OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

March 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!

Tuesdays, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: MGV Training Classes.

Saturday & Sunday, March 5—6: Leisure Living Show at Ft. Findlay Mall. Contact Marilynn Beltz

Thursday, March 10: Brown Bag Presentation by Cassie Turner Anderson on conduct in dealing with children & elderly, 6:00 pm, Extension Office.

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

Sunday, March 27: Easter!

April 14: Awards Banquet. Save the date.

Educational Opportunities for March and April:

These were too numerous to list separately. On page 13, all are listed for you to review. Make certain you register early for any of these classes.

Coordinator's Corner

By Bill Jones

Many thanks to Marilynn Beltz and to all who have planned to help with our booth at the Home Show this year. Thanks also to the annual (trainee) MGVs that are scheduled to work the booth observing how we perennial MGVs respond to the many questions from the mall visitors.

Our 23 MGV intern trainees are progressing well and we are now half-way through with the classes. We have enjoyed having around 10 of our perennial MGVs present at each of the classes. Each of you are invited to attend any portion of the classes that you can. Remember, your time at the classes counts as education hours toward your recertification.

It is time to start many seeds in order have the plants ready for the garden soon after the frost-free date. If you have not tried this yet, it might be fun to start with something easier like tomatoes. You will find Bill Lanning's article in the Courier in February helpful in starting your seeds indoors. Marilynn Beltz will have an article in the Courier on March 19 on peonies. Her article will provide us with lots of good information on one of our favorite spring flowers.

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Coordinator's Corner— Continued

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Our next meeting is on March 10 at 7:00 PM at the OSUE conference room. Our Brown Bag training at 6:00 PM is an important one for each of us to attend. As OSU Volunteers, we are required to take training in Abuse Recognition and Reporting Training (ARRT). Fortunately, Cassie Anderson, our OSU Extension office chairman, is a certified instructor in this training. Please plan to be at this meeting and our new class members have also been invited.

I am looking forward to our Recognition Banquet on April 14. It is always fun to have a meal together and to celebrate the successes of the prior year. This year we will have our new interns present to receive their graduation diplomas.

Karl Farwig has added a lot of good educational articles and factsheets to our Facebook page. If you haven't "Liked" our Facebook page yet, please do so. We have a nice following of readers. Our page is *Master Gardeners of Hancock County Ohio.* If you have pictures or articles to add to the Facebook page and to the *Green Thumb Prints,* please send them to Karl Farwig and Kay Sidaway.

—Bill

Refreshment Schedule for 2016

February: Barb Sherman, Marilynn Beltz, Kay Sidaway

March: John & Gina Gilliland, & Laurie Inkrott

April: Awards Dinner/Potluck

May: Plant Exchange

June: Donna Johnson, NEED VOLUNTEER!

July: Picnic at the Guptas'

August: Ann Woolum, Lynn Farwig

September: Fair

October: Barbara Phillips, & Lauri Inkrott

November: Sharon Hammer Baker, NEED VOLUNTEER!

December: Christmas Potluck

(Thanks to Barb Sherman for scheduling these!)

Pat's Ice Spike

Below is a picture of Patrick Flinn's "Ice Spike" that occurred on February 7, 2016. This occurred in a plastic pot base/saucer left in the front of his home last fall. The water was barely frozen which may have contributed to the formation of the feature on the surface of the ice. These formations though rare are more commonly seen as upside down icicles or hollow "ice straws". The more unusual inverted pyramid or triangular vase is what occurred here. The Bally–Dorsey model describes how these structures are formed.

MGV Class of 2016

We wish to welcome the class of 2016. Below are some pictures of the first class which was on Botony. Instructor was Joe Cochran, curator of the Secrest Arboretum in Wooster, OH. We had 22 of our 23 trainees present for this class. Each class member received their own Dawn redwood tree and lots of hands-on examples of the various concepts being taught.

Thanks to the following MGVs who helped with this first class: Karl Farwig, Lynn Farwig, Marilynn Beltz, Barbara Phillips, Randy Greeno, Noreen Walters, Bill Lanning, Richard Deerhake, and Bill Jones.

