

GREEN THUMB PRINTS

Gardening is our Passion Education is our Purpose

December 2020



2021 Officers Elected

Congratulations to Reuben DeBolt, our new president, and welcome back to Ann Woolum, treasurer.

By unanimous vote, Reuben and Ann were elected to 2-year terms beginning January 1, 2021.

Tim Brugeman will continue as vice-president.

Secretary Position Needs Filled

The Executive Committee needs to appoint a secretary to fill the position vacated by Reuben DeBolt.

If interested, please contact Tim Brugeman by December 3rd.

Call or text 419-672-8897 or email tbrugeman@woh.rr.com

IN THIS ISSUE.....

- Upcoming Events.....Pg 1
- Coordinator’s Corner.....Pg 2
- Rambling Rose.....Pg 3
- Meeting Minutes.....Pgs 4-5
- 2021 Budget.....Pgs 6-7
- Thank you Rose Morrison.....Pg 7
- MG Spotlight-Bill Jones.....Pg 8
- Volunteers Needed.....Pg 9
- Ag Center Garden Update.....Pg 9
- Sensory Garden Proposal....Pgs 10-11
- Fall Leaves Can Be Treasure,
Not Trash.....Pgs 12-13
- It’s Time To.....Pg 14

Coordinator's Corner

As we wrap up 2020, there are a couple things you will need to make sure you complete.

Please enter any hours and contacts into VMS for 2020. Also, everyone will need to recertify for 2021. An email was sent to you with instructions, but if you can't recall it go to the home page of VMS and click on the link to recertify for 2021. I am asking everyone to complete both by December 15, 2020. It does not take a lot of time and I appreciate your cooperation in completing this.

Thanks to each of you for what you did in 2020 given the restrictions. I ask each of you to be patient and look forward to seeing what we can do in 2021.

Merry Christmas and I hope you can enjoy welcoming 2021 on January 1. Be safe and as always if you have any questions, please contact me.

Karl Farwig



Rambling Rose December 2020

December 2020! Hard to believe this year of firsts is almost over. When the weather was warm, I put up my outside decorations but did not turn them on till after Thanksgiving. I did not want to test my luck by turning them on before the day after this year.

This is the last Rambling Rose of my presidency. It has been a true pleasure leading this group of incredible people. I thank you all for the support, assistance and the positive attitudes you have shown. One of the best part was getting to know each of you better and I learned invaluable lessons during these two years.

Congratulations to the election of our new president, Reuben, who I know will continue to lead this organization to even greater success.

I wish each of you and your loved ones a safe and happy Holiday Season. The spirit of this season will help us all find joy and happiness in this final month of 2020.

May the coming new year of 2021 bring you health and happiness.

Thank you for everything. It was truly my pleasure.

Rose



**Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers
Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2020**

President Rose Morrison called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

Meeting was conducted remotely using Zoom, with Karl Farwig coordinating, 17 in attendance. The meeting was recorded so that those unable to attend could still review the meeting.

Minutes of the previous meeting – The minutes of the meeting of September 24, 2020 were approved on (thumbs up) vote after motion by Lisa McClain, 2nd by Ann Woolum

Treasurer's Report – Ann Woolum

There was no activity since the last report

Current total cash balance is \$7,193.29, including funds restricted for Community Garden.

Unrestricted \$5978.92

President's Comments – Rose Morrison

State Recognitions – Congratulations to those recognized at the State Master Gardeners Annual Conference

Karl Farwig – one of only three nominees for Master Gardener Coordinator of the year

Betsy DeFrancesco – nominated for Master Gardener of the Year

Community Garden Project, led by John & Linda Leiendecker – Winner of \$100 First Prize as MGCV Project of the Year for 2019

Volunteer Coordinator Report – Karl Farwig:

Community Garden – final tally was 4666 lbs donated to local food banks

Courier Articles – we need volunteers to write articles for The Courier. Important as a public service and to keep our organization in the public's eye

Hours – everyone needs to keep hours updated, especially important to complete by 12/31

Recertification – Everyone needs to sign OSU documents/agreements by 12/31 in order to re-certify for 2021. Karl will be sending out an email to everyone with documents/links to sign virtually on VMS

VMS – the service provider for VMS will discontinue normal service 12/31, but will continue some maintenance beyond that date. OSU has purchased a new system which will be phased in. Members should continue to enter hours in VMS, and Karl will do a weekly data dump to maintain them off line until the new system is fully operational

Extension Report – Ed Lentz

Courier Articles – We are encouraged to continue to do what we can to serve the community and get recognition

Old Business

Election – slate of candidates elected unanimously on motion by Tim Brugeman, 2nd by Doris Salis

