

GREEN THUMB PRINTS

Gardening is our Passion Education is our Purpose

April / 2019

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Rambling Rose

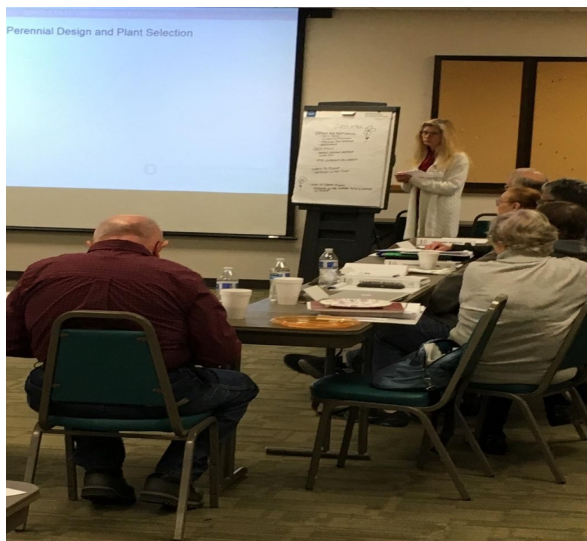
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It's Time to....

**Upcoming Events:**

Executive Committee	April 1, 6:30 pm
Courier Article Due	April 5
Hydrangea School	April 10
Southwest Perennial School	April 11
Recognition Dinner and Meeting	April 11, 6:00 pm
Garden Expo	April 13
Presentation at Feasel's	April 13, 10:00 am
Garden Bus Tour	April 25
Children's Garden Day	April 27
Spring Gardening Workshop	April 27
Executive Committee	May 2
Courier Article Due	May 5
Container Vegetable Gardening	May 7
Plant Exchange	May 9
Field Trip to Secrest	May 10
Let's Go Gardening	May 11

See Events Calendar on VMS for more details



Coordinator's Corner

As I am writing this today, the growing degree days for Findlay are 27, compared to 46 in 2018. So, it has been a bit colder to start the spring and plants are not growing as quickly as last year. Remember that the time to put crabgrass preventer on the lawns is between when the Forsythia blooms (GDD 86) to Common Lilac bloom (GDD 234). You can monitor The Ohio State Phenology Calendar to keep track of growing degree days and what is happening in the gardens.

We have completed the education class for the 18 interns of 2019. They are invited to the Recognition Dinner on April 11 at 6 p.m. We welcome these interns into the program and look forward to working with them as they complete their 50 hours of hands on training. Please welcome them to join in the projects we have going on this year. If you are an Intern, please do not be shy. Volunteer to join the various projects I explained during the last class.

We are close to obtaining the process to order apparel. As I hear more information, I will work with Kay Sidaway to distribute information. Until then be thinking about what you may want and what size. Shirts should range in the \$10-\$15 range.

Remember the plant exchange is May 9 at the home of Karla Dennis, weather permitting. Backup site is the Extension Office. Everyone is asked to bring a plant(s) to share with the group in an exchange process. Cake and cookies will be provided during social time. We look forward to seeing everyone there and to the opportunity to share and obtain different plants for our gardens.

Remember to monitor the VMS system for events and information. Also, try to enter your time as you go. I will be sharing a report with the Executive Committee and Ed Lentz each month, showing the hours spent by project on a current month and year to date basis. Your cooperation to move forward with this new system and process is appreciated. If you have any questions, please ask me. Several have and I hope that I have been responsive and helpful.

Well, between now and the next writing, get prepared to start the gardening season and to help the community answer their questions.

Karl Farwig



Rambling Rose

It is hard to believe that Spring has arrived -but only according to the calendar! We all hope the Growing degree days start happening soon!

March was a busy month for MGVS Interns. Thank you to all the MGVS who provided food and support during the classes. The interns were grateful for the refreshments and the opportunity to get acquainted with each other and the Perennial MGVS.

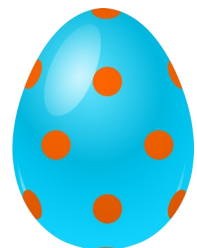
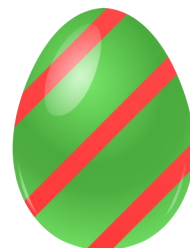
The Recognition Dinner for 2018 will be held on April 11 at 6:00 pm. MGVS will provide chicken, cake, and drinks. All Perennial MGVS are asked to bring a salad, hot dish or a dessert (other than cake) for the potluck. The Intern MGVS and Emeritus MGVS will be our guests for the evening. Please wear your name tags so everybody knows your name! In addition to dinner and recognition, there will be a door prize drawing for Perennial MGVS. We hope everyone is able to join us for this special evening. If you have not signed up through VMS or the sign-up sheet, and wish to attend, please call me so I buy enough chicken!

