

GREEN THUMB PRINTS

Gardening is our Passion Education is our Purpose

May 2021

Mother's Day Out**Saturday, May 8th**

See page 7 for details.

Plant Exchange is Back!!!**Thursday, May 13th at 6:00 pm**

See page 6 for details.

RSVP Requested for Field Trip to**Stearns-Saturday, June 12th**

There will be a sign-up sheet at the Plant Exchange or you can email your RSVP to Sharon Milligan at milligan@findlay.edu.

See page 7 for more information.



**Work Session at OSUE Entrance
held on Saturday, April 10th**

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Reuben's Ruminations

May 2021

President's Notes

It's hard to believe we're already talking about May. Since I wrote last month, GDD have gone from 80 to 228 (compared to 110 a year ago) in spite of 4" of snow last week. As I look around my place, daffodils have mostly come and gone, but plenty of trees are blooming, and peonies are now growing fast. So is the rhubarb. I'm sure everyone else with asparagus has more than I do.

We're going to meet in-person! May meeting will be outdoors at the Ag Center. And we will have our plant exchange.

When you come to the May meeting, you may notice that the entrance area looks a bit different than it did. Actually, a lot different! Check it out on our Facebook page. In the course of several work sessions, Peggy Biolchini and her team of volunteers have made substantial progress removing overgrown perennials and re-positioning some plants. Then the County maintenance folks really changed things by removing all the overgrown junipers and some yews. The plan that Peggy outlined at the April meeting will have to be accelerated, as some of the juniper removal was actually expected for phase 2 next year.

The Habitat for Humanity project is approaching fast. Habitat has churned up their property and progressed rapidly with foundation work and house construction. Planting new landscaping is supposed to take place the last week of May. Tim is in touch with the project manager.

Thank you to Peggy Biolchini for presenting April 21 to the Findlay Rotary Club on spring garden prep.

As you know, Kay Sidaway suffered another loss of a loved one, with the untimely passing of her daughter. We have made a donation to the Putnam County Homecare and Hospice in her memory.

Not surprisingly, Kay has asked to have a break from MGCV responsibilities. This means that, in addition to needing someone to fill the role of coordinator for Brown Bag, we now have an opportunity for someone to serve as chair of the Social and Fundraising Committee. Anyone who would like to serve in either of these roles, please, contact me.

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

If writing is more your thing, there are some openings for Courier articles later in the year. Thanks to Cheryl Miller for the latest article on growing plants for cut flowers, 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.

Happy gardening!

Reuben

Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers
Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2021

At 6:34 pm. President Reuben DeBolt began the Zoom meeting by introducing the Brown Bag webinar, "The Pollinator Report" with Steve Foltz from the Cincinnati Zoo and Joe Boggs from the OSU Dept of Entomology. There were 24 participants in attendance.

At 7:37 pm the recording was ended, and President DeBolt began the formal meeting.

President's Comments

- Karl Farwig was asked to forward a link to the webinar to all MG members for those who missed it or who want to watch the Q&A portion.
- Kay Sidaway's daughter passed away recently. Kay has asked to be listed as an inactive member of Master Gardeners. This means her positions as Social & Fundraiser Chair and as Apparel Coordinator will now need to be filled. Anyone willing to fill either of those positions, please notify Reuben DeBolt.
- Still need a chair for the Brown Bag Committee.

Minutes of the previous meeting

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

Treasurer's Report – Ann Woolum

- No expenses this month.
- \$7107.27 in checking account, of which \$1203.35 is restricted for the Community Garden, leaving \$5903.92 unrestricted.
- Motion to approve: Lynn Farwig; second: Rose Morrison; motion passed.

Volunteer Coordinator – Karl Farwig

- Karl has moved to a new home.
- There is still no replacement for VMS. The test software was not adequate. Members are reminded NOT to enter data into VMS. Keep paper records until a new system is in place.

