

Green Thumb Prints

Newsletter of the Hancock County
Master Gardener Volunteers
Gardening is our Passion . . . Education is our Purpose

March 2019

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 14, 2019 6:00 PM

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Calendar of Events

March 5-19, 2019

(Complete March & April calendar at the end of this report)

DATE	EVENT	TIME	COST	LOCATION	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	CONTACT
March 5	Courier Article		N/A	The Courier	Article in March 23 newspaper	Bob Campbell

					"Beneficial Insects"	
March 6	Fifth MGV class	9:00 - 4:00		OSUE Office	5th Class for new MGVs	Karl Farwig
March 6	Ohio Woodland, Water, & Wildlife Conference	8:45 - 3:30	\$80	Mid Ohio Conference Center Mansfield	Topics on water, bees, trees, wildlife, etc.	ohiowoods@osu.edu 614-688-3421
March 7	Central Ohio Perennial Flower School	9:00 - 4:15	\$70	Springfield	Bulbs & companions, favorite plants, dahlias, etc	go.osu.edu/2019clarkperennialschool
March 9	Home Gardeners' Workshop	8:45 - 3:30	\$35/\$50	Lakeland Community College, Kirtland	Bugs, plants, pruning, bees	Mail to Lake County OSU Ext, 99 E. Erie St., Painesville
March 12	Gardeners of Bluffton / Pandora Area	6:30 pm	N/A	Bluffton Library	Seed Starting	Patrick Flinn or Marilynn Beltz
March 13	Fostoria Garden Club (Carol Kinn/ Judi Clymer)	Noon w/lunch	N/A	Kaubisch Library, Fostoria	Spring Landscaping Makeovers	Tim Brugeman
March 13	Sixth MGV class	9:00 - 4:00		OSUE Office	6th Class for new MGVs	Karl Farwig
March 14	Brown Bag Presentation	6:00 pm	N/A	OSUE Office	VMS	Karl Farwig
March 14	Refreshments for MGV Meeting		N/A	OSUE Office	Provide Refreshments	Lynn Farwig, Betsy DeFranseco
March 14	MGV Monthly Meeting	7:00 pm	N/A	OSUE Office	Monthly Meeting	Rose Morrison
March 14	Landscape Disasters How to Fix	6:30 - 8:00	\$0	Schedel Arboretum & Gardens, Elmore	Landscaping	See Tim Brugeman
March 16	Art of Gardening	8:00 - 3:15	\$50	OSU Lima, 4240 Campus Dr	Edibles, rare plants, weeds & herbs	Mail in Registration

March 16	Landscape Design with Janet Macunovich	9:00 - Noon	\$10	Huron County MGVs	Landscape design	419-677-6674
March 16	You can make a difference for Monarchs	10:00 - noon	\$5	Marysville	Monarchs information	937-644-8117
March 16	Backyard Vegetable Workshop	9:00 - 3:30	\$30	Courtyard by Marriott Springfield	Compost, soil, insects, veggies	Clark OSU Extension go.osu.edu/2019clarkvegetablegarden

Coordinator's Corner

I hope all of you are staying safe during the past few weeks of this winter season. I cannot recall a winter that has been so windy as this one. If you have trees, like I do, there have been constant twigs and branches falling as a result of the wind and ice. Lynn and I escaped the cold period in late January while we were in Australia and New Zealand, where the temperatures were in 80s to 100s.

Thanks to Ann Woolum for her great article on "Seed Starting", which was in the February 16th newspaper. Please watch for Bob Campbell's article coming in the 3rd week of March. Also, it was so great to see several Master Gardeners quoted in the gardening article in February 23 edition of *The Courier*. Thanks for taking the time to share your experiences with the public.

I have been working with Rose and the Executive team since the beginning of the year

and there are numerous educational opportunities that have been sent to you for your

consideration. They have been sent to you via email and posted on the Volunteer Management System (VMS) calendar.

The March Brown Bag will be a demonstration of the VMS system, presented by me. There are numerous issues you have requested that are capable of being addressed in this system. Although we realize that not everyone is computer savvy, we hope to use this system more and more this year to store information and post calendar events. It also is a way you can record time spent volunteering as a Master Garden. Please come to this session with an open mind. Please ask questions during the session if you don't understand something.

I am pleased that we have 18 interns in our new class and every one of them has been engaged in the class topics. Tim has done a great job of getting mentors for each intern. As March wraps up, these interns will complete the book part of the course and will be acknowledged at the April Recognition night.

