

GREEN THUMB PRINTS

Gardening is our Passion Education is our Purpose

July 2020

Upcoming Events:

Our summer picnic has been postponed until a later date.

Please wait on word from Karl and Rose as to when we may start up activities again.



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Coordinator's Corner

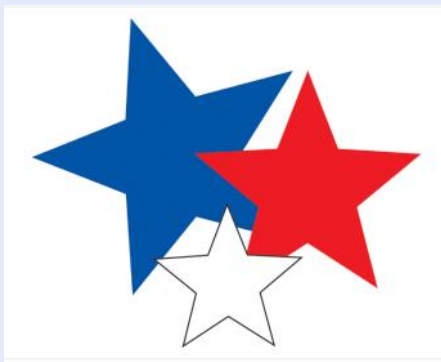
Happy July and welcome to Japanese Beetles. Hopefully, you are monitoring for the scouts and flicking them into soapy water.

Thanks to everyone who has completed some type of service or education in July. This is still tentative, but it looks like the State Coordinator will be allowing us to use any education hours over the 10-hour requirement as service hours. Now, that does not necessarily mean we want you to only do education in 2020 to certify your hours. Please look for ways to help with projects that are not requiring face to face meetings at this point.

With that said, if education hours would be allowed to count as service hours for 2020, 15 out of 40 actives have completed their education hours. 14 out of 40 actives have completed their service hours and 7 of the 40 actives have completed both. I plan to work with the 3 interns individually to ensure hours are completed for 2020 to get them to active status. Again, we plan to work with everyone to get the hour requirements for 2020. This virus will not get in the way of getting you certified for 2021.

As of today, there has been no information coming from the state coordinator on what happens after July 6. I know she was working on a statewide blanket exemption for everyone to work on outside projects, but I have not gotten any further information. So, until you hear more from me, there should be no work on face to face projects.

As always call me with any questions or concerns.



Karl Farwig

Rambling Rose *July 2020*

Happy 4th of July! July is the month of birthdays. Not only for our nation, but for me too! I'm not quite as old as the U.S.A. Lol. I know it is Lynn Farwig's birthday month. Happy Birthday to her and all who celebrate a birthday in July!

June was a dry month for our gardens. My hose was my best friend! I hope all of your gardens are blooming and growing.

We have postponed the annual picnic due to social distancing. By July 6th, an update should be announced by OSU on new guidelines for MGV.

I have had questions on hour requirements for 2020. There will be reduced requirements announced soon. After that a decision will be made on a July MGV meeting.

Have a safe and Happy 4th of July!

Rose



Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteer

Meeting Minutes

June 11, 2020

President Rose Morrison called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Meeting was conducted remotely using Zoom conferencing, with Karl Farwig coordinating.

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 May 14, 2020 were approved on (thumbs up) vote after motion by Debra, 2nd by Jeff Wingate

Treasurer's Report – Ann Woolum

There was no activity in May

Because numbers on the report issued do not match Ann's stated numbers, it was agreed to table the report until the next meeting so that we can sort out the terminology and differences.

President's Comments – Rose Morrison

Rose contacted Noreen Walters to inform her that her request for Emeritus status had been approved and to wish her well. Noreen sends her thanks and blessings

Volunteer Coordinator Report – Karl Farwig:

*The President of OSU has not relaxed the prohibited in-person contact until after July 6

*Service hours – YTD we are at about half the level of a year ago, both for volunteer hours and for education hours. MGVs should seek ways to get 20 hours.

-Thru May 707 Volunteer hours, 406 Education

*Hours should be entered into VMS by the end of each month

Extension Report – Ed Lentz

*The Extension Office has submitted a plan to re-open 2 days/week – Tuesday & Thursday starting 6/16

*OSU Presidents – Drake has retired, new president takes office Sep 1

*County Fairs – Putnam has had a Go Fund Me campaign, Marion has cancelled. Wait & see

*Kudos to MGV leadership for keeping things moving and to the Ask a Master Gardener team who have done a good job answering questions from the community in spite of no in-person contacts

-Discussion about how to handle a referral to professionals (recent case for an arborist).

