

GREEN THUMB PRINTS

Gardening is our Passion Education is our Purpose

November 2019

Election of Officers
at our November 14th
Monthly Meeting

We are in need of an
Ask-A-Gardener
Chairperson and a Speakers
Bureau Co-Chair

Please see page 6
for more information

Upcoming Events:

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Nov 5 | <u>Forcing Bulbs for Winter Bloom</u>
<u>Courier Article Due</u> |
| Nov 7 | <u>Winter Bird Feeding</u> |
| Nov 8 | <u>State MG Conference</u> |
| Nov 14 | <u>Brown Bag</u>
<u>MG Monthly Meeting</u> |
| Nov 16 | <u>MG Coordinator Meeting</u> |
| Nov 21 | <u>MG Executive Committee Meeting</u> |
| Dec 2-4 | <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> |

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**November 3rd**

Coordinator's Corner

I hope each of you considered attending the State Conference in Columbus on Friday, November 8. If cost is holding you back, remember that you are entitled to use the \$50 stipend for this kind of event. Details and all information needed to register can be found on the State MGVS website at <https://mastergardener.osu.edu/>. Registration deadline is October 30, but I believe if you register a day or so late it would be acceptable.

I want to thank John and Linda Leiendecker for their leadership in the Community Garden project these past 2 years. This year we raised and donated 3,004 pounds of produce to organizations serving people in need. This year's production is right in line with those of past years. Even though the weather was bad in the spring, it didn't stop us from producing similar amounts of produce. The big difference from last year is that we did not glean potatoes or apples.

Two other projects which have come to my attention also need some mention. First, the seminar committee is working hard to bring a seminar to Hancock County this spring. I really appreciate the work this group is doing as a committee and look forward to hearing about their recommendations. Thanks Ann Woolum for your leadership on this effort! Secondly, the wreath class organization has caught my attention. As you know we have changed courses with the project this year and my latest update tells me we are moving forward exceptionally well. Thanks Betsy DeFrancesco for your leadership in this project! I am sure Ann and Betsy will update the groups at the November meeting.

At the last Executive Committee meeting, I mentioned to the Executive Team how each of you have embraced the changes that took place during the year. It is great to see so many of you working on the projects, coming up with new ideas and not waiting for Rose or me to direct you. This is so refreshing as it is not important for me to be involved or to dictate everything that happens on a project or in this organization. My hope is that it continues even more as we get new committee chairpersons involved in some of the projects.

I will not be able to attend the November regular meeting, but I look forward to hearing about the business conducted and the results of the officer election.

Thanks to each of you for what you do for this great organization and county.

Karl Farwig



Rambling Rose

November 2019

November? Seriously? It's hard to believe that summer 2019 is over and the first frost has occurred. I don't even want to mention the "s" word that is soon to come. November is the month of Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. I'm thankful for all our veterans and active servicemen. I am also thankful to lead such an active, successful and positive organization as the Hancock County Master Gardeners. Thank you!!!

Everyone has worked hard to make this year successful. Thank you to Ann Woolum and the seminar committee for the progress in planning the first seminar to be held for a long time in Hancock County. Thank you to Betsy DeFrancesco for organizing the Wreath Classes. To date we have approximately 80 attendees registered and paid for the classes with over a month to go! Ann Woolum has been busy dealing with all the payments from Eventbrite. Congratulations to everyone for your effort!

Elections will be at the general meeting on November 14. The candidate(s) for Vice-President is Tim Brugeman and for Secretary are Cheryl Miller and Reuben DeBolt. I thank all for their willingness to help lead the organization. The executive committee is still recruiting leads for Speaker's Bureau and Ask A Master Gardener. We hope to make an announcement at the November meeting.

December 12 at 6:00 p.m. is the night the MGV's celebrate the season with a Holiday Potluck. There will be no brown bag and no agenda except to eat, drink, and be merry!

The November 14 MGV Monthly Meeting starts at 6:00 p.m. with the brown bag presented by Cheryl Miller. Refreshments will be provided by Bob Campbell, Bill Jones, and Barb Sherman.

Hope to see you all of your smiling faces there!

Rose



HANCOCK COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS
MEETING MINUTES
October 10, 2019

Rose Morrison called the business meeting to order at 6:50 following a brown bag presentation by Marlene Brunswick on Sudden Oak Death and Plant ID.

