

GREEN THUMB PRINTS

Gardening is our Passion Education is our Purpose

February 2020

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR MARCH 7th SEMINAR (DRINKS AND BREAKFAST ITEMS)

We have a variety of items needed for our continental breakfast and drinks. If you are interested please sign up on the February VMS Calendar. To choose an easier option you can just donate \$10. The Food Committee will then purchase the items needed. If you choose the cash option, please bring the money to the February Monthly Meeting and give it to Debra Evans.

THANKS! SEMINAR COMMITTEE

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Upcoming Events:

- Feb 5 Courier Article Due
- Feb 13 Brown Bag and February Meeting
- Feb 20 Policy 1.50 Training Class of 2019 Only
- Mar 5 Courier Article Due
- Mar 7 Sustainable Gardening Seminar
- Mar 12 Brown Bag and March Meeting

WHEN LIFE GETS TOUGH
AND YOU'RE FACED WITH DEFEAT,
REMEMBER SOMEWHERE IN THE
WORLD A FLOWER IS POPPING
THROUGH SOME CONCRETE.



Coordinator's Corner

Hope you are enjoying the mild winter (so far).

I participated in a planning meeting with the Executive Committee at the end of January. Much work has gone into laying out the framework for each committee and project to be used in planning for 2020. Each project team will be asked to complete plans to achieve the goals and deadlines set out for the year. The February Brown Bag will be used to help the committees work through this and plan their activities for the year.

The Executive Committee after watching a training video from the Ohio Attorney General's office has made it a priority to create and or update our operational policies. This includes updating the Memorial, Emeritus, Field Trip and Workshop Notification, Education and Advanced Training Stipend, Honorariums, and Locally Hosted Advanced Training Fees policies. We are also creating policies on Financial Controls, Record Keeping and Retention, Conflicts of Interest and others as we deem necessary. These are intended to be finalized and given to the membership for approval at an upcoming meeting.

At this point, there appears to be a need for volunteers to write Courier articles. You can sign-up for a month on VMS. Any questions about writing articles should be sent to Laurie Pressel.

There has been much work done to prepare for our upcoming March 7 seminar, SIMPLE & SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES, GO NATIVE IN YOUR YARD. Please consider attending and assisting as a volunteer as needed. I am sure the Seminar team will update everyone at the February meeting.

Lynn and I will be traveling from Feb 6 to Feb 17. Almost all of this time we will be unavailable but might be able to obtain emails from time to time. Should anything need to be handled, please contact Rose or Ed Lentz in my absence.

Karl Farwig

Refreshments for February meeting:

**Marlene Brunswick
Sharon Milligan
Laurie Pressel**



Rambling Rose

February 2020

February is here! The month of Valentine's Hearts, President's Day, and final preparations for the first Hancock County Master Gardener's Seminar! The seminar team has done an outstanding job planning and executing the project and to date there are 53 attendees registered!

January was a busy month for the Executive Committee during which we created an ongoing plan for accomplishing projects for the next 18 months!

The MGV February meeting on 2/13/2019 at 6:00 p.m. will have committee meetings in place of brown bag. This will be the time when the committees will discuss the 2020 projects and propose a budget to accomplish the goals!

The Social and Fundraising committee chairperson for 2020 is Kay Sidaway. Thank you Kay for volunteering! The updated Master Gardener Directory including the leadership page will be on VMS by Feb.1, 2020.

Thank you in advance to Laurie Pressel, Sharon Milligan, and Marlene Brunswick for providing refreshments for the February 13, 2020 MGV meeting. It seems that we are not only master gardeners we are also master cooks!

I appreciate the participation and knowledge that each Master Gardener Volunteer brings to this organization. It makes my job a breeze!

Thanks!

Rose



Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers
Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2020

President Rose Morrison called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.

Minutes of the previous meeting November 14, 2019, were approved on voice vote after motion by Patrick Flinn, seconded by Lynn Farwig

Volunteer Coordinator Report – Karl Farwig

Monthly Report and a 2019 Summary Report have been posted to VMS.