We need to help the "client" by specifying what kind of professional service they need and can offer names, but cannot recommend a specific person or business

(Continued)

Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteer
Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2020
(Continued)

Old Business

- *Summer Picnic – originally planned for Marlene Brunswick’s house in July. Agreed to postpone to August since the July date is only 3 days after OSU expected to allow in-person meetings, and we won’t know limitations until then
- *Fair – group should continue to plan for display at the Fair, but we won’t know for a while

New Business

- *Financial Policy – new policy was approved on vote after motion to approve by Tim Brugeman, 2nd by Linda Liendecker

Comment Period

- *Doris – glad to have a garden, to get outside!
- *Debra – soil samples? Per Ed, no system for handling soil samples at the moment
- *Lynn – can we answer questions from the public, friends? Unofficially
- *Karl – Text from Bill Jones that Dr Heacock would like to do a presentation on vegetables. Will refer it to the Seminar Committee

Next Meeting August 13 at 7:00pm

Respectfully submitted: Reuben DeBolt, Secretary

Courier Article

“Add a Water Feature to Your Garden”

June 20, 2020

Betsy DeFrancesco

<https://mynewsonthego.com/courier/Reader/Story.aspx?id=4a5465c9-b2c6-48ea-8a02-a96708dd1ef6>



Master Gardener Spotlight

Reuben DeBolt

1 Master Gardener Class: 2019

2 Gardening Interests or Areas of Expertise:

- *Vegetable gardening -Likes the idea of being self-sufficient and tomatoes that have flavor
- *Trees-Bought a home with a wooded area that needs improvement
- *Developing quality of pond is just like working on the garden, but has different challenges.

3 Hancock County Master Gardening Activities: Reuben is the Hancock Co. Master Gardener Secretary and has volunteered with the Community Garden.

4 Community Activities:

- *United Way –Grant Request Evaluation Team
- *Children’s Mentoring Connection-In-school mentor at Glenwood and Jacobs Schools

5 Other Interests or Interesting Information:

- *Fishing – here or Florida.
- *Cooking and eating good food – hence the interest in vegetable gardening
- *Travel – Not enough time or \$\$ for all I’d like. Condo on Sanibel Island, FL
- *Sports – Golf, Masters Track & Field. OSU & Indians fan

Reuben and his wife, Mary, have been married for 5 years now! He has two grown daughters in California and Tennessee and Mary’s two children and two grandchildren are in this area.



Ask-A-Gardener Q&A

May Report

Submitted by Doris Salis

Black raspberry is losing leaves. What to do? Too early for fungal infections and too dry for root rot. Probably frost damage. The plants will probably survive, but fruit yield will be diminished this summer

Ailing Japanese maple with curling leaves for last few years. What can be done? Browning and curling all over the tree in the spring could be due to a late frost. Client says browning happened in mid-summer in the past, but now is just on one side of the tree. Tree is in an unprotected site which would cause wind damage. Keep the tree well-watered during the summer to prevent further damage.

Trouble growing alpine strawberries from seed. A purchased one was okay and shown in a picture. Are there different types of strawberries? The picture is probably a mock strawberry plant, not alpine. It is very difficult to grow strawberries from seed. Low nitrogen in the soil will cause yellowing. Recommend using purchased plants. Check places like railroad tracks for the sweet wild strawberries!

When shall I spray for bagworms? Can do in late spring as long as the bagworms haven't hatched

After spraying Roundup/Spectracide, how long should I wait before planting veggies? At least three months if you're going to plant vegetables.

Who can I get to trim my maple? MGs cannot recommend specific tree experts, but four examples were given from the phone book and client was urged to choose one or two and call.

Fungicide for apple trees? Delay in DS getting question. By the time DS called, the client had purchased a fungicide at a garden center and seemed satisfied with it.

Pollinator for Ranier cherry tree? Fruit loss due to late frosts this spring. Need a pollinator cherry for the Ranier cherry tree. Suggested Bing, Tartarian, Van.

Knowledge Is the Key: From Weeds to Treasures

Submitted by: Linda Casey

Definition of weed: a wild plant growing where it is not wanted and in competition with cultivated plants.

If you are tired of toiling for countless hours pulling up weeds, and you're feeling disappointed and extremely frustrated, think about viewing the weeds from a different perspective. Don't just rip them up and throw them into the compost pile; put them to use in other ways throughout the year.