President – Reuben DeBolt

Treasurer – Ann Woolum

(CONTINUED)

Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers
Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2020
(CONTINUED)

Election – Secretary. Anyone interested in filling the remaining one year of the Secretary’s term should contact Tim Brugeman. The Executive Committee will appoint someone to the position at their December meeting

Phenology Garden – Betsy DeFrancesco presented a proposal to convert the phenology garden into a sensory garden, with pollinator attractions, to be a pleasant, place to visit. She and her team – Tim Brugeman, Lisa McClain, Lynn Farwig, Linda Finsel – have already weeded, trimmed, mulched the garden. The proposal will be included in the newsletter so that members can review it and be prepared to vote on it in January

New Business

2021 Budget – Ann presented the proposed 2021 budget. The budget is based on the assumption that we will resume full activities in 2021. The main differences compared to the 2020 budget are

Income lower \$3,600 because of no seminar, and \$500 because Grow Ohio has ended
Expenses lower by \$2,060 – no expenses for seminar, more than offset some increases
for Community Garden fence and signage and investment in OSUE and phenology
gardens

Net budget calls for \$2,225 deficit, which we can easily cover from our reserves

Budget approved on vote after motion by Reuben DeBolt, 2nd by Doris Salis

Project Reports

Ask a Master Gardener – Doris Salis

Requests have slowed, predictably, to 6 in October and 2 so far in November

Thanks to everyone who has been part of the team

Closing Comments

Committee Chairs and Project Leaders for 2021 – current chairs and leads, please email Rose and Reuben to let them know if you wish to continue in your role

Anyone interested in leading any projects should also contact Rose and Reuben

We need a volunteer to take the lead on the OSUE entrance garden

Courier Articles – Laurie Pressel to put a request for volunteer writers for February and beyond in the next newsletter

December – Doris Salis

January – Linda Casey

Articles due by 5th of month

Thanks to Rose for her leadership, especially through this difficult year!

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned on motion by Tim, 2nd by Linda Casey

Next Meeting: January 14, 7:00pm

Respectfully submitted: Reuben DeBolt, Secretary

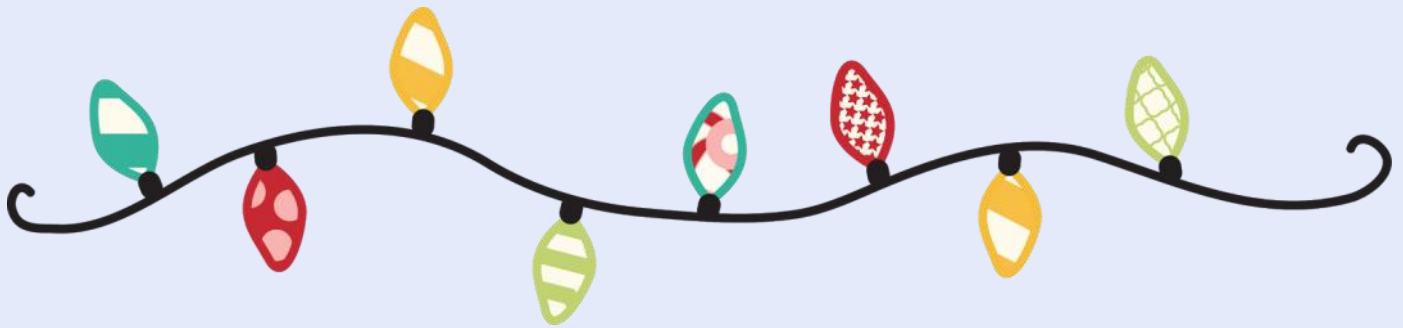
Hancock County Master Gardeners -Approved 2021 Budget