- 2019 was a busy year! Service hours up more than 50% and educational hours up nearly 100% over 2018. Tracking on VMS has helped to capture the data
- Correction – had expected to apply for \$500 grant for the upcoming seminar, but we do not qualify because we have not offered a discount to MGVS

President's Comments – Rose Morrison

- Special thanks to
 - Linda Laux for leading Mugs of Joy program which was very successful
 - Lyn Maa, Bar Sherman, Marilyn Beltz for decorations for our Holiday Pot Luck
 - Betsy DeFrancesco for organizing and managing an extremely successful wreath class program. And also everyone else who helped make the program a success.
- Scholarships for Education – we have had a standing policy that each MGVS is eligible for a \$50 scholarship annually to attend an educational event, but people have not been taking advantage of it. Thanks to the success of the wreath program, we have ample funds to support the policy. Members are encouraged to take advantage of the program. Contact Ann Woolum for reimbursement after paying program fees, or request in advance if payment by check is possible.

Treasurer's Report-Ann Woolum

Cash on hand \$6,591, more than \$5,000 of which is unrestricted

Wreath class generated \$3,900 income with only \$360 in expenses

Because we generated over \$5,000 in income last year, we need to file with the IRS for Federal non-profit status. As the committee for the upcoming seminar have been soliciting door prizes, some prospective donors have requested our tax-exempt tax identification number, which we do not yet have. Donors requesting the information should be directed to contact Ann.

Committee Reports

Administrative – Lynn Farwig

- Directory – as this is now on VMS, it is each MGVS's responsibility to keep info up to date. Please ensure your information is current before Jan 31
- Sub-Committees –
 - Calendar of Events sub-committee is being eliminated since everything is on VMS
 - Betsy DeFrancesco's responsibility is being expanded from Facebook to Media Communications

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Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers
Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2020
(Continued)

Committee Reports-Administrative – Lynn Farwig

Sub-Committees –

- Historian is open and will likely be eliminated as we capture more through VMS. Agreed at meeting set up file for *Courier* articles
- Newsletter – Lisa McClain – now doing spotlight profile articles so that newer members can become familiar with seasoned members, and vice versa

Social and Fundraising – Barb Sherman

- Refreshments – need people to sign up on VMS for future meetings
- Fundraising – Betsy – we had 193 wreaths produced in the classes! Only one prepaid person did not show up for class. People really appreciated the space at the venue, and it was a chance for the Extension Office to let people know that they are there and what they do

Service – Linda Leiendecker

- Nothing to report

Teaching – Judi Clymer

- Courier Articles – Laurie Pressel – need articles for Feb, April and beyond

Education – Peggy Biolchini

- Seminars – Ann Woolum – Speakers for the upcoming seminar have been arranged, letters sent to all counties. Laurie placed article in *The Courier*
- Field Trips – Ann Woolum – Toledo Zoo orchid show Feb 7-23, followed by plant sale on Feb 24. Show of hands indicates interest, so will set up sign-up on VMS
- Brown Bag – Marlene Brunswick – need people to sign up to present sessions for June and after

Old Business

- None

New Business

- Executive Committee will have a planning and policy meeting January 23
- February 13 Brown Bag will be a presentation of 2020 plans. Committee Chairs will be asked to propose budgets based on the plan
- Newsletter articles due to Lisa by January 25: Seminar information, MGCV Profile (Tim Brugeman)
- April Meeting Date – April 16 because of Easter being April 12

Adjournment – 8:10pm, on voice vote to motion by Barb Sherman, 2nd by Mary Ellen Coleman

Respectfully submitted: Reuben DeBolt-Secretary

Master Gardener Spotlight-Tim Brugeman

1 Master Gardener Class: 2016

2 Gardening Interests or Areas of Expertise: Landscaping, trees & shrubs

3 Hancock County Master Gardening Activities: Speakers Bureau for 2 years-
Mentor Initiation Program-Current Vice-President

4 Community Activities:

*Graduate of The Ohio State University in Landscape Architecture

*Retired Park District Director (38 years.)

*Findlay Tree Commission and Blanchard River Watershed Partnership

*Volunteers for community beautification projects such as the Marathon Center for the Performing Arts Center, Dorney Plaza, and University of Findlay

5 Other Interests or Interesting Information:

Tim loves being a Grandpa and spending time with his wife Candy. He loves to spend time on the water at their place in Port Clinton and traveling to Maine. Both Tim and Candy love gardening and currently work at Feasel's Garden Center. Tim also loves OSU Buckeye football!!! GO BUCKS!!!

SIMPLE AND SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES, GO NATIVE IN YOUR YARD

Are you getting excited?

The Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers Seminar is almost here!

After months of planning it is time for this event to become a reality. Doris Salis graciously opened her home on January 18th for a planning committee meeting. At the February 13th monthly meeting a solid plan for the set up and duties during the event will be discussed. As of now, March 6th at 6pm will be the set up for the seminar. Volunteers are needed that evening for moving tables and chairs and setting out all needed supplies.

