

GREEN THUMB PRINTS

Gardening is our Passion Education is our Purpose

June 2021

June Monthly Meeting

Thursday, June 10th
held in-person at the Ag Center
starting at 6:00 PM

Stearn's Garden Tour

Saturday, June 12th
10:00 am-12:00pm
See page 5 for details.

A special thank you to
Linda Casey
who provides us with an
educational article and
the "It's Time To...."
article in each month's
newsletter.

Thank you Linda!!!!**IN THIS ISSUE.....**

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Reuben's Ruminations

June 2021

President's Notes for June, 2021

As we turn the calendar to June, we will start to modify our protocols for meetings and gatherings. We will begin to follow the Hancock County Health Department COVID-19 guidelines. Those who are not vaccinated are encouraged to wear a mask during events. (Rules and guidelines are subject to change.)

We're going to meet in-person again in June. This time indoors! June meeting will be indoors at the Ag Center. Limited refreshments (bottled/canned drinks) available.

Emeritus Status – Barb Sherman has decided to take a less active role and has been granted emeritus status. We appreciate all Barb's contributions to the organization over many years and wish her well in "retirement."

New Committee Chair – Carolyn Lavender has volunteered to chair the Social & Fundraiser Committee, replacing Kay Sidaway. For now she will also be heading up the Refreshments program previously handled by Barb Sherman. Thank you Carolyn, and Kay and Barb for your past contributions.

Summer Picnic – We will have one this year! Be sure to come to the June meeting so that you can sign up for the Summer Picnic July 15. Marlene Brunswick will have details

Garden Projects – more complete updates at the June meeting, but brief summaries here

Entrance to Ag Center – Peggy Biolchini has prepared a diagram and complete plant list as documentation to back up presentation to the County Commissioners, which Ed Lentz may have given by the time you see this.

Habitat for Humanity Build – Tim Brugeman has provided diagrams and plant list to Habitat for the two houses near completion. Tim and his team will guide the planting by volunteers June 15

Community Garden – Brint Simmons and his team have fenced our (large) plot at the Community Garden, and have completed planting. I hope you participated in the "straw party".

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

Volunteers – all of these projects can probably use more volunteers to spread the workload. For sure the Community Garden project will need ongoing attention throughout the summer until harvest is complete. Please contact the project leaders to offer your services.

We still have opportunities for you to spread your knowledge (and build some hours):

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 to schedule a presentation

Thanks to Linda Leiendecker for the latest Courier article on vegetable gardening and to Laurie Pressel for coordinating and editing. Also, thanks to Betsy DeFrancesco for posting them on our Facebook page.

Happy gardening!

Reuben

Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers
Meeting Minutes
May 13, 2021

Meeting was held outdoors in parking lot of Agricultural Services Building. There were 26 people in attendance.

At 6:17 pm a plant exchange was begun, coordinated by Karla Dennis.

- It was noted that some of the donated plants will be used for the front garden of the Ag Services building.

Meeting began at 6:47

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the April 8, 2021 membership meeting were approved; motion: Ann Woolum; second: Jeri Wenger.

Treasurer's Report – Ann Woolum

- \$7082.27 in checking account, of which \$1203.35 is restricted for the Community Garden, leaving \$5878.92 unrestricted.
- Report approved; motion: Linda Finsel; second: Karla Dennis.

President's Comments

- Thanks to the committees that have been working on their projects.
- Still need a chair for the Brown Bag Committee.

Volunteer Coordinator – Karl Farwig – No report

Committees

- Administrative – Lynn Farwig – No report.
- Social and Fundraising – Committee needs to begin planning for summer picnic.
- Service –
 - Ag Center Garden – Peggy Biolchini – Committee has been working with the County maintenance department who have been very helpful. The bushes have been removed by them. Thank you to Judi Clymer, Linda Finsel, Reuben DeBolt, Tim Brugeman, Betsy DeFrancesco, and Jeri Wenger for all their work in this garden. The design plan is for native plants in the center garden with more formal plantings in the side gardens. The Power Point presentation will be revised for Ed Lentz to present it to the County Commissioners in a few weeks.

