

GREEN THUMB PRINTS

Gardening is our Passion Education is our Purpose

May / 2019

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 2 MGV Executive Meeting
- May 4 Arbor Day
- May 5 Courier Article Due
- May 7 Container Vegetable Garden
- May 9 MGV Meeting / Plant Exchange
- May 10 Secret Tour & Plant Sale
- May 11 Let's Go Gardening
- May 13 Community Gardening
- May 15 Bees / Butterflies / Blooms Native Pollinators
- June 4 Flowering Plants
- June 5 Courier Article Due
- June 6 MGV Executive Meeting
- June 10 and 13 Diagnostic Clinic
- June 12 Library Presentation
- June 13 Monthly Meeting



See Events Calendar on VMS for more details



IT'S IN THE MAIL (E-MAIL) INFO ON MGCV SHIRTS



You will soon have an opportunity to get Master Gardener Volunteer shirts. These shirts may be obtained through a registration fee, not directly ordered. An email will be sent explaining this registration process. The MGCV shirts will be given as part of the brown bag registration fee on June 13 and/or August 8.

You will be able to choose from a selection of shirts including polo shirts, crew t-shirts, and v-neck t-shirts in red, black, and ash. The deadline for registrations and payments is **May 20**.



Coordinator's Corner

A big thank you for those who helped with the Recognition Banquet on April 11. The food we shared was outstanding and big congratulations to all who received a milestone recognition for service to the Master Gardeners of Hancock County.

Several of you have been hosting speaker programs at various locations. I am happy to see your service helping the community with the information you share. You should see several of those in articles written for this newsletter.

The plant exchange is always a big hit for the spring. This year the plant exchange will be at Karla Dennis' house. Please bring a plant or more to share with the group. Ice cream and cookies will be served during the get together.

Remember, 2 important events in May. The Let's Go Gardening activities at 4 garden centers and the field trip to Secrest in Wooster. I hope to see you all participate in these events.

I am always available to help you work through questions about using the VMS system. We have been in a transition period, however starting in July, the plan will be to use this tool to communicate and share information. I hope you find it acceptable to use in obtaining information and inputting hours of service.

Gardening season will consume much time soon and I am sure the Community Garden activities and many others will present some fun and challenges for us this spring.

Karl Farwig

Tips on Using VMS

If you are wondering how to volunteer for an event, the following will assist you in how to do it.

Look for events on the calendars. You can look at the entire calendar (View All Events) or you can click on sub-calendars such as Field Trips.

Go to the month you are interested in. You do this by either using the arrows next to the month and year or by selecting the month on the right side and hitting Go.

« April 2019 »

[List/Admin View](#) | [Add Event](#)

Show All Events ▼

April ▼

2019 ▼

GO

Click on

the event you are interested in reviewing.

Review the information on the event to obtain more information.

If you would like to volunteer or go to the event, click volunteer for the event towards bottom of the screen.

Volunteer For Event

Comments to Coordinators	<input type="text"/>
Bringing Guest	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Volunteer	You are not signed up for this event. <input type="button" value="Volunteer for Event"/>

At this point your name will be displayed on the calendar so everyone can see who has volunteer to attend the event.

If you can no longer volunteer or change your mind, you can do the same things above, but instead click on [unvolunteer](#) for the event.

Administrative Committee

Newsletter – The format of the newsletter has changed. I hope everyone is finding it a readable and helpful format. Please contact me with any feedback you have or changes you see that we need. This newsletter should help us all stay up-to-date with our Master Gardeners of Hancock County.

Facebook – This highlights the Master Gardeners of Hancock County and what our group has done and is planning to do. It includes current information for the public of our activities. If anyone has information to share they can contact Betsy DeFrancesco.

Rose's Flower

A letter from our president

Our favorite season is here! I have been busy digging soil, winter clean-up, and transplanting perennials at my several properties. I love SPRING!

It is also the busiest season for Master Gardener Volunteers and Interns. The Recognition Dinner and meeting in addition to the delicious food was the chance to meet, greet and get to know each other better. While it was a little long, it was truly an enjoyable evening. Thank you to Barb Sherman and Lyn Maa and their team for the beautiful table decorations and favors. Thank you to all who brought food and joined in the conversation!