Secretary Report: Rose asked for review and approval of the September 12, 2019 secretary's meeting minutes. Lynn Farwig and Lisa McClain 1st and 2nd the motion to accept the minutes. By a voice vote the minutes were approved.

Treasurer Report: Ann Woolum reviewed income and expenses for the month of September.

President Updates: Rose stated that there was a need for volunteer group leaders in the areas of the Speakers Bureau, Ask-A-Master Gardener, and Brown Bag. If you are interested in volunteering for any of these leadership positions please contact Rose.

Volunteer Coordinator Updates: Karl Farwig reviewed the upcoming October 30, 2019 Master Gardener State Conference held in Columbus.

In preparation for a formal vote to approve our updated Constitution and By-Laws, Karl stated that after contacting surrounding county programs and State Department personnel it was felt that Interns should be allowed to vote on the updated Constitution and By-Laws.

Karl stated that he had notified actives who still need additional hours to meet their hour requirement to recertify for 2020. Also, any interns who need 50 hours of service was notified as well. Interns do have the calendar year-end of the year following the class to meet the 50-hour requirement.

In reference to the final Community Garden poundage report for this growing season, Karl stated that November 20, 2019 was the cutoff date for local programs to report their final tally to the State related to the amount of produce each program had donated to charity. As of this meeting the Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers had donated 2900 pounds.

COMMITTEE UPDATES :

Service Committee: Linda Laux gave an overview of the Mugs of Joy holiday activity. This event occurs each year at a local nursing home or nonprofit group. Linda and her team supply all the materials for a selected group of residents at the facility. They help the participants create a small holiday themed arrangement in a holiday mug. This year they have selected the Blanchard Valley Needs Services group.

Linda stated that her supply of mugs is low and she would appreciate any holiday mugs MGV members would care to donate. If you have mugs to donate you can bring them to our November meeting or drop them off at the extension office.

Social/Fundraising: Betsy DeFrancesco shared that the Eventbrite site was activated on October 1, 2019. Thus far there has been 38 individuals sign up for our wreath classes using the Eventbrite site. A maximum enrollment of 40 has been set for each class.

Betsy also ask if any MGV members have extra gardening clippers to donate to our group it would be appreciated. The clippers will be used by the wreath participants to trim their greens for their wreath bundles.

Teaching Committee: Judy Clymer reported that Tim Brugeman was stepping away from the lead position of the Speakers Bureau. If you are interested in assuming the role please contact Judy or Rose.

(Continued)

HANCOCK COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS

MEETING MINUTES (Continued)

Teaching Committee (Continued): Judy also mentioned that Laurie Pressel, Courier articles Lead would appreciate one or two volunteers writing an extra article for the Courier. The article would be on file and used in the event that the scheduled volunteer for the month has an emergency and is unable to complete the writing assignment that month. In addition, Judy mentioned that if you are interested in making a library presentation in 2020 please contact Karla Dennis.

Administration Updates: Lynn Farwig reported that the MGV member directory is on the VMS system. She asked that all members keep their personal information (phone number, mailing address etc.) current by entering the system and updating the information themselves. She reminded everyone to enter all their hours for 2019 into the system by the end of the year.

Education Committee: Peggy Biolchini shared that a log of the questions received for the Ask-A-Master Gardener activity in 2019 is posted on the VMS system.

Peggy mentioned that a field trip for June 2020 has been proposed by Sharon Milligan. The trip to Fostoria would visit the 5-acre home garden of Jill Stearns. Lunch would be included.

Old Business: Rose made a motion to approve the updated Constitution. Tim Brugeman and Patrick Flinn 1st and 2nd the motion respectively. Rose asked for discussion then called for a vote. By a hand vote the motion passed by a 2/3 vote of the members present.

Rose made a motion to approve the updated By-Laws. Tim Brugeman and Reuben DeBolt 1st and 2nd the motion respectively. Rose asked for discussion then called for a vote. By a hand vote the motion passed by a majority of the members present.

Rose reviewed the nominations for the officer positions to be elected in 2019 for a two-year term commencing January 1, 2020. The positions are Vice President and Secretary. The position for Vice President had two nominations with one nominee declining therefore the nomination for Vice President is Tim Brugeman. The position of Secretary had two nominations (Reuben DeBolt and Cheryl Miller). Both nominees for secretary are willing to serve. Voting will be by ballot and will occur at the November 14, 2020 meeting.

