

# GREEN THUMB PRINTS

Gardening is our Passion ..... Education is our Purpose

September 2019



## Upcoming Events:

Sept 1st-Sept 2nd

Fair Booth Volunteering

Sept 3rd

Fair Booth Tear Down

Sept 5th

Courier Article Due

Sept 10th

Using Native Plants in the Landscape

Sept 11th

Library Presentation

Sept 12th

MG Monthly Meeting

Sept 13th

MGV State Advisory Meeting

Sept 19th

MG Executive Committee Meeting

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# Coordinator's Corner

## Volunteer Coordinator Message

Thanks to all of you who have done so many things for the Master Gardeners of Hancock County. From answering questions that have come into the office, to staffing the booth at the fair, or working the community garden among many other things. There is so much good that each of you are doing for Hancock County.

I have concluded the articles on how to use the VMS. There is a PowerPoint presentation within the document section on the VMS that walks you through using the VMS. It should address any questions on how to use the system or walk anyone through using the system. Should any of you have topics that need to be covered more, I am willing to feature them within the upcoming newsletters.

Much appreciation to the By-laws team for putting together a proposed Constitution and By-laws. It is under review by Ed Lentz and me with the intent of getting it to each of you during the September meeting. The plan is to vote on the proposal during the October meeting.

As the summer ends this year, take time to appreciate the fall gardens and to practice proper clean-up of your gardens. Continue to answer questions for your friends and community members.

I hope to see you at the September meeting.



*Karl Farwig*

# Rambling Rose

**September 2019**

*Fall, School, and Fair Time are quickly approaching. Are you ready?*

The Hancock County Fair is our best opportunity to showcase the Hancock County Master Gardeners. During this time we are able to increase awareness and answer questions for hundreds of residents. The theme is Flower Power. The MGV Booth is in the Grange Building at the front door. If you volunteered to bring flowering plants or fresh cut flowers or volunteered for set-up, ensure that the display items or the volunteer is at the Fairgrounds at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 27. If you are working during the fair, please wear the MGV Shirt (if you have one), an Ohio State shirt (if you have one) and your name badge! Keep track of all contacts that are made during this time to report on VMS. Thank you to Doris Salis and Marilyn Beltz for planning and implementation of the fair booth. If there are changes to your schedule during fair week, please advise Doris or Marilyn so they can recruit a replacement.

There is a September MGV Meeting on September 12 at 6:00 pm. In place of brown bag, we will have the committees meet to discuss plans for fall and 2020. If you are not currently on a committee, please join one. The Committees are Administration, Teaching, Education, Service and Social/Fundraising.

The Meeting will include a review of the proposed revisions to the Constitution and By-Laws. Thanks to Tim Brugeman and his committee for all the hard work and time spent on this project.

Thank you to all members for the time, energy and enthusiasm in the projects and committees which make our organization a success.

See you at the Fair.

*Rose*



# **HANCOCK COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

### **August 8, 2019**

Wildlife Research Technician Sara Zaleski from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife District Two office presented a very informative brown bag presentation on Canada Geese. She included information on their habitat, breeding and control.

President Rose Morrison called the monthly business meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. with 33 Master Gardeners in attendance.

**Secretary's Report:** Rose reported there was no secretary's report from our July 11 picnic meeting.

**Treasurer Report:** Ann Woolum reviewed the updated financial reports. The reports were accepted by the group.

**President Updates:** Rose thanked Doris Salis and Marilyn Beltz for opening their gardens for the Findlay Garden Tour. She also thanked Dick Deerhake and Lyn Maa for hosting our July summer picnic.

In the absence of Karl Farwig our Volunteer Coordinator, Rose gave updates and asked for concerns related to the VMS volunteer hour posting website and the Ask a Master Gardener activity.

#### **COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

**Service Committee:** Linda Leiendecker reported that the Community Garden had donated 365 pounds of produce thus far this growing season. She mentioned that they were having a deer problem in the gardens this year which may reduce the produce yield for this growing season. She reminded everyone to remember to share with her or John the amount (by pounds) of any produce you have grown and donated to a local charity. She shared that the weeds seem to be under control, but like all our gardens we could use a good soaking rain.

**Fair Booth:** Doris Salis and Marilyn Beltz shared that the Fair Booth Theme this year is "Flower Power". Please let them know ASAP if you have flowering plants for display. When you drop the plants off make sure your name is on the plant/pot.

They are also converting the bug match box which has individuals matching the name of a bug to the bug to a flower match box.

**Administrative Committee:** Lynn Farwig reported that the updated Green Thumb Prints newsletter was published at the beginning of August. She thanked Lisa McClain our new newsletter editor on her first edition.

