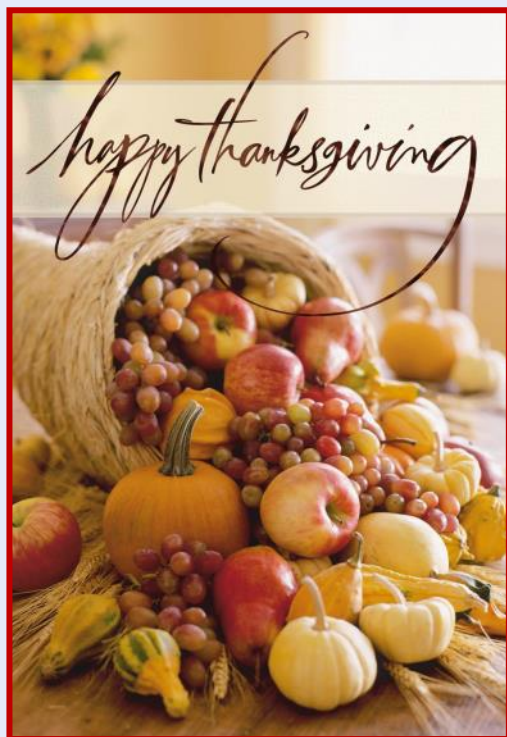


# GREEN THUMB PRINTS

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

November 2020



**Plan to Be a Part of Our**  
**November 12th**  
**Year End Meeting**  
**7:00 PM**

**We will be voting for officers  
along with approving our  
2021 budget.**

**The following members  
have been nominated  
for office:**

**Reuben DeBolt-President  
Ann Woolum-Treasurer**

**Please see the October  
newsletter for their bios.**

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## Coordinator's Corner

Things are wrapping up. Thanks to everyone for all they did during this crazy pandemic year. It is time to start cleaning up the gardens and putting them to bed for the winter. Make sure you practice proper clean up practices.

Congratulations to the Community Garden team and others who donated produce to local food banks. This year we raised and donated 4,666 pounds of produce which is the most we have produced the past 5 years. I can personally tell you that our produce was used every time we delivered it. I would ask if it was given away and the answer was noticeably, yes. There has never been more need for this project as there was this year. Over the last 5 years, we have given 23,868 pounds to food banks. Of that total, 18,827 pounds were raised by our members and 5,041 pounds were gleaned from potato farmers. Again, thanks to Brint and his team for their outstanding accomplishment when we did not even think this project would be able to proceed.

Thanks to those who have written articles in The Courier. It is especially important that we have volunteers for 2021. Since we are not yet meeting in person, I ask everyone to take the opportunity and volunteer to write an article. You can volunteer for a month by contacting Judi Clymer or Laurie Pressel.

Also, thanks to the Ask-A-Gardener team for addressing the questions coming into the office. One of the major purposes of our group is to assist in addressing horticulture questions for the residents of Hancock County. As of September, there were 89 questions answered. This compares to 65 questions through the 2019 year.

The Phenology Garden team cleaned up the garden in October and spread mulch. We look forward to hearing the team's recommendations for 2021.

Lastly, please enter your hours into VMS for 2020. As you know everyone has been given the hours to certify into 2021, but we also want a clear picture of the real hours that were completed in 2020. Along with that everyone should be entering their contacts into VMS for 2020. A contact is any information passed onto an individual or question answered. Please look for an email from me in the next couple of months asking you to sign some documents allowing me to recertify you into 2021. This is a requirement that everyone must complete.

I encourage everyone to sign onto the Zoom meeting on November 12 at 7 pm. This will be our last meeting of the year. Also, after November 1, there should be no outside project work being done for our projects. Only virtual meetings and contact should be done until further notice.

Please enjoy your Thanksgiving and take time to give thanks for our Blessings.

*Karl Farwig*

## *Rambling Rose* *November 2020*


Election month is upon us. Please vote for the candidate of your choice. Freedom to vote is what makes a democracy. You get to vote not only for the President of the United States but you also get to vote for the President and Treasurer of MGVI! MGVI elections will take place virtually via Zoom on November 12 at 7:00 pm. We want to encourage every MGVI to join the call to insure that your vote counts! Information will be coming with all the information so mark your calendar!

