

GREEN THUMB PRINTS

Gardening is our Passion Education is our Purpose

December 2022



Christmas Potluck

December 8th at 6:00 pm

Kick off the Christmas season by joining your fellow MGVs at the Christmas Potluck.

If you did not sign up at the November meeting please RSVP to Rose by December 4th at 419-889-3931 or rmorrison@woh.rr.com.

Please see [page 6](#) for more information.

2023 MGV Recertification

2023 Recertification goes live today!

Please log on to osu.handsonconnect.org and go to MGV Recertification 2023.

If you have any questions please contact Ed Lentz at lentz.38@osu.edu.

Officer Election Results

Elected at our Nov.10th meeting for a 2-year term are as follows:

- Lisa McClain-President
- Karl Farwig-Treasurer

Upcoming Events

- Dec 1-Dec 4.....Wreath Classes-OSUE
- Dec 6.....Wreath Class-50N
- Dec 7 and 8.....Mugs of Joy
- Dec 8.....Christmas Potluck
- Dec 9.....Mugs of Joy

IN THIS ISSUE.....

- Upcoming Events.....Pg 1
- Reuben's Ruminations.....Pg 2
- November Minutes.....Pgs 3-5
- MG Happenings.....Pgs 6-8
- Handling and Maintaining Houseplants During Winter.....Pg 9
- It's Time To.....Pg 10

Reuben's Ruminations

December 2022

Reuben's Ruminations – final edition
President's Notes for December, 2022

I hope everyone has had a good Thanksgiving! As I looked back at my notes from the start of the year, it became apparent that we had much to be thankful for this year, especially compared to 2021.

We now look forward to our MGV Christmas dinner and the Christmas holiday season. Thanks in advance to Marilyn Beltz for organizing our dinner. By the time you see this, our wreath classes will be in full swing. Thank you, Betsy and your many MGV "elves." And Mugs of Joy will be starting.

A look back at the year 2022 – our 30th year!

- All activities after February were in-person, unlike 2021!
- Hands On Connect became our new system for tracking hours. Thanks, Karl for trying to train us, and to everyone who is using the system regularly. Still a work in progress, unfortunately
- Training new MGV's – 13 people in training class, and at least 7 interns have already completed requirements to become MGV's. Thanks to Karl for coordinating the training and to Tim for coordinating mentoring – and to all who supported them.
 - Thanks to all the interns for diving in and supporting our activities
 - We needed the influx as Linda Laux and Kay Sidaway became Emeritus and some other members went inactive or just became less active for health reasons
- Service Awards – Congratulations to all recipients at our Awards Banquet, many long overdue
- Gardening in Our Golden Years at 50North resumed with a full set of monthly programs. Thanks Tim and Linda F for reincarnating the program – and to all who presented
- Findlay Home & Garden Show – first time in a long time, opportunity for interns to get started
- Let's Go Gardening – good turnout for Mother's Day weekend. Great job, Judi. Relationship with Lowe's may be why they offered us all their (1000's) end-of-season seed packet leftovers
- Plant exchange – a good exchange. Thanks to Rose for picking this up and coordinating
- Community Garden – scaled back the size of the garden to make it more manageable, still donated 1,633 pounds of produce to CHOPIN Hall and City Mission. Great job, Brint, and volunteers. Thanks, Bill, for starting plants.
 - Added training sessions for other gardeners, with modest success
 - Worked with United Way concerning management of the overall Community Garden
- Field Trips – Star Farms native plant nursery; tree ID with Joe Puperi. Thanks, Ann, for organizing
- Fair Booth – we added presentations as a new feature. Thanks, Rose, for coordinating
- Native Plant Event – Something new! Thanks, Tim, for spearheading this
- State Conference – award for Perseverance. Great job in 2021, everyone!
- Ask-a-MGV – continued strong. Thanks Doris, Peggy and team
- Brown Bags – great series, including outside speakers, MGVs and interns. Thanks, Peggy
- All year – Courier articles by many MGVs, Facebook posts, newsletter. Thanks Laurie, Betsy, Lisa
- Congratulations to Lisa and Karl – new President and Treasurer! I'm sure they will serve you well

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas holiday season and all the best in 2023!

