

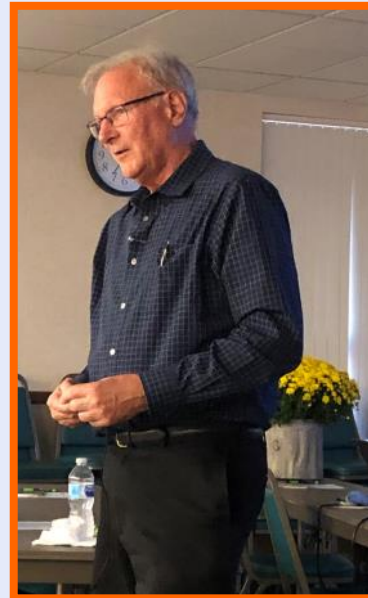
# GREEN THUMB PRINTS

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

October 2021

Debra Evans will be the  
Brown Bag Speaker  
at our October 14th meeting.

She will be speaking  
on the Spotted Lanternfly.



Hal Mann speaking on *Natives in the Vegetable Garden* at our September 30th seminar.



Volunteers at the Community Garden

## Upcoming Events

- Oct 14.....October Meeting
- Nov. 11.....November Meeting
- Nov. 28-Dec 5.....Wreath Classes

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## ***Reuben's Ruminations*** ***October 2021***

President's Notes for October, 2021

Busy September! Two big events to reach the public. A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the fair booth – set-up, staffing the booth, and tear-down. I know I'd miss someone if tried to name everyone. Now, as I write, we're looking forward to the Hal Mann seminar being organized by Lisa McClain and her team.

### Garden Projects

Entrance to Ag Center – Final touches, signs to identify plants are now *in place*.

Well done, Peggy and team!

Community Garden – Last month I said we were over a ton. Now we're pushing *3 tons* as Karl & Lynn have contributed nearly a ton from their garden. Harvest is about over, but I'm sure Brint would welcome plenty of help when it's time to wrap up the garden soon.

Thanks to Lisa McClain for the latest Courier article (also posted on our Facebook page) on the value of using native plants in the garden. And she tied it into our seminar in order to drum up interest.

We'll be looking forward to returning to a regular schedule here in October and November and planning for 2022. First step toward 2022 will be elections. Thanks to Tim Brugeman for recruiting some great candidates (See page 7 for details). We'll also be looking for ideas on how we can better fulfill our mission to educate the public.

Look forward to seeing everyone on the 14th for our monthly meeting.

***Reuben***

## **2022 MGV Recertification**

Karl Farwig

As you are aware the State requires 20 hours of service and 10 hours of education per year to remain active. In 2021, you are allowed to use training as service hours if your training hours are over 10.

Like in 2020 and with the COVID issue still lingering, we have decided that we will waive this requirement. This means no one should feel pressured to become inactive because they haven't completed 30 hours of volunteering.

The only requirements that you need to do to continue as an active MGV into 2022 is the following:

- 1) Report the actual time you spent to me
  - a) Total hours of education
  - b) Total hours of service
  - c) Number of questions answered (contacts)
  
- 2) Complete the signatures on required forms that will be sent to you at the end of the year.

I trust you see we are trying to work with everyone in their current situation and do not want anyone to become inactive simply because they couldn't do volunteering due to the pandemic.

In 2022, we will go back to requiring 10 hours of education and 20 hours of service. There will be plenty of opportunities for everyone to contribute; teaching, writing articles, answering questions, or doing service projects. Again, our mission is primarily to teach horticulture to the residents in Hancock County and there are numerous ways each of you can contribute without doing any manual labor.

Should you have any questions about this, please contact me at [khfarwig@gmail.com](mailto:khfarwig@gmail.com) or 419-348-7577.

