

# GREEN THUMB PRINTS

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

March 2020

## IMPORTANT SEMINAR INFO

Please bring your **food & beverage donations** and any other items you are donating or lending to the Extension Office on Friday, March 6th at 6:00 pm. That means all breakfast items must be brought to the Extension Office on **FRIDAY, MARCH 6TH!**

Anyone interested in volunteering for **set-up** on Friday, March 6th at 6:00 pm and/or **take down** on Saturday, March 7th after 3:00 pm would be much appreciated.

### Upcoming Events:

- Mar 5 Courier Article Due
- Mar 7 Simple Sustainable Landscaping Seminar
- Mar 10 Gardening Helpers
- Mar 12 Brown Bag and March Monthly Meeting
- Mar 19 Hardin County Spring Seminar

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## *Coordinator's Corner*

I am looking forward to attending our first seminar on March 7. The committee has done so much work planning this event. They have secured great speakers and have marketed this so that over 75 people are attending, several from outside Hancock County. Many thanks to the committee for such a great effort. I am sure your efforts will provide a great setting for many to learn about Sustaining Landscapes.

The United Way has decided to fund the Community Garden plot on Blanchard Street again this year. Planning for the upcoming garden is being done by the Service Committee and Brint Simmons, Project Lead for the Community Garden project. I highly encourage everyone to get involved with this project and provide service to the community through our donation of produce to food banks. There is such a need even in our community. We are not eligible for the \$500 Grow Ohio Grant this year, but this should not discourage us from giving this project our best.

I look forward to hearing about the progress of several other events in the planning stages at our March meeting.

Carolyn Lavender took classes in Putnam County this fall and has decided to continue with her service hours to become a Master Gardener. Please welcome her to the group at our next meeting.

Should you have any questions, please ask me.

*Karl Farwig*

### *Refreshments for March meeting:*

*Marilyn Beltz*

*Linda Finsel*

*Linda Leiendecker*

# Rambling Rose

## March 2020

Spring is getting close. With the calendar showing March my excitement builds for working in my gardens.

I am also very excited that on March 7 we host our first seminar titled “Simple and Sustainable Landscapes.” The response has been outstanding with the current number of 74 attendees. The Seminar Committee led by Ann Woolum has done a wonderful job planning all aspects to insure a successful seminar. A big thank you to every member on their hard work. Please sign up to volunteer on VMS.

Reminder that every active member and intern can be reimbursed \$50.00 a year for continuing education at seminars that include 4 hours of education. The receipt for seminar is turned in to treasurer Ann Woolum for reimbursement.

February meeting was rescheduled due to weather and included the seminar updates and each committee met to plan 2020 events and develop a proposed budget for each project. Updates from the meeting will be presented by each committee chair at the March meeting.

April MGV Recognition Dinner and Meeting will be April 16 at 6:00 pm.

The next MGV meeting is March 12 at 6:00 pm. Hope to see everyone there. Thank you all for helping our MGV organization be a success.

*Rose*





## Leadership, Committee Chairperson, and Project Leads 2020

### Executive Committee

Karl Farwig, Volunteer Coordinator	419-348-7577	khfarwig@gmail.com
Rose Morrison, President	419-889-3931	rmorrison@woh.rr.com
Tim Brugeman, Vice President	419-672-8897	tbrugeman@woh.rr.com
Ann Woolum, Treasurer	419-348-5191	awhcpa@aol.com
Reuben DeBolt, Secretary	419-722-4155	reubendebolt@hotmail.com

### Administrative Committee

Lynn Farwig, Administration Lead	419-348-0915	lynnfarwig@gmail.com
Newsletter, Lisa McClain	419-722-6235	enjymzk@woh.rr.com
Media, Betsy DeFrancesco	908-910-5586	betsmart_207@yahoo.com
Membership, Lynn Farwig	419-348-0915	lynnfarwig@gmail.com
Apparel, Kay Sidaway	419-230-6682	kaysidaway@thewavz.com
Historian, Open		

### Social and Fundraiser Committee

Kay Sidaway, Social and Fundraising Lead	419-230-6682	kaysidaway@thewavz.com
Fundraising, Betsy DeFrancesco	908-910-5586	betsmart_207@yahoo.com
Summer Picnic, Marlene Brunswick	419-310-0882	rpbmdb@aol.com
Christmas Potluck, Lyn Maa	419-722-4440	lynandshane@aol.com
Christmas Potluck, Barb Sherman	419-420-9804	barbsherm@gmail.com
Refreshments, Barb Sherman	419-420-9804	barbsherm@gmail.com
Plant Exchange, Karla Dennis	419-722-5953	karladennis76@gmail.com