Thank you for your support and let me know if you have any questions or suggestions.

**HANCOCK COUNTY
MASTER GARDENER
VOLUNTEERS
MEETING MINUTES**

Rose's Flower

February 14, 2019

A letter from our president.

I am so excited by the enthusiasm and participation of everyone at the February meeting. My goal is to excite, encourage, and enable every MGCV to have ownership in this group and feel a part of every event.

I encourage open communication about issues, ideas, and feedback. We are a volunteer organization and need to make it a joyful experience. If you are happy and you know it clap your hands! If you are not, please talk to Karl or me about it.

My music teacher always said "The band is only as good as the weakest player." I feel this is true in all walks of life. I want each of us to find and share your strengths. By each of us taking ownership of our strengths, we can celebrate both as an individual and help the group be stronger.

I look forward to welcoming the 18 New Interns next month at the April meeting. Their enthusiasm and interactions will enliven and enrich our MGCV family. Please ensure that you wear your name badge to April meeting to help the new class learn our names!

Thank you to everyone for a doing a great job to help with the success of the Master Gardener Volunteers. You are a very special and dedicated group of individuals and I am honored to be a small part of this group. Pray for spring!

An excellent brown bag presentation related to pruning trees was presented by Peggy Biolchini at 6:00 p.m. Following the presentation Rose Morrison requested that we break into four planning committee work groups to discuss future activities related to each group. The four committees were Administrative, Service, Teaching, and Education.

Rose Morrison called the monthly business meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. There were 20 Master Gardeners present.

Secretary's Report: Rose asked for discussion or acceptance of the amended minutes for the January 10, 2019 monthly meeting. Pat Flinn (first) and Noreen Walters (seconded) a motion to accept the minutes. The minutes were accepted by a voice vote.

Volunteer Coordinator Updates: Karl Farwig briefly discussed using the State Master Gardener Volunteer Management System (VMS) Program. This program allows individuals to register volunteer hours and activities electronically. It was decided that Karl would present an overview of the system during our monthly brown bag session in March.

Karl stated that the 2019 new Master Gardener class had an enrollment of 18. In addition, he stated that the 2019 MGCV Directory had been sent out. If anyone saw a need for any changes in the data listed for them they should contact Lynn Farwig.

Treasurer Report: Ann Woolum reviewed our finances for January. She stated that the annual State MGV dues had been paid for 2019. The total was \$320 or \$10 for each of our 32 active members. Lynn (first) and Judy Clymer (seconded) a motion to accept the treasurer's report. The treasurer's report was accepted by a voice vote.

President Updates: In conjunction with the Treasurer's report Rose reviewed the MGV scholarship fund. The monies in this fund are intended to support our current members who attend in-service/continuing education workshops earning credit towards the required 10 hours of education an active MGV member is required to have each year. Rose mentioned that members may be reimbursed up to \$50 per year for any in-service cost. Rose also mentioned that **our Recognition Night will be the April 11, 2019 meeting.** There will be a potluck dinner with Chicken and cake being provided. Each MGV member is asked to bring a dish to share. Dinner will be at 6:00 with recognition activities followed by a regular business meeting. This is the first meeting that the new MGV interns will be attending.

Rose reviewed the format for the committee reports which is to review items mentioned in their earlier work session. Information was to be presented as "old business" or "new business". Old business primarily relates to items which have been mentioned at a previous meeting (i.e. Karl mentioned that Tim Brugeman will not be starting the review/update of our Constitution until after the new MGV class sessions end). New business relates to items being introduced for the first time and fall within the next 3 months or beyond. Committee leads might put out a request for needed volunteer help during this review.

Administrative Committee: Lynn Farwig shared that there was discussion related to reformatting our Green Thumb Prints newsletter. The thought is to have the newsletter list more of our current events with pictures and summaries written by the committee leads and submitted to Linda Casey by the first day of the month. In addition, information on future activities by committees would be included. Other thoughts mentioned were putting a short calendar showing the next month's events on the front page and shortening the end calendar to two months of upcoming events. Also mentioned was having only one educational article. Rose mentioned that the wreath classes for 2019 would be held at the Extension Office on County Road 140. The fee for each class will be raised from \$15 to \$20 and will be prepaid. Dates for the classes will be December 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7.