On October 22, the State Outstanding Master Gardeners awards were held virtually. Hancock County had three entries for nominees which is an honor. Karl Farwig was nominated for Volunteer Coordinator for 2019. While he didn't come in 1st, we all are proud of Karl's achievements! Betsy Martindale DeFrancesco was nominated as 2019 Outstanding Master Gardener of the year. Betsy was one of 10 nominees and while she didn't come in 1st, it is an honor to be nominated for this award. We all appreciate and respect the hard work and dedication Betsy has brought to the Master Gardener Volunteers. Hancock County also was nominated for 2019 Community Project for the Community Garden which was led by John and Linda Leindecker. The project was awarded 1st place and the Hancock County MGVI Program was awarded \$100.00! Congratulations to all the 2019 nominees and for all who contributed to the community garden project for adding \$100.00 to the treasury!

In addition, November 11 is Veterans Day. Any veteran you see or know, thank them for helping to defend and protect the freedoms we all treasure.

Finally, November is the month of Thanksgiving. We celebrate Thanksgiving November 26, but I personally use the spirit of Thanksgiving 365 days a year. Every morning I give thanks for one blessing in my day and thank one person who has made a difference.

Thank you all for the difference you make everyday and for the difference you have made for Master Gardener Volunteers Program.

Happy Thanksgiving ! 

*Rose*





# **Master Gardener Spotlight**

## **Doris Salis**

**1 Master Gardener Class:** Class of 2016

**2 Gardening Interests or Areas of Expertise:**

Native trees and plants

Poisonous plants

Pollinators

She has a large garden surrounding her corner house built up over 25 years

**3 Hancock County Master Gardening Activities:**

Writes articles for the Courier

Gives gardening talks when needed or appropriate

Chair of County Fair Display

Chair of Ask a Master Gardener online contacts

On Committee for March 7 MGTV program

**4 Community Activities:**

Member of Findlay Beacon Club (gives presentations on topics of choice)

Taught Arts and Culture online for Degree Completion Program at U of F

Ran the Senior Forum at UF from 1991 to Fall 2017.

Was Director/Dean of Continuing Education at UF starting in 1990

In charge of Findlay Garden Club Garden Tour through July 2019.

Has been on the Garden Club Tour 3 times since 2008

**5 Other Interests or Interesting Information:**

Doris has travelled since she retired in 2007. France, Italy, Norway, London, China, Spain, New Zealand/Australia, South America (Galapagos Islands, Peru-Macchu Picchu), Aegean Sea (Greece and Turkey), Grand Canyon, Utah, Grand Tetons, and Yellowstone. She also loves baking, reading, (especially historic novels) and taking care of two elderly beagles, Dolly and Emmy. She tries to keep up with the aches and pains of growing older!

Doris started out as a musician. She has a BS in Music Education, and an MM in Music Literature and Piano from Eastman School of Music. She taught music on all levels including public school and private lessons in both piano and voice. Has a PhD in Higher Education with an emphasis on Teaching from the University of Pittsburgh.



**2019 OSUE Outstanding MGVP Project Award Winner!**  
**Presented October 22nd at the**  
**Ohio Master Gardener Volunteer Conference**

***2019 OSUE Outstanding MGVP Project***  
***Medium Program Excellence Winner***  
***Backyard and Local Foods***



**Hancock County A Harvest for Education & Hunger Initiative**

Also nominated for awards were:

*Betsy Martindale DeFrancesco*

Nominated for 2019 Outstanding OSUE MGVP

*Karl Farwig*

Nominated for 2019 Outstanding Master Gardener  
Volunteer Coordinator

## **A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE HANCOCK COUNTY PHENOLOGY GARDEN**

Hancock County MGVs, Bill Jones and Nancy Kronberg, did the initial work that in turn landed Hancock County as one of 36 total gardens in the Ohio Phenology Network. On May 27, 2004, a group of 6 Hancock County MGVs obtained the 16 shrubs that were to become the foundation of our Phenology Garden. In 2005 all gardens added 15 specific perennial plants and we also have added an Eastern Redbud and an Ohio Buckeye.

Our garden was planted in 2004 and the first data was collected in 2005. The last data entered for Hancock County was on 10/27/2018 by Bill Jones.

It is not a surprise to learn that a few names come up frequently when discussing our Phenology Garden, Bill Lanning, Rose Morrison and Bill Jones! Many others have contributed hours of work over the years that data was collected, including Noreen Walters, Linda Jones, Vaun Wickerham, Jerry Lenhart, and Lisa Yates.