### Service Committee

Linda Leiendecker, Lead	419-889-2958	jll123@metalink.net
OSUE Building Garden, Jerry Lenhart	419-722-1176	tay.lenhart@yahoo.com
Phenology Garden, Bill Jones	419-722-8149	wcjones@bright.net
Community Gardens, Brint Simmons	419-306-5446	brintsimmons@sbcglobal.net
Mugs of Joy, Linda Laux	419-788-9478	lauxlj@yahoo.com

### Teaching Committee

Judi Clymer, Lead	419-345-8086	bbjec94@bright.net
Courier Articles, Laurie Pressel	419-721-2581	wurthwriting@woh.rr.com
Speakers Bureau/Library Programs, Linda Finsel	419-424-3213	lindamf@earthlink.net
Mother's Day Lets Go Gardening, Judi Clymer	419-345-8086	bbjec94@bright.net
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### Education Committee

Peggy Biolchini, Lead	419-306-4235	biolchini@aol.com
Brown Bag, Marlene Brunswick	419-310-0882	rpbmdb@aol.com
MGV Training Classes, Karl Farwig	419-348-7577	khfarwig@gmail.com
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Ask-A-Gardener, Doris Salis	419-422-3560	salis@findlay.edu
Field Trips, Ann Woolum	419-348-5191	awhcpa@aol.com
Field Trips, Lynn Farwig	419-348-0915	lynnfarwig@gmail.com
Mentors, Tim Brugeman	419-672-8897	tbrugeman@woh.rr.com

## **Field Trip Information 2020**

### **Trip to Joe and Brenda Stearns in Fostoria-June 13th**

Joe and Brenda Stearns of Fostoria have invited us to tour their uniquely landscaped garden on Saturday, June 13, beginning at 10 a.m. and concluding with a lunch on their spacious patio. They have offered to provide the lunch for just a donation and said they would donate any proceeds back to our Master Garden community garden project. Their multi acre garden is divided into interesting sections interspersed with a collection of original art and sculptures. These areas include a peony garden, rose garden, Greek garden, white garden and a Japanese garden. 3521 Baird Rd., Fostoria, Ohio

*Thanks to Sharon Milligan for planning this trip!!!*

**We also have ideas for two more field trips.**

**Please check out the following information and come prepared to discuss at our March meeting.**

**We can decide at the meeting which month and day works best for everyone.**

#### **Ideas for Trip #1**

\*Millcreek Gardens-Largest perennial grower in Central Ohio-just SW of Delaware, OH  
<http://millcreekplants.com/>

\*Scioto Gardens (10 minutes from Millcreek)-Organic grower of native plants and others  
<https://www.sciotogardens.com/>

\*G&R Tavern in Waldo for famous fried bologna sandwiches on way home!!!

\*Star Farms Native Plants in Kenton on back-way home to Findlay  
<https://www.google.com/search?q=star+native+plant+nursery+kenton+ohio&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8&hl=en-us&client=safari>

#### **Ideas for Trip #2**

\*Cedar Point-Behind the scenes tour of famous decorative flower displays which includes plantings for sun/shade and those that tolerate a lot of abuse.

\*Mulberry Creek Herb Farm on the way home from Cedar Point noted for Fairy Garden and Miniature plants in a series of greenhouses.  
[www.mulberrycreek.com](http://www.mulberrycreek.com)

**If you have any other suggestions please let us know!**

## **Master Gardener Spotlight-Betsy DeFrancesco**

**1 Master Gardener Class:** 2017 in Putnam County

**2 Gardening Interests or Areas of Expertise:** Not an expert, but I love:  
Dwarf Conifers, Fairy Gardens, Herbs, Container Gardens, Water Features

**3 Hancock County Master Gardening Activities:**

- \*Media (Facebook, Eventbrite.com, will begin updating the OSU MGV webpages)
- \*Wreath Workshop Coordinator
- \*Seminar Committee

**4 Community Activities:**

- \*Findlay Garden Club-Currently club Secretary and in charge of the 2020 Garden Tour
- \*Co-Leader of Junior Bloomers Garden Club (along with Linda Finsel)

**5 Other Interests or Interesting Information:**

Betsy loves spending time with her husband, father, sisters and nieces and nephews. She also loves to read and spend time with her two Giant Schnauzers, two parrots and aquarium.