I'm very excited by the many opportunities in May for MGJV participation and service hours. Starting April 27 with the Kids Library presentation, May 9 is the plant exchange, May 10 is the trip to Secrest, and May 11 is Let's Go Gardening!

In this newsletter are articles on the above activities as well as community garden and phenology garden volunteer opportunities!

All the information is available on EMS too. EMS is the convenient place to see all the volunteer and educational opportunities available! Check it out regularly.

See you at the Plant Exchange at Karla Dennis house on May 9 at 6:00 pm. It's a great opportunity to get some new plants for your garden!

Thank you to every single MGJV and Intern for helping to make the organization successful!

Keep on Gardening!

Rose



Ask-A-Master Gardener:



We have received 18 questions from 12 people. Fruit tree pruning and spraying were the most often asked. Plant ID, bagworm control, insect control on flowers, grass seed, blueberry bush planting and soil amending, and insect ID were the questions received.

Mentors & 2019 Interns, Continue Coordinating Activities

Congratulations to our 18 new interns on completing training. So glad to have you involved with Master Gardeners. A few have some make-ups to do working with Karl Farwig, then all have hours to earn for the year to complete your internship.

Mentors will be contacting you to get involved with educational programs; join us on field trips; and help with MGV speakers activities.

Recently Intern Jeri Wenger spoke about her bee keeping experiences at our "Bees, Butterflies & Blooms" workshop April 13.

Thanks to all for sticking together during this first year. Have fun, learn more and educate others. There are many easy opportunities to get in hours like "Let's Go Gardening," Saturday, May 11, at four locations. Sign up on-line to volunteer through our Hancock County VMS. If you have trouble logging in, please contact Karl Farwig.



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 carpool-

HANCOCK COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS

MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 11, 2019

Following our annual member recognition dinner, the April business meeting occurred with our President Rose Morrison calling the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

Secretary's Report: Rose asked for review and approval of the March 2019 secretaries' minutes. Pat Flinn and Tim Brugeman 1st and 2nd a motion to accept the minutes. By a voice vote the minutes were accepted.

President Updates: Rose reviewed signup sheets on the tables in the back of the room for future MGVS activities. In addition, there were general attendance, presentation, and contact summary report forms. Rose also mentioned that the Caladium bulbs that were placed on our dining tables were a gift/donation from Marilyn Beltz. The Caladium plant is a partial shade-sun plant that may be placed outside during the summer months after the chance of frost is past in the Spring. In the Fall the plant should be brought inside before the first frost of Fall arrives.

Volunteer Coordinator Updates: Karl Farwig reviewed a VMS summary report showing volunteer hours accumulated thus far by our members in 2019.

Treasurer Report: Ann Woolum reviewed an updated cash receipts and disbursements report. She included information for the Scholarship and Community Garden funds.

Rose introduced Committee Heads to give updates on their committee activities. She also mentioned that she would like each committee head to write a short monthly summary for the Green Thumb Prints newsletter on what their committee members are working on.

Administrative Committee: Lynn Farwig reviewed the logistics of the upcoming May 10 field trip to the Sequest Arboretum. The group will be leaving the extension office at 9:30 with lunch scheduled at the Pine Tree Barn prior to our 1:00 tour of the Arboretum. Prior to departure back to Findlay members will have opportunity to purchase plants from the Sequest annual plant sale which is to occur that weekend.

Betsy DeFrancesco mentioned that we have had over 300 likes posted on our Facebook page.

Administrative Subcommittee Social Activities: Barb Sherman thanked everyone for their help and participation in the annual recognition dinner.

Education Committee: Peggy Biolchini reported no new business at this time.

Service Committee: Doris Salis reported that Linda Finsel and Betsy DeFrancesco had completed a Spring cleanup of the front/side gardens at the Extension Office.

In **new business** it was reported that the Phenology garden cleanup had occurred. Any member who is interested in working in the garden should contact Bill Jones.

Teaching Committee: Karla Dennis stated that in April there would be an MGVS children's program at the Hancock County Public Library on April 27. She also stated there was a need for volunteers for the June 12 and July 10 library presentations.

Old Business: 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. There was a need for additional volunteers. It is planned that new interns will be paired with a perennial MGVS for this event.

Karla Dennis reported that the **Plant Exchange (our May 9, 2019 meeting)** will be at her house starting at 6:00 p.m. She asked participants to bring a lawn chair. Ice cream and cookies will be provided.