Our new MGV Trainees

Terry Badertscher
Tim Brugeman
Linda Casey
Judi Clymer
Francine Craig
Karly Dennis
Bob Dunson
Sherri Federici
Jan Gallegos
Bret Howard
Deb Jewell
Linda Kreiling
John Leiendecker
Linda Leiendecker
Rose Morrison
Lauri Pressel
Laura Rickenbacher
David Rodriguez
Doris Salis
Lindsey Shock
Vaun Wickerham
Jerry Williamson
Lisa Yates

Grow Your Own Asparagus Patch

It will soon be that time of year when wild asparagus hunters are taking to roadside ditches and railway right-of-ways in search of this spring delicacy -– a hunt that is rivaled only by the woodland hikes to find morel mushrooms. Coming home with a bounty of fresh greens is a treasure to be savored every spring. For the less adventurous and gardeners that want a "patch" all their own, this is also a good time to plan, purchase and plant asparagus in the home garden.

What would be a good planting site for asparagus?

Carefully consider possible planting sites, as asparagus is a perennial crop. A well-maintained asparagus planting may be productive for 15 to 20 years. Asparagus performs best in well-drained soils in full sun. Planting sites should receive at least six hours of direct sun each day. Avoid shady sites near large trees and buildings. Raised beds are a good planting option for gardeners with poorly drained soils.

What are some good asparagus varieties for the home garden?

Asparagus is dioecious. Dioecious plants produce separate male and female plants. Male asparagus plants live longer and are more productive than female plants. Excellent all-male asparagus varieties (cultivars) for the home garden include 'Jersey Giant,' 'Jersey Knight,' 'Jersey King,' and 'Jersey Supreme.' 'Mary Washington' and 'Martha Washington' are good standard asparagus cultivars. (A planting of 'Mary Washington' or 'Martha Washington' will include both male and female plants.) 'Purple Passion' is a distinctive cultivar with purple shears.

When is the best time to plant asparagus?

The best way to establish an asparagus planting is to plant one-year-old crowns. Asparagus crowns can be purchased at garden centers and mail-order nurseries. Early spring (April to early May) is the best time to plant asparagus..

How do you plant asparagus?

Asparagus crowns should be planted in shallow trenches or furrows. The planting depth depends on the soil type. Asparagus crowns should be planted eight to 10 inches deep in light, sandy soils, but only six inches deep in heavier soils. Space crowns 12 to 18 inches apart in rows that are four to five feet apart. Place asparagus crowns in the bottom of the furrow (buds pointing upward). Spread out the roots of the asparagus plants. After planting, completely fill the trench with soil. (For many years, it has been a common practice to cover the asparagus crowns with two inches of soil and gradually fill the trench as the asparagus grows. However, research has found the gradual filling of the furrow is unnecessary.)

After planting asparagus, when can I begin to harvest spears?

Asparagus plants should be allowed to become well established before any spears are harvested. No spears should be harvested during the first growing season. Asparagus can be harvested over a three to four week period during its second growing season. In following years, asparagus plantings can be harvested until early to mid-June. Harvest asparagus by cutting or snapping the spears when they reach a height of six to eight inches.

The Old Oak Tree

Part II

By Bob Campbell

Last month we looked at the main premise of William Bryant Logan's book, *Oak - the Frame of Civilization*: the old oak tree, while big to some of us in our personal history, is big for all of us in the history of civilization. Life has two levels of importance: being and doing. So we started last week, not with a look at what the Old Oak Tree has **done** for humans, but what it **is** that makes it so special. Unlike many trees, the Oak never overspecialized, never settled for just one niche. The Old Oak Tree specializes in not specializing.

Last month we looked at two ways it refuses to specialize: **diversity** and **tenacity**. This month we add five more connections. The Oak stays unique by being common through **cooperation**, **flexibility**, **prudence**, **persistence**, and **community**.

*The Old Oak Tree mastered the art of **cooperation.***

This mark of its being it contributes to the human race. One awesome instance of that is a relationship it has enjoyed as a member of the plant world with a member of the animal world. That relationship is with Jays. Both, according to Logan, "evolved about 65 million years ago." Jays and oaks quickly became and remained a couple. "Essentially, the oaks have domesticated the Jays, or vice versa 271…between them they have changed the surface of the earth… Jays do the one thing that oaks can't. They move." (271, 272)

Jays carry away acorns. They carry them, bury them, plant them at just the right depth, cover them up one at a time, and scatter twigs and pebbles over them. An average Jay buries 4500 acorns each autumn. Since they're buried one by one, scavengers cannot succeed at undoing their work. Later the Jay returns to use some for food, but many more grow into trees. "Jays are the world's great cultivators of oak and a principal tool in the oak's spread and dominance." (274) Wind cannot account for the spread of oaks a mile away, nor can squirrels who plant their acorns about a hundred feet from their source. That took cooperation with a special bird.