CATEGORY	2019 Actual	2020 1/1-10/31	2020 Budget	10/31/2020 Difference	2021 Budget
INCOME					
<u>Donations</u>	50.00				
Grow Ohio	500.00	500.00	500.00	-	-
Let's Go Gardening	50.00	-	50.00	(50.00)	50.00
<u>Fundraising</u>					
Wreath Class Fees	3,897.75	-	3,800.00	(3,800.00)	3,800.00
Other Fundraising	550.00	320.00	500.00	(180.00)	500.00
<u>Other Inc - Field Trip</u>	500.00	-	500.00	(500.00)	500.00
<u>Seminar Fees</u>	-	3,940.00	3,600.00	340.00	-
<u>Speaker Bureau</u>	200.00	-	200.00	(200.00)	200.00
Total Income	5,747.75	4,760.00	9,150.00	(4,390.00)	5,050.00
EXPENSES					
<u>Administrative Committee</u>					
Apparel	527.50	-	500.00	500.00	500.00
Media	70.00	122.81	225.00	102.19	100.00
Membership	320.00	380.00	380.00	-	420.00
<u>Education Committee</u>					
Brown Bag / Field Trip	514.00	-	50.00	50.00	50.00
Seminar / Food for MG class	56.00	1,595.86	1,600.00	4.14	-
<u>Executive Committee</u>					
Education Stipend	-	560.00	2,090.00	1,530.00	2,100.00
Education Stipend Scholarship Fund	150.00	360.00	410.00	50.00	-
Marketing Supplies	-	-	500.00	500.00	500.00
Memorials & Gifts	43.50	25.00	50.00	25.00	50.00
Miscellaneous & Taxes	25.00	275.00	300.00	25.00	50.00
Recognition Meeting	371.95	-	450.00	450.00	450.00
<u>Service Committee</u>					
Community Garden Supplies	183.94	176.45	200.00	23.55	600.00
Mugs of Joy	21.35	-	30.00	30.00	30.00
OSUE Building Garden/Phenology	-	-	75.00	75.00	500.00
<u>Social & Fundraising Committee</u>					
Christmas Potluck	-	-	250.00	250.00	250.00
Fundraising Expenses	359.49	664.79	1,000.00	335.21	450.00
Meeting Supplies	227.65	33.85	300.00	266.15	300.00
Plant Exchange	-	-	75.00	75.00	75.00
Summer Picnic	-	-	200.00	200.00	200.00
<u>Teaching Committee</u>					
Fair Booth	-	-	200.00	200.00	200.00
Let's Go Gardening	-	-	200.00	200.00	200.00
Speaker Bureau & Library Programs	-	-	250.00	250.00	250.00
Total Expenses	2,870.38	4,193.76	9,335.00	5,141.24	7,275.00

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Hancock County Master Gardeners -Approved 2021 Budget
(CONTINUED)

Category	2019 Actual	2020 1/1-10/31	2020 Budget	10/31/2020 Difference	2021 Budget
Net Difference:	2,877.37	566.24	(185.00)	751.24	(2,225.00)
<u>Beginning Cash</u>					
Operating		5,711.23			5,953.92
Community Garden		879.80			1,203.35
Total Cash		6,591.03			7,157.27
<u>Ending Cash</u>					
Operating		5,953.92			4,328.92
Community Garden		1,203.35			603.35
Total Cash		7,157.27			4,932.27



Thank You to Rose Morrison

What a couple of years!

During your 2-year term as president you took us through the ups and downs.

Your first year was one of our most upbeat year of activities including fundraising, awards, new members and our first ever MGV seminar. You then took us through a shutdown due to the pandemic where you worked hard to keep our group together and safe.

We appreciate your time, talent, humor, and encouragement at every turn and hope you can now enjoy your gardening even more with the extra time.

Nice work, Rose!



Master Gardener Spotlight

Bill Jones

1 Master Gardener Class: Trained in 2001 and have been active for 19 years.

2 Gardening Interests or Areas of Expertise: Bill enjoys learning about all aspects of gardening and horticulture. He enjoys annuals, perennials, trees, shrubs, lawns, vegetables, insects, fruits, etc.

3 Hancock County Master Gardening Activities:

- *Hancock County Vice-President, President, and Volunteer Coordinator
- *State MG Advisory Committee under two state coordinators
- *Treasurer of the 2002 and 2005 State MGV Conferences
- *Helped establish the MGV Fair Booth and works in it each year
- *Organized the first MGV Plant Exchange and led the MGV Tomato Trials for many years
- *Established one of the first Phenology Gardens as part of the Ohio Phenology Network
- *Served as a member of the state Ask-a-Master Gardener team since its inception in 2012 and has answered 538 questions so far
- *Developed the handout, "Children Are Berry Curious." This document describes the many berries and nuts in our area and the relative toxic risks posed by each
- *Taught MGV classes on Weeds, Lawns, Phenology, Soils, Trees and Shrubs
- *Developed a chapter on Cyber Research for the 2007 Master Gardener Manual.
- *Selected as State Master Gardener of the Year in 2007
- *Became a state Gypsy Moth and Emerald Ash Borer Specialist
- *Worked in the Triangle Garden at the intersection of SR12 and US224 since 2004.