Rose called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Pat Flinn (first) and Peggy Biolchini (seconded) the motion. By a voice vote the meeting was adjourned at 8:45.

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 9, 2019 Plant Exchange starting at 6:00 p.m at the home of Karla Dennis.

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Miller

Let's Go Gardening is an opportunity for Master Gardener Volunteers to share their knowledge and expertise about horticulture with shoppers at local businesses.

On Saturday, May 11th, volunteers answer customer questions about plants at Brinkman's Country Corner, Feasels, Garden Central and Lowes.

Mentors, please encourage your interns to accompany you as they get started completing their teaching hours. Please sign up on the VMS. We need at least four volunteers for each shift.

LIBRARY PROGRAM

Thank you to these 8 Master Gardener volunteers who helped at the Exploring Garden's with Children Library program on Saturday April 27th. Linda Casey, Debra Evans, Linda Finsel, Jerry Lenhart, Sharon Milligan, Rose Morrison, Doris Salis and Jeff Wingate. Our Master Gardener Volunteers had the opportunity to guide 51 people from 20 families through the program. Children and their parents were able to explore topics such as native and invasive plants, Phenology, Seed germination, native trees and pollinators through displays, conversation and hands on activities. The children were also given the opportunity to start seeds in a plastic food service glove where they can watch the process of germination at home and also create a grass seed terrarium. The families were also able to take seed packs home that had been donated by the United Way in years past home to grow. A good time was had by all.

Service Committee: We are gearing up for the community garden season. As soon as the weather cooperates and it dries out, we will begin planting. All Interns: you should consider helping in the community garden, it's a great and easy way to get in your hours. After the garden is planted it is only one day a week you will need to check the garden. please volunteer on

Ohio volunteer system in projects or send me a text or email. We all love our plants and the produce is donated to a great cause(City Mission, Chopin Hall etc.).

Rose said if you have room or if you want to include some highlights of our Europe trip.

Our trip to Europe: Their spring season is a couple weeks ahead of our season, the farmers were in the fields planting, spring flowers were in full bloom, apple trees were in full bloom along with many other trees and bushes. We went to Keukenhof Gardens in Holland where we saw 1000's of acres of blooming tulips in every color you can imagine. We did have all kinds of weather, snow in Switzerland, rain in Germany and several days of sunshine too. It was a great place to visit, but I'm glad to be home!

Linda Leiendecker



Spring 2019 --- Lawn Conditions & Update

Joseph Rimelspach & Todd Hicks / The Ohio State University – Dept. of Plant Pathology

Many lawns are coming out of winter in poor condition. A number of different factors are involved. The thin or dead turf will pose challenges this season especially with achieving acceptable weed control. The following are some observations seen in Ohio this spring.

Much of the damage seems to be associated with the very wet conditions last fall and winter followed by extensive “heaving” of the turf plants. Frost heaving occurs when wide temperature fluctuations, with repeated cycles of freezing and thawing, cause the water in the soil to expand and contract. This can cause the plant crowns to become elevated. If roots are exposed to cold temperatures and drying winds there can be decline or death of the plants. Lawns with this condition may benefit from light rolling. If there are large bare areas seeding and renovation may be helpful.

Areas in shady lawns seem to be the worst. In some samples/lawns the grass affected was *Poa trivialis* (rough bluegrass) this is a shallow rooted turfgrass and often found in shaded sites. This grass would peel back or is loose and not rooted.

