

GREEN THUMB PRINTS

Gardening is our Passion Education is our Purpose

April 2021

Our next ZOOM meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 8th.



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Upcoming Activities
(As per permission from OSUE)

June 12th-Field Trip to
Brenda and Joe Stearns' Gardens

September 30th-Fall Seminar
with Hal Mann

Reuben's Ruminations

April 2021

President's Notes for April, 2021

What a difference a month makes! A month ago I was writing about snow & ice starting to melt, zero GDD. Spring is here! Now 80 GDD after a warm week. Around here the crocuses are already fading but pussy willows and some varieties of daffodils are starting to bloom, some maples have dropped floral remains all over the driveway, and I expect forsythia to pop shortly. Robins are suddenly bob, bob, bobbing along and I saw a blue bird this week. Meanwhile in the pond, the bass and bluegills have woken up, but fortunately not the cattails or algae yet, and geese have heeded warnings to stay away (so far).

MGV projects are warming up, too. Peggy Biolchini and her crew of volunteers met to size up the garden at the entrance to the Ag Center, and have drafted a very ambitious plan. We now will pursue getting the ok to move forward with more than just the clean-up phase. Thank you for getting this moving.

The Habitat for Humanity project is starting to take shape, as we have their ok to go walk the properties. But not much beyond that yet, as two of our contacts there are brand new in their roles and just getting their feet on the ground themselves.

What's not warming up? At least not much. Presenters. I know that our members have a wealth of knowledge, but I've been surprised to learn how shy everyone seems to be about sharing it.

With the great opportunity for us to present "virtually" to the Rotary Club, Linda Finsel received exactly zero replies to her email request for a volunteer. However, as a result of in-person discussions at the Ag Center garden, Peggy offered to represent us in April. Thank you for stepping up, Peggy. Proof that we all interact much better in-person.

However, we are still stuck mostly in "virtual" world. So, we have to work a little harder and maybe step out of our comfort zones in order to communicate and educate. Want help with Power Point? Call me. Here are the opportunities to educate the group or to spread your knowledge and increase community awareness of MGV:

Brown Bag – volunteer to coordinate the program or to present, or recommend an outside presenter. Contact Peggy Biolchini

Library and 50 North – contact Linda Finsel

If writing is more your thing, there are some openings for Courier articles later in the year. Thanks to Tim for the latest article, and to Laurie Pressel for coordinating and editing. And to Betsy DeFrancesco for posting them on our Facebook page.

As you accumulate volunteer hours by preparing presentations or writing Courier articles, be sure to track them in some way so that you can transfer them to the new "VMS" system whenever it arrives.

Enjoy the Spring weather!

Reuben

Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers
Meeting Minutes
March 11, 2021

At 6:35 pm. President Reuben DeBolt began the Zoom meeting. For the Brown Bag topic Ed Lentz shared his screen to show the webinar “Yes, You Can Grow Lavender” with Kelly McGowan of the University of Missouri Extension, with 20 in attendance for the webinar.

At 7:30 pm the recording was ended, and President DeBolt began the formal meeting, with 22 in attendance.

President’s Comments

- A memorial was sent in honor of Master Gardener Emeritus Jerry Bibler’s wife.
- The Courier articles this year have been great. Thank you to all contributors.
- Speakers are requested for Brown Bag, 50 North and Library presentations.

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the February 11, 2021 membership meeting were approved; motion: Tim Brugeman; second: Lisa McClain.

Treasurer’s Report – Ann Woolum

- The only expenses year to date have been the two memorial contributions.
- \$7107.27 in checking account, of which \$1203.35 is restricted for the Community Garden, leaving \$5903.92 unrestricted.

Volunteer Coordinator

No report as Coordinator Karl Farwig was not present

Extension Report – Ed Lentz

- Victory Garden Project – it was considered the program is not yet developed enough so the decision was made not to participate this year; we will consider it again in future years
- The Extension Office will be interviewing in the near future for a new Family & Consumer Science Educator
- We are still limited on what we can do in person because the COVID map still shows Hancock County as being RED. We need to be at least improved to ORANGE to open things up. The Extension office doors will remain locked as long as the county is RED. You must make an appointment to come to the office.
- Tim Brugeman asked for a clarification of when we can meet in person: there are general exemptions for approved projects like the Community Garden and the Extension Office Garden, and there is a specific exemption, with restrictions, for committee planning meetings. Nothing else is approved.