(Continued)



# **HANCOCK COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS**

## **MEETING MINUTES (Continued)**

**Education Committee:** Peggy Biolichini reported that field trips were done for the season. Ann Woolum, Seminars Coordinator mentioned she had sent out an email requesting volunteers for a committee to organize a seminar planned for 2020. If interested in serving on the committee, please contact Ann.

**Newsletter:** Rose mentioned that articles are due to Lisa McClain by August 25, 2019. She asked that the following articles be submitted: Tim Brugeman – Bylaw Update, an MGV Intern – Article on Master Gardener from an Interns view, Marilyn Beltz/Doris Salis – Fair Booth update, and Linda Leiendecker – Update on Community Garden donations.

**Old Business:** Ann Woolum gave an update on the Event Brite site development. She and her niece have been working on the design and hope to have it up and running prior to our wreath class registration.

Rose mentioned that our new Master Gardener shirts were being distributed at the meeting tonight. She thanked Kay Sidaway for organizing the purchase and distribution of the shirts.

### **New Business:**

Rose shared that officer elections and committee position appointments will be discussed at the September meeting. All terms are for two years. The officers to be elected in 2019 are Vice President and Secretary. Those who have been appointed to a position during the 2018/2019 term may continue to serve in the new term. If you are not comfortable in serving another term you should contact Noreen.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, September 12, 2019. Brown bag at 6:00 with Committee meetings. Immediately following the brown bag session, the evening business meeting will begin. The business meeting will feature Tim Brugeman who will be reviewing the updated Constitution and Bylaws. The Constitution committee included Reuben DeBolt, Marilyn Beltz, Lynn Farwig, and Bill Jones in addition to Tim.

*Respectfully submitted Cheryl Miller*

**The committee to organize a Hancock County Master Gardener sponsored seminar in the spring will meet immediately following the regular meeting for a few minutes. If you are interested in joining the committee please contact Ann Woolum.**

# **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

## **Proposed Constitution / Bylaw Revisions Headed Your Way Tim Brugeman**

When gardening together, it may be good to be on the same page when growing together: our Constitution & Bylaws provide that framework. It was time for an update, so our Review Team waded through documents and found we were in pretty good shape. Hancock County Master Gardeners Inc. is a state-approved, non-profit organization with responsibilities of how to conduct our activities, as well as our relationship as part of The Ohio State University. Thanks to great input from current and past Volunteer Coordinators, and clarifications from OSU Extension Master Gardeners leads in Columbus, we feel, however, some changes are needed. These are mainly due to changes in our organization, using the new VMS system and better timing for elections. Here are the major highlights:

### **Constitution (general regulatory provisions)**

- Adding a Dissolution section should our group no longer have meetings or Leadership to conduct business (transfer of records & remaining funds).
- Adding a Social/Fundraising and simplified list for Standing Committees; Also clarifying emeritus Members approval and allowing them to vote.

### **Bylaws (process and details for governing)**

- Clarifying some descriptions of membership (interns, active, inactive and Emeritus), Executive Committee and Officer duties, listing ex-officio members, recruiting Standing Committee Chairs and their sub-groups leads.
- Explaining the new cycle of elections starting in November rather than January.
- Listing duties of the Volunteer Coordinator and their relationships to our group and Extension Educator.
- Examples of Standing Committees, their sub-groups, and recruiting their leads, and how new projects and programs are approved.
- Adding a section on how to make Amendments.

A copy of proposed draft will be forwarded to members soon; details to be discussed September 12, vote for approval requested October 10.



# Please Don't Top Your Trees

By: Rosie Lerner

Topping leads to numerous upright, weak branches.  
Photo Credit: Mary Welch-Keesey

Topping a tree is an all-too-common practice among homeowners, particularly when their trees become too tall and pose a possible threat to the house or overhead power lines. Some have the trees topped because they believe, or are led to believe, that topping is a good pruning practice.

Some situations obviously require the removal of large limbs for the sake of safety. But topping is a drastic step that ultimately endangers the tree's life. Removing such a great quantity of growth in one shot throws off the roots-to-shoots balance that the tree has gradually developed all those years. The much-reduced leaf surface will not be able to manufacture sufficient food reserves to feed the large root system. As roots starve, the rest of the tree will suffer from insufficient moisture and nutrients.

Another drawback to topping for many tree species is the stimulation of numerous, upright branches that grow straight up. These shoots are typically very soft, weak growth that breaks easily and is more susceptible to attack by diseases and insects. These shoots are rapid growers, so the tree will soon be back to and exceed its original height.

Stubs left by the topping are usually too large for the tree's defense process of callusing to seal the wound. Thus, stubs also become easy prey for insects, diseases and decay, and large stubs drastically disfigure the tree's natural beauty.