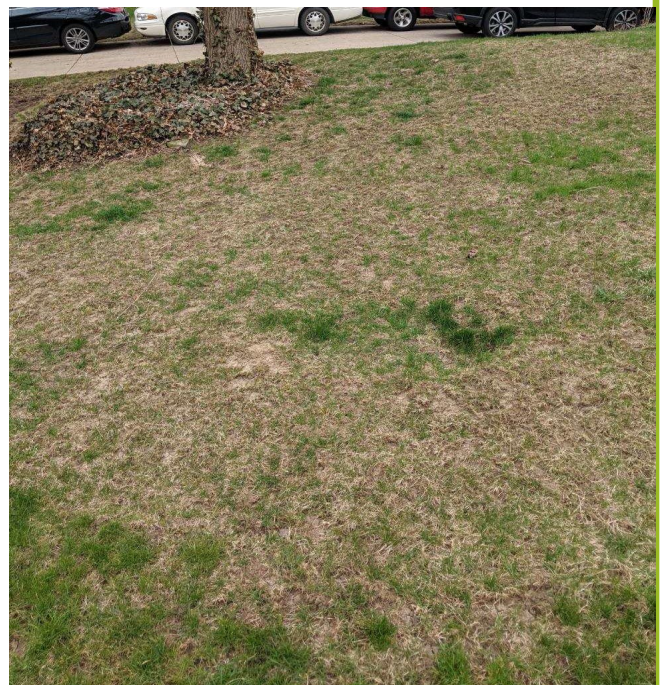
In other cases there is bare soil exposed, with no grass present. One main cause was damage to the lawn last summer and fall from disease(s). One particular disease that was epidemic last year throughout Ohio was Gray Leaf Spot, caused by the fungus (*Magnaporthe oryzae*). This disease kills perennial ryegrass. Where the disease was active last summer and fall the grass was completely killed and decayed and left bare areas in lawns.

The sudden shift from hot summer weather on October 10, 2018 to wet cold conditions the rest of the fall, did not allow for successful seeding and renovation of lawns or lawn recovery from the intense and stressful summer. The majority of lawns in Ohio are composed of cool-season grasses (bluegrass, ryegrass, fine fescue and tall fescue) these grow best in mild autumn and spring weather. Since the weather quickly changed from being too hot to grow these grasses to too cold, there was little time for the cool-season grasses to recover and fill in before winter.

Winter conditions caused many Kentucky bluegrasses to have severe browning of the leaves. In most cases the crowns of the Kentucky bluegrass are alive and will grow with more consistent warmer temperatures.

If there are parts of the lawn with bare soil the question is what to do? If there is Kentucky bluegrass surrounding thin or bare areas, the spots can fill in over-time especially with a sound fertility program. If there is no Kentucky bluegrass or the areas are large, renovation will be needed. Spring however is not the ideal time to do seeding. If seeding is done there may be poor germination and weak establishment of the desired grass. At the same time weeds quickly germinate and are often a major problem. So this may be a challenging year! Much depends on the weather and if there is a long mild spring for the cool-season grass to fill in and develop a deep root system before the heat and stress of summer.

Hopefully this helps explain some of what we are seeing in lawns at this time.



Thin weak lawn this spring in the Dayton area

Leafy vegetables ready for short, cool growing season

Rose Lerner, Purdue University Extension

Leafy vegetables are more nutritious and have fewer calories than most other vegetables, and they're easy to grow. Most greens can be grown in relatively short, cool growing seasons, making them available for fresh harvest earlier than most other crops. If properly planned, fresh, leafy greens can be harvested all season long.



Leafy vegetables adapted to cool Indiana spring and fall growing conditions include lettuce, spinach, mustard, collards, endive, and kale. Many new cultivars of these cool-season crops have improved heat tolerance, making them productive into early summer. Root crops such as beets and turnips may also be harvested for their young, tender foliage. Greens that produce in the heat of summer include New Zealand spinach and Swiss chard.

Leafy greens grow best in open, level areas where the soil is loose, rich, and well-drained. Although leafy crops tolerate shade better than plants grown for their fruits or roots, at least six hours of sunshine daily will help ensure a high-quality harvest. Avoid planting leafy greens in heavy clay or sandy soils. The soil pH should be between 5.8 and 6.8.

Most leafy vegetables can be planted as early in spring as the soil can be worked. The soil is ready for tilling and planting if a handful of soil crumbles when you squeeze it. If the soil forms a muddy ball when you squeeze it, the soil is still too wet and will form hard, long-lasting clods if you work it.

Seed may be directly sown in the garden for many leafy greens and must be planted at the proper depth to ensure good germination. The seed packet should include information on planting depth and spacing. Crops such as lettuce, spinach, chard kale, and collards may be transplanted to get an early start.

Home gardeners can choose that approach or decide to harvest only a few leaves as they are needed, allowing for a longer harvest season from a single planting. If you harvest leaves as needed, harvest the outer, more mature leaves first, leaving the young, inner leaves to continue growing. However, collards are an exception: harvest the center rosette of collard leaves.

As the days grow longer and warmer, cool-season greens tend to bolt (flower) and become tough or bitter. At this point, it is best to pull the plants and replace with a warm-season crop.

