

GREEN THUMB PRINTS

Gardening is our Passion Education is our Purpose

August 2021

Next Monthly Meeting Thursday, August 12th at 6:00 pm

Brown Bag speaker will be
Rhonda Wolke

Demo of how to use forage from the garden
and natural outdoors to make
floral arrangements.

Rhonda, who has a BS in Landscape
Architecture from OSU, is a floral designer
and owns her own business.



Thanks Marlene and Rick
for hosting a great summer picnic.



IN THIS ISSUE.....

Upcoming Events.....Pg 1
Reuben's Ruminations.....Pg 2
Hancock Co. Fair Update.....Pg 3
An Evening with Hal Mann.....Pg 4
MG Happenings.....Pgs 5-7
Rain, Rain Go Away.....Pgs 8-10
It's Time To.....Pgs 11-12

Reuben's Ruminations ***August 2021***

President's Notes

August? How'd we get here already? The County Fair is almost upon us! Please contact Doris Salis to let her know how you can help. And we have the seminar to prepare for shortly after that. Please contact Lisa McClain to offer help. Let's all contribute to make the most of these great opportunities to reach the public.

Summer Picnic – A big “Thank You” to Marlene and husband, Rick Brunswick, for hosting a fun evening at their country estate! I think everyone who attended had an enjoyable time – even after late rain forced us inside.

Garden Projects – brief summaries

Entrance to Ag Center – The entrance to the Ag Center has been completely transformed! All done, just in time for Peggy to go get a new knee July 23! Peggy Biolchini and her team – and it has been a big team of MGV's plus some help from 4-H and Junior Leadership – have invested an incredible amount of gardening skill and sweat to make this happen. A huge thank you to all who have participated!

Habitat for Humanity Build – In a video that Habitat has produced, to be given to the new homeowners, Tim Brugeman instructs the homeowners on the care of their landscape plants.

Community Garden – Brint Simmons and his team have begun harvesting. The plot looks great!

Sensory Garden – Betsy DeFrancesco and her team are still in a maintenance mode

Volunteers – the Community Garden project will need serious attention as harvest ramps up throughout the rest of summer. The other projects also still need a little attention. Please contact the project leaders to offer your services – and get some hours.

Thanks to Tim Brugeman for the latest Courier article on Native Plants, which is posted on our Facebook page.

Recent rains have been great for the project gardens, and for my veg garden. I hope your gardens are all doing well, too.

Happy gardening!

Reuben

Hancock County Fair Update September 1-6

Believe it or not it is time for the Hancock County Fair!!!

Doris Salis and her committee
have been working to finalize plans.



At this point the greatest need is for
Master Gardeners to man the booth.

With 6 days of the fair it may take all of us volunteering
for several slots to get them filled.

Linda Finsel will be emailing out a sign up sheet.

A great way to get volunteer hours!!!

Fair Schedule:

Set Up.....August 31st

Fair.....September 1st-6th

Clean Up.....September 7th

Please contact Doris for questions at salis@findlay.edu

An Evening with Hal Mann

**Sponsored by the Hancock County
Master Gardener Volunteers**



**Thursday, September 30th
6:30 pm-8:00 pm
Hancock County OSU Extension Office**

- *Learn how to increase your yields and improve the health of your garden vegetables with native plants
- *Learn how to attract beneficial insects to deter pests
- *Learn how to eliminate the need for chemical sprays

This presentation will be free, but all Master Gardener members and participants must register on Eventbrite or by contacting the OSUE Office.

Limit of 50 participants

Registration information will be made available soon.

Goals of the Seminar

- To promote the concept of sustainability and the benefits of using native plants
- To increase awareness of our Hancock Co. Master Gardener Volunteer Program and its activities.
- To gain interest in our 2022 Master Gardener classes.

MG Happenings

Agricultural Service Center Gardens

If you haven't had a chance to check out the newly planted Agricultural Service Center Gardens it is definitely worth the drive out to the Extension Office. Within the past couple of weeks with the help of a multitude of Master Gardener Volunteers and the Junior Leadership Club, the Agricultural Service Center entrance has been transformed into a beautiful garden. All plants have been planted and a team of Master Gardener Volunteers have been watering the plants to keep them healthy.

Congratulations and **"THANK YOU to Peggy"** and her team for a beautiful make-over of which we can be proud. Peggy took on the project, planned during a pandemic, obtained approvals from Ed Lentz and the County, coordinated volunteers, removed and transplanted plants, made trips to North Branch Nursery and hauled plants with Karl. She also organized donations of materials and equipment, a watering schedule and more. Tasks were endless and hours incredible. Peggy is the true meaning of a "Master Gardener".



(Continued)

MG Happenings

Continued

Master Gardener Summer Picnic

After a Covid year without a picnic, we had a nice gathering of members and guests attend the 2021 Master Gardener Summer picnic at the home of Rick and Marlene Brunswick. The weather held out until near the end and then a nice rain shower watered all the gardens! Lee's Fried Chicken and sides made by the members attending made for a delicious meal. Thank you to all who attended.