There are alternatives to topping when size reduction is required. Thinning out the canopy by removing selected branches completely back to their point of origin will reduce the tree's size while maintaining more of its natural shape. Cuts will be less conspicuous and should heal more rapidly. Thinning is a more time-consuming process that requires a more skilled hand, which usually translates to higher expense. In many cases, you'll need to hire a professional arborist to safely and correctly complete the job.

If the tree isn't worth the investment to do the job correctly, it's probably better to remove the tree entirely rather than top repeatedly. In the case of overhead power lines, it really is best to remove the tree and start over with a more appropriately sized plant. But if the tree is worth saving, make the right investment in a healthy future.

**Submitted By: Linda Casey**

## Intern Spotlight-*Marlene Brunswick*

The Master Gardener Volunteer Program through OSU Extension has exceeded my expectations. Completing the course as an intern in March of 2019 has provided me with the basic knowledge to grow in so many ways. This article will focus on my experience with grape vine pruning this year and how a simple task like pruning can rejuvenate the plant and be fruitful!

In March, our ***Trees and Woody Ornamentals*** lecture was presented by Kathy Smith, the OSU Extension Program Director - Forestry, Ohio Woodland Stewards Program Coordinator. (***Chapter 8*** in our OSU Master Gardener Volunteer training manual). Understanding the reasons for pruning and using proper pruning equipment can make the task of pruning quite simple. After reviewing the information and also researching the Basic Principles of Pruning Backyard Grapevines from one of the OSU Fact sheets, I felt ready to tackle a grape arbor that had not been touched in years.

My first steps included tearing down an old fence and replacing with solid fencing to support the grapevines. The weeds covered the area and once the plant was exposed, I was able to follow the permanent extension of the grapevine, also known as the cordon. The prior year's shoots, the cane, was woody brown and easy to identify. The trunk was quite large as the plant was very mature. The plant was left unattended for years and quite overgrown. With extensive pruning of the overgrown plant, I wasn't sure what the plant would look like once it started to grow. I was able to do this project in the early spring before the canes started to grow and prior to any leaves becoming visible. The nodes were identified and the new pruning equipment made the job quiet easy. The end result was a barren grape vine but the resulting growth was incredible. Looking forward to harvest!



**(Continued on next page)**



## Intern Spotlight-Marlene Brunswick (Continued)

### **Glossary of Pruning Terms**

**Cane:** A green summer shoot matures (hardens off) into a woody, brown one-year-old cane after leaf fall.

**Cordon:** A permanent extension of the grapevine's trunk that is horizontally positioned along the trellis (arbor) wire.

**Fruiting Wood:** One-year-old wood that produces the current season's shoots and fruit.

**Node:** The thickened portion of a shoot or cane where the leaf petiole is attached and a compound bud is located.

**Pruning:** Removal of portions of a grapevine for the purpose of maintaining size, shape and productivity.

**Renewal Spur:** A cane pruned to one node with the primary purpose of producing a vegetative shoot (cane) for next year's fruiting wood.

**Shoot:** The green, leafy growth that develops from the compound bud that normally produces fruit clusters.

**Shoot Positioning (Combing):** New shoots are positioned in an orderly manner along the trellis to allow for more even sunlight exposure on the canopy of leaves and reduce the number of canes that are tangled.

**Spur:** A cane pruned to three to five fruiting nodes to produce shoots bearing fruit clusters.

**Trunk:** The main, upright structure(s) of the grapevine from which cordons, shoots and canes arise.

**Basic Principles of Pruning Backyard Grapevines,** <https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/HYG-1428>



**Marlene Brunswick**

# MG Happenings.....



## Monarch Butterflies and Pollinators

Tim Brugeman speaks to the Bluffton Area Community Gardeners about Monarch butterflies and pollinators

## Brown Bag-Removal of Geese from Ponds/Yards

Sara Zaleski, Wildlife Technician for the Ohio Division of Wildlife, presented a very informative Brown Bag to the Master Gardener Volunteers before the August Monthly Meeting



## Courier Article

In case you missed it, Karla Dennis wrote an excellent article for The Courier published on Saturday, August 24th titled "*The Trouble With Tending to Tomatoes.*" Great job Karla!!!

# Hancock County Fair 2019

## Flower Power



## Community Garden Update

We are well into the harvest season. Summer squash and zucchini as always are very plentiful. The deer got into the corn and ate the tassels and silk but overall it did alright. Onions and cabbage have been harvested and did okay considering the weather conditions. We donated 60 pounds of onions and 65 pounds of cabbage to City Mission. Tomatoes and peppers are coming on strong. We still have potatoes, sweet potatoes, winter squash, carrots, melons and pumpkins to harvest.

***As of August 30th we have donated 1,118 pounds.***

Thank you to those who have helped to achieve this.

Please continue to let Linda Leiendecker know as you donate your extra produce.