Extension Report – Ed Lentz

- Hancock County COVID rating is still RED, which means there are still severe restrictions in place for any in-person meetings.
- When planning for the revamp of the gardens at the entrance to the Ag Center building, remember that it is a county government building and therefore there are rules to follow before any changes can be made. It will require a presentation to the County Commissioners and their vote of approval.

Committees

- Administrative – Lynn Farwig – nothing to report.
- Social and Fundraising – No report.

(CONTINUED)

Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers
Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2021
(CONTINUED)

Committees-(Continued)

- Service – Tim Brugeman
 - Community Garden – Brint Simmons reported that they are waiting for the garden to be rototilled. In the past this has been done by Terry Badertscher, who recently passed away, so it is unknown who will do it this year. Per Karl Farwig, our portion of the garden at Tom Lawrence's place has been tilled. Fencing for our plot at the Community Garden has been purchased. Currently there are 2 volunteers for this project, Brint would like to have 8 to 10 more. Contact him to volunteer.
 - Sensory Garden – Betsy DeFrancesco reported that cleanup of this garden has begun. She will be scheduling some additional workdays for it.
 - Habitat for Humanity – Tim Brugeman reported that they are currently clearing the land. They have volunteers scheduled to install the landscaping in about 5 weeks. The MG committee of 4 will only act as advisors to the people doing the planting.
- Teaching – Judi Clymer
 - Linda Leiendecker is scheduled to provide the Courier article for April. Betsy DeFrancesco has May. There are still openings for the September, November and December articles. Contact Judi or Lori Pressel to volunteer.
 - Still need volunteers for 50 North and Library presentations.
 - Peggy Biolchini will be doing a presentation to the Rotary Club this month.
- Education – Peggy Biolchini
 - Nothing new to report on the seminar.
 - Doris Salis reported that Ask a Master Gardener has received 4 requests for help in March and only 1 so far in April, which is much fewer than last year.

Old Business

Peggy Biolchini presented a detailed power point on "Garden Renovation Proposal for the Hancock County Agricultural Service Center Entrance". The goal of the project is: To improve and update existing landscaping at the entrance of the Hancock County Agricultural Service Center; To create a landscape environment that will be low maintenance, high impact and drought tolerant; and To give visitors a welcome and lasting impression. There will be two phases to the project in 2021 and 2022. There was lengthy discussion about the timing of the project and getting the approval and assistance of the County.

New Business

Ann Woolum raised the question of how we can notify the whole group of scheduled workdays now that we don't have VMS. It was recommended that this should be done through email to the whole group, but a reminder was given that these workdays are currently limited to 6 people due to COVID restrictions.

Motion to Adjourn: Tim Brugeman; second: Doris Salis. Meeting adjourned at 8:51 pm.

Next Meeting: May 13, 2021, 6:30pm

Respectfully submitted: Elaine P Reynolds, Secretary

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Ohio State Extension Lifts Some Restrictions

We have been notified that Ohio State has lifted some of the restrictions related to the Master Gardener Volunteer work. At this point, all meetings and programs can be planned and conducted. However, local health guidelines must be followed such as mask usage, distancing, sanitizing, and limiting attendance to less than 300. Food and beverages can be provided only if it is packaged and contained from a purchased supplier. Before you continue with execution of your plans, you **should communicate with me** on your intentions prior to assuming things can just happen.

For example, if you plan to hold meetings in the big conference room at the Extension Office, there can only be around 25 in that room to accommodate the distancing rules.

It is up to each of us to ensure we follow local health rules. There will be more information provided on this topic at our next monthly meeting.

All questions related to this change in policy should be directed **khfarwig@gmail.com**.

Karl Farwig



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May Plant Exchange

Thursday, May 13th-6:00 pm

Karl Farwig

On May 13 (May 20 raindate), the Master Gardeners of Hancock County will hold a plant exchange outside in the grass behind the Extension office. You are asked to bring plant(s) that you would like to share with other Master Gardeners. It is not necessary to go buy a plant, but you can do that if you decide to go that route. The main purpose is to share plants that you have in your garden.