(Continued)

MG Happenings

(Continued)

Community Gardens

Brint Simmons

The community garden project is benefiting from the abundance of rain we've had so far. Even when we were inundated a week or so ago, our garden came through in good shape. Some plots at the community garden were under water. We have had some problems with wildlife in spite of the fence. A groundhog (probably) has chewed through the fence in several places and deer have jumped it. Most of the damage has been to the beans. Even with these setbacks we have donated 412 pounds of produce so far. In addition to our other volunteers Bill Jones has helped with cultivation. **Thanks very much, Bill!!!**



Memorial Luncheon for Marilyn and Richard Schweitzer

We will celebrate the wonderful lives of Marilyn J. and Richard E. Schweitzer with a Memorial Luncheon at First Lutheran Church after the 10:30am service on Sunday, August 15, 2021. The luncheon will begin at 12 noon in Fellowship Hall in the basement of the church. The luncheon is hosted by sons Steve and Mark Schweitzer and their families. All who wish to remember and honor the lives of Marilyn and Richard are invited to attend.

Thanks!
Steve Schweitzer
(303) 550-5257

Rain, Rain Go Away!

Linda Casey

July 2021 will certainly go down in the record books as one of the wettest summer months in decades. All this rain might be keeping your lawn looking good, but it can be detrimental to your flower and vegetable gardens.



Photo credit: Steve Williams

Water is needed for healthy plant development. Water enters a plant's stem and travels up to its leaves where photosynthesis takes place, manufacturing food in the form of sugar. Without water plant cells become damaged and plants fail to grow as they become deprived of nutrients. But, too much moisture can be even worse than drought for plants. In really dry weather, a lot of plants will go dormant but they won't necessarily die. With the return of rain, things tend to perk up. In very warm and humid conditions with frequent showers, diseases and insects explode and can really do a lot of damage. Too much water injures plants, compacts soil, and leads to erosion. Root loss occurs when excess water reduces oxygen in the soil. A plant cannot grow without healthy roots. Extreme summer rain can leach nitrogen out of the soil; nitrogen is vital for photosynthesis

Plant diseases like bacteria and fungi flourish from prolonged leaf wetness and excess moisture around the plant root zone areas. Too much rain and overcast skies can slow the plant's growth and affect the blossom production. Heavy rain leaches nutrients in the soil and can trigger nutrient deficiency, affecting the plant growth.

Foraging insects like bees and native pollinators may find it challenging to travel long distances during wet periods in search of pollen and nectar. Meanwhile, slugs are multiplying and wreaking havoc on everything from cucumbers to hostas, tearing at the leaves as they slither across and leaving a sticky goo in their wake.

(Continued)

Rain, Rain Go Away! (Continued)



Mosquitoes, gnats and other insects also seem to be more abundant this summer. As we get deeper into August and September, mosquitoes could be an even bigger problem!

Though we can't stop the rain, there are some preventive measures that can be adapted to minimize the effect of too much moisture on the plant growth.

- Avoid walking on wet garden soil, especially between the plant rows, as it can compact the soil and limit the plant root growth. Spreading light mulch like bark chips or installing steppingstones in the main aisle can provide accessibility to your garden beds with minimum disturbance to the soil.
- If your garden bed is in a standing water area for a prolonged time, it's best to build a raised bed with compost, peat and perlite mixture (1:1:1) and start with new plantings. Many vegetable crops are sensitive to excess moisture and can succumb to root rot infection. Symptoms of root rot include stunted growth and wilting. Plants also may show a nutrient deficiency disorder like yellowing of leaves. Seeded crops like pumpkin, sunflower, squash, sweet corn and beans may not germinate under saturated soil.
- If your garden bed is in a low-lying area, place a barrier across the slope to divert the water or build a trench to channel the excess water away from the garden bed.
- Monitor your plants for any signs of disease infection. Common signs of leaf infection in vegetable crops includes leaf spots, blight (large patches of browning), and white powdery spores either on upper or lower surfaces of the leaves. Remove the infected leaves and get it diagnosed immediately at the Extension office. Timely application of preventive fungicide is crucial to minimize the spread of fungal disease on the plant.

(Continued)

Rain, Rain Go Away! (Continued)

- Around the base of your tomato, pepper and eggplants, spread a couple of layers of newspaper sheets covered with a thin layer of mulch on top to prevent the soil from splashing up on the lower leaves and stem. Trim any lower sets of leaves that are too close to the soil surface. This helps in minimizing the spread of disease spores from the soil surface and allows better air flow movement near the base of the plant.
- Rake any excess mulch around the base of the plants. Keep the mulch to a maximum of 1-2 inches deep to prevent soil erosion during wet periods. Excess mulch can prolong the soil wetness and can lead to root rot infection.
- Train your vine crops, including tomatoes and cucumbers, in a trellis or cage system to increase air flow movement around the plant. Provide stakes to support delicate plants from strong winds and rain.
- Hold off in applying any fertilizer or pre-emergent herbicides around your vegetable crops if there is a forecast of heavy rain in the next 24 hours.
- Slugs like to shelter in damp areas, so it's best to remove any of their hiding spots like wooden boards, flat stones or large wood chips in the garden areas.

