

GREEN THUMB PRINTS

Gardening is our Passion Education is our Purpose

September 2021

Volunteers Needed

Hancock County Fair Clean-Up
Tuesday, September 7th at 9:00 AM
in the Grange Building



Upcoming Events

- Sept 1-6.....Hancock Co. Fair
- Sept 7.....Fair Clean-Up
- Sept 30..An Evening with Hal Mann
- Oct 14.....October Meeting
- Nov. 11.....November Meeting
- Nov. 28-Dec 5.....Wreath Classes

No September Monthly Meeting

Due to a busy September with the fair, our seminar, community garden harvesting and other Master Gardener activities there will be no September monthly meeting.

There will be an executive board meeting on Thursday, September 23rd at 4:00 pm.

If you have anything that needs to go before the board, please contact one of the board members before the 23rd.

“An Evening with Hal Mann”

Thursday, September 30th
6:30pm-8:00PM

Remember to sign-up at Eventbrite.com or by calling the OSUE office at 419-422-3851 if you are interested in attending.

If you are willing to help with the set up please contact Lisa McClain at enjymzk@gmail.com

IN THIS ISSUE.....

- Upcoming Events.....Pg 1
- Reuben’s Ruminations.....Pg 2
- Meeting Minutes.....Pgs 3-4
- “An Evening with Hal Mann”.....Pg 5
- MG Happenings.....Pgs 6-7
- The Cricket Offensive.....Pgs 8-9
- It’s Time To.....Pgs 10-11

Reuben's Ruminations ***September 2021***

President's Notes for September 2021

It was great to have the turnout we did for the August meeting and everyone who was there seemed to enjoy the speaker and to be glad to just get together. Thanks to Peggy for arranging (no pun intended) for Rhonda Wolke as speaker and to Linda L, Judi and Rose for the refreshments.

The County Fair is almost upon us! I hope everyone has signed up to help. Be sure to contact Doris Salis or Linda Finsel to let them know how you can help or when you can staff the booth. We also have the seminar with Hal Mann shortly after that. Lisa McClain and her team have put together solid plans and have started publicizing the event. Check out our Facebook page. You -- and your friends -- can register for the event on Eventbrite. There is no charge, but we need folks to register so that we can accommodate people (a maximum of 50). Let's all contribute to make the most of these great opportunities to reach the public.

Garden Projects

Entrance to Ag Center – Final touches, signs to identify plants are on order

Community Garden – Brint Simmons and his team are in full harvest mode. With contributions also from Karl & Lynn's garden, we're now over a TON of food donated to Chopin Hall and City Mission. We can still use some volunteers for harvest.

Thanks to Ann Woolum for the latest Courier article on Fall garden clean-up, which is also posted on our Facebook page. This task will be a challenge for me this year as weeds have really exploded in recent weeks.

Recent rains that have grown my weeds have really been great for the project gardens and for my vegetables. I hope your gardens are all doing well, too.

Happy gardening!

Reuben

Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers
Meeting Minutes
August 12, 2021

At 6:06 pm Karla Dennis introduced the Brown Bag speaker Rhonda Wolke of Rhonda Wolke Designs who spoke about Cut Floral Design

After a break for refreshments, President Reuben DeBolt called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm

President's Comments – Reuben DeBolt

- Thank you to Marlene Brunswick for hosting the summer picnic at her house.
- A sign-up sheet for shifts to work at the County Fair was passed around.

Minutes of the previous meeting

NOTE: There were no minutes for July 2021. A membership picnic was held in lieu of a meeting.

The minutes of the June 10, 2021 membership meeting were approved; motion: Tim Brugeman; second: Doris Salis.

OSU Extension Report – Ed Lentz

- Discussed Covid rules for upcoming events.
- The County Commissioners reviewed the new landscaping in front of the Ag Center and were very pleased
- Discussed the use of passes for County Fair volunteers. There will be 3 passes for volunteers to use and trade off between shifts.

Treasurer's Report – Ann Woolum

- \$5563.69 in checking account, of which \$750.91 is restricted for the Community Garden.
- A reimbursement has been received from the county for the Ag Center garden work and the T-shirts and brochures have been paid for.
- Report approved; motion: Tim Brugeman; second: Judi Clymer.