4 Other Interests or Interesting Information:

- *Served as Blanchard Township Fiscal Officer for 28 years (retired 2020)
- *Volunteer at Blanchard Valley Hospital
- *Treasurer of Men's and Women's Garden Club
- *Adult Sunday School teacher (50 years).
- *Helped develop the Benton Ridge Park and related activities

5 Other Interests or Interesting Information:

Bill has traveled internationally both with his job at Cooper Tire (Manager of Research and Technology) and for leisure. He particularly enjoys cruising and exploring ports of call. Bill also enjoys local history and genealogy. He has published two articles in technical trade journals and self-published histories of Benton Ridge and Blanchard Township.

Bill has been married to his wife, Karen Sue, for 53 years and they have 2 children, 6 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild. Karen is a retired Registered Nurse and Chief Nursing Officer at BVH. He met his childhood hero, Werner Von Braun (German V2 rocket and American space program pioneer) while in college and has also met Bob Hope and Ben Vereen (Roots) during his many business trips.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Reuben DeBolt

After surveying those who are currently leading committees and projects, we find that we need volunteers to fill the following positions for 2021.

There is an opening for the **Service Committee Chairperson** -- this committee is responsible for several garden projects and Mugs of Joy.

There are also openings for the following Project Leads:

- 1) **The Ag Center Garden** – someone to lead this project (See overview below)
- 2) **Mugs of Joy** – someone to work alongside Linda Laux, as she would like to hand the project off after 2021
- 3) **Brown Bag**
- 4) **Seminars**

Anyone interested in any of these leadership roles should contact Reuben.
Call at 419-722-4155 or email reubendebolt@hotmail.com

Thank you to all the other committee members who are staying on in their positions for 2021!

The Ag Center Garden Needs an Update!

Tim Brugeman

Thanks to Jerry Lenhart, our Project Chair the last 2 years, and some other volunteers the Ag Center (aka OSU Extension Office) Entry Garden has been cleaned up. Unfortunately, no new landscaping could be done due to our restrictions. The Board feels this is still a vital project and will need a chair and other volunteers.

The Chairperson and planning team will work with MGV Vice-President Tim Brugeman to:

Develop a plan that can be presented to members for their support, phasing, funding and a commitment for providing volunteers to do on-going work (when permitted). Project budget and timetable.

Plan priority needs to be submitted in 2021 to County Commissioners.

Develop landscaping schedule to be determined as our MGV activities start up.

Here is an excellent opportunity over the winter months to use what we learned from our “Sustainable Landscaping Seminar” from last March. This demonstration garden planted with native plants and colorful all season plantings would be a great promotion of Hancock County Master Gardeners Program to all who visit this busy building. To continue this effort, we will need a renewed commitment from our MGVs to volunteer. Call or text Tim (419) 672-8897 if interested. Thanks.

Proposal to Change Phenology Garden into a Four-Season Sensory Garden

Betsy Martindale DeFrancesco

Please review and be ready to vote at the January meeting

The OSUE Phenology Garden was used for extensive research from its creation in 2004 until the last data was entered in 2018. The question then came up, what (if anything) could we do with this garden now that the research has been suspended? The Planning Committee would like to offer a proposal to the Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers. We suggest a Sensory Garden featuring four-season interest and plenty of plants for pollinators.

Work needed before the plan proceeds - Clean up garden, pull weeds, cut back perennials, cut out dead branches and put down mulch.

The committee has finished this portion and invites everyone to go out and see the garden.

Where exactly is the garden? Behind the Hancock County Job & Family Services building. This is the building next to the Agricultural Services building.

Why should we consider this project?

This garden would be an excellent area for members to put in as many or as few hours of volunteer work that their schedules and capabilities allow. Perfect for anyone that loves to work with flowers, shrubs and trees!

Eventually, the garden could feature an addition for picnic tables that we could utilize for outdoor seminars (fund-raisers), demonstrations (such as pruning trees and shrubs) and get-togethers such as the plant exchange or summer picnic.

How could this project help our community?

A Sensory Garden could be a great place for school classes to visit and experience the different plants that appeal to our senses.

Sight – colorful blooms, interesting foliage

Smell – fragrant flowers and shrubs, herbs

Hearing – ornamental grasses, false indigo (which is already there) wind chimes

Touch – lamb's ear, conifers, silver mound

All plants will be labeled, and more information will be available to the visitors. We will add plants that will have interest for all four seasons.

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Proposal to Change Phenology Garden into a Four-Season Sensory Garden (Continued)

This garden could be used as a backdrop for photos – senior photos, engagement, wedding, family portraits, etc. By replacing and adding benches, we can offer a beautiful setting for visitors to relax, read, visit, etc.

Parking will not be an issue due to the size of the existing parking lots.