***Diversity, tenacity** and **cooperation**. Also important to the oak's being is **flexibility**.*

Logan notes that "there are no deciduous pines or evergreen maples. Nor are there any deciduous spruce, no evergreen ash, no deciduous junipers, no evergreen lindens, no deciduous cedars, and no evergreen dogwoods. But *there are both deciduous and evergreen oaks*." (276, italics mine). On the coast range of California, most oaks are evergreen, some deciduous. But in the northeastern United States, all oaks are deciduous**.** Evergreen oaks evolved for warm climates, whether wet or dry. The warm climates make for an ongoing need for water and minerals to climb the veins, manufacturing food and energy for year round photosynthesis. Leaves, too, evolved for the warmth. Leaf surfaces became waxy, preventing sudden water loss. Leaves mostly turned out whole, not lobed; thus they heated and cooled more slowly, and creating greater air resistance to impede transpiration.

Often the leaves evolved slightly cupped, protecting the water transmitting stomates on their undersides from drying winds and steadying the rate of water loss. The evergreen system, says Logan, adapted by creating a slow and steady pulse of life. The deciduous oak represents the opposite choice. "Deciduous /oak/ comes into its own where the weather has a distinct cold season." (278). In the spring deciduous oak's xylem generates

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The Old Oak Tree—Continued

(Continued from page 5)

suction four times greater than the minimum needed to lift water from root to tree top. Its vacuum is more perfect than any that can be made in a lab. With sun and water, these oaks may pass more than four gallons of water/hour. Rising sap can reach velocities of two hundred feet per hour. But as the season progresses, its system slows down. Bubbles of gas block the water's flow in the superhighways. In late spring, deciduous oaks start making "much smaller, thick-walled vessels of late wood…after the spring binge, the deciduous trees become more like their cousins, the evergreens… Now "the size and shape of deciduous oak leaves help to regulate their water economy. (279)

If you had to characterize the difference between evergreen and deciduous oaks, says Logan, you might say that the former were adapted to the marathon and the latter to wind sprints. Between these two extremes, there are many variations with various combinations of evergreen and deciduous characteristics. Sometimes, it's like an element of play is at work, or perhaps gambling! In the very same habitat, there seem to be oaks that bet one way (more to the evergreen) and oaks that bet the other (more to the deciduous).

Diversity, **tenacity**, **cooperation, flexibility.** *The Old Oak Tree also contributes its* ***prudence*** *to the human race*

Oaks survival and prospering in so many places and under all kinds of climates and circumstances can be traced back to its ability to anticipate danger and guard against it. Oaks look ahead and adjust accordingly. A major adjustment comes through the sprouting of new leaves, called "flushing." Some oaks settle for one flush, some two, and others flush continually through the growing season. One flush would work well if spring were always dependable. But spring has a notoriously bad reputation for dependability. Oaks seem to know this. They anticipate that harsh weather may come and result in damaged leaves, reducing the oak's ability to make food for the rest of the year. Two flushes would seem like a reasonable possibility. But bad luck sometimes comes on top of bad luck.

What about the route of continued new growth? It could be costly and counterproductive. Repeated efforts to send out leaves could seriously reduce the tree's energy reserve. Oaks show a marvelous prudence by developing a compromise. Deciduous oaks may flush up to 4 times: early spring, early summer, high summer, and fall. The old oak tree rests between flushes so that it does not waste all its energy against a clime anomaly. In the worst of years, oaks stand a chance at growth and new life. If conditions change for several years in a row, oaks can adjust, to fit the number of flushes to the new climate.

Oaks survive with a prudence that always holds some power in reserve. That power is held in the form of dormant buds that stay viable for year or more. When they fall, oaks can produce replacement reserves called adventitious buds. Reserve buds are the oaks answer to future possibilities of destruction. No matter what comes, its prudence has made possible renewed growth.