Rose asked for volunteers to help her with the Popcorn event to be held at 9:30 on October 28, 2019 at Jacobs Elementary. There is a need for 10 to 15 volunteers for this event. The volunteers will be visiting 12 classrooms. Volunteers will be reading a book related to popcorn to the students and discussing other facts related to the growing of popcorn.

Interesting Things to Share: Bill Jones brought in an Orbweaver spider he had found in his yard. It was orange and yellow. Bill also brought in several Hedge apples for anyone who might like one.

Linda Finsel reviewed the 3rd grade Wilson Vance gardening project. There was a question/answer session and suggestions were offered to the teacher on what to plant in the small garden area to optimize the student learning experience.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Rose. Noreen Walters and Barb Sherman 1st and 2nd the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05.

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 14, 2019. Brown bag at 6:00 with Cheryl Miller presenting The Art of Presentation – Making it Easy. Refreshments provided by Bob Campbell, Bill Jones and Barb Sherman.

Respectfully Submitted: Cheryl Miller

Election of Officers at November Meeting

Under our new Bylaws provisions, elections usually done in January have been moved to November so new officers can be ready in January as the new year starts.

SECRETARY:

Cheryl Miller

I received my initial Master Gardener training in 2010. In the nine years I have been an active volunteer for the MGVS program I have accumulated 728 volunteer hours related to service. In addition, I have earned an additional 108 volunteer hours in the area of Continuing Education. During this time I have participated in all areas of our program including brown bag presentations, speaker bureau presentations, Courier articles, front garden maintenance, Hancock County Fair booth, Let's Go Gardening, library presentations, meeting refreshments, plant exchange, wreath making classes, WFIN activities and serving as an officer (Secretary) for our group. A bit of personal background information beyond the MGVS program includes being a retired educator. In my 30-year career as an educator I served in numerous capacities from the preschool to post-secondary level. Full and part-time positions included being a Vocational Cooperative Business Education Coordinator, Business Department Chairperson, Computer Programming Instructor, Summer School Principal, and Adult/Community Education Director. In addition to my business and education background, I have a strong research background. All are reflected in the format and style I use when transcribing meeting minutes. I ask for your vote so that I may continue to serve our Hancock County Master Gardener organization as Secretary. Thank you.

Reuben DeBolt

Background & Qualifications: I consider myself to be a fairly competent writer, with an ability to use very clear, direct language and/or to use more sophisticated vocabulary. I was on the team that drafted the revised Constitution and By-Laws.

In over 40 years in Technical management with Firestone International and Cooper Tire I have written countless reports – weekly, monthly, projects, etc – and have been responsible for issuing minutes for several kinds of meetings (some weekly, some monthly, some random) which have involved people from floor level workers to senior management. Many of the writings had to be clearly understood by people for whom English was a second or third language.

Gardening: I grew up with a large vegetable garden, and I've raised vegetables most of my adult life, including in three other countries where I've lived. I now also have a tree lot that needs to be controlled.

Interest in Position: I've been looking for ways to get more involved MGVS, but I certainly did not campaign for this position. I see it as a way for me to get to know more people better and to gain a better understanding of the workings of the organization

VICE PRESIDENT:

Tim Brugeman I have been involved with Master Gardeners for 3 years and have enjoyed every minute gardening with such great folks. Since joining I been involved with coordinating the Speakers Bureau for 2 years and speaking to various groups. I have worked on developing the Mentors Program for new interns and updating the Constitution & Bylaws. These activities have allowed me good insight to the organizing and administration of the group and our activities in the community.

COMMITTEE UPDATES



New Constitution and By-Laws Approved

Tim Brugeman

Thanks for the unanimous vote to adopt proposed revisions updating our guiding documents. They will be listed on-line in the MGV / VMS under the Documents section. Please recycle, do not refer to other drafts. Thanks to the Review Team of Marilyn Beltz, Lynn Farwig, Bill Jones, Reuben DeBolt and Tim Brugeman. Special thanks too to Rose Morrison, Ed Lentz and Karl Farwig for reviews and checking with OSU Extension / Columbus on questions.



MGV Volunteers Needed to Head 2020 Activities

Please consider leading a few critical tasks next year for which you will have good guidance and support from current leaders.

Call Rose Morrison, Peggy Biolchini or Tim Brugeman for an overview of what to do. Thanks you!

- **Ask-A-Master Gardener Chairperson** and volunteers to follow with calls
- **Speakers Bureau Coordinator** (will co-chair with Tim Brugeman)



Facebook Update

Betsy DeFrancesco

Using Facebook is a great way to spread the word about what the MGV program is all about! Facebook even links up with Eventbrite.com to make signing up for the Wreath Making Classes super easy. We will also be utilizing these platforms when we announce our seminar that will be taking place in early spring.