We need to learn more about these plants. They may not provide us with an abundance of food like our vegetable garden, and they may not be as impressive-looking as ornamental plants, but even with their muted colors and simple shapes, they are potent and effective! From making nutritious teas, herbal remedies, and delicious salads, to creating nutrient-rich green manure, the usually despised intruders are, in fact, precious gems.

Believe it or not, adding some weeds from the garden to your menu can add much-needed nutritional value.

If you used cow or horse manure to fertilize your crops, there is an excellent chance that **Lamb's Quarters** (*Chenopodium album*) grows happily and abundantly in your garden. Did you know that it is a close cousin to spinach? This plant is one of the most common weeds that grow in gardens. The tender tops, harvested in the spring or summer, can be sautéed, steamed, or added to soups. The benefits are many; it is an excellent source of minerals such as manganese, potassium, calcium, and copper.



Lamb's Quarters

(Continued)

Knowledge Is the Key: From Weeds to Treasures (Continued)

Purslane (*Portulaca oleracea*) also is a power food that grows generously in gardens. Part of the succulent plant family, its shiny, crunchy, and fatty leaves are filled with health benefits. Purslane is related to the popular annual flower, moss rose (*Portulaca grandiflora*), which is grown as a colorful bedding plant. Purslane, on the other hand, is a weedy succulent and not much to look at. With high amounts of beta-carotene, ascorbic acid, and alpha-linolenic acid, this weed has a better nutritional value than other cultivated vegetables. Packed with antioxidants, purslane can be eaten raw in salads or sandwiches or cooked in heartier meals like a delicious quiche.



Purslane

Medicine powerhouses!

Many of these humble weeds, growing freely in our gardens, have fantastic medicinal properties. For example, Stinging Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) is widely viewed as troublesome due to the sharp, tingling pain it can cause when touched. But this plant is practically a health super-hero! Nettle is nourishing, and despite its thorns, it has a gentle effect on the body. Its chlorophyll content is high, and it is also rich in minerals like iron. An herbal infusion from the dried herb is one of the best ways to unleash its many benefits. The spines, which cause and itchy rash on contact, aren't particularly appetizing, but if the leaves are harvested from young plants and cooked enough, you can treat the leaves like spinach or use them in soup. Stinging nettle also can be used as a rich green manure. Soak the plants in water for three weeks and then use the resulting tea to water your plants.



Stinging Nettle

(Continued)

Knowledge Is the Key: From Weeds to Treasures (Continued)

Caution should be taken when harvesting stinging nettle so that you can avoid getting the rash. But if you forget to wear your gloves and your skin comes into contact with this garden weed, look around for some **yellow dock** (*Rumex crispus*). Pick off some leaves, roll them between your thumb and forefinger to crush them, and then apply the pulp to the affected area on your skin. This salve will take some of the sting out of the itch. The new leaves of yellow dock are also edible. Chop them raw into salads or cook a soup with them.



Yellow Dock

Broadleaf Plantain (*Plantago major*) is another example of a useful, medicinal garden weed. When applied to the skin, the crushed leaves can be used as a first-aid poultice to treat insect bites, minor burns, and scratches. Also, a strong tea made with plantain leaves can help soothe the stomach and intestines, treating heartburn and other digestive conditions. You can also eat plantain leaves (the new leaves are best). Use them raw in salads. Older leaves can be boiled and eaten like spinach.



Broadleaf Plantain

Knowledge Is the Key: From Weeds to Treasures (Continued)

And, of course, there are those pesky **dandelions** (*Taraxacum officinale*). From flower to root they are good for us! Drink them in a tea or tincture, or eat them fresh in a salad to help with urinary tract issues and boost liver function. Dandelions are, a spinach alternative, are edible in three ways. You can boil the leaves ("greens") and eat them like spinach; roast the taproot and use it as a coffee substitute; or you can use the flower in several ways, such as jelly or dandelion wine. Dandelion greens are nutritious, packed with vitamins and minerals.

Although **Viola** plants such as *Viola sororia* are commonly called "violets," it is better to stick to the botanical name in this case. When we hear "violets," we naturally think first of the popular houseplants, African violets (*Saintpaulia spp.*), which are not edible. By contrast, one of the uses for *Viola* plants is as a food ingredient (they also can be used medicinally). Some people eat them raw in salads. Others cook or candy them. All parts of the plants are edible. The best-known plant in this genus is the pansy (*Viola x wittrockiana*). It is preferred by gardeners over other types because of its larger flowers. But if you can stand to have something else in your lawn competing with the grass, leave the *Viola sororia* alone--they are quite attractive and useful.



