

GREEN THUMB PRINTS

Gardening is our Passion Education is our Purpose

December 2019



Holiday Potluck and Celebration

Upcoming Events:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Dec 2-5 | <u>Wreath Classes</u> |
| Dec 5 | <u>Courier Article Due</u> |
| Dec 7-8 | <u>Wreath Classes</u> |
| Dec 9 | <u>Mugs of Joy</u> |
| Dec 9 | <u>MGV State Advisory
Committee</u> |
| Dec 12 | <u>Holiday Potluck and
Celebration</u> |
| Dec 19 | <u>MG Executive
Committee Meeting</u> |
| Jan 5 | <u>Courier Article Due</u> |
| Jan 9 | <u>MG Monthly Meeting</u> |

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Coordinator's Corner

First and foremost, I want to thank everyone for their contributions in 2019. Everyone's efforts in continuing to make this group thrive is fantastic and much appreciated. I look forward to seeing the wreath making sessions come to fruition with our new location and process.

Everyone please enter your hours into the VMS or turn them into Lynn Farwig so she can enter them for you. (Please see page 7) All hours and contacts for the year must be entered by December 31 as the state will be pulling our data on January 8. I also need everyone to recertify the **Ohio State Extension Standard of Behavior, MGVS Name Usage Policy and Pesticide Management Policy** on the VMS system by December 31. You will also be asked if you have completed your hours and are seeking recertification, have not completed hours and are seeking recertification, seeking inactive status or do not wish to recertify. An email with instructions has been sent to you.

Actives cannot be recertified unless they have signed and agreed to the documents mentioned above and have 10 hours of continued education and 20 hours of service. Interns must sign and agree to the documents mentioned above and have 50 hours of service. Your cooperation on this is much appreciated.

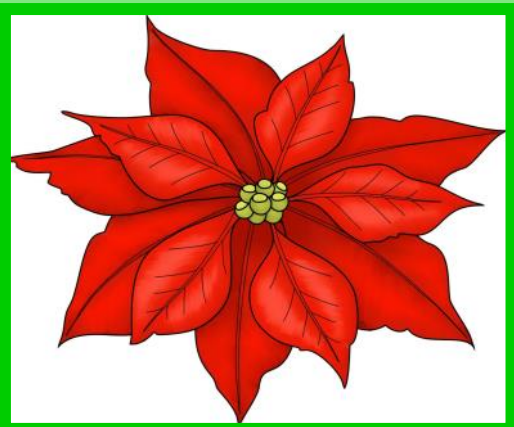
Also, everyone will be required to read and understand **Policy 1.50-Activities and Programs with Minor Participants**. This form has also been sent to you via email so you can print and sign. Please sign and bring this to me at the Christmas Potluck or turn it into the office by December 31.

Thanks for the work from the Seminar Committee on our future educational opportunity planned for March 7. Marketing materials will be sent to branding for approval soon.

Many thanks to Lisa McClain for preparing the newsletter each month. I really appreciate her willingness to do this and getting it out on the first of each month.

I submitted the year-end project report for our Grow Ohio Award and we should be receiving \$500 for this project.

I hope to see you all at the Christmas Potluck! Happy Holidays to everyone!



Karl Farwig

Rambling Rose

December 2019

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! We are all excited to start Wreath Classes! This is our only fundraiser for 2019. Thank you to Betsy DeFrancesco for all this organization and to everyone who is helping to gather greens, work in wreath classes and make bows. If you haven't signed up to help it is never too late!

Thank you to Ann Woolum and the seminar committee for the planning and organization of the seminar which will be the first we have hosted. Mark your calendars for March 7, 2020. More details at January MGv meeting. It is a great opportunity to learn and give service.

Linda Laux and team will present the Mugs of Joy event on Dec. 9 at BVRSI Day Program. Thank you Linda and team!

The MGv Holiday Potluck is December 12, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. Meat will be provided. Everyone is asked to bring a favorite holiday dish to share. Please sign up on VMS in order for Barb Sherman, chairman of the Social Committee, to accurately plan. All Master Gardener Volunteers may bring a guest.

Thank you to outgoing officers: Cheryl Miller, Secretary and Noreen Walters, Vice President. We appreciate your years spent on the Executive Committee as well as your commitment to the Master Gardener Volunteers.