If you or your family members are on Facebook, please “like” our page, Master Gardeners of Hancock County. The more people we reach, the more we can let people know what we do!

Also, if you are out representing the MGV program, please take photos (and a brief explanation) and text or email them to Betsy DeFrancesco at 908-910-5586 or betsmart_207@yahoo.com so we can highlight more of our work!

COMMITTEE UPDATES (CONTINUED)

MGV WREATH CLASS 2019

Betsy DeFrancesco

The response to the Wreath Making Class has been fantastic! Eventbrite.com has proven to be a great way for participants to sign up and pay for the class. As of Tuesday, October 23, we have 88 tickets sold out of 200.

We will be needing to cut evergreens in the days leading up to the classes. If you have trees or shrubs that can be trimmed, please speak up at the November meeting. We will be needing blue spruce, white pine, arborvitae, juniper, mugo pine, Norway spruce, etc. Sharon Hammer-Baker and Linda Finsel have already offered their trees! Thank you both very much.

If you have signed up to work at the classes, thank you! If you haven't, please consider signing up for whatever dates work for you. We will also need volunteers to cut greens. There will be more information concerning that at the November meeting as well.

I want to take a moment to thank Marilyn Beltz for the amazing job she has done in the past to make this event so popular! She created a system that has worked so well and makes it easy to expand. What a privilege it is to follow her lead.

Save the Date: March 7, 2020

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

Speakers are being confirmed for Saturday, March 7, 2020 for a Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteer sponsored seminar to be held at the Hancock County Ag Center.

Sustainable landscaping uses strategic methods to offset negative environmental impacts through design, construction and materials that make your landscape more self-sustaining over longer periods of time. Some methods that sustain our landscape are rain gardens, butterfly gardens, native plants and natural non-chemical methods of disease and insect control.

Our committee has been working hard organizing and planning this special event. We are hoping for 50+ attendees. For more information contact Ann Woolum-Event Coordinator.

Need Educational Hours???

Tuesday, November 5-“Forcing Bulbs for Winter Blooms” by Dick Deerhake at 6:30 pm as part of Gardeners of the Bluffton Pandora Area program. Must register on-line with Bluffton Library. Small fee for make it- take it workshop. Bring your own pot, bulbs and soil provided.

Thursday, November 7- “Winter Bird Feeding” by Cheryl Miller at 11 am as part of MGVs Gardening in Our Golden Years series at 50 North (The Senior Center). Must register at 50N. This program is all about attracting birds, food, location of feeders and related tips.

Overwintering Geraniums

by Cindy Haynes, Department of Horticulture, Iowa State University

With the rainbow of flower and leaf colors, it is hard to watch beautiful and costly geraniums die from a hard frost. There are several ways to keep those geraniums through the winter for a head start on blooms next spring and a savings to your garden budget.

Keep Them Growing in Containers

Geraniums grow easily indoors in containers with proper care and environmental conditions. Before the first frost, cut back plants to half of their original size and inspect them for signs of insects or disease. Then, dig up healthy plants and transplant into containers. Use a potting mix made for containerized plants instead of garden soil. Garden soil is often heavy, compacted, and drains poorly in containers.



Place containerized plants in a cool location with plenty of bright, direct sunlight. Water plants well after potting and as needed when the soil begins to dry. Shoot tips may need pinching once or twice during the winter to promote branching and prevent weak growth. Before planting outside in May, fertilize lightly. Plants kept in containers over the winter are typically larger than most geraniums sold in the spring. This allows you to have a head start on growth and blooms for next year's garden.

Taking Cuttings From Outdoor Plants

Geraniums root readily from cuttings. This is also a great way to multiply the number of plants for next year's garden. To take a cutting, remove a 3- to 4-inch section of the plant's stem tip with a sharp knife. Pinch off the leaves from the lower half of the cutting and dip the cut end into a rooting hormone. Rooting hormones are sold in powder or liquid form at your local garden center or discount store. Stick the cuttings in a moist, porous, well-drained rooting media such as coarse sand, perlite, or vermiculite. Cuttings can be rooted in individual pots or several cuttings can be placed per container. Make sure the container has holes for drainage. Ideally, cuttings root best in a moist, humid environment. This is easy to achieve by securing a clear plastic bag over the cuttings and container. This "mini-greenhouse" should be placed in bright, but indirect light. Check the media occasionally to insure it remains evenly moist. Rooting normally occurs in 6 to 8 weeks. After roots are approximately 1-inch long, transplant cuttings into a 3- to 4-inch container with a standard well-drained potting soil. Place in a sunny window and water as needed. Pinch shoot tips back to force branching and prevent spindly growth. New plants produced from cuttings should be vigorous and about the same size as most geraniums sold in spring.