Reuben

**Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteer
Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2022**

Meeting began with a Brown Bag talk at 6:02 PM

Brown Bag: At 6:00 Cheryl Everett gave a presentation on *Native Plants to Add to Your Garden Next Spring*.

President Reuben DeBolt reminded everyone that there are sign-up sheets in the back of the room for multiple things, and thanked Debra Evans and Linda Leinendecker for providing the snacks.

Break for snacks at 6:30

The formal meeting began at 6:45 PM.

President Reuben DeBolt welcomed the group.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the 10/12/2022 meeting were approved; motion: Pete Reynolds; second: Patrick Flynn.

Treasurer's Report: Ann Woolum

Unrestricted cash	\$6040.13
Community Garden	\$489.07
Total Cash	\$5551.06

Income this month was \$307.00 from the Native Plant Sale and \$1917.50 for Wreath Class registrations

Expenses this month were \$25.00 for a memorial and \$358.13 for Wreath Class supplies

President's Report: Reuben DeBolt

- He has contacted all the committee chairs about continuing for next year and to ask them to begin the planning process for 2023. Several chairpersons have expressed interest in stepping down from their position
- There will be a planning meeting with all Committee Chairs and the Executive Committee on December 5th, to look at their 2023 goals and budgets.
- Thank you to all who have contributed to the Courier articles, Brown Bags and 50 North presentations this year.

OSU Report: Ed Lentz

- Hands On Connect (HOC) – Using the system gives the group bonus points toward platinum or silver ranking with the OSU Extension system. Everyone is strongly encouraged to please enter their hours in HOC. We do all the work, let's make sure we get credit for it!

(Continued)

**Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteer
Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2022
(Continued)**

OSU Report: Ed Lentz (Continued)

- There is a link on HOC for the annual re-certifications. It is not currently active but will be available after December 1.
- Policies – The Emeritus Policy is being amended to match OSU guidance concerning length of time someone must be a member before receiving Emeritus status. There is also a conflict between the Constitution/Bylaws and the policy that needs to be addressed, concerning voting on Emeritus status.
- Interns who have completed their 50 hours of service time and are now full Master Gardeners, were presented with their certificate and nametags:
 - Pete Reynolds
 - Cheryl Everett
 - Craig Lamme

Officer Elections – Separate paper ballots were passed out for members to vote on President and Treasurer. Ballots will be tallied by Ed Lentz and John King

Committee Reports:

- Administration-No report.
- Social-Rose Morrison
 - Mugs of Joy – Will occur on Dec 7th at 1:30 pm at Taylor House and Dec 8th at 10:00 am at Heritage Legacy.
 - Christmas Dinner – Marilyn Beltz is coordinating. It will be Dec 8th at 6:00 pm. Bring a dish to share. Meat and drinks will be provided by the club. Please sign up on the sheet at the back of the room.
 - John King has volunteered to Chair the Plant Exchange for 2023
 - Wreath Class - Betsy DeFrancesco - Of 192 spots available, 140 have been filled so far. For people donating greens, it is preferable if they be cut into approximate 2 ft lengths to make them more manageable in class. Any greens being donated should be cut some time just before Thanksgiving and dropped at the Extension Office, outside by the south door, in sealed plastic bags.
- Service Committee-Tim Brugeman
 - Community Garden – All work is complete for 2022

(Continued)

**Hancock County Master
Gardener Volunteer
Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2022
(Continued)**

- Service Committee-Tim Brugeman (Continued)
 - Ag Center Garden – Peggy Biolchini – She has been working on cutting back plants to prevent any damage that may be caused by winter plowing of the walkways. Several plants developed diseases over the summer, which she described and passed around samples. She is looking for someone to take over care of this garden for 2023.
 - Butterfly weed seeds were harvested from the garden at the south entry to the OSU Extension office and are available in the back of the room.
- Teaching-Judi Clymer
 - Courier Articles - There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the room for 2023.
 - Speaker's Bureau – Linda Finsel – Betsy DeFrancesco will present at 50 North in December. No presentations are scheduled for January or February but will resume in the spring.
- Education Committee-Peggy Biolchini
 - Ask a Master Gardener – There were 10 questions last month and 2 so far in November, most were related to trees or turf. Peggy has asked that someone else take over chairing this committee. Cheryl Everett volunteered to chair. Ed Lentz encouraged
 - Brown Bags – Committee needs a new chairperson. John King volunteered to chair.
 - Mentorship – Committee is winding down as many Interns are completing their service time.
 - Field Trips – No further trips are scheduled for this year. If you have any suggestions for trips, talk to Ann Woolum about them.
 - Spring Seminar – All speakers are lined up and the committee is working on the other details. It will be held Saturday March 18, 2023 and will be an all-day event.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Election Results

- President: Lisa McClain
- Treasurer: Karl Farwig

President DeBolt opened up the floor for anyone to discuss *How Did Your Garden Grow?*. Several members shared comments about their gardens.