(CONTINUED)

Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers

Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2021

(CONTINUED)

Committees

- Administrative – No report.
- Social and Fundraising – No report.
- Service – Tim Brugeman – No report.
- Teaching – Judi Clymer
 - There is a new person to contact at 50 North to arrange presentations:----- Erica Bickhart. They can record a Livestream of the presentation then post it to their Facebook page. They would like us to do a presentation once a month, hopefully starting in May.
- Education – Peggy Biolchini
 - Ask a Master Gardener has received 2 questions: one about fruit trees and one about cockroaches. They currently have 8 volunteers for this program
 - The field trip in June is still scheduled, assuming COVID restrictions have lifted enough by then.
 - Fall Conference – Lisa McClain gave a slide presentation with details of the event as currently envisioned. They are considering a Thursday evening, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, in late September or early October
 - Extension Office Building Garden – Committee to meet at the building Saturday 3/20 at 10 am to evaluate the garden. Wear your masks and meet in the front of the building. Question raised as to who is responsible for general maintenance like sweeping sidewalk at the front of the building. Ed Lentz will check into it.

Old Business

- Habitat for Humanity – Tim Brugeman – Nothing to see at the site yet because construction has not begun yet. The bushes and trees have been cut but the stumps have not been removed. Reuben DeBolt will check with Habitat to get a timeline for this house build.

New Business

- Doris Salis asked what the County Fair will look like this year. Ed Lentz responded that there is no definite answer to that yet. The only thing allowed so far is the Junior Fair, but MG should go ahead and plan as if we will have a display.

Motion to Adjourn: Peggy Biolchini; second: Judi Clymer. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Next Meeting: April 8, 2021, 6:30pm

Respectfully submitted: Elaine P Reynolds, Secretary



Master Gardener Spotlight Linda Finsel



1 Master Gardener Class: Class of 2019

2 Gardening Interests or Areas of Expertise:

Linda likes to grow roses and is starting a butterfly garden and bee garden. She has a small vegetable garden and has planted nearly 100 conifers.

3 Hancock County Master Gardening Activities:

- *Speakers Bureau Coordinator
- *Volunteer at Community Garden
- *Volunteer at Sensory Garden
- *Helped with flower display and flower judging at Hancock County Fair
- *Ask A Master Gardener Committee

4 Community Activities:

Past-President –Findlay Garden Club
Started a Junior Garden Club-Junior Bloomers

5 Other Interests or Interesting Information:

Linda and her husband Mark have three children. Nicholas is a mechanical and electrical engineer, Benjamin is in marketing management and Melissa is a student at The Ohio State University. They enjoy camping and traveling to see family in other states. Linda enjoys reading gardening magazines to get ideas for her garden. She has a degree in interior design and has worked at Brindle's Furniture.

2021 Hancock County Gardening Projects

Gardening for the Greater Good!

Tim Brugeman

Our Master Gardeners have agreed to help provide landscape planning and recommendations for two Habitat for Humanity builds starting this spring in West Park, down near the airport.

We will train and supervise volunteers from Children's Mentoring Connection of Hancock County who will be doing the installation. Our part will be done following COVID protocols and might include on-site help if we are allowed at the time of the time of planting.

Special thanks to our MGVs Jeri Wenger, Marilyn Beltz, Judi Clymer and Tim Brugeman.
A great way to share our skills for guiding vital community projects!



Community Garden

Brint Simmons

Now that Spring has arrived (at least per the calendar), outdoor gardening opportunities will be available soon. One of those opportunities for MGVs both to garden and to serve others is our Community Garden Project. We have a 4200 square foot garden at the Hancock Community Garden on N. Blanchard St. and a similarly sized plot at the Tom Lawrence farm on SR 568. Last year we grew and donated over 4000 pounds (including donations from MGV personal gardens) of fresh vegetables to City Mission and CHOPIN Hall.

This year a couple of new features will enhance our gardening experience. We will fence our entire plot at the community garden to limit damage from wildlife. Also, we will participate in the OSU Extension vegetable trials for home gardeners. Two varieties of the same vegetable will be grown side by side for comparison throughout the season. For the trials we will grow green beans, cucumbers, and summer squash. It should be fun to record the results and share our findings with OSU.

With two large gardens to tend our Community Garden Project will need a lot of volunteers. If you are interested in serving in this way, please contact Brint Simmons at brintsimmons@sbcglobal.net or 419.306.5446.