Karla Dennis has scheduled a MGVS event for Kids at the Findlay Public Library on April 27 from 10 a.m. to 12.00 p.m. If you would like to sign up to help, you can do so on VMS or by calling Karla.

Looking forward to the Secrest field trip and Let's Go Gardening in May. VMS has all the information for events like this as well as all the activities of MGVS. You also can volunteer for all activities through VMS, too.

Thank you to each of you for your participation in continuing to make the Hancock County Master Gardeners a success.

Rose



HANCOCK COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS

MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 14, 2019

A brown bag presentation at 6:00 p.m. by Karl Farwig demonstrated the State Master Gardener Volunteer Management System Program (VMS). Once we are all up and running with this program the recordkeeping of our various activities, volunteer time and communication between members will be easier and more efficient. He noted that time spent by a volunteer in learning the VMS program is considered volunteer time and should be recorded as volunteer hours.

Rose Morrison called the monthly business meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. There were 22 Master Gardeners present.

Secretary's Report: Rose asked for discussion or acceptance of the minutes for the February 14, 2019 monthly meeting. Pat Flinn (first) and Barb Phillips (seconded) a motion to accept the minutes. The minutes were accepted by a voice vote.

President Updates: Rose asked for approval to purchase pizza (approximate cost \$50) for the last day of the new intern class. Approval was given by the membership.

Volunteer Coordinator Updates: Karl Farwig noted that the 2019 MGVS State Conference will be held on November 8 in Columbus. He also noted there are 4 diagnostic clinics scheduled in 2019. They will focus on the "Best Practices in Pesticides." The clinics will be held on June 10 – Madison County, June 13 – Greene County, July 12 – Knox County, and July 18 – Cuyahoga County. At a State Volunteer Coordinators conference Karl shared that the Coordinators voted to not give the annual \$500 award for the 2019 Grow Ohio program. There had been no decision as to replacement of the award with other recognition. Karl displayed the new Hancock County MGVS signage that Tim Brugeman created. The signs will be displayed at all Master Gardener events.

Treasurer Report: Ann Woolum reviewed a statement of cash receipts and disbursements for the time period of 1/1/2019 through 3/10/2019. In addition, she reviewed the cash flow statements for the Scholarship and Community Garden funds. Rose introduced Committee Heads to give updates on their committee activities.

Administrative Committee: Lynn Farwig stated the committee had no new business to share at this time.

Administrative Subcommittee Social Activities: Barb Sherman stated there were signup sheets in the back of the room for volunteers needed for refreshments for the August and November meetings. A second signup sheet was available for the April recognition dinner. At the event perennials will furnish a side dish with chicken and cake being provided. Barb stated our May 9 meeting will be the annual plant exchange hosted by Karla Dennis. For this meeting ice cream will be provided and cookies furnished by Lyn Maa and Cheryl Miller.

Education Committee: Peggy Biolchini shared that a 1:00 or 1:30 tour of the Sequester Arboretum in Wooster was planned for Friday, May 10. Participating members would leave the Extension Office at 9:30 allowing time for lunch. It was noted that that weekend is the plant sale for the Arboretum and Friday is included in the sale days. In reference to monthly meeting Brown Bag presentations Linda Casey is scheduled for an August presentation with a topic of keeping Geese off ponds/lakes. Bill Jones is scheduled for a June presentation on the Phenology garden.

Service Committee: Linda Leiendecker stated the committee had no new business to share at this time.

Let's Go Gardening: To be held on the Saturday before Mother's Day (May 11). Garden centers participating will be Feasel's, Brinkman's, Garden Central and Lowe's. It was suggested that interns be paired with a perennial MGv for this event.

Misc. Business: Rose mentioned that she would like to form a committee to discuss future fundraising opportunities. Ann expressed interest in some field trips occurring on the weekend (Saturday) rather than during the week. Randy Greeno mentioned that no wreath class for the Upper Room Church had been scheduled. The oversight was corrected with a class being scheduled for the evening of Thursday, December 5.

Barb Phillips mentioned that the Glad bulb auction was to occur at the Extension Office on Sunday, March 17. Starting time 1:00 p.m.

Rose called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Randy Greeno (first) and Lynn Farwig (seconded) the motion. By a voice vote the meeting was adjourned at 8:00.