Thanks... Karl

## **VMS Replacement Project – "Hands on Connect"**

Karl Farwig

As you know, the vendor that supported the VMS system discontinued support for the system effective June 30, 2021. It is important that you understand that you should not use the VMS system for anything other than email. The vendor could remove it from us at any time as all data would be lost. Ever since late 2020, the State Coordinator and team have been trying to design and implement a new system named "Hands On Connect (HOC)". When you hear that term think of it as the replacement for VMS. Although the system is very complex, it does not handle all the functionality that we had with the VMS system, so we are being advised on how to handle things.

The State has begun rolling out HOC starting in late August. The rollout has been a struggle for some of the counties electing to train and get their volunteers on board. Because of this, Ed and I have made the decision to wait until other counties get implemented so we learn from what they go through rolling this out. To report your 2021 time, you will be asked to provide me with 3 pieces of information at the end of the year:

Total hours of education

Total hours of service

Number of questions answered (contacts).

You do not need to report this to me by project, just the total for the year. I will send out the request at the end of the year and will be asking for this to be returned to me the first week of January 2022. I will either send the information to the State who will enter it for us or I will enter it for you.

During the winter, we will begin to train everyone on the new system as we should have time to spend training during the winter months. Most likely this will be one on one training or small group of under 5. That will be determined in 2022.

As we feel comfortable that this system is stable and volunteers are using it, we will roll this out, but at this time we did not want to roll something out in a rush and cause lots of frustrations. Hopefully with time and patience we will get this implemented in 2022.

# ***MG Happenings***

## Hancock County Fair-2021



A special you to everyone who volunteered at this year's county fair.  
(Planning, set-up, staffing the booth, tear down, etc.)

It is always fun to visit with people and get the word out about  
our Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers.

## "An Evening with Hal Mann"

Lisa McClain

Hal Mann presented an informative seminar to around 45 participants on the evening of Thursday, September 30th at the Hancock County Agricultural Center. Hal spoke on how natives in the vegetable garden can increase yields and attract beneficial insects which deter pests. Fewer pests can mean less toxic usage.



***A special thank you to everyone who helped make this  
educational opportunity a great success!!!***

**Continued**



# ***MG Happenings***

## ***Continued***

### **Community Garden—5,469 Pounds**

Brint Simmons

Our community garden project is winding down fast. We are still harvesting 25-50# of tomatoes per week, but that probably won't continue for more than a couple of weeks. Squash and peppers are just about done. There are some secondary heads of cabbage, but they are very small. Perhaps the recent rain will spur them on. Carrots are yet to be harvested; we're hoping the rain will encourage more growth. To date, our total harvest is 5469#, including 2129# from the gardens of Karl & Lynn Farwig and John & Linda Leiendecker. The project truly has been a collaborative effort and we appreciate everyone who contributed in any way.



The next major task is to remove the fence, stakes and spent plant material to get the garden ready for winter. We plan to do that on **Monday, Oct. 11 at 9:00 am**, weather permitting. Please set this time aside and come to help in this important task. Please bring a wheel barrow if you can.



### **Educational Article for Newsletter**

Lisa McClain

For those of you who don't know, Linda Casey and her husband are in the process of moving to the Chicago area to be closer to their daughter and family. Therefore, she has requested to become inactive. Linda's involvement in our Master Gardener activities will be truly missed.

I will continue with the "***It's Time to Article.....***" in each month's newsletter, but am asking for a volunteer or volunteer(s) to write an educational article each month. If you are interested in writing an "***Educational Article***" for the newsletter or if you have an article suitable for a particular time of year and would like it published please contact me at [enjymzk@gmail.com](mailto:enjymzk@gmail.com).

***Continued***

# *MG Happenings*

*Continued*

## **2021 MG V WREATH WORKSHOPS**

Betsy DeFrancesco

The 2021 Wreath Workshops are coming together nicely. The workshops are listed on Eventbrite.com and we are already getting orders. The announcement has also been posted on Facebook. Thanks to the OSU Extension office staff for their assistance!