Betsy grew up on Grand Lake St. Marys, went off to OSU Agricultural Technical Institute and started working in the Harness Racing industry. After getting married she moved to New Jersey and was a racing official (Assistant Program Director) at The Meadowlands Racetrack and Garden State Park (also Assistant Stakes Coordinator at GSP). Her second career was owning a small retail shop in NJ and creating gift baskets. Betsy and her husband have renovated two houses including their current home. She has also been an Administrative Assistant.

Betsy finally has time to garden since moving to Findlay in 2004!

### **Best Practices for Garden Pests, Pesticides**

Karl Farwig-The Courier-February 22, 2020

<http://findlaycourier.oh.newsmemory.com/?publink=0c3df0c04>

### **Speakers Needed!!!**

The Bluffton Garden Club is asking for a speaker on Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at the Bluffton Public Library. Their topic will be "Using Annuals in a Garden Design for Color and Style".

Bluffton Garden Club is also looking for a speaker on Tuesday, May 5, 2020. This topic will be, "How to Prune Flowering Bushes and Trees". Their meeting time is 6:30pm.

If interested and willing please contact Linda Finsel-Speakers' Bureau

# Selecting Plants for Wildlife

Submitted By: Linda Casey

Landscaping for wildlife can restore critically needed habitat and beautify your yard at the same time. Many excellent native trees, shrubs, and vines offer interest all four seasons with fragrant flowers, eye-catching fruit, brilliant fall color, and sculptural forms in winter. The same plants can attract a diversity of wildlife with the food, cover, and nest sites they supply.

Select plants that provide a year-round source of food.

Many woody plants produce fruit (soft mast) or nuts (hard mast) that provide food for both birds and mammals. When selecting plants, choose a combination that will supply food throughout the year. For example, blackberries and raspberries provide fruit in summer and are consumed by catbirds, chipmunks, rabbits, and other wildlife. Dogwoods, mountain ash, and spicebush produce fruit in late summer and early fall and are an important food source for fall migrants.

Make sure to include some plants that retain their fruit through winter into early spring, the time of greatest food scarcity. These plants generally produce fruit that is not highly preferred, so the fruit is not consumed during the fall when other foods are abundant. Examples are hawthorn, crabapple, holly, highbush cranberry, and staghorn sumac. They are excellent plants for wildlife because they offer emergency winter food, and some, such as sumac with its red fruiting spikes, can add structural interest to a bleak winter landscape.

Oaks, hickories, beech, and other trees that produce nuts provide food for mammals such as squirrels, chipmunks and deer, and for birds such as blue jays. These are often large trees that also offer shade and nest sites for many birds. Many other plants, such as grapevines, provide multiple benefits, including an abundant food supply, dense cover and nest sites.

Although we associate butterflies with wildflowers instead of woody plants, the larval caterpillars feed on a number of woody species. For example, tiger swallowtail caterpillars feed on the leaves of cherry, willow and sassafras trees; and the spicebush swallowtail, true to its name, feeds on spicebush leaves. By providing a food source for the caterpillars, you will attract more butterflies to your flowers.

Cover is a key ingredient in the success of your wildlife garden. In winter, wildlife species need shelter from the cold and wind. Evergreen trees and shrubs make some of the best shelters, especially those that keep their branches close to the ground. These evergreens give better insulation than plants without branches on the lower part of the trunk. They provide shelter for many types of wildlife, particularly if they are located on the northwest side of your lot where they block cold winds.

Evergreen trees, such as pines and hemlocks, and evergreen shrubs, like rhododendron and holly, make safe, year-round retreats where birds and small mammals can hide from predators and be protected from inclement weather. Deciduous shrubs with dense branching habits also make good cover. Examples are raspberries and blackberries; lilacs (which readily sprout suckers); red-osier, gray, and silky dogwoods; and elderberries. Many of these shrubs also produce berries that wildlife readily eat. Diverse types and sizes of cover plants are useful to include in your landscape plan, because individual species of wildlife have different preferences in the amount and location of cover.



Hawthorn and Dogwood

(CONTINUED)

## Selecting Plants for Wildlife (Continued)

Fallen trees provide cover for salamanders and small mammals. Brush piles and rock piles are sources of cover, nest sites, and den sites for many wildlife species. A trailing ground cover, such as a ground rose, or a vine such as Virginia Creeper can gracefully camouflage your brush or rock pile, blending it with other landscape features while providing an additional source of food and cover.

Nesting places are vitally important for wildlife. Trees and shrubs that offer cover from predators and inclement weather also serve as sites for birds to build nests and raise their young. Tree cavities in both living and dead trees provide nest sites for a variety of species including woodpeckers, nuthatches, chickadees, flying squirrels, and gray squirrels. When nest cavities are scarce, cavity-nesting species will often use bird houses and nest boxes. So if cavities are in short supply, you can enhance the habitat by adding nest boxes.