Committees

- President DeBolt stated that he will send out a new list of committee chairpersons to the group
- Administrative
 - ◇ Media – Betsy DeFrancesco – A Facebook post about the Fall Seminar has been shared. Six or seven people have signed up so far. There is a limit of 50 people for the event and MG members will need to be registered to attend.
- Social and Fundraising
 - ◇ A chairperson is needed to coordinate refreshments.
 - ◇ Betsy DeFrancesco is working on plans for the Wreath Making Workshop. Scheduled dates will be 11/28, 11/29, 12/1, 12/4 and 12/5.
- Service – Tim Brugeman
 - ◇ Ag Center Garden – The watering crew is working hard. Thirty-four plant markers have been ordered to identify the major plants. There will be 2 signs erected at the garden. Peggy would like to thank everyone who helped with this project, especially the committee comprised of Lisa McClain, Betsy DeFrancesco, Linda Finsel, Ann Woolum and Karla Dennis. It couldn't have happened without everyone's support.

(Continued)

Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers
Meeting Minutes
August 12, 2021
(Continued)

-Service —Tim Brugeman (Continued)

- ◇ Sensory Garden – Betsy DeFrancesco – She has been doing weeding and pruning.
- ◇ Community Garden – Brint Simmons and his committee have harvested a lot of produce so far – 1325 lbs. In addition, 800 lbs. of produce have been donated from Karl Farwig’s garden. The fence has helped keep the deer out. Volunteers are needed to help harvest on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays beginning at 9:00 am. The produce is donated to either the City Mission or Chopin Hall.

-Teaching – Judi Clymer

- ◇ Enough people have volunteered to write the Courier articles, but not enough as speakers at 50 North or the Library. Discussion about how to help encourage/assist people who might be hesitant to speak.
- ◇ County Fair – Doris Salis
 - The dates are 9/1/21 to 9/6/21. The MG booth is in the Grange Building.
 - A sign-up sheet for volunteers was passed around
 - Marilyn Beltz will provide a plant display, Carolyn Lavender will coordinate some giveaways and Rose Morrison is preparing a garden tote with garden supplies, to be raffled off.
 - The new “Ask a Master Gardener” and general MG brochures are ready
 - Betsy DeFrancesco will have a display about the Wreath Class and information should be posted about the upcoming MG Class
 - The interactive “bug” game is being repaired so it will be ready for the fair
 - All the old posters have been pulled out for members to review and make suggestions on which to use at the fair. Members are encouraged to prepare a new poster or take one of these to update.

-Education – Peggy Biolchini

- ◇ We still need speakers for Brown Bag talks in October and November. The purpose of these presentations was for members to do the talks to gain experience as speakers.
- ◇ The Fall Seminar will be September 30th and will last 1-1/2 hours. The event is free with a maximum of 50 participants and will be held in the Ag Center large conference room. Everyone, including MGVs who are volunteering, will need to register using Eventbrite or call the Extension Office. Volunteers are needed to help with set-up. There will be a Courier article about the event.
- ◇ Field Trips – Ann Woolum – Discussion about options for future field trips.
- ◇ Ask a Master Gardener – There were 15 questions in July, 4 in June and 5 in May. Many questions have been about trees.

Old Business – None.

New Business – None.

Motion to Adjourn: Barbara Phillips; second: Rose Morrison. Passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Next Meeting: September 9, 2021. (Cancelled)

Respectfully submitted: Elaine P Reynolds, Secretary

Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers Present

“An Evening with Hal Mann”

Thursday, September 30, 2021

6:30 pm-8:00 pm



***Learn how to use natives in your vegetable garden to increase yields and the health of your harvest.**

***Learn how to attract beneficial insects to deter pests and eliminate toxic usage.**

This workshop is free and open to the public, but all participants including Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers must register through Eventbrite.com or by contacting the OSUE Office at 419-422-3851.

SEMINAR UPDATE

Lisa McClain

Plans are progressing with our Fall seminar. In keeping with the theme of “sustainability” we will host Hal Mann who will speak on native plants in the vegetable garden. We will also highlight our Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers and our 2022 classes that evening.

Our flier has been designed, branded and sent to various local organizations. Fliers have been distributed to our local garden centers and Tim Brugeman has made a large poster to be on display at the Hancock County Fair. A press release has been printed in The Courier and the September Courier article will highlight this event.

We will need help with set-up which will either be the evening of Wednesday, September 29th or the afternoon of Thursday, September 30th. We will know which time closer to the end of the month. Set up will include tables and chairs, registration and refreshment area in the lobby and set up of Master Gardener displays in the conference room.

A special thank you to Ann Woolum, Tim Brugeman, Peggy Biolchini, Lisa McClain and Betsy DeFrancesco for serving on the planning committee. Thanks also to Betsy for designing our flier.