2021 Gardening Projects

(Continued)

OSUE The Ag Center Garden

Peggy Biolchini

“The Ag Center Garden Committee” met on March 20th to review the state of the gardens in front of the Ag Center. We have selected two work days to clean-up the gardens. The first being Saturday, March 27th from 9:00 am - 12:00 noon and the second on Saturday, April 10th from 10:00 am 12:00 noon. If rain prohibits us from working on either of the two dates, an alternate date will be Sunday, April 11th from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

According to OSU Covid-19 rules, we can only have 6 people at a time working, everyone must wear masks, keep 6 feet social distance and bring their own equipment. Additionally, volunteers should bring their own water and snack. The Ag Center Committee members are Peggy Biolchini, Tim Brugeman, Judi Clymer, Jeri Wenger, Betsy DeFrancesco, Linda Finsel, and Linda Casey. Committee members should text or email Peggy (419-306-4235) if they will be able to attend either or both work days. Other MGV are welcome to help, but must contact Peggy first.

Committee members can work part of the scheduled time or the whole time. It is imperative that Peggy be informed who will be attending so we can abide by the OSU Covid-19 guidelines.

Tools to bring are work gloves, large waste bags (plastic or paper), clean hand snips or pruners, loppers, hedge shears or electric shears, large old sheets or tarp to collect trimmings, shovel for dividing perennials, rake, broom to clean up sidewalk, and a kneeling cushion should you need it. We will also need help in hauling the waste away to Findlay’s green waste site which opens on April 6th. Please contact Peggy if you have either a large vehicle, pick-up truck or trailer to assist with disposal of the green waste.

Sensory Garden

Betsy DeFrancesco

The Phenology Garden will now be known as the Sensory Garden! The Sensory Garden will feature plants that can be appreciated by sight, smell, touch, hearing, and taste with an emphasis on plants for four-season interest and pollinator friendly.

We have long term plans that we hope to implement in the coming months and years. We hope to make this a destination for people of all ages and abilities. We plan on labeling plants and offering information about them. We will be adding signage to direct people to the garden. Anyone with ideas concerning this garden should contact Betsy DeFrancesco at betsmart_207@yahoo.com.

MG Happenings



Planning session held at OSUE Ag Center Garden on Saturday, March 20th.



50N and Findlay Hancock County Public Library–Revised

Volunteers Needed – Here is an opportunity to share your desire for learning with others. If you are an expert in an area or would like to become an expert by researching a topic, you now have the opportunity to share your knowledge.

The library would like presentations once a month starting at 6:00-6:30 p.m. followed by a time for questions and answers. For the library first contact Linda Finsel at home 419-424-3213, cell 419-788-1969, or lindamf@earthlink.net. to let her know the month and topic you would like to present. Then contact Carolyn Dahms at dahmsca@findlaylibrary.org or 419-434-1482 to schedule your presentation time.

To schedule a presentation for 50 North first contact Linda Finsel, then contact Erica Bickhart at 419-423-8496. The presentation can be recorded on your phone using the video app, saved as a file, sent to 50 North, and recorded on Facebook. It could also be live streamed, presented on Zoom, or recorded in a room at 50 North. Help will be provided to set up these presentations. This is a great way to get your teaching/education hours.

Mulch Madness: Final 4 Garden Basics

Tim Brugeman
The Courier-March 6, 2021

Transplanting or Moving Trees and Shrubs in the Landscape By Linda Casey



Are you experiencing one of those "oops!" moments when you realize that a large shrub or tree was planted in the wrong spot in your landscape? The best way to avoid these moments is to plan from the start. Before planting anything, try to take a look into the future of your landscape and install plants that fit your future needs. Are you planning to build an addition onto your home? Will your recreational activities change in the future? How big will that adorable tree or shrub you just brought home from the garden center get when it reaches maturity?

Sometimes, no matter how carefully you planned, a large tree or shrub needs to be removed from its current location. If you decide to try to relocate these plants, first consider hiring a professional with the equipment and knowledge to do the job. Digging and moving trees can be a difficult and heavy proposition and is not a job for people who have health problems, back conditions, or are out of shape.

To increase your chances of success, evaluate the suitability of the new planting site by checking the growing conditions, including light levels, soil pH, drainage, and exposure. Act as though you are selecting a new plant for the new site and ask the question "do the conditions at the site meet the growing requirements of the plant?" If it does not appear that your plant will survive and thrive in that site---don't put it there! Transplanting established trees and shrubs is somewhat risky because you will damage many of the feeder roots during the transplanting process. Feeder roots are responsible for absorbing the majority of essential nutrients and water. To minimize the shock to the plant, consider root pruning several months to one year in advance of the move, depending on the size and type of the plant.