Here is an excerpt from a garden update written by Bill Jones:

“Our interest in maintaining this garden and in recording and reporting this phenology data is to monitor northwest Ohio for climate change and to learn to associate insect life cycle events with plant phenology events. For example, we have learned that the Emerald Ash Borer emerges from ash trees as a beetle when the Black Locust tree is in full bloom. Also, the Japanese Beetle appears when the Linden Tree is in bloom and the Gypsy Moth egg hatch occurs when the Eastern Redbud and Crabapple trees are in bloom.”

**Thanks to Bill Jones for supplying this information.**



As of spring 2019 OSU no longer gathers information from the statewide phenology gardens. The Hancock County garden has been recently weeded, mulched and a proposal for future plans sent to the Executive Committee for approval.

# Thankful for Cranberries

Linda Casey



Photo Credit: Keith Walker/USDA/ARS

The cranberry plant is native to large portions of the northeastern United States as well as the West Coast states and portions of Canada. Cranberry production requires a unique acid bog habitat, which restricts its commercial production to just a few states. Wisconsin, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Oregon, and Washington are the leading producers in the US.

The ideal soil pH is 4.0-5.5, acidic compared to other horticultural crops. A large supply of fresh water and sand also is required.

According to the USDA Agricultural Marketing Resource Center, Americans consume nearly 400 million pounds of cranberries per year, 20 percent of them during Thanksgiving week. The U.S. per capita consumption of cranberries is 2.3 pounds, mostly in the form of juice or juice blends.

Cranberries belong to the heath family *Ericaceae* and are related to rhododendron, blueberry and heather. Known botanically as *Vaccinium macrocarpon*, cranberries grow on a trailing, evergreen vine. The common name of cranberry comes from crane berry, so named because the flower is said to resemble the head and neck of a sandhill crane.

Because cranberries initiate flower buds in late summer, the plants need protection for the buds to survive. Thus, cranberry vines are flooded and layered with sand during the winter months to protect them from the cold. In spring, the bogs are drained. The plants flower in late spring and early summer on short, vertical shoots. The forthcoming fruit take the rest of the growing season to ripen.

Cranberries are harvested in September and October by one of two methods. Most are harvested via a “wet” method, where growers flood the plants and loosen the fruit by machine. The fruit then floats to the top. Most of these berries are used for processing. Some fruits are harvested for fresh market via a “dry” method, using mechanical comb-like pickers.

Fresh cranberries can be stored for three-to-four weeks in the refrigerator. In addition to being a source of vitamins C, A, and E, potassium and fiber, cranberries have other health benefits, including antimicrobial and antioxidant compounds.



# Storing Leftover Garden Seed

Linda Casey



*Carrot seed, photo provided by Rosie Lerner*

If you didn't use up all the garden seed you bought this year, much of it can be stored for use in next year's garden – depending on the plant species. Seeds of some plants, such as corn, parsley, onion, viola (pansies), verbena, phlox, and salvia, are not very long lived, lasting only 1 or 2 years at best. Other seeds, including beans, carrots, lettuce, peas, radishes, snapdragon, cosmos, sweet William, and zinnia, will remain viable (capable of germinating) for 3-5 years.

Seeds need to be kept cool, dark, and dry so that they retain stored carbohydrates and minimize fungal infection. You can keep the seeds in their original packets to preserve their labeling information. If you transfer the seeds to another container, be sure to label them with at least the plant name and the year the seed was purchased. Either way, be sure the seed is as dry as possible before placing in storage.

One of the more practical methods for storing small quantities is to place leftover seed in sealable jars or other airtight containers and store in a cool, dark area, such as the refrigerator (not the freezer). A layer of powdered milk or uncooked rice at the bottom of the container will absorb excess moisture. Use a paper towel to separate the seed from the absorptive material.



*Swiss chard seed, photo provided by Rosie Lerner*

*(Continued)*



# Storing Leftover Garden Seed

## (Continued)

When it's time to plant next season, you can do a germination test on a few seeds to see if they sprout before you plant the rest. But these days, many seed packets have only a few seeds to begin with, so the germination test may be a moot point! On the other hand, saving even a few seeds can make a big impact on next year's gardening budget.

The following chart listing storage life for common garden species will help you decide which seeds are worth the bother. However, the conditions the seeds are stored in dramatically affects how well they will germinate next year, as much or more so than their species.