MG Happenings

Notice of November Elections for 2022 Officers

Tim Brugeman

The positions of Vice President and Secretary are to be voted on this year to take office in January 2022. Bylaw-Article 3 calls for elections at our November meeting. Nominations are to be made in October so that notice of the candidates may be sent to our members.

Currently:

- Tim Brugeman is serving as Vice-President; and,
- Elaine Reynolds is serving as Secretary. Elaine was appointed to serve the remainder of Reuben DeBolt's term when he was elected President in 2020.

Please consider serving and if interested contact Tim at tbrugeman@woh.rr.com for further information.

New Master Gardener Volunteer Brochures

New Hancock County MGV color brochures have been printed for use at the County Fair. Extra copies are available at OSU Extension & MGV offices if anyone wants to share with friends or prospective new MGVs.



Community Garden

Brint Simmons



Our community garden project continues to produce a good harvest for City Mission and CHOPIN Hall. Both agencies are very appreciative of the fresh produce we bring them. We have had a very good crop of cabbage, potatoes, squash, zucchini, tomatoes and peppers. The cucumbers and green beans were so - so, due to wildlife and/or insect damage. The tomatoes, peppers and squash continue to produce and should for another 4 - 6 weeks (assuming we don't have a frost before the middle of October). Pumpkins are doing well and should be ready to harvest in a few weeks.

Our total harvest so far is 2,791 pounds. This includes some donations from the gardens of Karl & Lynn Farwig, John & Linda Leiendecker and Brint Simmons. A big thank you to everyone who has contributed to the success of the garden. We still have about 6 weeks to go to finish the harvest and prepare the garden for winter. Your help will be much appreciated.

Continued

MG Happenings

Continued

SENSORY GARDEN UPDATE

Betsy DeFrancesco

The new sensory garden is almost ready for the committee to meet up and start making changes! Work will begin this fall and by summer 2022, the new garden should be ready for visitors. Thistles and Bindweed are being eradicated and trees and shrubs are being pruned. Maintenance will be kept up in the future. One positive in the garden is the number of pollinators that are enjoying the Coneflowers and the Mountain Mint. If you are interested in being on the committee, please contact Betsy DeFrancesco at (908) 910-5586 or betsmart_207@yahoo.com.

2021 MG V WREATH WORKSHOPS

Betsy DeFrancesco

The Wreath Workshops are being planned for this fall. The dates and times so far are:

Sun	November 28th	6 pm
Mon	November 29th	6 pm
Wed	December 1st	6 pm
Sat	December 4th	2 pm
Sun	December 5th	2 pm
Sun	December 5th	6 pm

(May change slightly)



The Wreath Workshops will be held in the conference rooms at the Hancock County Agricultural Building with a cost of \$20 for each wreath. There will be a wreath on display at the county fair and information sheets to be distributed. We will be using [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) again this year but sign up will probably start in mid-September instead of October. There will be an article in The Courier about the workshops.

This is our biggest fundraiser, so we will need plenty of volunteers to cut greens and to assist at each workshop. No experience necessary! We will begin sign-up sheets for volunteers at our next meeting. For more information, please contact Betsy DeFrancesco at (908) 910-5586 or betsmart_207@yahoo.com.

The Cricket Offensive

Linda Casey

The heat of summer over, bringing thoughts of apples, pumpkins, football and crickets. I can hear one right now, inside my house, annoyingly chirping its little heart out.

You may think that cricket chirping hardly warrants a story, but let me put this into perspective for you. Chirping outside in the yard is just fine. But when one or two of the little troublemakers sneak into my home and disrupt my peace and quiet, even my slumber, tension reaches a whole new level. That's when crickets are no longer cute. No longer are they a welcome signal to a new season. Their loud intermittent, ear-piercing chirps are disruptive, annoying and unacceptable. There will be no sleep with them sharing my home. It has boiled down to either me or them ... and I was here first.

Crickets tend to begin chirping the minute the lights go out but immediately stop when the switch is turned back on, or with the lightest floor vibration. I move softly, silently, ever so slowly, in stocking feet. But it never fails: When I get close to pinpointing their position, they go "radio silent." Yes, crickets are a smart foe. They win more often than not.

There are many species of chirping crickets. The two most exasperating home-invading crickets are house crickets and field crickets.

Both belong to the insect order Orthoptera, which also includes grasshoppers and katydids. Like their relatives, crickets have long antennae and enlarged hind legs designed for jumping great distances. In addition, adult females are famous for their sabre-like ovipositors at the tip of their abdomens, used for laying eggs in the soil.

When compared side by side, the house cricket is a lighter brown color, almost tan, approximately 3/4 inch in length; field crickets are almost black and noticeably larger, usually exceeding a full inch.