(Continued)

Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers
Meeting Minutes
May 13, 2021
(Continued)

- Service_-(Continued)
 - Community Garden – Brint Simmons - Planting has begun. The plot this year will be larger so Tom Lawrence’s farm will not be used. Thanks to Karl Farwig for tilling the entire Community Garden. Contact Brint to help this summer.
 - Sensory Garden – Betsy DeFrancesco - The weeding has been done.
 - Habitat for Humanity – The buildings are up, and work is moving fast. The new contact person for Habitat is Armand Goetz. Some of the plants removed from the front of the Ag Center will be used at the Habitat House project. Dedication will be June 26, 2021.
- Teaching – Judi Clymer
 - Thank you to the people who volunteered for the Mother’s Day Out event and for arranging the event so quickly. There were 2 to 4 people at each location.
 - There are still openings for Courier articles in November and December.
 - Still need volunteers for 50 North and Library presentations. They want to start them in May. Contact Linda Finsel to volunteer. Per Karl Farwig, teachers will still need to follow the new state Covid-19 rules as well as any OSU rules.
- Education – Peggy Biolchini
 - A sign-up sheet was passed around for the field trip on June 12th. Thanks to Ann Woolum for coordinating. Ann reported that the rain date will be June 25th. Bring your lawn chairs. If bringing a guest, let Ann know so she has an accurate head count. Car pooling is not allowed for this event due to Covid-19 rules.
 - Ask A Master Gardener – Doris Salis – only 10 requests since February.

Old Business – None.

New Business – None.

Motion to Adjourn: Lynn Farwig; second: Ann Woolum. Motion passed.

Next Meeting: June 10, 2021

Respectfully submitted: Elaine P Reynolds, Secretary



STEARNS GARDEN TOUR in FOSTORIA

3521 Baird Road

June 12, 2021

10 a.m. - 12 noon

Rain Date: June 26, 2021

Joe and Brenda Stearns (both totally vaccinated) of rural Fostoria have invited us to visit their unique rural garden that consists of themed areas including a Peony Garden, Greek Garden, Japanese Garden, Rose Garden, and White Garden. They also have multiple large sculptures throughout the garden areas.

They have a golf cart that will be sanitized for several people to use if needed and a large deck (20'x75') with 20 seats at 4 tables and 18 seats away from tables (all sanitized) that we can use or bring your own chair if you prefer. Cookies and beverages will be provided.

We will begin to follow the Hancock County Health Department COVID-19 guidelines. Those who are not vaccinated are encouraged to wear a mask during the event. Car pooling is allowed.

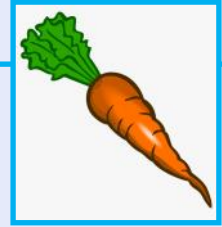
DIRECTIONS:

Upon arriving in Fostoria via State Route 12, continue on Countyline Street N and follow Rt. 199 North past Reineke Ford. Go approximately 4 miles, noting large oil storage tanks on the right. Turn Left (West) onto Brandeberry Road. Continue about 2 miles. This road dead ends into their home's circular driveway at 3521 Baird Road. Just go right and then a left into their driveway - only home in the area. The brick home has pillars on the front and sits back about 250 feet from the road. If you get lost or turned around, you can call Joe at 419-348-1566 for help!

Hope you will be able to join us and feel free to bring a guest to this **free** outdoor event.

Sharon

MG Happenings



Community Gardens Brint Simmons

Our community garden project is completely planted, thanks to several volunteers: John Leiendecker, Karl and Lynn Farwig, Linda Finsel, Ann Woolum, Lisa McClain, Reuben DeBolt, and my granddaughter Kate Simmons. We also want to thank Bill Jones for starting cabbage, tomato and pepper plants for us. Our crops include cabbage, tomatoes, peppers, green beans, carrots, potatoes, cucumbers, summer squash, spaghetti squash, zucchini, and pumpkins.

