

# GREEN THUMB PRINTS

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

January 2022



### 2022 Officers

President-Reuben DeBolt  
Vice-President-Lisa McClain  
Treasurer-Ann Woolum  
Secretary-Elaine Reynolds

### Next Monthly Meeting

January 13-6:00 PM

At this meeting we will review our 2022 goals and give committees time to work on implementation plans and budgets.

Please plan on attending!!!

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Marilyn and Karl at Our Christmas Dinner

## ***Reuben's Ruminations***

### ***January 2022***

President's Notes for January, 2022

Does that really say "2022"??

I must say, that I am looking forward to a new year, one that I hope will be much better than 2021 in most respects!

Meanwhile, I hope that everyone has had a wonderful Christmas season. Special thanks to Marilyn Beltz for organizing our MGV Christmas dinner, which I hope everyone enjoyed. The Findlay HS String Factor led by Laurie Pressel's husband Ken added a very nice touch to the evening.

A quick look back at 2021, which we are mostly glad to have in the rearview mirror:

- Started with no in-person activities, and masks even for outdoor projects, but...
- Monthly meetings – Zoom, but we at least held them, even a few "brown bags". Thanks, Karl.
- Let's Go Gardening – got the green light just in time for Mother's Day weekend. Great job, Judi, pulling it all together in almost no time
- Plant exchange – our first in-person meeting in May. Thanks to Karla for coordinating
- Entrance to the Ag Center – TOTALLY revamped in a project that saw numerous MGV's put in many hours. Thanks to Peggy and Tim for leading the way
- Community Garden – very large garden this year, donated a whopping 5,868 lbs of produce to CHOPIN Hall and City Mission. Again, a number of MGVs worked on this. Thanks to Brint for leading and coordinating everything. And to the Farwigs and Leiendeckers who contributed produce from their own gardens.
- Habitat for Humanity – Tim designed landscaping for new home builds and oversaw plantings. Tim also starred in a great instructional video that we hope Habitat actually uses
- Fair Booth – a return to normal! Virtually everyone played some role. Thanks to Doris for coordinating
- Ask-a-MGV – little direct contact, but we answered a lot of questions. Thanks to Doris and team
- Seminar – our first chance in about a year and a half to bring the public in. Thanks to Lisa for leading and coordinating the many MGVs who helped
- Brown Bags – we actually had a couple of real in-house brown bags sessions. Thanks Debra, Karla and Peggy
- Wreath Classes – don't know final numbers, but LOTS of people enjoyed wreath classes, led by Betsy with many assistants
- Mugs of Joy – haven't heard how this went, but thanks to Linda and Rose for organizing it
- Monthly all year – Courier articles by many MGVs, Lisa sent out the newsletter

All in all, I guess we accomplished quite a bit, in what often seemed like a lost year. Kudos to everyone!

Looking forward, our January meeting will be a planning meeting for all of the committees to review goals and to decide on programs and propose budgets for the year.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas holiday season and I look forward to seeing you all in 2022!

***Reuben DeBolt***

## **Coordinator's Comments**

Karl Farwig

### **Emails**

Some of you, but not all of you, are reporting receiving win.dat files from some of my messages to you. You can not open win.dat files so there is no reason to try. However, the attachment I was intending to send should be able to be opened. The win.dat file is being generated from my email system to your email system. There is nothing I can do about it other than try to send the emails directly from my Gmail account. I use Outlook via my Gmail account for most of my communications and Outlook is the culprit in creating the win.dat files. I will attempt to send messages via the Gmail application as much as I can, but I might occasionally forget. Please let me know if there are any messages that you can not open, but please don't try to open win.dat files.

### **MGV Classes**

The Ohio State University Extension and the Hancock County Master Gardeners will be offering an extensive Master Gardener course on horticulture this winter. The course covers 50 hours of training in various topics of gardening, such as botany, pesticides, plant propagation, soils and fertilizers, invasive insects and plants, plant disease, fruits, vegetables, lawns, trees and wood shrubs, and herbaceous plants.