We appreciate the Old Oak Tree for its **diversity**, **tenacity**, **cooperation, flexibility,** and **prudence.** *Add to these two more essences of its being that it contributes to the human race:* ***persistence*** *and* ***community.***

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The Old Oak Tree—Continued

(Continued from page 6)

*Logan traces the **persistence** of The Old Oak Tree to its roots.* This is a truth observed often in human history. It's as old as the NewTestament, which encourages us to bear fruit, but which teaches we must first "be rooted and grounded in love," if fruit is to be the hallmark of our lives. In order to grow up in faith, we have to spend considerable time growing down. Logan quotes a mystery writer, Wilkie Collins, coming to a similar conclusion: "Fancy and imagination, grace and beauty, all those qualities which are to the work of art what scent and beauty are to the flower, can only grow towards heaven by taking root in the earth."

Logan notes that among botanists, a rough way to express the staying power of a tree is the ration of roots to shoots. Where trees have mostly top growth and few roots they are liable to be short-lived. Trees that put down a great deal of roots and slow add shoots are liable to be long lived, resistant to stress and strain. In most seedling trees, the root to shoot ration is one or less; there is usually more shoot mass above than root mass below. In contrast, an average ratio for seedling oaks is between 4 and 6, with some greater than 10. "A seedling oak may have ten times as much root mass as it does stem and branch mass." (287)

Oaks in many ways inspire us with their roots.

- Oak seedlings discovered by British botanist M.W. Shaw were 25 years old, yet less than two feet tall. For 25 years, root growth had prevailed.
- In one year the taproot of oaks can go down more than 1 foot in depth; the taproot spends its first years thickening and storing food.
- Oak roots penetrate like an auger, growing up to 25 millimeters a day. If you could see through soil, you could watch them grow.
- Lateral roots stretch hundreds of yards from their origin.
- Oak roots sense and respond to irritants. When they approach a rock, for instance, they do so with intelligence. Encountering a stone, a root compresses slightly, deflects to one side, and returns to a straight line once the obstacle is passed. Spotting a crack in the rock, it splays out thin, growing through the fissure to the other side.
- Oak roots extend far beyond the tree. One study showed the roots extending three times as wide an area as the trees canopy.
- Root tips, while short lived are constantly reproduced. An average red oak at any given time has more than 500 million living root tips.

Root growth in oaks, says Logan is **doubly persistent.**

- While oak leaves sprout three or four times a year, the roots grow continually - March to October and in some places into November.
- Unseen, a cloud of hundreds of millions of root tips swim through the soil.

This persistence pays off. The end result is, as long as the roots are not damaged, oaks can come back from damage to the leaves and branches. You can cut the oak back to the ground, even, and it will resprout from the energy contained in the roots.

*Finally, in terms of its being, the Old Oak Tree reminds the human race of the importance of **community.***

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The Old Oak Tree—Continued

(Continued from page 7)

Immediate family has a place in this community. What appears like individual oak trees in a grove is more apt to be a family. Individual trees spread their roots. From these new trees sprout. A grove of hundreds of trees can consist of four or five genetic individuals. Oaks also exhibit a community that goes beyond immediate family. With the same species of oaks, especially species in the red oak group, roots often graft. Vascular systems join and in essence they become on flesh.

Oaks in a forest are often more than neighbors. They are physically united beneath the ground. Foresters, says Logan, note that in any forest some trees are dominant, spreading fastest both below and above the ground. Others are suppressed, held back, deprived of light. Much of nature is tooth and claw, survival of the fittest. The Old Oak Tree, in this regard, is a non-conformist. The dominant oaks don't go by the creed that "If you can't compete, get out of the way." In an oak forest, dominant trees often support the suppressed ones. Food travels through the grafted root systems. Trees with extra food share with those who do not have enough. In the oak forests, the dominant trees support the weaker members. When the dominant tree gets old, and dies from storms, or age, or axes and saw, the suppressed trees may now be strong enough to take over the dominant role.

In the oak forest, healthy trees come to the aid of sick ones. An oak may be ailing from girdling. Nutrition can't flow from the photosynthesizing leaves to the base of the plant and root. Does the tree die from starvation? No. It is fed by sugars imported from healthy trees through the root grafts. Oak forests even support their dead … and bring them back to life! The stumps of a dead oak are slow to decay and often sprout again. The roots are supplied with nutrients by the neighboring trees, generating new life.