The workshops begin the Sunday after Thanksgiving, so we will be cutting greens on Friday, November 26 and Saturday, November 27. So far, Lynn Maa and Sharon Milligan have both graciously offered their properties for the green cuttings. **We are asking anyone else with evergreens (all types) and/or holly bushes to contact Betsy DeFrancesco** at 908-910-5586 or **betSMART 207@yahoo.com** with your information. We will also need people to brave the weather and come out and cut greens.

There will be sign up sheets for workers at the October and November meetings.

These workshops are really fun! The wreaths all end up so beautiful and different. This is our biggest fundraiser and provides funds for all of our projects. Come and help make this year the best ever!

## **MG V Board Officer 2022-23 Elections**

Tim Brugeman

Elections for 2 expiring Board terms will be held at the members meeting November 11.

Thanks to Lisa McClain for accepting the nomination for Vice President and Elaine Reynolds who is willing to continue as Secretary.

Both are newer MG Vs and have been very involved in our activities. Elaine accepted the Board appointment to finish the 2 year Secretary 2020-21 term when Reuben DeBolt was elected President. Lisa is our newsletter editor and fall seminar chair.

Please attend the fall meetings to support them and vote!!!

## **2022 Master Gardener Classes**

Karl Farwig

Providing that COVID does not become out of control over the next several months, we are planning to hold MG V training classes in February and March on Wednesday during the day. At this point details are still evolving, but at this point we are collecting names of people who might want to become a MG V. Should you have anyone interested please forward their name and contact information to Karl Farwig at **khfarwig@gmail.com**. When more details are known, we will use these contacts to have them apply for the class.

Should you have any questions about this please contact Ed or Karl.

# Planting & Care of Bulbs

Source: Ron Cornwell, University of Illinois Extension Educator

Bulbs provide a good investment for money spent and supply years of spring color in your yard. Fall is the prime time for planting of hardy spring flowering bulbs. Most bulbs can be planted until the ground is frozen.

## Preparing Soil



Properly preparing the soil for bulb planting is important. Good soil drainage is essential in raising bulbs. If you have a soil with a high clay content, it can be improved by adding compost, peat moss or some other source of organic material. The organic material should be worked in the top twelve inches of soil (eighteen inches is even better).

## Fertilization

Both spring and summer bulbs need phosphorous to encourage root development. Keep in mind that phosphorous moves very little once applied to the soil. Some bulbs are planted 6 to 8 inches deep. The phosphorous needs to be mixed in the soil below where the bulbs will be located so it can be utilized by the bulb roots. Mix bonemeal or superphosphate with the soil in the lower part of the planting bed as it is being prepared.

If bulbs are going to be maintained in a planting bed more than one year, it is important to supply additional fertilizer. Spring flowering bulbs should have mixed into the soil in the fall five tablespoons of 10-10-10 soluble fertilizer (or equivalent bulb fertilizer) plus two cups of bonemeal per ten square foot area. As soon as the shoots break through the ground in the spring, repeat the above soluble fertilizer application. Do not fertilize spring flowering bulbs after they have started flowering. This tends to encourage the development of bulb rot and sometimes shortens the life of the flowers.

Summer and fall flowering bulbs should be fertilized monthly from shoot emergence until the plants reach full flower. Apply seven tablespoons of 10-10-10 soluble fertilizer (or equivalent bulb fertilizer) split over two or three applications over a ten square foot area.

The optimum pH range for bulbs is 6 to 7. A soil test of the planting area is necessary to determine if lime needs to be applied to adjust the soil pH. If needed, limestone should be worked into the soil. For good bud development, work bonemeal into the soil at planting.

**(Continued)**



# Planting & Care of Bulbs

(Continued)

## Planting Location

Before selecting the location to plant bulbs in the landscape, consider the light requirements of the plant. Does the plant require full sunshine, partial shade or full shade? Since early spring bulbs bloom before most trees or shrubs leaf out, they can successfully be planted under trees and shrubs. Many summer blooming bulbs require full sun or partial shade.