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 11, 2019 Recognition dinner starting at 6:00 pm with short business meeting to follow.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Miller



Field Trip to Secrest Arboretum
May 10, 2019

We will carpool from the Extension Office and leave at 9:30. We will be stopping at Pine Tree Barn for lunch around 11:15. This will allow us approximately 1:30 hours to eat and look around at their shop. After lunch we will drive about 15 minutes to Secrest. Our tour is scheduled for 1:00 and our tour guide will be Joe Cochran. There are two 8 passenger golf carts for those that have difficulty walking. The tour will last approximately 1 ½ hours. The plant sale starts at 3:00 and lasts until 5:00. They take payment by cash, check or credit card. I am not sure how many plants everyone plans to buy but we will have to consider space for our purchases when carpooling! Some people have already indicated they will just meet at the arboretum at 1:00. The end time may be earlier if we take less time shopping!

If you would like to look at the menu ahead of time the website is pinetreebarn.com

A plant list will be posted at some point on the Secrest website. Secrest.osu.edu/events

How to become a “master writer” of gardening articles

- Keep the word count to 500-750 words.
- Remember your reader is most likely an amateur gardener or average homeowner, so avoid using language/ concepts that may be too technical.
- Keep your reader in mind as you organize and write your article.
- Make sure your reader walks away with knowledge and information that will be useful to him/her.
- Try to focus in on a few key points. Don’t provide an exhaustive account of the subject because you will bog down the reader.
- Keep your language conversational in style.
- Your opening paragraph should capture the reader’s attention and hint at what the reader will learn if he/she continues reading.
- Think about what information you want to share, then think about the best way to organize the information (what to talk about first, second, third, etc.).
- Ask yourself if the article flows with good transition between paragraphs.
- Make sure you use legitimate sources (i.e. Web sites that end in .edu) when sourcing your information for the article.
- Try to point your reader to an additional source or two that they can turn to for more information on the subject.
- Email your article to Judi Clymer and Laurie Pressel by the 5th of the month that your article is due (i.e., June 5 for the June article).

Topic Ideas

Succulents- why are they so popular? How to grow, varieties, ways to use.	Insect Enemies – what the most bothersome insect pests for Findlay gardeners and how to deal with them
Rain Barrels – why use them, how to set up, maintain and use, where to get them in Findlay	Weeds 101 – what are the most bothersome weeds for Findlay gardeners and methods for dealing with them
Pollinators – what are the current concerns, how can you attract them to your garden	Lawn care best practices – how to achieve a lush green lawn
Christmas trees – types and differences, what to look for when selecting (NOV. article?)	Birds in the garden – how to attract birds to the garden
Clematis – how to grow and care for these vines	The Night Garden – plants that are stars of the evening/night and how to grow them
Heirloom plants – growing the past – what are heirloom plants? list of options and how to grow	How to drought proof your landscape
Northern Envy – southern U.S. has more diverse flora than northern U.S., yet some things grow better in Northern gardens – what plants do Southerners wish they could grow and how to grow them in Findlay	Mint - varieties, uses, how to grow, how to control
Soil – dealing with clay soil, how to test your soil and amend	Frequently asked gardening questions – list of 5 to 10 common questions with answers, examples, how do I keep rabbits from eating my tulips? When can I plant annual flowers? When is the best time to plant grass seed?
Ground covers – what are they, how are they beneficial? Which ones are the best? How do I grow them?	Frugal gardener – tips on saving money in your gardening hobby
Top shrubs for the landscape – what to consider when shopping for shrubs for the landscape, some winners to try	Oh dear, there are deer my garden – what to do when deer are eating your favorite plants
Tips for tomatoes – how do you grow awesome tomatoes	Fragrant plants – what makes a plant fragrant? What are some fragrant plants I can add to my garden
Tillage vs minimum tillage and how it affects soil texture and earthworm and micorrhizae activity and why we should care	Pick a plant that corresponds with the month of your article and write about it
Pick an insect that corresponds with the month of your article and write about it	Trends in gardening - kokodama
Trends in gardening - hugelkultur	Trends in gardening - hydroponics
Organic vs. chemical treatment	Organic insecticides and fungicides

Rhubarb is prone to bolting. Here's what to do

B. Rosie Lerner



We humans can be so difficult to please. When plants flower when we want them to, we call it blooming. But when plants flower when we don't want them to, we call it bolting. Flowering is an undesirable trait when growing rhubarb; therefore, bolting describes the event.

Gardeners frequently ask why their rhubarb is bolting. Well, if you think of it from the plant's perspective, it is just a part of the plant's natural life cycle. Flowering is part of the reproductive phase that leads to the production of fruit and seed.