Community, of course, comes with a price. When we share our joys we share our sorrows. When we share our strengths, we share our weaknesses. When we share our health, we expose ourselves to sickness. So oaks pay a price for community. When roots are an open pipeline for food and health, they also become a conduit for disease. If they existed only as individuals they could isolate themselves from the diseased trees around them, just as humans we can quarantine ourselves and find safety in isolation.

Community comes with a steep price. But the survival of the oak throughout the world, under all conditions and climates, is a strong reminder that community is worth the price. This reminder from the core of The Old Oak Tree's being may be its greatest gift to the human race.

Source for this article:
Information for this article has been gleaned from the book, *Oak: the Frame of CIVILIZATION*, by William Bryant Logan. All page references are to this book. Logan is a certified arborist and author if three books, including *Dirt: the Ecstatic Skin of the Earth.*

Marigolds

A native of Mexico, marigolds have been grown in gardens throughout the world for hundreds of years. Today, they are one of the most popular bedding plants in the United States. Marigolds are easy to grow, bloom reliably all summer, and have few insect and disease problems. The marigold's only shortcoming (for some people) is its pungent aroma.

When can I plant marigolds outdoors?

Two planting options are available when planting marigolds. Most gardeners set out plants in spring. However, gardeners can also sow marigold seeds directly outdoors.

Plant marigold seedlings outdoors after the danger of frost is past. It's usually safe to begin planting marigolds in late April to mid-May

Plants purchased at greenhouses or started indoors should be hardened or acclimated to outdoor conditions for several days prior to planting. Initially place plants in a shady, protected location and then gradually expose them to longer periods of sunlight. Sow marigold seeds outdoors when the danger of frost is past. Plant seeds one-quarter inch deep.

When should I sow marigold seeds indoors?

Sow marigold seeds indoors six to eight weeks before the intended outdoor planting date. Lightly cover seeds with one-fourth inch of Jiffy Mix or other soilless medium. If given favorable temperatures and moisture conditions, the marigold seeds should begin to germinate in five to seven days.

What would be a good planting site for marigolds?

Planting site requirements for marigolds are full sun and a well-drained soil. The planting site should receive at least six hours of direct sun per day. Poorly drained soils can often be improved by incorporating organic matter (compost, peat or well-rotted manure) into the soil.

Are marigolds pest free?

While marigolds are seldom bothered by insects and diseases, they are not problem free. Spider mites can devastate marigolds in hot, dry weather. Grasshoppers can also cause considerable damage. Aster yellows is an occasional disease problem. Aster yellows is caused by microorganisms called phytoplasmas. The disease is transmitted from plant to plant by sap-sucking insects, such as leafhoppers. Marigolds infected with aster yellows are stunted, yellow-green in color and their flower buds fail to open. Infected plants should be dug up and destroyed.

Can I keep rabbits out of my vegetable garden by planting marigolds around the perimeter?

Marigolds do not repel rabbits, deer or other animals. In fact, rabbits occasionally browse heavily on marigolds. Erecting a chicken wire or hardware cloth fence around the vegetable garden is the best way to keep rabbits out of the garden.

Source:
Yard and Garden, Iowa University Extension

Our MGV interns look studious!

Leisure Living Show
Work Schedule

Thanks to all the Volunteers!!

Saturday, March 5, Set-up at 8:00 AM
- Jerry Bibler
- Bill Jones
- Randy Greeno
- Marilynn Beltz

Saturday, March 5, 10:00 AM—1:30 PM
- Barbara Phillips
- Noreen Walters
- Lisa Yates
- Bob Dunson

Saturday, March 5, 1:30 PM—5:00 PM
- Donna Johnson
- Patty Woodard

Saturday, March 5, 5:00 PM—8:00 PM
- Marty Davis
- Bill Jones
- Jerry Williamson

Sunday, March 6, 12:00—3:00 PM
- Cheryl Miller
- Karl and Lynn Farwig

Sunday, March 6, 3:00 PM—6:00 PM
- Sharon Hammer Baker
- Kay Sidaway
- Linda Dyar

Sunday 5:45 PM Tear Down
- Bill Jones
- Karl& Lynn Farwig
- Marilynn Beltz

Radishes

Radish is a cool-season, fast-maturing, easy-to-grow vegetable. Garden radishes can be grown wherever there is sun and moist, fertile soil, even on the smallest city lot.