The seminar itself is selling out fast so if you have not purchased your ticket from eventbrite.com please consider buying your ticket now. Ann Woolum, our Treasurer, stated that each active member can receive up to \$50.00 this year for educational purposes. Our seminar is a great opportunity for educational hours right here at home. I hope to see everyone at the monthly meeting on February 13th and am looking forward to lots of volunteers!

Submitted By: Debra Evans



Think Sustainable Landscaping this Spring
The Courier Article-Saturday, February 1st
By Laurie Pressel

As homeowners, we want our outdoor space to look attractive and to conform to society's norms. For many people, that means a manicured grassy lawn and assorted shrubs, trees and flowers around the house.

But landscaping norms are shifting. That perfect weed-free, deep green lawn? Turns out it's not so perfect. It requires a ton of human time and effort, harmful chemicals, fossil fuels, and valuable water resources, to maintain. And unfortunately, it does nothing to support our declining populations of birds and vital pollinators.

As we become increasingly concerned about our environmental impact as homeowners, we are embracing the need to create sustainable landscapes. Sustainable landscapes use resources, materials and technologies in a manner that doesn't deplete natural resources or cause lasting harm to the environment. In essence, they work with nature, not against nature. And happily, sustainable landscapes are often easier to maintain.

Of course, the shift toward sustainability requires us to rethink our aesthetic of outdoor space. Sustainable landscapes tend to look more "natural" and less "neat and uniform." But most importantly, sustainability requires us to do things differently. Since sustainable landscapes seek to achieve balance and biodiversity, the goals are to use fewer chemicals, conserve water, incorporate native plants, and support wildlife.

Ready to get started on making your landscape environmentally-friendly? On Saturday, March 7, 2020, the Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers are sponsoring an educational seminar for the public titled: "Simple and Sustainable Landscapes: Go Native in your Yard." The event takes place at the Hancock County Agricultural Service Center, 7868 County Rd. 140, Findlay, from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. The cost is \$40 and includes a boxed lunch. You can register on [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com).

The seminar features four educational sessions presented by five experts. Pam Bennett, associate professor of horticulture and program director of the state-wide master gardener volunteer program at The Ohio State University, will share valuable information about low-maintenance perennials, with a focus on native plants. Chris Gajewicz, natural resources and garden park coordinator for the Bowling Green Parks and Recreation Department, will talk about current trends in gardening and how expectations regarding sustainability, lawns, and pesticide and herbicide use has changed across the generations. Hal Mann, past president of Wild Ones Oak Openings Region, from a beginner's perspective, will take you on the journey of changing his home landscape to all native plants. He'll share the struggles he had, what he learned along the way, and his evolution to understanding the importance of native plants. To conclude, Karen Himelhan and Dave Sheidler, landscapers from North Branch Nursery in Pemberville, will provide advice on how to design and install unique sustainable landscapes.

At the end of the seminar, you'll be armed with practical ideas that you can implement in your landscape. Contact the Ohio State Extension office and our team of Hancock County Master Gardening Volunteers with any questions at 419-422-3851. Visit us on Facebook at "Master Gardeners of Hancock County Ohio."

Laurie Pressel is a freelance writer and Ohio State University Master Gardener Volunteer in Hancock County.

This article is being printed due to our upcoming seminar.

All additional Courier articles will be copied unto the VMS with a live link on the newsletter.

Oh No! My Spring Bulbs are Sprouting

Submitted By Linda Casey



Gardeners often worry when they see daffodils, tulips and other spring bulbs emerge long before it's spring. Fortunately, there's little cause for concern. Spring-blooming bulbs prefer old-fashioned winters, when temperatures drop gradually, stay cold and then slowly warm up as spring approaches; not like this winter! But even with this year's more erratic winter weather, these hardy and adaptable bulbs are remarkably resilient.

To understand why spring bulbs can tolerate a little premature growth, it helps to understand the bulbs structure. A bulb has five major parts: a basal plate, scale leaves, protective tunic, a flowering shoot and lateral buds. The action begins in the basal plate.

During the winter months, roots emerge from this modified stem to penetrate the soil. As they develop, the roots absorb water and other nutrients that they store in the scale leaves.

