

GREEN THUMB PRINTS

Gardening is our Passion Education is our Purpose

January 2020

**Thank you Karl for
everything you do
for the Hancock Co.
Master Gardener
Volunteers!!!**

**Check out our
Master Gardener
Spotlight
on page 4.**



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Upcoming Events:

Jan 5	<u>Courier Article Due</u>
Jan 9	<u>Brown Mag and Monthly Meeting</u>

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Coordinator's Corner

Happy New Year!!!

AND

Welcome to our next gardening year, 2020!!!

Lots of exciting progress was made last year. The feedback I got from holding the wreath classes at the Extension Office was very positive. Many of the 200 participants had never been to or knew about the Extension Office. This was a positive secondary result for us. Pictures of the wreaths on Facebook were amazing. I heard that several participants asked if we could hold other classes which is a positive thing for our education goals. Thanks to all for helping with this great event.

Advertising for our upcoming March 7 seminar on Sustainable Landscaping was sent out to our local Master Gardeners as well as all of the State Coordinators. It will be great to have Pam Bennett, our State Coordinator, with us to begin our first educational seminar. I have completed the application for a \$500 grant for hosting this seminar and will see if it passes the criteria.

Thanks to all who completed the hours, contacts and recertification documentation. Your cooperation was much appreciated. I will review the results of 2019 as well as some 2020 requirements in my January coordinator report.

Congratulations to our interns who completed the 50-hour service requirement and became active members. I have no doubt the remaining 4 will become active as well.

As always, I am available to answer questions and help you be successful in 2020.



Karl Farwig

Rambling Rose

January 2020

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas season and have kicked off 2020 with peace and joy.

Congratulations to Betsy DeFrancesco and all the volunteers for the most successful wreath making fundraiser in Master Gardener history. A multitude of compliments came from the attendees who are already planning to attend next years class!

Thanks to the Social Committee, including Barb Sherman, Lyn Maa, and Marilyn Beltz for the decorating and managing a fun Holiday Potluck. The food was outstanding and the fellowship even better!

January 1 the newly elected officers start their two year term. Welcome Tim Brugeman, Vice-President and Reuben DeBolt, Secretary.

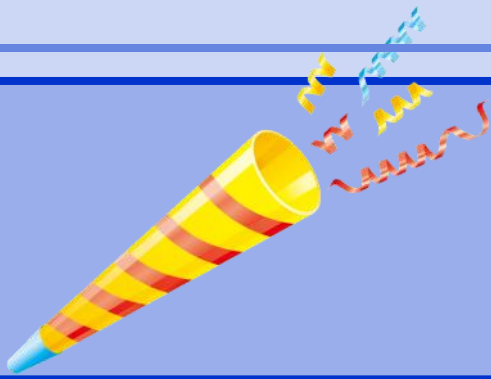
2020 will be an exciting year for the Master Gardeners. We have our first seminar on "Sustainable Gardening" on March 7. The Seminar Committee has done an excellent job planning the event. Stay tuned for additional information and volunteer opportunities. We need all members to help make this event a success.

The next MGV meeting will be January 9, 2020 at 6:00 pm at the Extension Office. Refreshments will be provided by Doris Salis, Peggy Biolchini and Rose Morrison. Marlene Brunswick will be presenting the Brown Bag education.

I look forward to another successful year in 2020. Each of your contributions help to insure the success of the Master Gardeners Volunteers!

Rose





Hancock County Master Gardener Spotlight Karl Farwig

We have many new interns and members.
Some have been around for many planting seasons.
Let's get to know them better.

Each month we will feature an intern, active member or emeritus member.

THANK YOU Karl Farwig for serving as our
Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteer Coordinator!!!

Following years of dedicated service by Marilyn Beltz and Bill Jones, Karl Farwig (Class of 2013) accepted the Volunteer Coordinator position. After state training and local coaching he hit the ground running with a new class of Master Gardener trainees, a new MGV President and new state standards. His monthly reports and reminders are very interesting and helpful; it's amazing what goes on behind the scenes.

A Marathon retiree, Karl has been active in the Findlay area serving in recent years on the Findlay Shade Tree Commission which is an appointment made by the Mayor. Karl helped our original Master Gardener team adopt the "Grow Ohio" Program at the Community Gardens near The Family Center which donates harvests to feed the hungry. Karl and his wife, Lynn (also a Master Gardener), are active members of Emmanuel Lutheran Church where Karl has held several positions on church council. Karl is also the current president of the Hancock County OSU Alumni Club. From all of us to Karl, **THANK YOU!**

Next month: Tim Brugeman



CFAES



SIMPLE & SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES, GO NATIVE IN YOUR YARD

Saturday, March 7, 2020

Registration 8:30 a.m.

Program 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Sustainability in landscaping integrates environmentally sound gardening practices as part of design, installations and maintenance with little or no additional support beyond minimal water, fertilizer and seasonal care.