This project can be completed in phases

For Example:

Phase One – Add/replace plants
Repair/replace and add benches
Add permanent signage
Straighten and define the garden perimeter
Seek permission from County Commissioners to
expand and make improvements to the garden

Phase Two- Build an archway that can be used as the garden entryway and as a
photo backdrop
Add area for picnic tables
Develop a “Garden Guide” that can be downloaded from our website
Distribute “Garden Guide” to area garden clubs, schools,
civic organizations
Promote garden on Facebook and local media outlets
Look into grants

Phase Three- Make the garden handicap accessible

Maintenance

We would organize work sessions, but we could also have a clipboard available with maintenance tasks that need to be done in case someone has a few minutes to spare. Except for large projects, the day-to-day maintenance should only take two to three hours each week, broken down as needed.

SIDE NOTES

Many of the plants will be donated.

We could also investigate selling Memorial Bricks to build permanent pathways.
If approved, we will also need to discuss the naming of the garden!

Fall Leaves Can Be Treasure, Not Trash

Linda Casey



I love trees! They give shade; add to my landscape; provide firewood for roasting hotdogs; and provide a challenging playground for my granddaughters. Yet, when October and November arrive with fall leaf drop, I dislike trees! I live in a highly wooded area and leaf raking and blowing get to be a major chore. Oh my aching back! The beauty of the leaf colors is overshadowed by the work.

What's needed here is an attitude adjustment! Autumn leaves don't have to become trash. On the contrary, they easily can be turned into valuable, soil-enhancing organic matter. There are several ways to manage tree leaves at home.

Green-thumbed gardeners long have known the value of recycling plant material. Dry leaves can be plowed or tilled under in the vegetable or annual flower bed in fall to provide a source of organic matter. Shredding the leaves first will speed the breakdown so that the leaves will not be visible by spring. Be sure to mix the leaves into the soil, rather than leaving them on top through the winter, to avoid keeping the soil too cold and wet to work in the spring.

Tree leaves can be recycled directly on the lawn. Use your power mower or shredder/vacuum to break dry leaves into smaller pieces. A mulching blade on the mower will speed this process, but even a standard blade will do an adequate job. For large leaves, such as maple and sycamore, it may take several passes to get a finely shredded product. Once the leaves are pulverized, they will break down quickly. A fall application of nitrogen fertilizer (about 1 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet) will help speed decomposition of the leaves and also will benefit the grass.



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Fall Leaves Can Be Treasure, Not Trash

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Fall leaves also make great composting ingredients, especially when mixed with green trimmings and grass clippings. Again, the smaller the pieces, the faster they'll break down, so shred or chop dry leaves before adding them to the compost pile. If you don't have green trimmings or grass clippings, add a source of nitrogen to the leaves, such as commercial fertilizer or dry cow, horse, sheep, or poultry manure. (If you need a source, let me know. I have a friend with aged horse manure.) The nitrogen is needed by the microorganisms that break down the carbon in plant materials. Add a sprinkling of soil or finished compost to introduce a source of the microorganisms, and water just enough to moisten. The compost will heat up in the center as it breaks down. Stir the contents occasionally to add air and allow for uniform heating. Generally, the more often you turn the pile, the faster you'll get a finished product. Compost is ready to add back into the garden when it looks uniformly dark and crumbly. Compost improves soil aeration, moisture retention and drainage, and nutrient-holding capabilities.



Shredded leaves also can be used as a winter mulch to protect tender perennials through the coming harsh weather. Shredding the leaves will help prevent them from packing down as they get wet and smothering the plants that they are supposed to protect. To provide winter protection, apply a 3-to 6-inch layer of shredded leaves over the top of tender perennials after several hard freezes. The goal of winter mulch is to keep plants dormant through the winter, so it must be applied after the ground is cold and plants are fully dormant. The timing of application will vary from year to year with the weather, but most years will be appropriate sometime between the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.





IT'S Time To.....December

HOME (Indoor plants and activities)

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

YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals and fruits)

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

GARDEN (Vegetables, small fruits and flowers)

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



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2020 Fall Lunch and Learn/Happy Hour Webinar Series

Registration for the first few programs in the
2020 Fall Lunch and Learn and Happy Hour Webinar Series is open
Register at go.osu.edu/mgvlearn

December 3rd at 12:00 p.m.
OSU Associate Professor Emeritus Peg McMahon, PhD -Poinsettias.

December 9th at 4:00 p.m.
Roger Koch and Matt Mongin
The process of growing a quality Christmas tree for Ohio markets.

Keep in mind that these sessions qualify for Continuing Ed hours as do the recordings.

The Master Gardener “Green Thumb Prints” is a publication of the Ohio State University Extension, Hancock County, 7868 County Road 140 Suite B Findlay, OH 45840 419-422-3851.

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