It is very important that everyone who attends follow COVID-19 rules. Here is the process everyone must follow with no exceptions:

- Masks must be fully worn over mouth and nose at all times unless eating or drinking.
- You must stay 6' apart unless you live in the same residence.
- You must bring your own lawn chair to sit in during the meeting.
- Plant pots should be labeled and big and clear for someone to read it without touching the pots.
- You are not to touch the pots unless you plan to take it with you.
- Do not attend the event if you feel ill for any reason.
- You are allowed to bring any food and drink you wish to consume. There is to be no sharing of food or beverage.
- You must stay 6' feet apart when looking for a plant and we will only have a few people looking at the plants at a time.

Karla Dennis will be setting up the site and giving directions for the selection of plants. There will be a brief business meeting following the plant exchange.

Should you have any questions about the process and/or COVID-19 rules we must follow, please direct them to Karl Farwig at khfarwig@gmail.com.

I hope to see everyone there on the 13th. The way we handle this meeting could drive the willingness to hold future meetings.

*Dietsch's ice cream bars and sandwiches
will be provided.*

MG Happenings

Mother's Day Out-Saturday, May 8th

Given that Ohio State Extension has removed some of the restrictions on programming, Judi Clymer has planned the Mother's Day Out event. This event is where MGVs answer questions at the garden centers the day before Mother's Day, a typically busy day for the garden centers. Now is the time for you to get some service hours and volunteer to answer questions for the public. This is a great opportunity for you and our group to get back into our programming. This program will take place Saturday, May 8 at the following places and times:

Brinkman's Country Corner	9:00-1:00 and 1:00-5:00
Feasel's	9:00-12:00 and 12:00-3:00
Garden Central	10:00-1:00 and 1:00-4:00
Lowe's	8:00-12:00 and 12:00-4:00

Judi has requested that you call or text her at **419-345-8086** with your name, place where you want to participate and the hours you want to work. These hours count towards the required 20 service hours for this year. What a good way to get several of your service hours!

It is imperative that everyone who works these events follow the COVID health guidelines of wearing a face mask properly even if outside, distancing at least 6', use of sanitizers, and no sharing of food, drink, or tools.

Trip to Joe and Brenda Stearns in Fostoria-June 12th

Joe and Brenda Stearns of Fostoria have invited us to tour their uniquely landscaped garden on Saturday, June 12, beginning at 10 a.m. and concluding around noon. You will need to bring your own food and beverage. COVID-19 protocol needs to be followed including use of sanitizers, masks, and distancing. Please bring your own lawn chair to sit on during the fellowship and eating time. 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.

There will be a sign-up sheet at the plant exchange or you can email your RSVP to Sharon Milligan, milligan@findlay.edu.

We hope you can take a morning out of your busy schedule to attend this event.
Rain date is scheduled for June 26th.

3521 Baird Rd., Fostoria, Ohio

Thanks to Sharon Milligan for planning this trip!!!

Continued

MG Happenings

Continued

OSUE Garden Update

Peggy Biolchini

The Ag Service Center Garden Committee has met several times in April to clean up the perennial garden and both center flower beds. Peggy Biolchini submitted a power point proposal explaining the work that needed to be done and an estimated cost to complete the work to Ed Lentz in early April. It was the desire of the Ag Service Center Garden Committee to get new perennials in the ground while they are young to reduce transplant shock and to give them time to get well established.

The county maintenance crew has removed the juniper and Taxus bushes including stumps as recommended. They have also removed the garden bench. Ed Lentz has given the committee the green light to do further work on the perennial garden beds. We are still waiting to hear from Ed exactly what the county commissioners have planned for the foundation plantings and how much money they are going to put into the project.

With all the bushes removed a new plan for the perennial flower beds will be created.