We are also participating in the OSU Extension Vegetable Trials, growing two varieties each of cucumbers, green beans, and summer squash. The purpose of the trials is to evaluate and compare the two varieties of each vegetable, providing data to help Ohio gardeners choose better varieties for their home gardens.

Now the next tasks in the garden include watering and cultivating. It is vital that we stay ahead of the weeds. Any time you can donate to the project will be helpful and appreciated. Just let me know when you are available. brintsimmons@sbcglobal.net

Hancock County Fair Doris Salis

Please contact me by email salis@findlay.edu if you are willing to help with our fair booth this year. Some chores needed:

1. MG banner for the booth (we have money for a new one). I believe Bill Jones has done the banner in the past.
2. Poster display
3. Interactive educational games
4. Plants for display
5. Give-away goodies



There may be other things we'd like to do. For example, is there a theme we'd like to follow. We can get together at the end of July so we can coordinate our activities. Meanwhile please email me if you have an interest in any of the above or if you have a new idea for the booth. Thanks! Doris

Continued

MG Happenings

Continued

Ag Center Garden Update

by Peggy Biolchini, Chairman

All the juniper bushes have been removed, the stone mulch and pathway have been removed and the roots from the junipers have been scraped away from the top layer of soil. Unfortunately, the county maintenance broke a main root to the tree in the west center island garden bed. I have been keeping the tree watered and hope the tree will only suffer minor damage. I have performed a soil test on three garden beds and received the results. I plan to have the soil amended before we plant anything.

I'd like to thank Judi Clymer and Linda Finsel for helping move and repot or replant all the perennials that were in the way of the bulldozer. We discovered that we have more perennials than we need and have offered the extras to the Habitat for Humanity new home site.

I have selected all perennials and replacement bushes for the Ag Center and created a design layout. I have also obtained pricing on all the selected perennials and shrubs from North Branch nursery and presented that to Ed Lentz. I am currently waiting for Ed Lentz to present our revised proposal to the County Commissioners for funding support before moving forward with anything.

Our committee will keep the area weeded and watered as necessary.

One big surprise is that we have a new resident in the garden, a female mallard duck who has made her nest under a tree. She has stayed on her nest even though there was a bulldozer in the area. She chose her nest site wisely as the east center garden bed that she is in did not need to be bulldozed.



New Resident in Garden

Dig Into Vegetable Gardening

Linda Leiendecker

The Courier-May 8, 2021

Continued

MG Happenings

Continued

Mother's Day Let's Go Gardening May 8th

Thank you to everyone who volunteered at one of the garden centers yesterday to help people with gardening questions! I hope you all enjoyed the day out and the chance to show support for the gardening public.

Very special thanks to Judi Clymer for jumping at the chance to do something in public and for pulling this all together in quick fashion! Great job Judi! And thanks to Tim Brugeman for quickly having posters made, just in the nick of time.

Reuben



Continued

MG Happenings

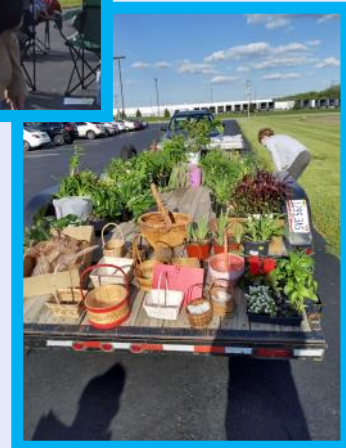
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Plant Exchange

May 13th

26 people in attendance.

How nice to be back together!!!



Habitat for Humanity Landscaping

Tim Brugeman

Landscaping at the Habitat for Humanity homes in West Park has been delayed to start June 15.

While our MGCV plans have been completed, water service and general construction slowed on both homes. We will still provide some guidance to volunteers when they do the work.