January 9, 2020 is the next regular MGv Meeting at 6:00 p.m. I hope you all have a wonderful December filled with all the joys of the Holiday Season. I also want to thank every one of you for your contributions to the Master Gardener Volunteers. Teamwork makes the dream work!

Rose



HANCOCK COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS
MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 14, 2019

Rose Morrison called the business meeting to order at 6:50 following a brown bag presentation by Cheryl Miller entitled The Art of Presentations. There were 27 Master Gardeners in attendance.

Secretary Report: Cheryl updated her October minutes to include information given to her by Sharon Milligan related to a field trip to Fostoria that Sharon has arranged. The activity will occur on June 20, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. We will be touring the gardens of Joe and Brenda Stearns.

Rose asked for approval of the October 10, 2019 meeting minutes. The motion was first and seconded by Linda Finsel and Pat Flinn. By a voice vote the minutes were approved.

Treasurer Report: In the absence of Treasurer Ann Woolum, Rose reviewed our income and expenditures for October. The report was accepted.

President Updates: Rose shared that Volunteer Coordinator Karl Farwig and Ann Woolum had attended the Master Gardener State Conference held in Columbus on October 30, 2019.

Rose stated that the volunteer group leader openings for the 2020 calendar year had been filled. The Speakers Bureau will be co-chaired by Linda Finsel and Tim Brugeman. The Ask-A-Master Gardener activity will be led by Doris Salis. The Brown Bag activity will be led by Marlene Brunswick.

Doris circulated a signup sheet for the Ask-A-Master Gardener activity. Usually more calls are received in the Spring and Summer for this activity. Peggy Biolchini, retiring Ask-A-Master Gardener lead, shared that there was a need for volunteers with a knowledge of fruit trees/vines.

Rose led the election process for the offices of Vice President and Secretary. The officer terms will be for two years beginning January 1, 2020 thru December 31, 2021. Ed Lentz, Extension Educator, distributed, collected and counted ballots. The MGV officers for the new two-year term are Vice President Tim Brugeman and Secretary Reuben DeBolt.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Social/Fundraising: Betsy DeFrancesco shared that 138 individuals have thus far signed up to participate in the wreath making classes. Sites identified for green cutting include the McComb Golf Course and the home of Sharon Hammer Baker. Volunteer signup for green cutting or helping with wreath classes may be completed through the VMS site.

Barb Sherman discussed our December 12, 2019 holiday dinner meeting. Drink, meat, and table service will be provided with participants bringing a salad, soup, dessert, or vegetable side dish to share. Starting time is 6:00 p.m. with RVSP signup on VMS.

(Continued)

HANCOCK COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS

MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

Teaching Committee: Judy Clymer thanked Linda Finsel and Tim Brugeman for working together on the Speakers Bureau.

Karla Dennis shared that the Hancock County Library would like to have a full year schedule of our planned speakers. Karla circulated a signup sheet for those wishing to give gardening presentations at the library in 2020.

Judy stated that volunteers wishing to write a Courier article may go online to sign up. Rose mentioned that a writer is needed for January/February. She suggested a possible topic relate to our upcoming seminar where one of the areas will be related to sustainable gardening.

Service Committee: Linda Laux shared that she has enough mugs for the 2019 Mugs of Joy holiday activity. The event will occur on Monday, December 9 starting at 1:00 p.m. at the Blanchard Valley Service Center at 1624 Tiffin Avenue. During the event holiday songs will be sung with Linda Hummel accompanying on the piano.

Linda Leiendecker reported that the final 2019 poundage report for the community garden was 3052 pounds.

Education Committee: Peggy Biolchini shared our Gardening seminar is scheduled for Saturday, March 7, 2020. It will begin at 8:30 a.m. with sessions occurring throughout the day. Four speakers are planned. A continental breakfast and box lunch will be provided. The cost of the seminar will be \$40.

Old Business: Rose and Ed thanked all who participated in the Jacobs School popcorn event.

New Business: Rose mentioned that volunteers are needed for providing refreshments at our January meeting. If interested sign up on the VMS system.

Tim Brugeman handed out a flyer requesting volunteers for the Hancock County Wetlands Native Tree and Shrub Planting Event on November 21, 22, and 23. For additional information contact Tim.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50.