Motion to Adjourn: Rose Morrison; second Barb Phillips. Motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Respectfully Submitted: Elaine Reynolds



Christmas Potluck

“Come one, come all!”

December 8 at 6:00 pm, is our annual Master Gardeners Christmas Potluck. All Master Gardeners and a guest are invited including Emeritus, Active, and Interns.

We will be providing the meat (this year it will be ham), table service, and drinks. Each MGIV is asked to bring a side, salad or dessert to share.

If you did not sign up at the November meeting, it is not too late. You can email, text or call me at 419-889-3931 or rmorrison@woh.rr.com to sign up. I would appreciate you replying by December 4.

Thanks to Marilyn Beltz for taking charge of the event!!
We would love to see you there!

Happy Holidays to all!

Rose 

Mugs of Joy

Mugs of Joy is when our group, visit senior care facilities and assist the residents with filling a Christmas mug with greenery. We also try to sing some carols with the residents. This year we are visiting 3 locations to spread our joy.


Wednesday December 7, 1:30 pm at Taylor House, 1920 Breckinridge Road, Findlay. Currently there are 5 volunteers. The activities director gave an estimate of 15 residents. Please consider joining us.

Thursday, Dec. 8, 10:00 am at Heritage Legacy, 2801 Greenacre Drive, Findlay. This is a memory care unit currently there are 4 volunteers. Not sure of the number of residents that will participate as it depends on how the day is going for them. We definitely could use a few more volunteers since this is often a 1 on 1 endeavor.

Friday, Dec. 9, 1:00 pm at BVRSI Day Services, 1644 Tiffin Ave. Findlay. This is the white building behind Burger King. There will be about 10 clients with special needs. This is close to my heart as this is the organization that supports my son Scotty. While he doesn't go there, he does come to participate during special events. At this point I do not have any volunteers since I just scheduled. I would like at least 4 volunteers since this facility has multiple staff as well.

If you did not sign up already please consider doing this rewarding volunteer opportunity. You can call to text me at 419-889-3931 or email me at rmorrison@woh.rr.com with your availability.

Thank you in advance for the support for this charitable event.

Rose 



MG Happenings

(Continued)



CONGRATULATIONS **on Becoming Active Members!!!**

Cheryl Everett
Craig Lamme
Pete Reynolds

2022 MGV Wreath Workshops

Betsy DeFrancesco

The 2022 Wreath Workshops are under way! We have had great response from the public and from our MGVs. Thanks to everyone who has cut greens, made bows, and who donated decorations for this project.

Remaining Wreath Workshops are as follows:

Thursday, December 1 from 6 – 8 pm

Saturday, December 3 from 2 – 4 pm

Sunday, December 4 from 2 – 4 pm

New this year – a Wreath Workshop will be held at 50N on Tuesday, December 6 at 10:30 am.



Finding and Caring for the Perfect Christmas Tree

The Courier-November 26, 2022

Tim Brugeman

<https://mynewsongo.com/courier/Reader/Story.aspx?id=a362c22e-5dc6-4d58-a4c8-6f7dc35e7725>

(Continued)

MG Happenings

(Continued)



November Brown Bag

Thank you Cheryl Everett for a great Brown Bag!!!
“Native Plants to Add to Your Garden Next Spring”



“Gardening in Our Golden Years”

Lisa McClain presented **Attracting Wildlife on Your Backyard** on November 1st at 50N. 17 people learned about attracting birds, butterflies and bees to our yards.