Phenology Garden Update

The Phenology Garden and the Ohio Phenology Network (OPN) was born in the spring of 2004 from the vision of Dr. Dan Herms and his assistant, Denise Ellsworth, at the Ohio State University, Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center in Wooster, OH. We along with 33 other Master Gardener groups across Ohio agreed to plant the same 17 cultivars of shrubs, all provided by a grant. The purpose of the project was to record the first and full bloom times on those 17 different shrubs in order to establish a database for comparison with observations made by future generations to monitor climate change in Ohio. Additionally, the use of phenological observations (bloom times) in practicing IPM (Integrated Pest Management) could be made with the data available from the garden in each area of the state. We were one of two gardens in northwest Ohio. The other being at the Toledo Botanical Garden. The first-bloom data that we have collected over the past 14 years is shown in table 1. This data shows the warm years and the cooler ones and confirms the consistency of the bloom sequence from year to year regardless of when the warm temperatures arrive. With a warming climate we would expect to see the sequence of blooms start earlier each year.

Since the original 17 shrubs were placed in the garden, the OPN expanded the plants to be monitored by adding 15 different perennials in 2006. In order to expand the focus of the garden from just phenology to also include pollinator monitoring, 11 native forbs known to be good pollinator attractors were added in 2014. Since then, several additional plants have been added to further attract pollinators and to study the effect of multiple cultivars on pollinator visitation.

We have lost several of the plants in the garden over the years from storms, cold, and flooding (2007), but we have collected data and reported it to the state website each year since 2005. We were informed this year that the OPN will no longer continue to collect the data. If we want to continue monitoring bloom times and pollinators, we would have to report our data to the National Phenology Network and the Sunflower Project.

Many of the gardens in the OPN have been neglected or abandoned. We have continued to keep ours well maintained and useful for education and data collection.

We are faced now with the situation where we must decide how we want to use this garden in the future. As with all gardens, there is the need for weeding, pruning, monitoring, and mulching in order to keep it looking attractive. We plan to at least record the first-bloom data this year to continue our database in Table 1. If there is interest we can also continue to monitor pollinators and develop our own database for future reference.

If you have an interest in helping to decide the future of our Phenology Garden, please let me know and we can work together to use it to teach and learn. I will be discussing Phenology further at our June Brown-bag training prior to our regular meeting on June 13, 2019.



Some upcoming phenological observations to follow are:

- Spruce spider mite egg hatch occurs when the Easter Redbud is in bloom
- Gypsy moth egg hatch occurs when the crabapple is in bloom
- Humming birds return when the red horsechestnut is in bloom (just after the buckeye tree)
- Morel mushrooms appear when lilacs are in bloom
- Plant corn when oak leaves are the size of squirrel ears
- Frost is over when the spirea Vanhoutte begins to bloom
- Plant tomatoes, peppers, and eggplant when the daylilies in the ditches are in bloom
- Bagworm egg hatch occurs when the Japanese tree lilac is in bloom
- The Japanese beetle and lightning bug adults emerge when the little leaf linden is in bloom
- The first cicada is heard when the ironweed is in bloom along the roads



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. For more precise application timing based on Growing Degree Days (GDD), visit Michigan State University's GDD (<http://www.gddtracker.net/>). Enter your ZIP code and select "Crabgrass Pre." The target GDD window for crabgrass prevention is 250-500.

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.



2019 Plant Exchange

This year's plant exchange will be at the home of Karla Dennis at 700 Township Road 232, Van Buren at 6:00p.m. on May 9th. You may park in the grass angled in along the driveway and around by the barn. Please bring with you healthy plants that you would like to offer to others and a chair to sit on. You may also bring other garden related items such as planters (please make sure these have been properly cleaned), seed starting mixes, extra seeds, and other things that you may be wanting to pass on to someone else. This is an exchange so please also come prepared to take home things that others have brought.

Refreshments of cookies and ice cream will be provided by the refreshment committee.





THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Ohio State University Extension
Hancock County
7868 County Road 140 Suite B
Findlay, OH 45840
419-422-3851
Facebook: Master Gardeners of Hancock County Ohio
hancock.osu.edu



Children's Garden Exploration Day at Library –
above

Bees Butterflies and Blooms Native Pollinators
for Our Garden at Feasel's - right



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