Spring bulbs planted on a south slope will bloom earlier than the same bulbs planted on a north slope. Spring bulbs planted on a hillside will bloom earlier than bulbs planted in a valley. Cold air is heavier than warm air and behaves like water. It flows down the slope, settling in the low areas.

## Planting Depth

The general rule of thumb for planting spring bulbs is to plant two to three times as deep as the bulbs is tall. This means most large bulbs like tulips or daffodils will be planted about 8 inches deep while smaller bulbs will be planted 3-4 inches deep. Planting depth is measured from the bottom of the bulb. This rule of thumb on planting depth does not apply to summer bulbs which have varied planting requirements. For planting depth of summer bulbs, consult the information supplied with the bulbs.

Tulips, daffodils and hyacinths should be planted with the nose of the bulb upward and the root plate downward. The best method of planting is to dig and loosen the entire bed to the proper depth. Press the bulbs into the soil in the planting area and cover with soil. Because the soil in a spaded bed is better drained and prepared, the planting will last longer. This method of planting is preferred over trying to plant bulbs one by one with a bulb planter. In many soils bulb planters do not work well, if at all.



(Continued)

# **Planting & Care of Bulbs**

**(Continued)**

## **Watering Bulbs**

Water the bulbs following planting. This will help settle the soil in the planting bed plus provide needed moisture for the bulbs to start rooting. Fall planted bulbs must root before cold weather. Avoid over-watering at planting time since this can result in bulb rot.

For both spring and summer bulbs, start watering when the flower buds first appear on the plant if the soil is dry. Shallow watering will not do the job. Remember that the bulbs may have been planted 6 to 8 inches deep and the water needs to soak to that depth. Through the bud, bloom and early foliage stage, add about one inch of water per week if this amount has not been supplied from rainfall. Water with a soaker hose to keep water off the bloom. Bulbs like alliums, or the shallow planted bulbs, will rot quickly if over-watered in the heat of summer.

## **Mowing Foliage**

One of the visual problems with spring bulbs is the foliage that remains after bloom. The foliage can become unsightly if the bulbs are planted in a public area of the landscape. Foliage should not be mowed off until it turns yellow and dies back naturally.

The foliage on the smaller bulbs such as snowdrops and squill will die back rapidly and cause little problem. The foliage on the larger bulbs like tulips and daffodils will take several weeks to die back. Keep in mind that after flowering, the plant needs the green leaves to manufacture food (photosynthesis) that is stored in the bulb for next year's growth. If the homeowner mows off the foliage early, the plant can no longer manufacture nutrient reserves for next year. This results in a small, weak bulb which will gradually decline and die out.

There are several ways to divert attention from the yellowing bulb foliage. Interplant the bulbs in the spring using one or two colors of annuals. Place bulbs behind the plants on the front edge of a border planting. Plant taller flowering bulbs behind lower growing foreground shrubs. Plant bulbs with groundcovers and perennials like hosta or daylilies.

## **Staking**

Some of the summer blooming bulbs like dahlias and gladioli occasionally need extra support to be able to remain erect. A support ring is an easy way to support plants that have weak stems. Stakes will also work for this purpose. Drive stakes in place at planting time to avoid accidental damage to the bulbs or tubers.

## **Mulching**

The bulb bed should be covered with two or three inches of mulch. Mulch will help minimize temperature fluctuation and maintain an optimal moisture level in the planting bed. The small, early blooming bulbs should not be mulched.

**(Continued)**

# **Planting & Care of Bulbs**

**(Continued)**

## **Digging and Storing Spring Bulbs**

Once the foliage dies back or matures in the late spring or early summer, the bulb is dormant. Summer is the dormant period for spring bulbs. As the foliage dies back, the roots that nourish the bulbs also die back. With fall rains, the bulb comes out of summer dormancy and roots begin to grow again to provide the bulb nutrients and moisture.

Once the spring bulbs enter dormancy, the time is right to dig the bulbs if needed. Some bulbs benefit from digging to divide the bulbs and spread them out over the bed.