Future Meetings: December - Thursday, Dec. 12, 2019 Holiday Dinner meeting at 6:00 p.m.
January - Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Miller

Respectfully Submitted: Cheryl Miller

2020 Officers and Committees

Executive Committee

Volunteer Coordinator-Karl Farwig

President-Rose Morrison

Vice President-Tim Brugeman

Secretary-Reuben DeBolt

Treasurer-Ann Woolum

Service Committee

Chair-Brint Simmons

OSUE Building Garden-Jerry Lenhart

Community Gardens-Brint Simmons

Phenology Garden-Bill Jones

Mugs of Joy-Linda Laux

Administrative Committee

Chair-Lynn Farwig

Newsletter– Lisa McClain

Calendar of Events-Kay Sidaway

Facebook-Betsy DeFrancesco

Apparel/Membership-Kay Sidaway

Teaching Committee

Chair-Judy Clymer

Courier Articles-Laurie Pressel

Fair Booth-Doris Salis

Speakers Bureau-Linda Finsel

Library Programs-Karla Dennis

Lets Go Gardening-Noreen Walters

Social and Fundraising Committee

Chair-Barb Sherman

Wreath Class-Betsy DeFrancesco

Refreshments-Barb Sherman

Summer Picnic-Marlene Brunswick

Plant Exchange-Karla Dennis

Christmas Potluck-Barb Sherman

Fundraising-Karla Dennis

Education Committee

Chair-Peggy Biolchini

Brown Bag-Marlene Brunswick

Ask A Gardener-Doris Salis

MGV Training Classes-Karl Farwig/Tim Brugeman

Field Trips-Lynn Farwig/Ann Woolum

Seminars-Ann Woolum

Mentors-Tim Brugeman

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Holiday Potluck and Celebration

Master Gardener Potluck will be held on December 12th at 6 pm.
Again this year meat, drinks and table service will be provided.
We are asking members to bring a side dish of salads, vegetables, breads or whatever you feel like fixing for our merry evening of fellowship.
Spouses are welcome so be sure to sign up on the VMS.

Submitted by: Barb Sherman



Report Hours to VMS

It is time to get all of your hours posted to the VMS!
The state will be running their report right after the first of the year,
so it is important to get your hours in by year-end.

After signing on to the VMS, look on the left side of the screen toward the top and click on 'Add New Hours'. On the next screen, you will need to type in an 'Event Description'. This description is just your description, whatever you want to call it (i.e. 'Oct Monthly Meeting') then enter the date of the event. You must select a project! The list will pop up when you click on the box. There are many to choose from (i.e. Monthly Master Gardener Meetings and Brown Bag, Phenology Garden, Refreshments, etc.). Just select one that fits your hours. You can enter miles also, but it isn't required. Your hours are either 'Volunteer Hours' or 'Continuing Education Hours'. Some events can be both. For example, monthly meetings may be an hour of education and an hour of volunteer. Also, classes you attend might be both with actual class time being education and travel or lunch time being volunteer. Remember research for a presentation is considered education.

If you are having problems navigating the VMS, please let me know.
I can help you get your hours entered. My phone number is 419-348-0915.

Hope to see you all at our Christmas Potluck!

Submitted By: Lynn Farwig

COMMITTEE UPDATES-(CONTINUED)

Christmas Wreaths

The 2019 Wreath Classes have 149 paid participants as of November 24th.
Monday and Tuesday are completely full at 40 each.

A small ad has been placed in The Courier's City & Country classified section
that will have run the two days leading up to Thanksgiving.

Greens will have been cut the three days after Thanksgiving and we may need more
before the Saturday and Sunday classes.

Watch your email accounts for any last-minute announcements.

Submitted By: Betsy DeFrancesco

"Simple & Sustainable Landscapes: Go Native in Your Yard"

The Master Gardeners of Hancock County will host a seminar on sustainable landscape
practices on Saturday, March 7, 2020 at the OSU Extension Office from 8:30 am-3:00 pm

Sustainability in landscaping integrates environmentally sound gardening practices as part of
design, installations and maintenance with little or no additional support beyond
minimal water, fertilizer and seasonal care.

Four presenters are being confirmed for topics such as starting from scratch, garden
conversions, using natural materials and plants, companion native plants for weed and
pest control and avoiding invasives.

