then fell into the sea. One nearby gun crew is said to have seen this and shouted 'Huzzah, boys! Her sides are made of iron!'" This gave the ship the nickname she has borne ever since, "Old Ironsides." (p. 246) The *Constitution* went on to outgun the Gurriere, capture the captain, and sink his ship.

Boat and ship building, food for animals and humans, buildings and architecture. These actions, along with many others, all of them discussed by Logan in far greater detail than I could include in this article, are our inheritance, part of our collective history, and as some would believe, embedded in our collective and personal unconscious, and thus part of a great bond we feel toward The Old Oak Tree.

Next: Part IV, *Growing Oak in Northwest Ohio*

Sources:

Abrams, Jim, "Acorn crop has effect on wildlife, hunting plans," FIELD NOTES, The Courier and Review Times, Saturday, October 31, 2015.

Logan, William Bryant, Oak: the Frame of CIVILIZATION. Logan is a certified arborist and author if three books, including Dirt: the Ecstatic Skin of the Earth." (The great scientist and hymn writer, Isaac Newton, once wrote that he felt like a grain of sand on the seashore when he contemplated the infinity of truth in the universe. I felt a bit like that when I compared what I wrote to what William Bryan Logan covers in his masterpiece, OAK - The Frame of Civilization.) The depth of his research and thinking deserves at least one thorough read by every lover of The Old Oak Tree)

HANCOCK COUNTY
MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
May 19, 2016

Bill Jones called our monthly meeting to order at 6:30.

President's Report: Marilynn reviewed the MGV "Let's Go Gardening" activity which occurred on Saturday, May 14, 2016. She stated that Feasel's has invited us to participate in two additional special events they will be hosting later in 2016. One is on June 11, 2016 when they will have a petting zoo and other family activities at their garden center. The second activity is later in the year on December 3, 2016 when Santa and Mrs. Claus will be visiting the garden center.

Education/Field Trips: Linda Casey shared that she and Lauri Inkrott are finalizing plans for a MGV field trip to the Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Garden in Columbus on Tuesday, June 14. A display of Origami in the Garden will be open at that time. The ladies will be sharing additional information with us once the agenda is set.

WFIN: Bill reminded everyone of the MGV Let's Go Gardening program on WFIN each Saturday morning from 8:35 to 9:00 a.m. during the summer months. MGV intern Vaun Wickerham and Bill are hosting the program. In addition, Marilynn Beltz and Barb Phillips have been regular attendees.

Tips & Interesting Things Sharing Time – Karl Farwig shared a Viburnum Leaf Beetle that he had found. Bill Jones showed a "Tick" that had been brought into the extension office. Both Karl and Bill shared with us background information on the Viburnum Leaf Beetle and various ticks.

Plant Exchange: After our monthly business meeting, 27 Master Gardeners enjoyed exchanging plants, smiles, and learning a few growing tips for the plants they selected. In addition to all the wonderful plants we also enjoyed a scoop or two of some delicious Dietsch's ice cream. A big "thank you" to all the Master Gardeners who shared their plants and to Bill Jones for allowing us to meet at his home.

Respectfully submitted
by Cheryl Miller

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.

2016 MGV Calendar of Events (updated 5/25/16)

DATE	EVENT	TIME	COST	LOCATION	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	CONTACT
Thursday, June 9	MGV Brown Bag & Monthly Meeting	6:00	N/A	OSU Extension	Share your knowledge from your favorite book and monthly meeting.	Lauri Inkrott
Saturday, June 11	Feasels Event	TBD	N/A	Feasels	Volunteer	Marilynn Beltz
Tuesday, June 14	Field trip	8:00:00 AM at Ext. Office	$11.00	Columbus	Visit Franklin Park Conservatory, Topiary Park, Gardens @ Columbus Commons	Linda Casey linda.casey2@gmail.com
Monday, June 27	MGV Presentation	1:00 PM	Free	50 North Fitzgerald Rm	Attracting Songbirds	Cheryl Miller
Sunday, July 3	Safety Fair/Danger Zone	Cancelled		Fairgrounds	Volunteer	Noreen Walters
Thursday, July 14	MGV Picnic	6:00 PM	Potluck	Christa Gupta homestead	Volunteer	Christa
Friday, July 15	Diagnostic Workshop			Seneca County		
Friday, August 12	Schooner Farms	9:00 AM		near Bowling Green	volunteer tentative field trip	Lauri Inkrott Gina Gilliland
August - September	Fair Booth	Schedule will be provided		Fairgrounds	Volunteer	Mariynn Beltz Bill Jones Noreen Walters
Monday, November 28	Wreath Class	6:00 PM		Library	Volunteer	Marilynn Beltz
Tuesday, November 29	Wreath Class	1:00 PM		50 North Fitzgerald Rm	Volunteer	Marilynn Beltz
Wednesday, November 30	Wreath Class	6:00 PM		Library	Volunteer	Marilynn Beltz
Thursday, December 1	Wreath Class	6:30 PM		Upper Room Church	Volunteer	Marilynn Beltz
Saturday, December 3	Feasels Event	TBD	N/A	Feasels	Volunteer	Marilynn Beltz
Sunday, December 4	Wreath Class	2:00 PM		Library	Volunteer	Marilynn Beltz
Tuesday, December 6	Wreath Class	6:00 PM		Library	Volunteer	Marilynn Beltz
Thursday, December 8	Christmas Potluck	6:00 PM	Potluck	Hancock Co. OSUE Office	Volunteer	Marjorie Miller / Marilynn Beltz