The committee would like to thank the following MGv for their generous plant donations to the Ag Service Center gardens:

Judi Clymer – Sedum

Karla Dennis – Purple Coneflower

Linda Finsel – Rudbeckia

Lisa McClain - Yarrow



Soil Tests

Many of you are asked about the process of doing soil tests. Prior to 2020, residents could drop soil off at the Extension office. However, at this point they **cannot** accept soil to be tested. Residents can be directed to our website <https://hancock.osu.edu/program-areas/agriculture-and-natural-resources/soil-testing> to learn about soil testing and the labs they can send soil to get tested. Once the resident receives the test results, he or she can contact the office to have them reviewed by a Master Gardener (currently done by Bill Jones) for recommendations. Recommendations will be sent directly to the resident.



Should you have any questions on this, please contact:

Karl Farwig at khfarwig@gmail.com

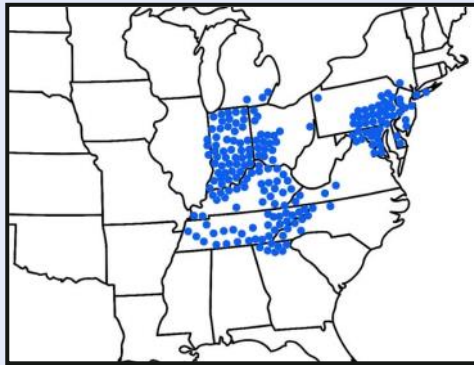
or

Ed Lentz at lentz.38@osu.edu

What's the Buzz?

Linda Casey

This year will mark the re-emergence of Brood X, or the Great Eastern Brood, of periodical cicadas — those large, winged, mostly harmless large flying insects are known for their almost deafening buzz.



It is estimated that we may see billions of cicadas in southwest Ohio and northern parts of western Ohio, starting in May. In 2004, when this brood last emerged, there were some areas where cicadas were crawling out of the ground at a rate of more than 356 cicadas per square yard. Where there are no trees, there will be no cicadas. But in other areas, under trees, the ground can be covered.

One of the largest broods of periodical cicadas in the nation, Brood X will emerge in these 15 other states: Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia, as well as in Washington D.C. The insects, which can be up to 1½ inches in length, are expected to blanket the western part of Ohio.

“The end of May through June, it can get pretty loud — if you are in an area where they are numerous, there can be hundreds of thousands, or millions, of them,” said Howard Russell, an entomologist, or insect scientist, at Michigan State University. A jet plane can reach about 80 decibels. But a group of male cicadas performing mating calls in a tree have been recorded to hit 96 decibels.

Unlike greenish, annual cicadas, periodical cicadas are known for their black bodies and bold, red eyes. Their mass, in-unison emergence every 17 years is one of nature's great mysteries.



(Continued)

What's the Buzz?

(Continued)

The cicadas live underground in wingless nymph form, about a foot or two down, feeding on sap from tree roots — and that's where they feed for 17 years. On a spring day, the nymphs, all together, burrow their way to the surface and make their mass emergence. They climb up on the nearest thing they can find, and molt for the final time. At that time they are white — their exoskeleton hasn't hardened yet. That takes five or six days. Then the adult is ready to look for a mate.



Why they aren't triggered to do this in, say, the 15th or 16th spring isn't fully understood. From underground, periodical cicadas have some method of counting the number of times deciduous trees regrow their leaves. The cicadas come out after the 'right' number. Why do they stay underground for 17-years? The prevailing research suggests they've evolved a long, 17-year lifecycle to avoid predators that can sync up with their lifecycle & emergence. Research also suggests that their huge numbers allow them to overwhelm predators, so enough of them will live on to breed and perpetuate the brood. The bugs will even, in unison, postpone their emergence for a day or two if the weather is rainy or otherwise uncooperative.

If you're planting trees, wait until July. If your yard doesn't get cicadas by the first week of June, it's probably safe to plant in June. Otherwise, you can use netting to keep cicadas from laying eggs in the branches of fragile trees. It's the egg-laying that does damage. They usually avoid garden and flowering plants because their stems aren't strong enough for an egg nest.