The last presentation of 2022 will be a Wreath Making Class:

December 6 at 10:30 AM- “Christmas Wreath Making Workshop”

Join Master Gardener Betsy Martindale-DeFrancesco and elves to make a take-home Christmas wreath to add great smells and beauty for the holidays. Fresh cut evergreens, wire, frame and ribbon provided. \$25 Fee, Limit 25, Pre-Registration required.

While programs are basically for 50N members, we are welcome to either attend to listen to the presentation or assist. MG's need not register to attend unless doing the \$25 December wreath workshop.

Handling and Maintaining Houseplants During Winter

Richard Jauron, Greg Wallace-Iowa State University Extension

Houseplants provide much-needed beauty and color to a home during winter's cold blast, but they do require some special care to keep them vibrant during freezing temperatures, even inside. What are optimal suggestions for houseplants in winter?

How often should houseplants be watered in winter?

In general, houseplants require less frequent watering during the winter months than in spring and summer. Watering frequency depends upon the plant species, composition of the potting mix, environmental conditions (temperature, light and humidity), and other factors. When watering houseplants, continue to apply water until water begins to flow out the bottoms of the pots. Discard the excess water.



Should houseplants be fertilized in the winter?

Fertilization is generally not necessary during the winter months as most houseplants are not growing during this time. Indoor gardeners should fertilize their houseplants on a regular basis in spring and summer when plants are actively growing.

What are suitable temperatures for houseplants in winter?

Most houseplants prefer daytime temperatures of 65 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit and nighttime temperatures of 60 to 65 degrees Fahrenheit. Temperatures below 50 degrees Fahrenheit or rapid temperature fluctuations may harm some plants. Keep houseplants away from cold drafts, radiators and hot air vents. Also make sure houseplants don't touch cold windows.

How can I raise the relative humidity indoors for my houseplants during the winter months?

Many houseplants prefer a relative humidity of 40 to 50 percent. Unfortunately, the humidity level in many homes during the winter months may be only 10 to 20 percent. Humidifiers are an excellent way to increase the relative humidity in the home. Simple cultural practices also can increase the relative humidity around houseplants. Grouping plants together is an easy way to raise the humidity level. The water evaporating from the potting soil, plus water lost through the plant foliage, will increase the relative humidity in the vicinity of the houseplants.

Another method is to place houseplants on trays (saucers) filled with pea gravel or pebbles. Add water to the trays, but keep the bottoms of the pots above the water level. The evaporation of water from the trays increases the relative humidity around the plants.



IT'S Time To.....December

December 4

- Inventory left over seeds.
- Look for exciting new cultivars of poinsettia.
- Prune evergreen shrubs for holiday decorations-make a holiday wreath.
- Choose a cut Christmas tree while the selection is good.
- When shopping for a Christmas tree, check for green, flexible, firmly held needles and a sticky trunk base – both indicators of freshness. Make a fresh cut, and keep the cut end under water at all times.
- Provide food and water for birds.

December 11

- Check houseplant leaves for brown, dry edges, which indicates too little relative humidity in the house. Increase humidity by running a humidifier, grouping plants or using pebble trays.
- Provide winter protection for roses by mounding soil approximately 12 inches high to insulate the graft union after plants are dormant and temperatures are cold. Additional organic mulch such as straw compost or chopped leaves can be placed on top.
- Prevent bark splitting of young and thin-barked trees, such as fruit and maple trees. Wrap trunks with tree wrap, or paint them with white latex (not oil-based) paint, particularly on the south- and southwest-facing sides. Remember to remove trunk wrap at the end of winter.
- Shield plants from salt spray on the street side.

December 18

- Houseplants may not receive adequate light because days are short and gloomy. Move plants closer to windows, but avoid placing foliage against cold glass panes. Artificial lighting may be helpful.
- Because growth slows or stops in winter months, most plants will require less water and little, if any, fertilizer.
- Store leftover garden chemicals where they will stay dry, unfrozen and out of the reach of children, pets and unsuspecting adults.

December 25

- Extend the lives of holiday plants such as poinsettias and Christmas cactus by placing them in a cool, brightly lit area that is free from warm or cold drafts.
- Carefully remove heavy snow loads with a broom to prevent limb breakage.
- Check produce and tender bulbs in storage, and discard any that show signs of decay, such as mold or softening. Shriveling indicates insufficient relative humidity.
- Make notes for next year's garden.



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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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