If the choice is to dig bulbs, they should be stored in a well ventilated place and replanted in the fall. Every five years daffodils and crocus should be dug and replanted to prevent overcrowding. The first sign of overcrowding will be a decrease in the flower size, uneven bloom and uneven plant height. When this occurs, dig, spread bulbs out and replant immediately.

## **Digging and Storing Summer Bulbs**

Most summer flowering bulbs should be dug and stored when the leaves on the plants turn yellow. Use a spading fork to lift the bulbs from the ground. Wash off any soil that clings to the bulbs, except for bulbs that are stored in pots or with the soil around them.

Leave the soil on achimenes, begonia, canna, caladium, dahlia and ismene bulbs. Store these bulbs in clumps on a slightly moistened layer of peat moss or sawdust in a cool place. Wash and separate them just before planting.

Spread the washed bulbs in a shaded place to dry. When dry, store them away from sunlight in a cool, dry basement, cellar, garage or shed at 60° to 65°F. Avoid temperatures below 50° or above 70°F unless different instructions are given for a particular bulbs.

Inspect your bulbs for signs of disease. Keep only large, healthy bulbs that are firm and free of spots. Discard undersized bulbs.

If you have only a few bulbs, you can keep them in paper bags hung by strings from the ceiling or wall. Store large numbers of bulbs on trays with screen bottoms. Separate your bulbs by species or variety before storing them.

Be sure that air can circulate around your stored bulbs. Never store bulbs more than two or three layers deep. Deep piles of bulbs generate heat and decay.

Most flowering bulbs are best stored over a long period at temperatures between 60°F and 68°F. Try to keep the humidity in the storage area as low as possible. Never store bulbs in an area where ethylene gas produced by fruit is present. Bulbs can be stored in a container with peat moss, sand, perlite or vermiculite. Another common storage method is to place the bulbs in a very loose knit sack and hang in a sheltered, cool area. Do not divide or separate bulbs before storing them.



# IT'S Time To.....October

**Rosie Lerner-Purdue University Extension**

## **HOME (Houseplants and indoor activities)**

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

## **YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals, and fruits)**

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

## **GARDEN (Vegetables, small fruits, and flowers)**

- Harvest root crops and store in a cold (32 F), humid location. Storing produce in perforated plastic bags is a convenient, easy way to increase humidity.
- Harvest brussels sprouts as they develop in the axils of the leaves from the bottom of the stem. Brussels sprouts will continue to develop up the stem.
- Harvest pumpkins and winter squash before frost, but when rind is hard and fully colored. Store in a cool location until ready to use.

**(Continued)**



## IT'S Time To.....October

(Continued)

### GARDEN (Vegetables, small fruits, and flowers)

- Harvest gourds when stems begin to brown and dry. Cure at 70-80 F for two to four weeks.
- Harvest mature, green tomatoes before frost and ripen indoors in the dark. Warmer temperatures lead to faster ripening.
- Asparagus top growth should not be removed until foliage yellows. Let foliage stand over winter to collect snow for insulation and moisture.
- Remove plant debris from the garden to protect next year's plantings from insect and disease buildup. Compost plant refuse by alternating layers of soil, plant material, and manure or commercial fertilizer.
- Have garden soil tested for fertilizer needs every three to five years.
- Incorporate organic matter in fall to avoid the rush of garden activities and waterlogged soil in spring. Soils prepared in the fall tend to warm faster and allow earlier planting in spring.
- Dig tender garden flower bulbs for winter storage. Gladiolus corms should be dug when leaves begin turning yellow. Caladiums, geraniums and tuberous begonias should be lifted before killing frost. Dig canna and dahlia roots after a heavy frost. Allow to air dry, then pack in dry peat moss or vermiculite, and store in a cool location.
- Complete planting of spring-flowering bulbs.

### *Attract Allies to Your Vegetable Garden*

Lisa McClain

The Courier-September 11, 2021





## THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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aging, we are  
ripening to  
perfection.**

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