Dormant Storage

Geraniums are unusual and unlike many annual flowers, they have the ability to survive for most of the winter without soil. If properly stored, they can resist extended dry periods due to their thick, succulent-like stems.

(Continued)

Overwintering Geraniums (Continued)

Dormant Storage (Continued)

To overwinter geraniums in dormant storage, dig up the entire plant before frost and gently shake the soil from the roots. Place the plants inside open paper bags or hang them upside-down from the rafters in a cool, dark location for the winter. Ideally the temperature should be between 45-50 F. Two or three times during the winter, take the plants out the bags or down from the rafters and soak the roots in water for 1 or 2 hours. At this time, inspect the stems. While many of the leaves will die and fall off, the stems should remain firm and solid. Discard any geraniums with shriveled stems, since those plants will most likely die. Pot up healthy dormant geraniums in containers in late March or early April. Water plants thoroughly and cut back the dead stem tips. Place potted plants in a sunny window to initiate new growth. It often takes several weeks for plants to initiate growth after dormant storage.

No matter how geraniums have been overwintered, they should be healthy, free-flowering plants for spring. After being indoors all winter, your geraniums may be as anxious as you are for spring planting. Plant them after the danger of frost has passed and enjoy their colorful blooms all summer. You can invest your savings in new geranium varieties to overwinter next year.

Submitted By: Linda Casey



MG Happenings.....



Marlene Brunswick Brown Bag on Plant Identification

Marlene presented the Brown Bag at the October 10th monthly meeting sharing stories of how her woods has developed over the years. Nature taking its course along with human activity have had negative and positive impacts upon her woods. Marlene has many memories of watching her woods change over the years. One such memory is her children playing baseball with buckeyes years ago. These buckeyes have now grown into full grown trees throughout her woods. WHAT A GREAT MEMORY!

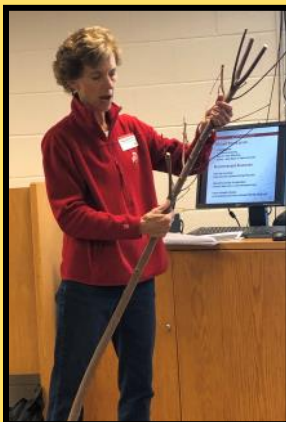
A particular interest of Marlene's is plant identification. As she walks around her property she likes to take pictures of the various plants and then identifies them using the following website and Apps.

<https://plants.usda.gov/classification>

Apps: LeafSnap and PictureThis

"History, Popularity of Pumpkins Promise Fall Fun"

Doris Salis
The Courier
October 19, 2019



"Young Tree Pruning"

Peggy Biolchini
Findlay-Hancock Public Library
October 23, 2019



MG Happenings.....(Continued)

COMMUNITY GARDEN

On October 7th, we did the final cleanup in the community garden. A total of 3,004 pounds of produce was donated this year. Tomatoes, peppers, zucchini, yellow squash and sweet potatoes were very productive. (We grew 179 pounds of sweet potatoes.) Overall, considering the cold, wet spring, hot summer and our four-legged friends the garden did fairly well. Thank you to all who helped with the garden.

A special thank you to John and Linda for organizing the garden!!!



POPCORN Day **at Jacobs School** **October 28th**



Intern Spotlight-Lisa McClain

Like many of you I was fortunate enough to grow up in a family that loved to garden. My father grew up on a farm with three brothers where farming and gardening were a way of life. My grandfather had a small farm and my grandmother took care of the livestock, garden, and household chores. One of my mother's favorite stories is about the first time she went to the McClain's house to eat. She walked into the kitchen and saw 4-5 dozen ears of corn boiling on the stove. She assumed grandma was getting ready to freeze, but in actuality it was just the corn for their meal. (I guess with 4 boys and grandpa they ate a lot of corn). When the time came grandma taught each of her daughter-in-laws how to put up food for the winter. I am sure grandma learned how to garden and cook from her mother who learned from hers.