Viola

Not only can **clover** (*Trifolium spp.*) be used as a grass substitute for lawns (Your neighbors may not like that!), but the leaves and flowers also are edible. Use them raw in salads or sauté them. The flowers can be dried to make tea or used in puddings.

So, the next time you find "annoying weeds" popping up around your flowers or crops, smile! Be thankful for their presence and their generous health benefits. The moment we begin discovering and understanding weeds, is when our gardens have the potential to become even more productive. The usually unwelcome herbs become treasured new friends.



IT'S Time To.....

HOME (Indoor plants and activities)

- Indoor plants will require more frequent watering and fertilization as they increase their summer growth.
- Houseplants can be moved outdoors to a shady location, but pay close attention to their watering needs.
- Cut garden flowers for indoor beauty. Recut the stems again just before placing in water. Add a floral preservative, and change the solution frequently.
- Root cuttings of houseplants and garden plants to increase your collection or share with a friend.

YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals and fruits)

- Prune spring-flowering shrubs after blooms fade.
- Apply fungicide to prevent and control black spot on roses.
- Water newly planted trees and shrubs. Water deeply every seven to 10 days when rain is lacking.
- Propagate deciduous shrubs, such as forsythia, lilac, pyracantha and weigela, by stem tip cuttings.
- Remove faded flowers and seed pods on lilac and other spring-flowering shrubs.
- Many fruit trees had few to no flowers this year thanks to the brutal winter, but some apples and pears may still have fruit set. If they have much of a crop, don't be alarmed at June drop of some fruit. It is a natural thinning process for most trees to prevent excessive loads, though might not be as much to thin this year. Thin remaining fruit, if necessary, or prop up heavy branches to avoid breakage. Most fruit should be spaced 6 to 8 inches apart on a branch.
- Keep grass mowed regularly, but mow high to help protect the crown of the plant from heat stress.
- Lawn clippings, unless excessive, should be left on the lawn.
- To keep lawn green and growing, water as needed to supply a total of 1 to 1.5 inches of water per week. If left unwatered, lawns will turn brown and become dormant during extended hot, dry spells, but will green up again when conditions are more favorable.

(Continued)



IT'S Time To..... (Continued)

GARDEN (Vegetables, small fruits and flowers)

- Discontinue harvest of asparagus and rhubarb around mid-June to allow foliage to develop and store food reserves for next year's harvest. Fertilize and water when dry to promote healthy growth.
- Mulch to control weeds and conserve soil moisture after soil has warmed. Many materials such as straw, chopped corncobs, bark chips, shredded paper and grass clippings can be used.
- Blanch (exclude light from) cauliflower when heads are just 2 inches in diameter. Tie leaves up and over the developing head.
- Keep weeds controlled. They're easier to pull when they are still young.
- Start seeds of cabbage, Brussels sprouts, broccoli and cauliflower for fall garden transplants.
- Plan now for your Halloween pumpkin. Determine the days to harvest for the particular cultivar you want to plant (usually on the seed packet), and count backward to determine the proper planting date.
- Harvest spring plantings of broccoli, cabbage and peas.
- Remove cool-season plants, such as radish, spinach and lettuce, as they bolt, or form seed stalks, during hot summer weather.
- Continue planting carrots, beans and sweet corn for successive harvests.
- For staked tomatoes, remove suckers (branches that form where the leaf joins the stem) while they are 1 to 1.5 inches long to allow easier training.
- Remove spent blooms of peony, iris, delphiniums and other flowers.
- Pinch shoot tips of chrysanthemums, impatiens, petunias and coleus to promote bushier growth.
- Remove tops of spring-flowering bulbs only after they have yellowed and withered.
- Continue planting gladiolus for a succession of bloom.
- Pick strawberries from the garden or a U-pick operation.
- Protect ripening strawberries from birds by covering with netting.
- Supplement natural rainfall as needed to supply a total of 1 to 1.5 inches of water per week to the garden.

Submitted By: Linda Casey



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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