Pruning the roots will encourage the plant to produce a flush of new feeder roots. The goal is to allow the plant to develop new feeder roots within the zone of the future root ball that will be moved. This will reduce the amount of transplant shock the plant experiences. Before root pruning you should consider the size of the root ball that will be moved. Minimum root ball sizes for specific plant sizes are shown in Table 1. The greater the root ball diameter, the more roots will be included in the move. Also remember that bigger root balls weigh more. Consider how the plant will be lifted and moved. Ball carts, wagons, tarps, or thick folded cardboard can be helpful in transporting the dug plant to its new location.

Transplanting or Moving Trees and Shrubs in the Landscape (CONTINUED)

When to root prune depends on when you wish to move the plant. For most plants, root pruning is recommended in the fall, followed by transplanting in the spring. This allows the plant to grow new feeder roots in the pruned zone over the winter without the burden of supporting new growth. For larger plants, you may want to root prune one year or more before transplanting. Keep in mind larger plants will need more time to become established after transplanting. Alternatively, rooting pruning in the spring for a fall move is possible; however, the root-pruned plant will need to be watered during summer dry spells. Be aware some plants do not respond well to being moved in the fall, especially those with thick and fleshy roots, such as magnolia, tulip poplar, oaks, birch, rhododendrons, hemlocks, and flowering dogwood.

Methods for root pruning vary. One method called spading involves cutting through the existing roots with a spade, making a circular cut all the way around the plant. The edge of this cut should be just inside the edge of the future root ball. Spading works best for small plants or plants that have not been in the old site for a long time.

Another method called trenching involves digging a trench around the plant and refilling the trench where the new feeder roots will develop with soil high in organic matter. Trenching is more appropriate for plants that have been located in the old site for several years or more. Trenching techniques also vary, depending on plant size. Trenching can be done all the way around the plant or only part of the way around the plant, followed by further trenching later in the season. To root prune using trenching, dig a trench at least 8 to 12 inches wide, 12 inches or more deep, with the outer edge of the trench corresponding to the outer edge of the future root ball. Next, fill the trench with soil high in organic matter, made by mixing two parts topsoil with one part compost. If conditions are good, the plant will grow new feeder roots in the trench of rich soil by transplanting time. These feeder roots will give the tree added ability to withstand transplant shock. Be sure to move as many of these new, young roots as you can when you move the plant. Before digging the root ball for transplanting, check to see if a good net of fibrous roots has developed. If few roots are found in the trench, you should consider postponing the move for another year. In addition, when you do decide to move the plant, digging a root ball larger than originally planned may assure that all of the new roots go with it.

Once the roots are pruned, special care should be taken to assure the root ball receives sufficient moisture, especially in the event of a dry fall or winter season. Check for soil moisture levels by feeling the soil. If the soil is dry two-to-three inches below the surface, give the tree a good soaking, assuring that the trench area is well watered. A two-to-three inch layer of mulch over the root ball, but not in contact with the trunk or stems of the plant, can help hold moisture in the soil and also protect the roots from cold temperatures during the winter.

Prior to moving the plant, prepare and dig the hole for the plant in the new location. Soak the root ball before moving so that the soil will remain together during the digging process. Carefully dig the soil away from the root ball and then wrap the whole ball in untreated natural burlap. Be careful not to use synthetic burlap because it will not rot away and will eventually restrict the growth of the roots. Lash the burlap together securely to hold the roots firmly in place. You can do this by using a large upholstery needle and untreated natural twine to stitch the burlap tightly around the root ball. Carefully move the plant using a cart, a rented ball cart, burlap or cardboard. The goal is to keep the root ball intact. If the soil ball breaks, it will break the roots inside and may lead to the death of the plant. Make sure the plant is set at the same depth in the new hole and fill in around the root ball with topsoil. Mulch lightly with three-to-four inches of mulch, keeping the mulch off of the trunk or stems of the plant, and be sure to provide adequate water throughout the entire next growing season.