# GREEN INDUSTRY SUMMER SESSION

Bill Jones

On Wednesday, August 7, nine of our MGVs and one of our interns attended the annual GISS seminar at Owens Community College in Perrysburg as we have done for the last dozen years.

This annual event provides an excellent educational opportunity and a chance to hear updates on many “Green Industry” issues by some knowledgeable OSU educators. It is always held on the first Wednesday of August. This year’s sessions included 9 different seminars across 3 different tracks: Plants, Practices, and Pests.

I attended 2 of the Pest sessions and one from the Practices session. My Pest sessions included biotic issues (fungi, bacteria, insects, viruses) and abiotic issues (nutrient deficiency, root girdling, soil compaction, frost damage, etc.).

Some take-a-ways from my sessions were:

1. Tar Spot on Maple looks bad but causes no harm to the tree. No treatment is recommended.
2. Viburnum Leaf Beetle is present from July through October. It is predominately found on Arrowwood Viburnum and other thin leaf varieties and it stays in shaded areas. If your viburnum is in the sun, it is less likely to be attacked by this insect.
3. Zimmerman Pine Moth can infect the collar of all pines. It can be readily diagnosed by the red specs (frass) in the resin seeping from the bore holes.
4. Don’t fertilize Baptisia because it will cause the plant to grow excessively and the branches will fall later in the season.
5. Tortoise Shell Beetles feed on sweet potato vines at night. When bringing in these vines for the winter, be sure to change the soil to prevent bringing in overwintering adults.
6. Watch for the Red Lily Beetle. It is in Michigan and moving our way. It will devour Asiatic lilies.
7. The Coneflower Head-Clipping Weevil cuts the flower head off the stalk. It overwinters in the dropped seed head. Destroy these dropped heads to eliminate the insect.





## IT'S TIME TO.....

### **HOME (Houseplants and indoor activities)**

- ♦ Take cuttings from annual garden plants such as impatiens, coleus, geraniums and wax begonias to overwinter indoors. Root the cuttings in media such as moist vermiculite, perlite, peat moss or potting soil, rather than water.
- ♦ Order spring-flowering bulbs for fall planting.
- ♦ Cut flowers from the garden to bring a little color indoors, or dry for everlasting arrangements.

### **YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals, and fruits)**

- ♦ Check trees and shrubs that have been planted in recent years for girdling damage by guy wires, burlap or twine.
- ♦ Don't fertilize woody plants now. It stimulates late growth that will not have time to harden off properly before winter.
- ♦ Hand-prune and destroy bagworms, fall webworms and tent caterpillars.
- ♦ Pears are best ripened off the tree, so do not wait for the fruit to turn yellowish on the tree. Harvest pears when color of fruit changes - usually from a dark green to a lighter green - and when the fruit is easily twisted and removed from the spur.
- ♦ Prune out and destroy the raspberry and blackberry canes that bore fruits this year. They will not produce fruit again next year, but they may harbor insect and disease organisms.
- ♦ If weather turns dry, keep newly established plants well-watered. New plants should receive 1 to 1.5 inches of water every 7 to 10 days.
- ♦ Begin seeding new lawns or bare spots in established lawns in mid-August through mid-September

### **GARDEN (Vegetables, small fruits, and flowers)**

- ♦ Keep the garden well-watered during dry weather and free of weeds, insects and disease.
- ♦ Complete fall garden planting by direct-seeding carrots, beets, kohlrabi, kale and snap beans early this month. Lettuce, spinach, radishes and green onions can be planted later in August and early September. Don't forget to thin seedlings to appropriate spacing as needed.

**(Continued)**





## IT'S TIME TO..... Continued

### GARDEN (Vegetables, small fruits, and flowers)

- ◆ Harvest onions after the tops yellow and fall, then cure them in a warm, dry, well-ventilated area. The necks should be free of moisture when fully cured in about a week's time.
- ◆ Harvest potatoes after the tops yellow and die. Potatoes also need to be cured before storage.
- ◆ Pick beans, tomatoes, peppers and squash often to encourage further production.
- ◆ Harvest watermelon when several factors indicate ripeness - the underside ground spot turns from whitish to creamy yellow; the tendril closest to the melon turns brown and shrivels; the rind loses its gloss and appears dull; and the melon produces a dull thud, rather than a ringing sound when thumped.
- ◆ Harvest sweet corn when kernels are plump and ooze a milky juice when punctured with your fingernail. If the liquid is watery, you're too early; if the kernels are doughy, you're too late.
- ◆ Keep faded flowers pinched off bedding plants to promote further flowering and improve plant appearance.

**Submitted By: Linda Casey**





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## GARDENING

It grounds us ... gets us out of our  
busy heads and back into our bodies.  
Alone there on our knees, we can breathe.  
With our nurturing hands duly occupied,  
while gardening we allow ourselves  
the time & space to truly feel  
peace, pride, satisfaction, joy.

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