Thanks to our team Jeri Wenger, Judi Clymer and Marilyn Beltz.

Protect Pollinators



Photo credit: Rosie Lerner, Purdue Extension

Pollinators are all the “buzz” these days with a federal proclamation designating June 21-27 as National Pollinator Week. The focus of this designation by the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and the Interior is to promote the health of pollinators, which are critical to food and ecosystems.

Did you know that the honeybee is native to Europe and was introduced to the U.S.? While honeybees are certainly important, there are also numerous other pollinator species including native bees, butterflies and moths, beetles, birds and bats. Many pollinators have suffered from loss of habitat, chemical misuse, diseases and parasites.

Gardeners play a critical role in the nurturing and conservation of both native and introduced pollinators. Gardens and landscapes provide pollinators with food, water, shelter and habitat to complete their life cycles. Urban areas typically feature large areas of pavement and buildings and offer little in the way of food or shelter for pollinators – garden plantings can help bridge the gap.

Honeybees and other pollinators need protein from flower pollen and carbohydrates from flower nectar. Provide a variety of different types of flowers, and aim to have three different flower species in bloom throughout the growing season. Showy, colorful flowers and massed groups of flowers, particularly in small gardens, provide efficient feeding stations for the pollinators, while enhancing your gardens. Flowering trees and shrubs also provide excellent food sources.

Pollinators also need shelter from wind, scorching sun and heavy rains. Plants, garden structures such as fences, and windbreaks may make the garden more attractive to pollinators.

Pesticides can harm bees and other pollinators directly or may change their behavior or reproductive potential. Some chemicals make pollinators more susceptible to disease. You can protect pollinators by using alternative prevention and control strategies, such as hand-picking pests, mulching, and by being selective when it becomes necessary to use pesticides.

Read and follow all label directions, and pay particular attention to timing your application to minimize impact on pollinators. Generally, bees and others are less active in early morning or at dusk. Choose spray rather than dust formulations of pesticides to lessen potential for contact. Avoid using pesticides in areas where pollinators are likely to forage. Maintain a buffer “no-spray area” when possible, and wait until flowers have faded (petal-fall) before applying pesticides. Mow the lawn to remove flowers of weeds before spraying. Want to learn more? Here is a link to National Pollinator Week:

<http://pollinator.org/pollinatorweek/>



Ask A Gardener

February-March-April 2021

Submitted by Doris Salis

How to trim apple tree? *Prune late winter/early spring; prune water spouts; cut branch 1/2 to 1/2 inch above the connecting branch. Do not apply dressing. Also, improve fruit by applying fungicide and insecticide every week after bloom drop. Ortho type.*

<https://docplayer.net/13394894-Midwest-home-fruit-production-guide.html>

<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/pnw400/html>

<https://extension.umaine.edu/fruit/growing-fruit-trees-in-maine/pruning/>

How to get rid of cockroaches? *Concerned a neighbor she was trying to help. Told her that cockroach traps were not very helpful. Need a professional exterminator. She consulted one and was told the same thing. Phone is her only contact but urged her to call if more questions.*

How to interpret soil test? *TB and BJ how to bring a lawns and gardens with sandy soil into good condition. Details on timing and applications were given. Recommended FACT sheet from OSU Extension.*

Is it ok to plant pumpkins among corn stubble? *Sent web sites. It seems the biggest problem with corn stubble could be the corn seed maggot so plant in warm soil in July so the seed germinates quickly. Since Round-up was used in the corn field, residual herbicide should not be a problem. Remember the Pumpkins need a low pH (6.0-6.3) and a soil test would be advisable.*

<https://extension.psu.edu/pumpkin-production>

How to prep raised bed? *Discussed soil type and depth and use of compost, fertilizers.*

Several calls on identifying weeds how to kill them.