Education Committee: Peggy Biolchini mentioned the possibility of two field trips for 2019. One would be to the Secrest Arboretum in Wooster, Ohio. Tentative plans would be for a May visit. A second field trip was discussed for August to the Raker-Roberta's Trial Gardens in Litchfield Michigan. Linda Casey mentioned that it would be nice if we were able to share information on who is going to what educational workshop. Then members might be able to carpool to the activities. Karl will address this idea at our next meeting.

Teaching Committee: Judi Clymer mentioned the need for MGV signs at all events we participate in to recognize our MGV group. She mentioned that Tim had a need for speakers for the requests he has received from the community. If you are interested in giving a gardening talk please contact Tim Brugeman.

Service Committee: Doris Salis mentioned she will need help with the front gardens. If you are willing to volunteer to help please contact Doris. Rose called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dick Deerhake (first) and Linda Casey (seconded) the motion. By a voice vote the meeting was adjourned at 8:10.

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 14, 2019 with a brown bag presentation at 6:00 p.m.
Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Miller

Master Gardener Volunteer Training



18 interns have been attending classes every Wednesday at the Extension Office. Classes run from 9:00 to 4:00, with an hour lunch break. Many thanks to our Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) who have helped in setup and tear down; provided snacks and beverages; and set up display tables for the group. We have had great turnout from our MGVs, who

have attended the classes to learn more from our speakers. So far we have covered these topics:

- Botany,
- Pesticide Safety and Integrated Pest Management,
- Plant Propagation and House Plants,
- Soils and Fertilizers,
- Invasive Insects and Plants,
- Plant Pathology, and
- Fruits.

There are four more weeks of class before the interns finish their book-part of the training.

They will be recognized at the April Recognition Night as new interns to our group and each will then set out on the journey of completing 50 hours of hands-on training. Please welcome each one of the interns to our group and invite them to volunteer for our project work. Help guide them to learn more and more through your guidance and mentoring.

You will find some pictures taken during the class in this newsletter. Again, thanks to all who have helped this be a very successful training opportunity for these interns.



term MGV volunteers. Weekly follow-ups, feed back, including them in activities to get their hours, and making them feel an important part of our mission, is important to our future. For the annual recognition dinner April 11, mentors will introduce their interns to all of us. Thanks to all for this extra effort.

Speakers for Upcoming Programs

View the calendar with all Hancock MGV activities and speakers to date on-line in the new Master Gardener Volunteer Management System. Tim Brugeman will help presenters with arrangements, visual aids and format as needed. MGVs and new interns are welcome to help our folks set up and participate in all events. New this year is a series at 50 North (the senior center), “Gardening in the Golden Years”.

- **We still need presenters for:**
- 50 North program this September or
-
- October on planting & forcing bulbs (indoors). Date / time to be arranged.
- September 10 – Findlay Garden Club “Using Native Plants in the Landscape”, details TBA with volunteers.
- Findlay – Hancock County Public Library MGV Speaker Program Series by Karla Dennis still being arranged. Details TBA with volunteers.

Thank you,
Tim Brugeman

Thank you MGV Mentors

The new mentoring program has matched our volunteers with 18 new interns. Thanks to these new friends, we welcome them and help one-on-one through their first year to be long

Garden Club of America Plant of the Year 2019



Aristolochia macrophylla Dutchman's Pipe

Aristolochia macrophylla, also known as *Isotrema macrophylla*, is a deciduous native vine that can be used to create a lush living wall, a sheltering green roof, a thick ground cover, or an attractive privacy fence and it has been used in American gardens since the eighteenth century. Large, heart-shaped, densely overlapping leaves 6 to 12 inches long can quickly cover an arbor or trellis with attractive, glossy, deep green foliage and create a canopy impenetrable to the rays of the sun or moderate rain. The common name derives from the plant's exotic pale yellow flowers that resemble a "Dutchman's pipe." The flowers bloom in May and June among a swathe of large, fuzzy, heart-shaped, dark green leaves. *Aristolochia macrophylla* is the host plant for the Pipevine Swallowtail Butterflies which lay their eggs in small clusters on young leaves or stems. When the eggs hatch, the leaves become an important food source for the growing caterpillars. The unusual shape of the pipe blossom serves as a type of 'fly-trap,' attracting small insects that are

temporarily held and released to carry pollen to the next flower. *Aristolochia macrophylla* thrives in USDA zones 4 to 8, in sun to part shade, and in average to moist soil. It is deer resistant and pollution tolerant, and it has no serious insect or disease problems. It is a workhorse vine with an exotic look that would highlight a small or large native garden in the twenty-first century. Garden photograph: Jamie Purinton |

Blossom photograph: Mark A. Garland, hosted by the USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

IT'S TIME TO.....