This event is open to the public for a \$40 fee.
A continental breakfast and lunch are included.

***Local Master Gardener volunteers will be needed to help with parts of the day's activities.
More details to come.***

Registration will begin on EventBrite on December 15th



Yikes! My Christmas Cactus is Already Blooming!

Christmas cacti are a popular houseplant—and for good reason! They produce colorful, tubular flowers in pink or lilac colors that last and they're easy to care for.

Unlike many other cacti, Christmas cacti and their relatives don't live in arid environments. Their natural habit is one of an epiphyte living in tree branches in the rain forests of Brazil. In other words, they prefer a humid climate, not a dry one, so it's important to water these cacti more regularly than most succulents.

HOW TO TELL HOLIDAY CACTI APART

Did you know there are several types of “holiday” cacti: Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. They typically bloom closest to the holiday that they're named after. To tell the three cacti apart, pay attention to their leaf shapes and flowers:

- **Christmas cacti** have flattened leaves with rounded teeth on the margins of the leaves.
- **Thanksgiving cacti** have flattened leaves with pointed teeth.
- **Easter cacti** also have flattened leaves with rounded teeth, but their flowers are broader and almost daisy-like, unlike the flowers of the other cacti, which are more tube-shaped.

To confuse matters more, most of the Christmas cacti sold are actually Thanksgiving cactus. If you find your Christmas cactus blooming near Thanksgiving, guess what?

Here's a photo of my “Christmas” cactus taken on November 18. Guess I'll start calling it my Thanksgiving Cactus!



(Continued)

Yikes! My Christmas Cactus is Already Blooming!

(Continued)

PLANTING

- Christmas (I'll use Christmas for all holiday) cacti grow well in most container soils, as long as it drains well. Make sure that your pots have drainage holes.
- Plants should be kept in bright, indirect light.
- A daytime temperature of 70°F (21°C) and an evening temperature of 60-65°F (15° -18° C) is preferred.
- In the summer, Christmas cacti can be placed in a shady spot in the garden or in an unheated porch until temperatures get below 50°F (10°C).

CARE

- As soon as the top inch of soil in the container feels dry to the touch, soak the soil until water runs through the pot's drainage holes; discard water in the tray so the plant doesn't sit in water. It's especially important to water well while the plant is flowering.
- From spring through early fall, feed every two weeks with a balanced houseplant fertilizer. During the fall and winter, feed the cactus monthly.
- Prune plants in June to encourage branching and more flowers. Simply cut off a few sections of each stem. If you wish, place the cut pieces in moist vermiculite to make more plants—they root easily.
- If your cactus is not blooming, it may be due to the amount of daylight they're getting or the temperature.
- To trigger blooming, nights need to be at least 14 hours long and days between 8 to 10 for six weeks. If you have strong indoor lighting at night, you may need to cover your cacti.
- Flowers will only form when the temperature is between a cool 50 to 55°F (10° to 13°C).
- If the cacti sheds its buds one winter, don't worry: it should bloom the following year.

PEST/DISEASES

Blossom drop: If your Christmas cactus is exposed to any type of stress, the plant will likely drop its blossoms. This could be related to the amount of light, or a sudden change in temperature, as discussed in above plant care section. Also, ensure that your soil doesn't get too dry while buds are forming.

The plant may be susceptible to **mealy bugs** and, if over-watered, **root rot**. If you have problems, cut out infected areas and repot in clean soil.

Submitted By: Linda Casey

MG Happenings.....



Make-It-Take It Seminar *"Forcing Bulbs"*

Presented by Dick Deerhake
for the Bluffton-Pandora Area Gardeners
at the Bluffton Library on November 5



Gardening in Our Golden Years *"Winter Bird Feeding"*

Presented by Cheryl Miller and assisted by
Jeri Wenger and Jerry Lenhart at 50N on November 7



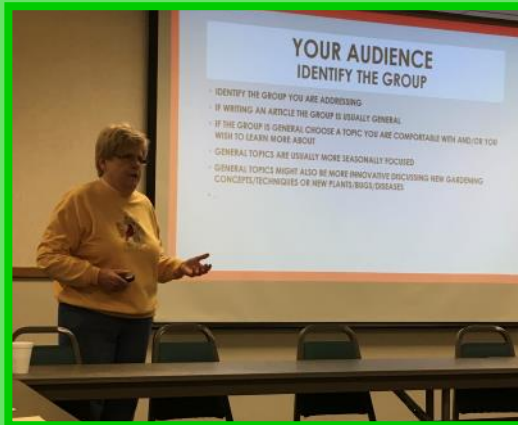
MG Happenings.....(Continued)

Brown Bag

"The Art of Presentations"

Cheryl Miller presented a very informative Brown Bag at the November 14th meeting.