Remember: Water doesn't come only in the form of rain. Humidity is water vapor in the air not necessarily caused by precipitation. When relative humidity levels are too high, or there is a lack of air circulation, a plant cannot make water evaporate or draw nutrients from the soil. One effect is a fungal disease such as powdery mildew.

The bottom line is this: **we've had enough rain for a while!** The soil is saturated, the ponds are full, and most rivers and streams are running high. By the end of July, we often complain that we need rain. Not this year!

“Native Plants Bring Blooms and Benefits”

Tim Brugeman

The Courier-July 10, 2021



IT'S Time To.....August

Linda Casey

HOME (Houseplants and indoor activities)

- *Prepare storage areas for overwintering tender flower bulbs and garden produce.
- *Thanksgiving (or Christmas) cactus can be forced into bloom for the holidays.
Provide 15 hours of complete darkness each day — for instance, from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m., for approximately eight weeks. Keep temperature at about 60-65 degrees F. Temperatures of 55°F will cause flower buds to set without dark treatment.
- *Dig and repot herbs, or take cuttings, for growing indoors over winter.
- *Store leftover garden seed in a cool, dry place. A sealable jar with a layer of silica gel or powdered milk in the bottom works well.
- *Bring houseplants moved outside for summer indoors before night temperatures fall below 55F. Gradually decrease light to acclimate the plants and help reduce leaf drop. Check and control insects and diseases before putting these plants near **other houseplants.**

YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals, and fruits)

- *Fall is a good time to plant many container-grown or balled-and-burlapped nursery stock. Prepare a good-size hole, plant at the same depth it grew in the nursery and water thoroughly.
- *Do not be alarmed if your evergreens, particularly white pine and arborvitae, drop some older needles. All evergreens shed needles at some time, but not all at once as deciduous plants do.
- *Harvest apples, pears, grapes, and ever-bearing strawberries and raspberries. For most fruits, flavor is the best indicator of ripeness, although color change also can be a good indicator. However, pears are best ripened off the tree, and grapes change color long before they are fully flavored, so sample the fruit to be sure.
- *Remove raspberry canes after they bear fruit.
- *Clean up fallen fruits, twigs and leaves around apple (including crabapple) and other fruit trees to reduce disease and insect carryover.
- *To promote the lawn's recovery from summer stress, apply high-nitrogen fertilizer at the rate of 0.5 to 1 pound actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet. Reseed bare spots or new lawns using a good-quality seed mixture. Seeding in late summer allows the turf to maximize its establishment and rooting prior to the next summer's heat and drought.

(Continued)



IT'S Time To.....August

(Continued)

GARDEN (Vegetables, small fruits, and flowers)

- *Dig onions and garlic after tops fall over naturally and necks begin to dry.
- *Plant radishes, green onion sets, lettuce and spinach for fall harvest.
- *Thin fall crops such as lettuce and carrots that were planted earlier.
- *Harvest crops such as tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, melons and sweet potatoes before frost, or cover plants with blankets, newspaper, etc., (but not plastic) to protect them from light frost.
- *Mature green tomatoes can be ripened indoors. Individually wrap fruits in newspaper, or leave them on the vine, pulling the entire plant out of the garden. Store in a cool location, about 55-60F.
- *Harvest winter squash when mature (skin is tough) with deep, solid color, but before hard frost. Some cultivars will show an orange blush when mature.
- *Plant, transplant or divide peonies, daylilies, iris and phlox.
- *Save plants such as coleus, wax begonias, impatiens or fuchsia for indoor growing over winter. Dig plants and cut them back about halfway, or take cuttings of shoot tips, and root them in moist vermiculite, soil mix or perlite.
- *Watch for garden chrysanthemums to bloom as days grow shorter. Some may have bloomed earlier this summer, which will decrease the number of fall blooms.
- *Dig tender bulbs, such as cannas, caladiums, tuberous begonias and gladiolus, before frost. Allow to air dry, and store in dry peat moss or vermiculite.
- *Cut flowers, such as strawflower, statice, baby's breath and celosia, for drying and hang upside down in a dry, well-ventilated area.





THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Ohio State University Extension
Hancock County
7868 County Road 140 Suite B
Findlay, OH 45840
419-422-3851
Facebook: Master Gardeners of Hancock County Ohio
hancock.osu.edu



The Master Gardener “Green Thumb Prints” is a publication of the Ohio State University Extension, Hancock County, 7868 County Road 140 Suite B Findlay, OH 45840 419-422-3851.

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information, visit cfaesdiversity.osu.edu. For an accessible format of this publication, visit cfaes.osu.edu/accessibility.