But from the gardener's perspective, the production of flowers, fruit and seed in rhubarb wastes the plant's resources, which could be better spent on producing edible stalks or storing carbohydrates to use for the following season. And if allowed to mature seed, the resulting seedling offspring are often less desirable than the mother plant, which we paid good money to buy as a named cultivar. In fact, seedling offspring are often more likely to bolt than some of the more modern hybrid cultivars. Seedling offspring can also be vigorous enough or just numerous enough to take over the original planting.

It does appear that some rhubarb plants are more prone to flowering than others. Old-fashioned varieties, such as Victoria and MacDonald, are reported to be heavy seed stalk producers. Canada Red and Valentine are less likely to bolt. Plant maturity is also a factor, with more mature plants being more likely to bolt than youngsters. Dividing the crowns every 4-5 years should help rejuvenate the planting. Applying moderate amounts of fertilizer, such as well-composted manure, each spring should also discourage bolting.

Weather no doubt has a role to play as well. Rhubarb is a cool season perennial that can remain productive for 8-15 years, if given proper care. Plant stress, such as temperatures above 90 F, prolonged drought during hot weather, poor nutrition, etc., may also promote bolting.

The bottom line is that rhubarb may bolt for a variety — and likely a combination — of several factors. Many gardeners may not know what cultivar they have, and there's not much we can do about the weather. So, if your rhubarb should happen to bolt, remove the flowering stalks just as soon as they are visible, to which the plant will likely respond by sending up another. If you keep at it, soon the plant will return to the desired priority for foliage production.

Another question that sometimes comes up is whether the flowering makes the leaf stalks poisonous. The answer is no, the leaf stalks remain edible, regardless of whether flower stalks are present. However, the leafy blade portion is always poisonous due to a high level of oxalic acid.



IT'S TIME TO.....

HOME (Indoor plants and activities)

- Start seeds of warm-season plants (including tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, marigolds, zinnias, and petunias) indoors for transplanting later to the garden.
- Harden off transplants started earlier in spring before planting outdoors. Gradually expose the young plants to outdoor conditions of wind, brighter sunlight, and lower moisture.
- Apply fertilizer to houseplants according to label directions as days grow brighter and longer and new growth begins. Foliage plants require relatively high-nitrogen fertilizer, while blooming plants thrive on formulations that are higher in phosphorus.
- Keep Easter lily in a bright, cool location, out of direct sunlight. Water as soil begins to dry. You can remove the yellow, pollen-bearing anthers inside the flower by pinching to prevent staining the petals.

YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals, and fruits)

- Plant a tree in celebration of Arbor Day, April 27. You should plant bare-root stock before new top growth begins. You can plant balled and burlapped and containerized stock later in spring.
- Complete pruning chores. Remove dead and injured branches first.
- Apply a pre-bloom, multipurpose orchard spray to fruit trees.
- Remove winter coverings from roses, but keep mulch nearby to protect them from late freezes. Prune and fertilize as needed.
- Apply pre-emergent herbicide to control crabgrass in lawns. Approximate application dates are late March to mid-April in southern Indiana and mid-April to early May in northern Indiana. Exact timing varies each year with weather conditions.

GARDEN (Flowers, vegetables, and small fruits)

- Plant seeds of cool-season crops directly in the garden as soon as the soil dries enough to be worked. When squeezed, soil should crumble instead of forming a ball. Cool-season crops that can be direct-seeded include peas, lettuce, spinach, carrots, beets, turnips, parsnips and Swiss chard.
- Plant transplants of cool-season crops, such as broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, kohlrabi and onions.
- Plant or transplant asparagus and rhubarb crowns. For best plant establishment, do not harvest until the third year after planting.
- Plant sections of certified, disease-free potato "seed" tubers.
- Allow the foliage of spring-flowering bulbs to remain in place after blooms fade. Leaves manufacture the food reserves, which are then stored in the bulb for a repeat showing next year.
- Plant hardy perennials, such as daylilies and delphiniums.
- Start tuberous begonias and caladiums indoors for transplanting to garden later.
- Remove winter mulch from strawberries, but keep mulch handy in case late frosts are predicted and to help keep weeds under control.
- Plant or transplant strawberries, raspberries, and other small fruit.
- Prune grape vines to remove dead or weakened limbs and to thin as needed.
- Repair support trellises as needed. Remove weak, diseased, or damaged canes from raspberry plants before new growth begins. Remove old fruiting canes if you did not remove them last year, and shorten remaining canes if necessary.
- Prune grapevines after you can assess winter injury.



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The Master Gardener “Green Thumb Prints” is a publication of the Ohio State University Extension, Hancock County, 7868 County Road 140 Suite B Findlay, OH 45840 419-422-3851.

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