Transplanting or Moving Trees and Shrubs in the Landscape (CONTINUED)

Recommended root ball sizes and approximate ball and plant weight based on plant form. Minimum ball diameters increase incrementally with increase in plant size. Data presented here is based on the American Standard for Nursery Stock (ANSI Z60.1-2004, American Nursery and Landscape Association) and Watson and Himelick 1997 (Principles and Practices of Planting Trees and Shrubs, International Society of Arboriculture Books.

| Plant type | Plant size | Minimum ball diameter (inch) | Change in ball size with changes in plant size | Minimum ball depth (inch) | Approximate soil ball and plant weight (lbs) |
|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|---|---------------------------|--|
| Shade trees | 1-inch caliper | 16 | 8-10 inches/ inch in caliper | 10 | 124 |
| Small ornamental trees | 5 ft tall | 16 | 2 inches/inch in caliper or foot in height | 10 | 124 |
| | 1-inch caliper | 18 | 2 inches/inch in caliper or foot in height | 12 | 193 |
| Multiple stemmed trees - Upright | 6 ft tall | 22 | 2-4 inches/ foot in height | 14 | 323 |
| Multiple stemmed trees - Spreading | 6 ft tall | 32 | 2-4 inches/ foot in height | 21 | 876 |
| Deciduous shrubs | 3 ft tall | 14 | 4-6 inches/ foot | 9 | 91 |
| Needle or broadleaf evergreen spreading shrubs | 2 ft spread | 16 | 6 inches/foot of spread | 10 | 124 |
| Needle or broadleaf evergreen upright shrub | 2 ft. tall | 14 | 2-4 inches/ foot of height | 9 | 91 |
| Needle leaf evergreen tree | 9 ft. tall (or) 3" in caliper | 32 | 6-12 inches/ inch caliper above 3" caliper | 21 | 867 |



IT'S Time To.....April

HOME (Indoor plants and activities)

- Start seeds of warm-season plants (including tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, marigolds, zinnias, and petunias) indoors for transplanting later to the garden.
- Harden off transplants started earlier in spring before planting outdoors. Gradually expose the young plants to outdoor conditions of wind, brighter sunlight, and lower moisture.
- Apply fertilizer to houseplants according to label directions as days grow brighter and longer and new growth begins. Foliage plants require relatively high-nitrogen fertilizer, while blooming plants thrive on formulations that are higher in phosphorus.
- Keep Easter lily in a bright, cool location, out of direct sunlight. Water as soil begins to dry. You can remove the yellow, pollen-bearing anthers inside the flower by pinching to prevent staining the petals.

YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals and fruits)

- Plant a tree in celebration of Arbor Day, April 24. You should plant bare-root stock before new top growth begins. You can plant balled and burlapped and containerized stock later in spring.
- Complete pruning chores. Remove dead and injured branches first.
- Apply a pre-bloom, multipurpose orchard spray to fruit trees.
- Remove winter coverings from roses, but keep mulch nearby to protect them from late freezes. Prune and fertilize as needed.
- Apply pre-emergent herbicide to control crabgrass in lawns. Approximate application dates are late March to mid-April in southern Indiana and mid-April to early May in northern Indiana. Exact timing varies each year with weather conditions. For more precise application timing based on Growing Degree Days (GDD), visit Michigan State University's [GDD Tracker](#). Enter your ZIP code and select "Crabgrass Pre." The target GDD window for crabgrass prevention is 250-500.

GARDEN (Vegetables, small fruits and flowers)

- Plant seeds of cool-season crops directly in the garden as soon as the soil dries enough to be worked. When squeezed, soil should crumble instead of forming a ball. Cool-season crops that can be direct-seeded include peas, lettuce, spinach, carrots, beets, turnips, parsnips and Swiss chard.
- Plant transplants of cool-season crops, such as broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, kohlrabi and onions.
- Plant or transplant asparagus and rhubarb crowns. For best plant establishment, do not harvest until the third year after planting.
- Plant sections of certified, disease-free potato "seed" tubers.
- Allow the foliage of spring-flowering bulbs to remain in place after blooms fade. Leaves manufacture the food reserves, which are then stored in the bulb for a repeat showing next year.
- Plant hardy perennials, such as daylilies and delphiniums.
- Start tuberous begonias and caladiums indoors for transplanting to garden later.
- Remove winter mulch from strawberries, but keep mulch handy in case late frosts are predicted and to help keep weeds under control.
- Plant or transplant strawberries, raspberries, and other small fruit.
- Prune grape vines to remove dead or weakened limbs and to thin as needed.
- Repair support trellises as needed.



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