When can radishes be planted?

Radishes can be planted as soon as the ground can be worked properly in spring. This is often late March. Successive plantings can be made every 7 to 10 days through May. Radish plants flower and their roots become pungent with the onset of hot weather. Several plantings can also be made in late summer (late August to late September) for a fall crop. Sow radish seeds ½ inch deep in rows that are 12 inches apart. When the seedlings emerge, thin the planting so remaining plants are 2 inches apart.

When should radishes be harvested?

Radishes can be harvested three to five weeks after planting. Periodically check their development by pulling one or two plants as they approach maturity. Harvest radishes when roots reach useable size (about 1 inch in diameter). Radishes can be stored in the refrigerator for two to three weeks. Prior to storage, cut off the foliage to within ½ inch of the roots. Radishes get pithy and hot when harvested too late.

My radishes produce lush foliage, but don't develop good-sized roots. Why?

Excessive nitrogen, the rapid onset of hot weather or overcrowding may produce plants that are all tops (lush foliage, little or no root development). Misshapen roots and hot, pithy radishes are other problems that may be encountered when growing radishes. Overcrowding produces small, misshapen roots. Hot, pithy radishes may be result of hot weather or harvesting too late.

Source: Iowa Extension

Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers
Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2016

Marilynn Beltz called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. There were 21 Master Gardeners in attendance.

President's Report: Marilynn introduced Cheryl Miller as the newly appointed secretary. Marilyn distributed a Hancock County Master Gardeners pamphlet listing major MGV activities for 2016. Help was requested for the organization and setup of the Awards dinner on April 14. The dinner will be held at the OSU Extension Office beginning at 6 p.m. Pat, Lauri and Noreen volunteered to help. There will not be an educational Brown Bag presentation on April 14.

Treasurer's Report: Lauri Inkrott reviewed income and expenditures for December 2015 and January 2016.

Coordinator's Report:

Bill Jones reported that the 2016 instructional course for new MGV's is underway with 23 participants. A course schedule was distributed and perennial MGV's may attend any class session to earn education hours for 2016.

Bill discussed changes at the Ohioline web site. Many factsheets older than 5 years are no longer available online. The MGV extension office does have copies of many of the old fact sheets which may still be used by MGV's.

Bill circulated a Speaker's Bureau signup sheet for volunteers to update their interest and expertise. A request for a Speaker's Bureau chairperson was made. In addition, there is a need for a volunteer to present a program at the Bluffton Library on Tues. 4/5/16 on Phenology and a need for a second speaker in Bluffton on Tues. 5/3/16 on Bees. Bill Lanning will be presenting a program on Wed. 3/9/16 on Annuals/Houseplants/ Propagation with the Seneca MGV Training class.

Education: An advanced training/brown bag session on "Abuse Recognition" will occur on March 10 at 6:00 (prior to our monthly meeting). This is a yearly State required session of all MGV's if you are unable to attend the meeting contact Bill.

Field Trips: Lauri Inkrott reviewed ideas for 2016 MGV field trips. Included in the discussion were Weston Schooner Farms (Bowling Green), Toledo Botanical Garden, and Maple Sugaring at Litzenberg Park (Findlay).

Refreshments: Barb Sherman passed a signup sheet around for our monthly meeting refreshments.

MGV Communication: Lauri stated that the membership list is being updated and recommended that members not print the first copy she sends out until all information is verified.

Summer Picnic: Christa Gupta will be hosting the 2016 Picnic (thank you Christa) on July 7 - rain date is July 14.

Christmas Potluck: Marjorie Miller and Marilynn will be organizing the Thursday, December 8, 2016 potluck to be held at the OSUE Office.

Teaching Media Liaison : Noreen Walters has coordinated two presentations to be given at 50 North (Senior

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MGV Meeting Minutes—Continued

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Center). All presentations will begin at 1:00 in the Fitzgerald room. The presentations will be: April 25 on Vegetables (Christa) and June 27 on Attracting Song Birds (Cheryl).