Presenters include:

Pam Bennett – OSU Clark Co. Extension Educator

Hal Mann – Wild Ones Oak Openings Region

Chris Gajewicz – BG Natural Resources Coordinator

Karen Himmelhan and **Dave Sheidler** of North Branch Nursery, Pemberville, OH

MGV CE = 4 hours

Cost: \$40.00 (continental breakfast and box lunch included)

Location: Hancock County

Agricultural Center

7868 County Road 140, Findlay, OH

Online Registration:

Eventbrite.com

Starting December 15, 2019

Deadline: March 1, 2020

Mail In Registration: OSU Extension, Attn: MGV, 7868 County Road 140 Suite B, Findlay, OH 45840

Check payable to: Hancock Co. MGV

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Box Lunch: **Sandwich Choice** - Ham Turkey (circle one)

Special dietary needs _____



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Twas The Month After Christmas

Twas the month after Christmas and all through the house
Nothing would fit me not even a blouse.

The cookies I'd nibbled, the eggnog I'd taste.
All the holiday parties had gone to my waste.

When I got on the scale there arose such a number!
When I walked to the store (less a walk than a lumber).

I'd remember the marvelous meals I'd prepared;
The gravies and sauces and beef nicely rared,

The wine and the rum balls, the bread and the cheese
And the way I'd never said, "No thank you, please."

As I dressed myself in my husband's old shirt
And prepared once again to do battle with dirt—

I said to myself, as I only can
"You can't spend winter dressed as a man!"

So—away with the last of our sour cream dip,
Get rid of the fruitcake, every cracker and chip

Every last bit of food that I like must be banished
Till all the additional ounces have vanished.

I won't have a cookie—not even a lick.
I'll want only to chew on a long celery stick.

I won't have hot biscuits, or corn bread or pie,
I'll munch on a carrot and quietly cry.

I'm hungry, I'm lonesome, and life is a bore—
But isn't that what January is for?

Unable to giggle, no longer a riot.
Happy New Year to all and to all a good diet!

--Anonymous--



(Doris Salis read this poem at the Christmas Potluck)

(It was enjoyed so much we decided to print it in the newsletter)

Reducing Animal Damage on Trees and Shrubs

Mice, rabbits, voles and deer can all cause severe damage to plants in the winter by feeding on twigs, bark, leaves and stems. They can eat shrubs to the ground and also girdle trees and shrubs by chewing through the bark.

The best overall strategy for protecting your trees and shrubs from animal browsing is to reduce areas of habitat and erect physical barriers to prevent them from getting to your plants.

Reduce Nesting Habitat

Reducing animal damage on plants starts with eliminating protective cover and a desirable nesting environment.

- Cut grasses and other vegetation short in late fall within 2 feet of young trees to reduce protective cover for mice and voles that might feed on trunks and stems.
- Discourage rabbits from taking up residence in your yard by reducing protective cover, removing brush piles, and fencing off other hiding places such under decks and other structures.

Put up Physical Barriers to Keep Animals Away

Protect tree trunks with cylinders of ¼-inch mesh hardware cloth around the trunk of the tree about 6 inches away from the trunk. This can be kept on year-round.

- For mice, the cylinder should extend 2 to 3 inches below the ground line.
- For rabbits, the cylinder should extend 18 to 24 inches above the anticipated snow line.
- Make sure there are no gaps between the bottom of the mesh cylinder and the ground where animals could crawl under the fencing.
- For small trees, plastic tree guards are also effective.
- Protect shrubs from rabbits by fencing the beds with hardware cloth.
- Enclose the lower branches as well as the trunk.
- Check fenced areas frequently to make sure rabbits aren't trapped inside.



Blueberry shrubs fenced against animal damage



Fencing should be buried 2 to 3 inches

Gary R. Johnson, Extension forester, Julie Weisenhorn, Extension educator, Richard Rideout, Ed Sucoff and Bert T. Swanson –University of Minnesota Extension

MG Happenings.....

Wreath Classes December 2nd-8th

The 2019 Christmas Wreath Classes were a huge success! We helped 193 people make beautiful and unique wreaths throughout the six classes. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to cut greens, assist at the classes, make bows, donate ribbon and ornaments, cut and paint teasels, gather cones and buckeyes, cut grasses, holly, etc. I heard such wonderful feedback from old and new friends that participated. I learned so much during my first year of leading the project and I appreciate the opportunity. I am already working on new ideas for next year. Using Eventbrite.com was a great tool. We are already utilizing the site for the seminar in March.

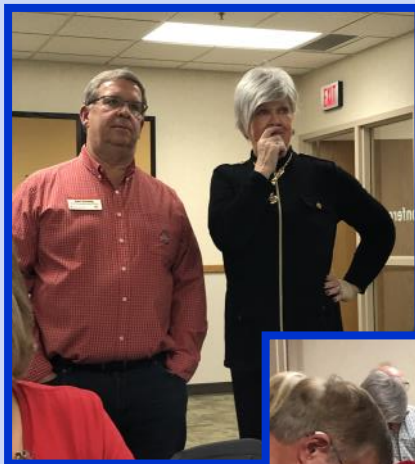


MG Happenings.....(Continued)

Mugs of Joy-December 9th at Blanchard Valley Residential Services



Christmas Potluck-December 12th





IT'S TIME TO.....

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. Pre-cooled 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.

(Continued)



IT'S TIME TO..... Continued

GARDEN (Flowers, vegetables and small fruits)

- 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.

Submitted By: Linda Casey

Check out Tim Brugeman's Courier Article on

"Enjoying Spring Blooms in the Winter by Planting Bulbs"

<http://findlaycourier.oh.newsmemory.com/?publink=100d4dba6>

Refreshments for January 9 meeting:

Peggy Biolchini

Rose Morrison

Doris Salis



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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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