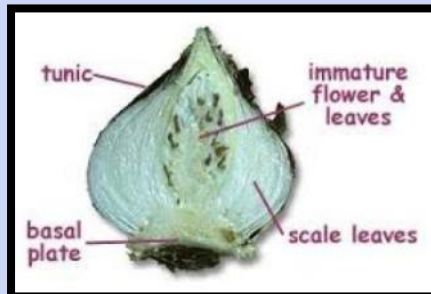


Photo credit/[University of Illinois Extension](#)

In some flower species like alliums, a thin papery covering called the tunic keeps the scales from damage or drying out. In addition to providing food storage, the scales also protect the flowering shoot. This vital part of the bulb contains all of the future leaves and flowers. During the winter months, the shoot slowly grows upwards within the bulb, eventually developing into a stem.

In the spring, the leaves are the first to break through the soil. Then approximately one month later, the flowering shoot begins to appear. At this stage in the process, the key thing to remember is this: the flowers develop independently of the leaves.

This means that even if your bulbs sprout early, the flowering shoots still need time (between 5 and 7 weeks) to develop. And before that happens, your bulbs have most likely weathered the warm spell and resumed dormancy.

(Continued)

Oh No! My Spring Bulbs are Sprouting (Continued)

So if you see leaves poking up out of the ground too early, don't worry. A cold snap may cause them to yellow and die back, but the bulb will wait things out and send up new growth once temperatures warm up again. As long as the flower buds stay below ground, they are well protected from cold. If they rise above the soil surface, you can add a layer of mulch to help protect them.



Now if the weather continues to stay unseasonably warm, there is a slight chance that the bulbs may begin to produce flower buds. If this happens, your intervention may be necessary in order to protect these buds. Cover the sprouting plants and buds with leaves, sawdust or mulch. Once the weather begins to warm and the threat of frost is gone, uncover the plants and allow them to continue to grow as normal.

If the frost does happen to get to these flower buds, those flower buds will be damaged for the current season. However, this does not necessarily mean that the bulb will not produce additional flower buds at the proper time and then bloom as it normally should. Also, this one-time "frosting" will not have any adverse effect on the bulb's performance in the years to come.

While bulbs sometimes sprout prematurely simply because the weather is unseasonably warm, there also are factors we as gardeners create that can cause premature sprouting. These factors are planting time and planting depth. Be sure that you wait until the weather is cool enough (consistently in the 40's at night) in the fall to plant your spring blooming bulbs. Use the thermometer as your gauge and not just the calendar...weather can be unpredictable and does not always turn cool at the same time every year.

Planting your bulbs too early can cause them to sprout too early. Also keep in mind that most bulbs should be planted three times their height in depth. For example, if the bulb you are planting is approximately 2 inches tall, then the top of this bulb should be covered with approximately 6 inches of soil. Planting bulbs too shallow can cause premature growth as well.





IT'S TIME TO.....

Submitted By: Linda Casey

Home (indoor plants and activities)

- Keep holiday poinsettias and other plants near a bright window. Water as top of soil becomes dry.
- Increase humidity around houseplants by grouping plants together, placing them on a pebble-water tray or running a humidifier.
- Check stored produce and tender flower bulbs and roots for rot, shriveling or excess moisture. Remove and discard damaged material.
- Repot houseplants as they outgrow current pots.

Yard (lawns, woody ornamentals and fruits)

- Check young trees for rodent injury on lower trunks. Prevent injury with hardware cloth or protective collars.
- Keep road and sidewalk salt away from plants. Construct a screen of burlap, if necessary, to keep salt spray off plants.
- "Leaf" through nursery catalogs or visit websites and make plans for landscape and home orchard additions. Order plants early for best selection.
- Early spring-flowering trees and shrubs such as forsythia, crabapple, flowering quince, and flowering dogwood can be forced for early indoor blooms by placing cut branches in water in a warm location.

Garden (flowers, vegetables and small fruits)

- Send for seed catalogs for the garden.
- Sketch your garden plans on paper, including what to grow, spacing, arrangement and number of plants needed.
- Order seeds and plants as early as possible for best selection.
- Wood ashes from the fireplace can be spread in the garden, but don't overdo it. Wood ashes increase soil pH, and excess application can make some nutrients unavailable for plant uptake. Have soil tested to be certain of the pH before adding wood ash.

**Now is a great time to send
for seed catalogs for the garden.**



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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Joe Puperi-Local Arborist

Joe Puperi was the guest Brown Bag speaker
at our January meeting.
He spoke about 3 main areas of caring for trees:

- *Selection
- *Installation
- *Maintenance

He also spoke briefly on forest management.

An excellent website for more information is
www.treesaregood.org

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