As you design your landscape, try to copy what you see in nature. Plant trees and shrubs in groups instead of as isolated individuals. Plant corridors to connect islands of trees and shrubs with other natural areas. Whenever possible, plant combinations of tall trees, smaller trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants together. This is important because different types of wildlife will find food and cover at varying heights.

To avoid problems, there are questions you should ask nursery personnel when you select plants and develop your landscape plan.

**Will this plant produce fruit?** You may be selecting a plant because of the value of its fruit for wildlife and be disappointed to discover it does not produce fruit. Many ornamental trees and shrubs have been bred to produce no fruit. For example, ornamental fruit trees, such as flowering cherry, flowering peach, or flowering plum, usually produce only showy flowers and no fruit.

**Will this fruit tree, nut tree, or small fruit shrub need cross-pollination with a plant of a different variety to yield a crop?** Many apple trees need cross-pollination with a different apple variety to bear fruit. Most nut trees yield a crop only if a tree of the opposite sex is planted nearby. Holly, sumac, and spicebush require both sexes to set fruit. It is best to ask about pollination requirements when you purchase your plant.

**Will this plant be hardy in my area?** The winter climate zone in NW Ohio is zone 5b (average minimum temperature --10° to -15°F).

**How much moisture does my plant need?** It's important to determine how much moisture a particular plant requires so that it will thrive where you plant it. If you establish a native plant in its preferred site, then watering and fertilizing beyond the first year may not be necessary. Mulch the area under the canopy to conserve water and maintain a consistent root temperature

**What will the ultimate dimensions of this plant be? How much space will it need?** It is good to site a plant where it can reach normal size without excessive pruning. Plants placed too close to buildings or driveways may not grow well or live long. Nursery personnel can tell you what the mature size will be.

**Which exposure is best for this plant (north, south, east, or west side of the house)?** Some plants need a shady, cool location on the north side and do poorly in the warmth of a southern site. Others require full sun and protection from prevailing winds. Fruit and nut-bearing plants normally need full sun to produce a good yield. Most nurseries can tell you how much sun your plant will need. You can also observe the environment where the plant grows in the wild or consult a native plant book for cultural information.

**What type of soil does this plant prefer? How alkaline or acidic should the soil pH be for this plant?** Types of soil include loam, sandy, or clay soil. You can find out what soil type and pH your plant needs from the nursery where you bought the plant. You can determine the pH of your soil by submitting a sample to your county extension office for testing.

**How should I plant and care for my new plant?** Upon request, most nurseries will supply information about how to plant, water,

*Article attributed to University of Pa. extension*





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

Submitted By: Linda Casey

### HOME (Indoor plants and activities)

- Check water levels in cut flowers daily.
- Check stored produce and flower bulbs for rot, shriveling, or excess moisture. Discard any damaged items.
- Most houseplants require less water in the winter because growth is slow or stopped. Check the soil for dryness before watering.
- Move houseplants to brighter windows, but don't place plants in drafty places or against cold windowpanes.
- Potted spring-flowering bulbs forced into early blooming can make good gifts for a sweetheart. Keep these plants in a bright, cool location for longer-lasting blooms. Forced bulbs make poor garden flowers, and you should discard them as blooms fade.

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

- Choose appropriate plant species and cultivars, and begin drawing your landscape plans.
- Cut branches of forsythia, pussy willow, crabapple, quince, honeysuckle, and other early spring-flowering plants to force them into bloom indoors. Place the branches in warm water, and set them in a cool location.
- Check mulches, rodent shields, salt/wind screens, and other winter plant protections to make sure they are still in place.
- Prune landscape plants (except early spring bloomers that should be pruned after flowers fade). Birches, maples, dogwoods, and other heavy sap bleeders can be pruned in early summer to avoid the sap flow, although bleeding is not harmful to the tree.
- Delay pruning fruit plants until you can assess winter injury.

### GARDEN (Flowers, vegetables and small fruits)

- Order seeds before it's too late for this year's planting.
- Sketch your garden plans. Remember to include plants to replace or replant crops that you will harvest in spring or early summer.
- Prepare or repair lawn and garden tools for the upcoming season.
- Start seeds indoors for cool-season vegetables so they will be ready to transplant to the garden early in the season. You should start broccoli, cauliflower, and cabbage seeds five to seven weeks prior to transplanting.
- Test leftover garden seed for germination. Place 10 seeds between moist paper toweling, or cover with a thin layer of soil. Keep seeds warm and moist. If fewer than six seeds germinate, then purchase fresh seed.



## THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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