Findlay Village Mall Home Show: Volunteers are needed for the March 5/6 event.. Contact Bill or Marilyn.

Let's Go Gardening: Marilynn and Pam McCloud are organizing this May 14 event. We will have volunteers at Lowe's, Brinkman's and Feasel's. Possibly Garden Central too.

Safety Fair/Danger Zone 2016: Noreen is organizing this July 3 event at the Fair grounds on poisonous plants.

Fair Booth 2016: Marilynn, Noreen, and Bill are organizing this August 31 – September 5 event.

Wreath Classes 2016: In addition to our library wreath classes we will have classes at 50 North and The Upper Room Church.

Courier Newspaper Articles: February (Bill Lanning), March (Marilynn), April and beyond (????) contact Bill Jones if you would like to write an article.

MGV Facebook Page: Karl Farwig reported that he posted a Facebook recruitment advertisement for the 2016 MGV class. Send Karl any gardening items you would like him to post on our MGV Facebook page.

Community Gardens: Karl Farwig and Ann Woolum are organizing this activity. Plots will be 50 x 70. Jerry Bibler, Pat Flinn, Marilyn, and Noreen volunteered to help with the 2016 planning design.

Mugs Of Joy: Organized by Linda Laux, Anita Lanning and Pam. Marilynn stated that she has enough mugs and holiday items for the 2016 activity.

Tips & Interesting Things Sharing Time: Pat discussed "ice cones", Jerry discussed "night crawlers (fish worms) in January, Lauri commented on "Snow Geese", and Karl mentioned "Oak Wilt".

Refreshments:

Special thanks to Marilynn, Barb, and Kay for providing the meeting refreshments.

Marilynn called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Noreen/Karl/Lauri made motions to adjourn at 8:05.

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.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Thursday, March 3
9:00 am—4:15 pm
17th Annual Central Ohio Perennial Flower School
Cost $70
Clark County MGVs, Springfield
Topics: Carmen Miranda in the Midwest, The Garden Workshop, Perennial Color, Spring Bulbs & Companions, When Good Plants go Bad.
To register: go.osu.edu/regperennialschool or http://clark.osu.edu/

Saturday, March 19
8:30 am —12:30 pm
Attracting Bees & Butterflies to the Home, A Pollinators Workshop
Union County Agricultural Center, Marysville, OH
Topics: Butterfly Construction Zone (The Caterpillar Garden), Gardening for Bees
Cost: $5.00
To register: Extension Office at 937-64408117

Saturday, March 19
8:00 an—3:30 pm
Art of Gardening
OSU Lima Campus
Topics include: Mixing edibles & ornamentals, Genetic Engineering, Fabulous Foliage, Roses.
To register: Contact the Allen County MGVs

Saturday, April 9
9:00 am– 3:00 pm
Spring into Gardening
Putnam County MGVs
Topics: Uses for Herbs, Garden Trends, Gardening for Pollinators, Hardy Shrub Roses
Cost: $35
To register: www.putnam.osu.edu

Saturday, April 2
8:15 am—4:00 pm
15th Annual Spring Conference
Newark
Cost: $25 or $35 at door
Topics: Growing Simple, Biodiversity, Pollinators, Habitant Initiative, Attracting Birds, More
To register: www.fourseasonsofgardening.com

Saturday, March 12
9:00 am—12:00 pm
Hop Into Spring
Medina County MGVs
Topics: Container gardening
Cost $15
To register: Medina.osu.edu

Saturday, March 19
10:00 am —3:00 pm
A Walk Through the Garden
(Starting a long time ago in a Prairie far away)
Mt. Vernon
Contact: 740-397-0401
To register: Knox.osu.edu

Saturday, March 19
9:00 am—3:30 pm
Backyard Vegetable Garden Workshop
Cost: $30
Clark County MGVs, Springfield
To register: go.osu.edu/clarkvegetablegarden or http://clark.osu.edu/

Thursday, May 5– Friday, May 6
Master Gardener Volunteer Days
Secrest Arboretum
All MGVs are invited to attend.
Secrest Arboretum is located on the campus of the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, Wooster. Participants will have the opportunity to learn from experts in the horticultural field and help make Secrest a better place.
Cost: No charge
To register: http://osu.edu/secrestmg/ or contact Snyder.1062@osu.edu