HOME (Indoor plants and activities)

- Begin fertilizing houseplants as new growth appears. Remove spent leaves and flowers to improve appearance and encourage more blooms.
- Start garden seeds indoors for transplanting outdoors later in spring.
- Check stored bulbs and produce for decay; discard damaged items.
- Prune, repot, and clean houseplants as needed.

YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals, and fruits)

- Prune trees and shrubs (except those that bloom early in spring) while plants are still dormant. If you are concerned about winter injury, delay pruning until after dieback; you can assess desiccation injury as plants come out of dormancy.
- Plant new trees and shrubs as soon as the soil dries enough to be worked. Plant bare-root plants before they leaf out.

Soils may be exceptionally wet as winter snows thaw.

- Fertilize woody plants if needed before new growth begins but after soil temperatures reach 40°F.
- Remove winter coverings from roses as soon as new growth begins. Prune out dead canes and fertilize as needed. Delay pruning into live canes until after you can assess winter injury.
- Apply superior oil spray to control scale insects and mites when the tips of leaves start to protrude from buds.

GARDEN (Flowers, vegetables, and small fruits)

- Plant cool-season vegetables and flowers as soon as the ground has dried enough to work. Do not work the soil while it is wet; wait until it crumbles in your hand. If the soil forms a solid ball when you squeeze it, it's still too wet.
- Gradually harden-off transplants by setting them outdoors during the daytime for about a week before planting.
- Follow last fall's soil test recommendations for fertilizer and pH adjustment. It's not too late to test soil if you missed last year.
- Start the seeds of warm-season vegetables and flowers indoors. In northern and central Indiana, wait until

the end of March or early April.

Transplant seedlings to the garden after the danger of frost has passed. To find the average date of a frost in your area, consult maps provided by the **Indiana State Climate Office**.

- Remove old foliage from ornamental grasses and perennial flowers.
- Watch for blooms of early spring bulbs, such as daffodils, squill, crocus, dwarf iris, and snowdrops.
- Remove old asparagus and rhubarb tops, and side-dress the plants with nitrogen or manure. Plant or transplant asparagus, rhubarb, and small-fruit plants.
- Remove winter mulch from strawberry beds as soon as new growth begins but keep the mulch nearby to protect against frost and freezes.
- 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.

Calendar of Events

February 2019

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Tues., March 5	Courier Article		N/A	The Courier	Article in March 23 newspaper "Beneficial Insects"	Bob Campbell
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Wed., March 20	Seventh MGV class	9:00 - 4:00		OSUE Office	7th Class for new MGVs	Karl Farwig
Thurs., March 21	Sustaining Our World Through Our Gardens	9:30 - 4:00	\$30	Mid-Ohio Energy Coop, 1210 W Lima St., Kenton	Monarchs, weed ID, pollinators, etc.	Hardin County MGVs 419-674-8012
Sat., March 23	Four Seasons of Gardening	8:00 - 4:00	\$40	Licking County	Topics on the art of gardening	www.fourseasonsof gardening.com/

Wed., March 27	Van Buren Lions Club Linda Brinkman (419-299- 3710)	6:00: 00 PM w/din ner	N/A	Kathy's Corner, Arcadia	Spring Garden Makeovers	Tim Brugeman
Wed., March 27	Final MGV class	9:00 - 4:00		OSUE Office	Final Class for new MGVs	Karl Farwig
Thurs., March 28	OSU Pollinator Summit	8:45 - 4:30	N/A	Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center Columbus	Threatened Bees	Register online
Fri., April 5	Courier Article		N/A	The Courier	Article in April 20 newspaper	Karla Dennis
Wed., April 10	Hydrange a School	1:00 - 3:00	\$30	Green County OSU Ext, Xenia	Types, care, pruning, bloom	go.osu.edu/greenhyd410
Thurs., April 11	MGV Recognitio n Banquet	##### #	N/A	OSUE Office	Recognition Dinner/Potluc k	Rose Morrison
Thurs., April 25	2019 Garden Centers Bus Tour	Entir e Day	\$30	Pick up at Walmart	Visit Wolf's Bloom & Berries, 4 greenhouses, classes, presentations	Clip e-mail coupon or contact by calling 419- 352-3755