Week	Animals Digging for them	Holes & Chimneys appear	Nymphs Emerge	Singing	Chorusing & Wing Flicking	Mating	Egg Laying	Die-off	Flagging of tree foliage	Eggs Hatch
14-Mar										
21-Mar										
28-Mar										
4-Apr										
11-Apr										
18-Apr										
25-Apr										
2-May										
9-May										
16-May										
23-May										
30-May										
6-Jun										
13-Jun										
20-Jun										
27-Jun										
4-Jul										
11-Jul										
18-Jul										
25-Jul										
1-Aug										
8-Aug										
15-Aug										

(Continued)

What's the Buzz?

(Continued)

Aside from being loud — their sound is a cross between a buzz and a rattle — the cicadas really won't do any major damage. They aren't drawn indoors. They don't bite.

And you can eat them, too. BLEH! If you're so inclined, cicadas can even make a low-fat, high-protein snack. Dried cicadas provide a crunch with a nutty, earthy taste, according to those who have tried it. In their softer form, before their exoskeletons harden, others say the cicadas are shrimp-like. A group at the University of Maryland even published a periodical cicada cookbook entitled Cicada-licious, featuring recipes for dishes such as Cicada Dumplings, Emergence Cookies and El Chirper tacos.

Periodical cicadas have seen some retraction of their habitat. "They seem to be sensitive to habitat degradation," said John Cooley, an entomologist at the University of Connecticut who studies periodical cicadas. "I think they are going to be susceptible to climate change." Cicadas are timing their emergence earlier thanks to a trend of warming temperatures ushered in by climate change. Before 1950, the average date when cicadas tend to emerge was around May 27th, 28th or 29th. Now when they emerge, it's more around May 12th to the 15th. And researchers also think that the gradual increasing temperature change is causing them to come up four years early in certain parts of their range.

The question most asked whenever the periodical cicadas' re-emerge is: how to kill them. The answer is, 'Don't. Enjoy the phenomena!'

Extension Office Open

The Hancock County extension office is open. You can come to the office to conduct business and use our resources in the Master Gardener office.

You will be required to wear a face mask and follow the Ohio State COVID-19 guidelines.

"How to Bring Your Garden's Beauty Inside"

Cheryl Miller

The Courier-April 10, 2021

Holden Arboretum

The Holden Arboretum, in Kirtland, Ohio, is one of the largest arboreta and botanical gardens in the United States, with more than 3,600 acres, including 600 acres devoted to collections and gardens. Diverse natural areas and ecologically sensitive habitats make up the rest of the holdings. Holden's collections includes 9,400 different kinds of woody plants, representing 79 plant families.

<https://holdenarb.org>

Photos submitted by Doris Salis





IT'S Time To.....May

HOME (Indoor plants and activities)

- Many indoor plants can be moved to shady locations outdoors but only after the danger of frost has passed. Plants will dry out more often outdoors, so keep a close eye on soil moisture. Sinking the pots in soil will help slow down moisture loss.
- Now is a good time to take cuttings of houseplants to increase a collection or share with friends. Root cuttings in media, such as vermiculite, perlite, or potting soil. Roots grown in water tend to be weak from lack of oxygen and do not adjust well to planting in soil.
- Fertilize houseplants according to label directions. Foliage plants require relatively high nitrogen fertilizer; flowering houseplants respond best to fertilizer high in phosphorus.

YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals and fruits)

- Prune early spring-flowering trees and shrubs after flowers fade.
- Plant balled-and-burlapped or container nursery stock, and water thoroughly.
- Remove and destroy overwintering bagworms from landscape trees and shrubs.
- Follow a spray schedule to keep home-orchard crops pest free. While trees are in bloom, use fungicide sprays without insecticide to avoid injuring bees. Follow label directions.
- Thin apple tree fruits, if needed, about three weeks after petal fall. Apples should be about 8 inches apart.
- Apply fungicides to roses to control diseases such as black spot.
- If you are going to fertilize your lawn in May, apply 3/4-1 pound of nitrogen (N) per 1,000 square feet with a product that contains 50 percent or more of slow-release fertilizer. Try to schedule the application prior to a rain or irrigate following application to move the fertilizer off leaf blades.