How protect perennials from cold/frost? *Cover with a light material. Can also plant perennials in containers sunk in the ground, so they can be moved to shelter during a hard frost.*

Pine tree problem with dying branches. *Diagnosed a fungal disease. Try spraying, but the tree may be too old and therefore need replaced.*

“Why Dandelions Are More Than Just a Weed”

Hello, I'm a dandelion. A lot of people call me a weed but I'm a friend and come to help you!

When you see me, remember that I'm the ONLY one who wants and can grow in that particular spot. Because:

Either the soil is too compact / hard / stomped and I want to loosen it for you with my roots.

Or there is too little calcium in the soil - don't worry, I will replenish that for you with the dying of my leaves.

Or the soil is too acidic. But I will also improve that for you if you give me the chance.

Or a mixture of the above reasons, of course.

I'm here because your soil needs my help so best you let me grow without disturbing me! When everything is fixed, I will disappear again, I promise!

Are you trying to remove me prematurely with my root? However meticulous you are, I will return 2x as strong! Just until your soil is improved.

You can even tell by my growth at which stage my help is at. If my leaves are flat on the ground then I'm far from ready but if they all reach up then I'm already a long way on my way.

Something completely different is that I am 1 of the first bloomers in spring so I will announce spring / summer for you.

During the day when it's hot, I open my flowers but in the evening when it cools off I close them again quickly. In fact, if it's not hot enough during the day I won't open them at all!

My flowers are the first food for insects after hibernation and unlike most other plants, I have pollen AND nectar, not merely one OR the other! And I am generous with them!

My flowers are even delicious for you people by the way, did you know? I used to be called “honey (or gold) of the poor” because my flowers are so sweet in e.g. jam, sauce or salad! The internet is full of recipes - check them out.

But wait until the end of May or later before you start picking and even then, don't pick everything yet! The biodiversity and bees will be very grateful!

And lastly: do you see me standing but instead of yellow petals I have a dandelion clock of fluff? Then make a wish..... and blow hard..... I'll try to make your wish come true!

Your friend, the dandelion!

Adapted from Paula Kok - De Boer





IT'S Time To.....June

HOME (Houseplants and indoor activities)

- Closely watch houseplants that have been set outdoors. They need more water than they did indoors. They can dry out rapidly in hot, summer breezes.
- Propagate houseplants by taking cuttings from vigorously growing plants. Place the cut end in rooting media (such as perlite, vermiculite, or peat moss soil mix). Enclose in plastic and keep out of direct sunlight. Indoor plants will require more frequent watering and fertilizing as they increase their summer growth.
- Cut garden flowers for indoor beauty. Recut the stems again just before placing in water. Add a floral preservative, and change the solution frequently.

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.
- Mow grass regularly but mow high to help protect plant crowns from heat stress.
- Unless excessive, leave lawn clippings on the lawn.
- To keep the 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.
- Keep newly established plants watered during dry weather. Allow water to penetrate deeply into soil rather than sprinkling frequently and lightly.
- Apply mulch around young plants to help conserve soil moisture and control weeds.
- Continue a fruit tree spray program to keep diseases and insects under control.
- Remove water sprouts (sprouts from the trunk) and suckers (sprouts from the roots) from fruit trees.
- For those fortunate growers who have a good crop this year, prop up fruit tree branches that are heavily loaded with fruit.
- Be careful to avoid nicking tree trunks while mowing.

(Continued)



IT'S Time To.....June

(Continued)

GARDEN (Vegetables, small fruits, and flowers)

- Discontinue harvesting 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. You can use many materials, including straw, chopped corncobs, bark chips, shredded paper, and grass clippings.
- Blanch (exclude light from) cauliflower when heads are just 2 inches in diameter. Tie leaves up and over the developing head.
- Control weeds. 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, because they will bolt (that is, 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 the spent blooms of peony, iris, delphiniums, and other flowers.
- Pinch the shoot tips of chrysanthemums, impatiens, petunias, and coleus to promote bushier growth.
- Remove the 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.

Linda Casey



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.

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