Included in her presentation were tips on how to write articles and give presentations to groups.



“Grow Extraordinary Plants From Gardening Catalogs”

Check out this great article written by Bob Campbell

The Courier-November 23rd

<http://findlaycourier.oh.newsmemory.com/?publink=08f2b52ac>



State Master Gardener Volunteer Conference and Awards Program

Way to Go Hancock County Master Gardeners!!!!



Grow Ohio

Champaign 35	Hardin 1,282
Clark 7,500	Huron 1,406
Clinton 108	Lake 207
Cuyahoga 855	Licking 2,650
Fayette 507	Portage 30
Franklin 19,279	Shelby 3,591
Greene 4,187	Summit 953
Hamilton 1,569	Union 1,034
Hancock 3,006	Washington 298



IT'S TIME TO.....

HOME (Indoor plants and activities)

- Check houseplant leaves for brown, dry edges, which indicates too little relative humidity in the house. Increase humidity by running a humidifier, grouping plants or using pebble trays.
- Extend the lives of holiday plants such as poinsettias and Christmas cactus by placing them in a cool, brightly lit area that is free from warm or cold drafts.
- Houseplants may not receive adequate light because days are short and gloomy. Move plants closer to windows, but avoid placing foliage against cold glass panes. Artificial lighting may be helpful.
- Because growth slows or stops in winter months, most plants will require less water and little, if any, fertilizer.
- If you are forcing bulbs for the holidays, bring them into warmer temperatures after they have been sufficiently precooled. Bulbs require a chilling period of about 10 to 12 weeks at 40 degrees F to initiate flower buds and establish root growth. Precooled bulbs are available from many garden suppliers, if you did not get yours cooled in time. Then provide two to four weeks of warm temperature (60° F), bright light and moderately moist soil to bring on flowers.
- When shopping for a Christmas tree, check for green, flexible, firmly held needles and a sticky trunk base – both indicators of freshness. Make a fresh cut, and keep the cut end under water at all times.
- Evergreens, except pines and spruce, can be trimmed now for a fresh supply of holiday greenery.

YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals and fruits)

- Prevent bark splitting of young and thin-barked trees, such as fruit and maple trees. Wrap trunks with tree wrap, or paint them with white latex (not oil-based) paint, particularly on the south- and southwest-facing sides.
- Protect shrubs such as junipers and arborvitae from extensive snow loads by tying their stems together with twine. Carefully remove heavy snow loads with a broom to prevent limb breakage.
- Protect broadleaved evergreens and other tender landscape plants from excessive drying (desiccation) by winter sun and wind. Canvas, burlap or polyethylene plastic screens to the south and west protect the plants. Similarly, shield plants from salt spray on the street side.
- Provide winter protection for roses by mounding soil approximately 12 inches high to insulate the graft union after plants are dormant and temperatures are cold. Additional organic mulch such as straw compost or chopped leaves can be placed on top.

GARDEN (Flowers, vegetables and small fruits)

- To protect newly planted or tender perennials and bulbs, mulch with straw, chopped leaves or other organic material after plants become dormant.
- Store leftover garden chemicals where they will stay dry, unfrozen and out of the reach of children, pets and unsuspecting adults.
- Once the plants are completely dormant and temperatures are consistently below freezing, apply winter mulch to protect strawberries and other tender perennials. In most cases, 2 to 4 inches of organic material such as straw, pine needles, hay or bark chips will provide adequate protection.
- Check produce and tender bulbs in storage, and discard any that show signs of decay, such as mold or softening. Shriveling indicates insufficient relative humidity.
- Clean up dead plant materials, synthetic mulch and other debris in the vegetable garden, as well as in the flowerbeds, rose beds and orchards.
- Make notes for next year's garden.

Submitted By: Linda Casey



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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Merry Christmas!!!

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