As a girl I developed my love of gardening from my father. We lived in town, but had an extra lot that served as our garden. Dad would till it each spring and then we would get busy planting corn, tomatoes, onions, zucchini and whatever else he decided to plant that year. I would help with the weeding throughout the summer and at times would be sent to the garden to weed because my father thought it was a good punishment. (If I had to guess he had to do the same as a young boy). I helped harvest the produce and would then help my mother can tomatoes and freeze corn. We ate so many ears of corn and tomatoes that for I time I boycotted both.

Just as my grandmother and my father learned about gardening from their parents I learned from mine. Using the same techniques I learned from them I would get the same results year after year. Occasionally I had a particularly good season, but I was never quite sure why or what I had done differently. Every year I would have the same nagging problems with pests and diseases.

Two years ago, I attended a workshop on the Community Garden presented by Karl Farwig at the Findlay-Hancock Public Library. After hearing him speak I decided to get a plot. Every time I would see Karl there he would say, "You know Lisa, we will be holding Master Gardener classes in the spring of 2019. You really out to think about signing up." After giving it some thought, I took his advice and have never regretted it.

I will always be grateful to my grandmother and father for teaching me the love of gardening. To the Master Gardener Program however I will always be grateful for teaching me the importance of doing things because they are research based and work. I learned so much at each and every session and am continuing to learn by interacting with the Master Gardener Volunteers and sharing their passion. **THANK YOU!!!**





IT'S TIME TO.....

Submitted By: Linda Casey

HOME (Indoor plants and activities)

- Keep poinsettia in complete darkness for 15 hours each day — for example, between 5 p.m. and 8 a.m. — for eight to 10 weeks until red bracts begin to show.
- Pot spring-flowering bulbs to force into bloom indoors. Moisten soil and refrigerate 10 to 13 weeks. Transfer to a cool, sunny location, and allow an additional three to four weeks for blooming.
- Houseplants, especially those grown outdoors during the summer, commonly drop some or many of their leaves in response to the lower natural light intensity in the autumn and reduced light intensity indoors.
- Water indoor plants less frequently, and discontinue fertilizer as plants slow down or stop growing for the winter season.

YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals and fruits)

- Keep plants, especially newly planted stock, well-watered until ground freezes.
- Have soil ready to mound roses for winter protection. Do not mound or cover roses until after leaves drop and soil is near freezing, usually late November or early December.
- Strawberry plants need protection from winter's extremes, but applying winter mulch too early may cause crowns to rot. Apply winter protection when plants are dormant but before temperatures drop below 20F, usually late November or early December.
- Rake or shred large, fallen tree leaves, such as maple, to prevent them from matting down and smothering grass. Raking smaller leaves, such as honey locust, is optional. Continue mowing lawn as needed.

GARDEN (Flowers, vegetables and small fruits)

- Harvest root crops and store in a cold (32 F), humid location. Storing produce in perforated plastic bags is a convenient, easy way to increase humidity.
- Harvest Brussels sprouts as they develop in the axils of the leaves from the bottom of the stem. Brussels sprouts will continue to develop up the stem.
- Harvest pumpkins and winter squash before frost, but when rind is hard and fully colored. Store in a cool location until ready to use.
- Harvest gourds when stems begin to brown and dry. Cure at 70-80 F for two to four weeks.
- Harvest mature, green tomatoes before frost and ripen indoors in the dark. Warmer temperatures lead to faster ripening.
- Asparagus top growth should not be removed until foliage yellows. Let foliage stand over winter to collect snow for insulation and moisture.
- Remove plant debris from the garden to protect next year's plantings from insect and disease buildup. Compost plant refuse by alternating layers of soil, plant material, and manure or commercial fertilizer.
- Have garden soil tested for fertilizer needs every three to five years.
- Plowing and incorporating organic matter in fall avoids the rush of garden activities and water-logged soil in spring. Soils prepared in the fall tend to warm faster and allow earlier planting in spring.
- Carve a Halloween jack-o'-lantern.
- Dig tender garden flower bulbs for winter storage. Gladiolus corms should be dug when leaves begin turning yellow. Caladiums, geraniums and tuberous begonias should be lifted before killing frost. Dig canna and dahlia roots after a heavy frost. Allow to air dry, then pack in dry peat moss or vermiculite, and store in a cool location.
- Complete planting of spring-flowering bulbs.



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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

Refreshments for November 14th Meeting:

Bob Campbell

Bill Jones

Barb Sherman

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