Listed below are the names of plants and expected storage life in years under favorable conditions:

### Vegetables

Bean (3)  
Beet (4)  
Carrot (3)  
Chard, Swiss (4)  
Corn, sweet (2)  
Cucumber (5)  
Kohlrabi (3)  
Lettuce (6)  
Muskmelon (5)  
Okra (2)  
Onion (1)  
Parsnip (1)  
Pea (3)  
Pepper (2)  
Pumpkin (4)  
Radish (5)  
Spinach (3)  
Squash (3)  
Tomato (4)  
Turnip (4)  
Watermelon (4)

### Annual Flowers

Ageratum (4)  
Alyssum (4)  
Aster (1)  
Calendula (5)  
Celosia (4)  
Coleus (1)  
Cosmos (3)  
Dahlia (2)  
Dianthus (4)  
Geranium (1)  
Hibiscus (3)  
Hollyhock (2)  
Impatiens (2)  
Lobelia (3)  
Marigold (2)  
Nasturtium (5)  
Nicotiana (3)  
Pansy (1)  
Petunia (2)  
Phlox (1)  
Poppy (4)  
Salvia (1)  
Verbena (1)  
Vinca (1)  
Zinnia (5)



## **Ask-A-Gardener Q&A**

### **September Report**

**Submitted by Doris Salis**

**Identify vine in potting soil-***It is a type of cucumber*

**Putting in new lawn where grass is hard to grow-***Discussed rabbit pests, dog urine, draught, was area always grass-less, old oak that had to be cut down. Tall fescue is a problem in hot weather. Consider thatch removal and aeration. Try a thatch rake and some re-seeding.*

**Blue spruce ends dying-***Shrub may be a fungal disease (cytospora canker) which shows as dead areas at base of the branches that produce a white resin. Prune when the tree is dry to avoid spreading the spores. Fertilize and water regularly*

**New 2.5 acre lawn-***Kill with Roundup and till the area, disperse seed and cover using a harrow or similar tool. Use blend of 80% Tall fescue, 10% Kentucky Blue, 10% perennial rye at 6 lbs per 1000sq. Feet. Cover with straw to conserve moisture. Fertilize next spring around Easter with 30-0-3 fertilizer, and preemergent crab grass killer. Fertilize further on Memorial Day, Labor Day and Halloween.*

**Worms in hickory nuts-***Informed him of sprays to use. Advised to gather all nuts off the ground to keep the worms from burrowing in the ground and then coming back next year.*

**Browning arborvitae-***Caused by phytophthora fungus. Roots affected cause their branches to die. If all roots affected complete tree will die, especially during a heat wave. Do not plant new plants in affected area.*

**Yellow leaves on hydrangea-***Might need iron--add chelated iron. Reapply yearly or when leaves yellow again. Long-term you can lower pH by adding aluminum sulfate to soil, or add pine bark mulch. Plant also has a damaged trunk which might be affecting the condition.*

**Paw paws, ash, and basswoods are dying or have died. Particularly worried about paw paws which have growths-***Growths are lichens but they will not kill the trees. Likely that late frosts and hot weather have affected overall tree health*

**Identify bees that are eating flowers-***These are likely leaf-cutter bees that eat leaves and flowers. See reference site for more info. <https://www.insectidentification.org/insect-description.asp?identification=Leaf-Cutter-Bee-Megachile>*

**Identify strange bugs-***These are damsel bugs. Damsel bugs use thickened front legs to grab their prey, which includes aphids, caterpillars, thrips, leafhoppers, and other soft-bodied insects. Nymphs, too, are predators, and will feast on both small insects and their eggs. See web site for pictures. <http://somethingscrawlinginmyhair.com/2011/02/26/damsel-bugs/>*

**Identify perennial-***Identified as snow-on-the-mountain*

**Identify bugs on milkweed** *-Milkweed Bug primarily feeds on milkweed seeds and doesn't interfere with the butterfly larvae. Spray with insecticidal soap but can leave alone--there should be enough food for the larvae and bugs.*

**(CONTINUED)**



## **Ask-A-Gardener Q&A**

### **September Report**

**(CONTINUED)**

**How to fertilize soil (which has been tested)-** 4 applications. Mix in organic matter to sandy soil. Use fallen leaves, animal manure, grass clippings, or purchased top soil.

**How to deal with tomato blossom end rot-**Due to uneven soil moisture. Mulch with straw and grass to maintain soil moisture which will reduce blossom end rot.

**Maple leaves turning yellow and then black-**Trees have verticillium wilt. Remove trees and do not plant susceptible trees in the same spots. Use evergreens instead

**Blaze maple has black spots-**This is tar spot. It will not kill the tree, but remove infected leaves to lessen its effect.