GARDEN (Vegetables, small fruits and flowers)

- Plant frost-tender plants after the danger of frost has passed for your area. This includes warm-season vegetables (such as tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, and vine crops) as well as most annual flowers and tender perennials (such as cannas, gladiolus, dahlias, tuberous begonias, and caladiums).
- Pinch chrysanthemums and annual flower plants to keep them compact and well-branched.
- Make successive plantings of beans and sweet corn to extend the harvest season.
- Thin seedlings of early-planted crops such as carrots, lettuce, spinach, and beets to their proper spacing.
- Harvest early plantings of radishes, spinach, and lettuce.
- Harvest asparagus by cutting or snapping spears at or just below soil level
- Harvest rhubarb by cutting or grasping the stalk and pulling it up and slightly to one side.
- Control cucumber beetles (which are carriers of bacterial wilt) as soon as cucumber plants germinate or are transplanted to prevent disease.
- Remove blossoms from newly set strawberry plants to allow better runner formation.
- Remove unwanted sucker growth in raspberries when new shoots are about a foot tall.



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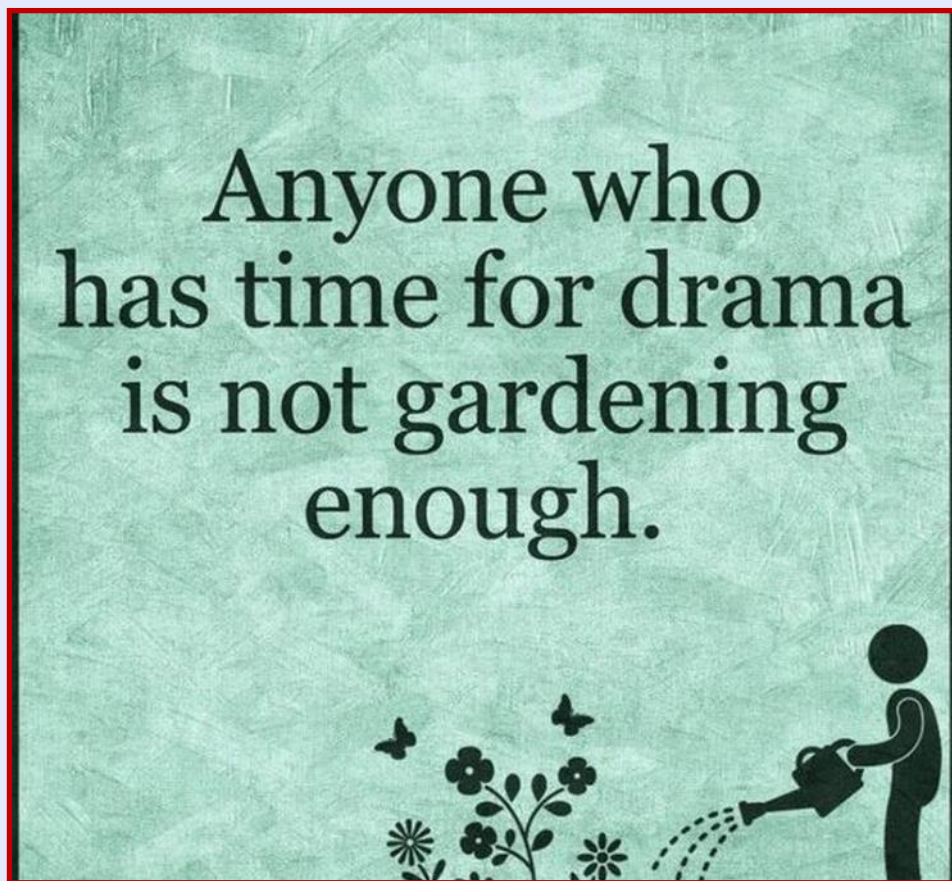
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