Field cricket (*Gryllus spp.*)



House cricket (*Acheta domesticus*)
cannibalism inside a plastic cup

Both take 2-3 months to complete their life cycle and have no special overwintering stage, but they can survive cold weather in and around buildings, under leaf litter and in compost, where heat from fermentation may sustain them. Eggs are deposited wherever damp habitat is available.

(Continued)

The Cricket Offensive

(Continued)

Both crickets tend to enter homes when summertime temperatures begin to cool. Both are attracted to lights at night, but once inside buildings, they seek out warm, dark places to hide.

At times, crickets may damage field or garden crops, but they just as readily eat dead or living insects, including their own species. The chirping sounds for which they are famously annoying are made by adult male crickets rubbing their wings together. On the underside of each of the male cricket's forewings are hundreds of microscopic teeth, made of hardened chitin. When the file-like serrations on the underside of one wing rub against the upper side of the opposing wing, a chirp is created. The process, called stridulating, serves to attract female crickets as mates, and to warn other male crickets to stay away.

The chirping noise is surprisingly loud, measuring in at 80 decibels. (As reference, any sound at or above 85 is likely to damage hearing over time.) Smoke alarms are designed to emit a similar, high-pitched sound at between 75 and 85 decibels. Smoke alarms demand your attention--so do crickets.

A serious, yet bizarrely twisted story, comes as one of the newest explanations for the purported international espionage case that occurred in Cuba beginning in late 2016. You might remember it. An article published by Sara ElShafie in Newswise (4-Jan-2019) sums it up this way.

Just two years ago, the U.S. Embassy in Havana was bustling with U.S. personnel to restore diplomatic relations with Cuba. Today it is nearly empty. In late 2016, diplomats started hearing a loud piercing noise. Two dozen of them reported symptoms such as ear pain and dizziness, and were diagnosed with injuries consistent with a concussion. Suspicions of politically motivated "sonic attacks" soon followed. The U.S. State Department recalled most personnel from Cuba, reducing its embassy staff in Havana to a skeleton crew. Cooperative measures between the two governments stalled amidst conspiracy theories of high-tech attack. Despite ongoing investigations by American and Cuban government agencies and extensive coverage of the incident by major news outlets, the source of the strange noise provoking the crisis remains an enigma.

But a recent scientific study suggests rather convincingly, that this may not have been a sonic attack at all but rather ... a cricket. According to Alexander Stubbs, an entomologist in the Department of Integrative Biology and Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at the University of California, Berkeley, the recording of the mysterious noise is actually the echoing call of a cricket. After scientific bioacoustics tests, performed in collaboration with a leading audio expert at the University of Lincoln (UK), they concluded that the sounds recorded at the embassy were consistent with those produced biomechanically by the Indies short-tailed cricket (*Anurogryllus celerinictus*).

So, the embassy noises were not a sonic attack at all. The culprit, instead, was a particularly loud cricket!

Rather than calling out the National Guard when crickets invade, the best response for frustrated homeowners is prevention. Reducing moist habitats in and around your home can dissuade crickets. Mow the lawn, reconsider plant and flower beds next to the foundation, remove items on the ground, such as firewood, lumber piles or cardboard. Ventilate and dehumidify crawl spaces and basements. Crickets are attracted to artificial lights so consider changing to less insect-attractive yellow, LED outdoor lighting. The usual points of cricket entry into a home are open or poorly fitted doors and basement windows, cracks in foundations or broken siding. Sealing such entry points can be critical to preventing cricket infestations.

Once crickets are inside the home, the only tactic that works is hunting them down. Take the battle to the enemy. Zero in on their position and flush them from their hiding places. Properly placed glue boards or a vacuum at the ready may help.

But don't expect immediate success. You will, no doubt, find crickets to be particularly worthy adversaries, and you will gain new respect for them.



IT'S Time To.....September

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.
- Poinsettias saved from last year can be reflowered for this year's holiday by providing complete darkness for 15 hours daily from about Oct.1 until about Dec.10.

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.
- September and October are good months to apply broadleaf weed killers. Be sure to follow all label directions, and choose a calm day to prevent spray drift.

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IT'S Time To.....September

(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.
- Plant spring-flowering bulbs beginning in late September. Planting too early can cause bulbs to sprout top growth before winter. However, allow at least four to six weeks before the ground freezes for good root formation.
- 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 up side down in a dry, well-ventilated area.

Fall Garden Cleanup is Essential for Next Season

Ann Woolum

The Courier-August 7, 2021



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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