**Pine trees have dying branches-**Owner diagnosed Bag worms. Sprayed with Dawn detergent which seemed to kill them.

**Identify bug-**Asked for picture and it was never sent.

**How to deal with poa annual grass-**This is annual bluegrass. Dig or pull up as much of the grass as you can, and spot-apply glyphosate to the rest. Wait for 10 days and then plant a seed containing Kentucky blue grass, perennial rye grass, and turf-type tall fescue. Use a pre-emergent herbicide in the spring to kill seeds. <https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/annual-bluegrass-control/>

**Bottom branches of arborvitae are dying-**Cut off the two branches that are dead. There was no other damage. Possible that the two branches were damaged by mice. Watch the tree and get back to us if you see more browning.

**How to prune apple tree?-**Prune water sprouts, open center of tree for sun and air. Prune in late February or early March. Might spray with dormant oil.

**Mushrooms growing under ornamental cherry that looks poorly with yellowed leaves-**Mushrooms were growing from roots of a nearby tree that had been removed and this did not affect the cherry tree yellowing. It may be the result of the hot, dry summer. Wait for spring to see if new leaves yellow. Call us if they do.

**Dying maple tree-**RD called after client had already called an arborist.

**Moving and would like to take perennials. How do it?-**Pot the flowers and keep in a cold garage, watering when dry. Or put the pot in the ground even with soil level and cover with mulch. Take pots to the new location and plant in spring. <http://purdue.edu/hla/sites/cea/perennial-production-guidesheets/> click on: overwintering containerized perennials



# IT'S Time To.....November

## HOME (Indoor plants and activities)

- Keep poinsettia in complete darkness for 15 hours each day — for example, between 5 p.m. and 8 a.m. — for eight to 10 weeks until red bracts begin to show.
- Pot spring-flowering bulbs to force into bloom indoors. Moisten soil and refrigerate 10 to 13 weeks. Transfer to a cool, sunny location, and allow an additional three to four weeks for blooming.
- Houseplants, especially those grown outdoors during the summer, commonly drop some or many of their leaves in response to the lower natural light intensity in the autumn and reduced light intensity indoors.
- Water indoor plants less frequently, and discontinue fertilizer as plants slow down or stop growing for the winter season.

## YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals and fruits)

- Keep plants, especially newly planted stock, well-watered until ground freezes.
- Have soil ready to mound roses for winter protection. Do not mound or cover roses until after leaves drop and soil is near freezing, usually late November or early December.
- Strawberry plants need protection from winter's extremes, but applying winter mulch too early may cause crowns to rot. Apply winter protection when plants are dormant but before temperatures drop below 20F, usually late November or early December.
- Rake or shred large, fallen tree leaves, such as maple, to prevent them from matting down and smothering grass. Raking smaller leaves, such as honey locust, is optional.
- Continue mowing lawn as needed.

## GARDEN (Vegetables, small fruits and flowers)

- Harvest root crops and store in a cold (32 F), humid location. Storing produce in perforated plastic bags is a convenient, easy way to increase humidity.
- Harvest brussels sprouts as they develop in the axils of the leaves from the bottom of the stem. Brussels sprouts will continue to develop up the stem.
- Harvest pumpkins and winter squash before frost, but when rind is hard and fully colored. Store in a cool location until ready to use.
- Harvest gourds when stems begin to brown and dry. Cure at 70-80 F for two to four weeks.
- Harvest mature, green tomatoes before frost and ripen indoors in the dark. Warmer temperatures lead to faster ripening.
- Asparagus top growth should not be removed until foliage yellows. Let foliage stand over winter to collect snow for insulation and moisture.
- Remove plant debris from the garden to protect next year's plantings from insect and disease buildup. Compost plant refuse by alternating layers of soil, plant material, and manure or commercial fertilizer.
- Have garden soil tested for fertilizer needs every three to five years.
- Incorporate organic matter in fall to avoid the rush of garden activities and waterlogged soil in spring. Soils prepared in the fall tend to warm faster and allow earlier planting in spring.
- Dig tender garden flower bulbs for winter storage. Gladiolus corms should be dug when leaves begin turning yellow. Caladiums, geraniums and tuberous begonias should be lifted before killing frost. Dig canna and dahlia roots after a heavy frost. Allow to air dry, then pack in dry peat moss or vermiculite, and store in a cool location.
- Complete planting of spring-flowering bulbs.





## THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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**City  
Mission**  
Sharing the Harvest  
and Feeding the Hungry

**FROM  
YOUR  
GARDENS**

Our guests have  
enjoyed fresh  
salads, soups,  
desserts, salsas  
and sauces  
all summer long  
thanks to  
the beautiful  
vegetables  
you've shared



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