The class will begin on Wednesday, February 9 and will continue each Wednesday until March 30. Class time will be from 9 am to 4 pm with an hour lunch break. Cost will be \$150 for single participants or \$225 for couple participants. An information session will be held on January 19 at 4 pm to discuss more about this offering.

If you are aware of people who are interested in taking this course and would like to become involved in the Hancock County Master Gardeners, please send their contact information to Karl Farwig, [khfarwig@gmail.com](mailto:khfarwig@gmail.com) or call him at 419-348-7577.

You may also contact the OSU Extension office at 419-422-3851. We need everyone's help in advertising this course. We will be also monitoring the severity of COVID over the next month, but our goal is to continue to host this class. We need a minimum of 10 participants to move forward with the class.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

### **VMS Replacement System**

Over the winter, I will be contacting you to set you up on the new system which replaces the VMS system. At this point, the plan will be to train small groups on the system to work out any issues anyone might have before moving forward with more of the group. Please watch for messages from me on next steps with this implementation.

# *MG Happenings*

## **2021 MG V WREATH WORKSHOPS**



Thanks to everyone who volunteered their time towards the 2021 Wreath Workshops!!!

(Cutting and volunteering greens-donating items-cutting and painting teasels-staffing the actual sessions, etc.)

A special thank you to Betsy DeFrancesco for her tireless work on this fundraising project

In total there were 8 sessions and 141 participants. 6 sessions were held at the OSUE while 1 was held for the Hancock County Commissioners Staff and 1 for ladies of the BVH.



## **Enjoy the Frosty Winter Wonderland**

Marilyn Beltz

The Courier-December 24, 2021

<https://mynewsonthego.com/courier/Reader/Story.aspx?id=9d572bfa-45ac-42f1-9661-e88a55d3cd02>

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# ***MG Happenings***

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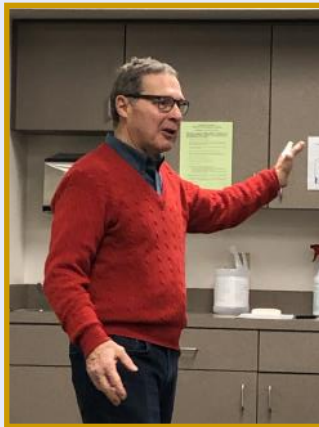
## **Christmas Potluck**

A wonderful evening was had on Thursday, Dec. 9th with 36 people attending.  
As always we had great conversation and a delicious meal.

We were entertained with holiday songs by a very talented group of musicians from  
Findlay High School called Findlay String Factor.

Laurie Pressel's husband, Ken, is the instructor for this quintet.

Thanks Marilyn for all of your work in getting this organized.



## **Please Consider Volunteering for 2022**

We are in need of several volunteers to fill the following positions for 2022:

\*Social and Fundraising Committee Chair

\*Brown Bag Project Lead

\*Historian

If interested in filling one of these positions please contact Reuben DeBolt at  
[reubendebolt@hotmail.com](mailto:reubendebolt@hotmail.com)

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# ***MG Happenings***

*Continued*

## **Mugs of Joy**

Residents at The Heritage and BVRSI enjoyed decorating a Christmas Mug and singing carols on Dec 8th and 10th.

Thanks Linda Laux, Rose Morrison and volunteers.



## **It's Time to.....Changes**

Starting with the 2022 January Newsletter  
"It's Time to...." will have a different look.

The new list of gardening tasks will be divided by week and comes out of  
the Ohio State University Extension Office.

If you are interested, the previous "It's Time to...." articles can be found on the Hancock  
County OSUE website <https://hancock.osu.edu> in our past newsletters.

# Christmas Dinner Recipes

## Corn Salad

Lynn Farwig

2 cans Mexicorn (I used Del Monte Southwest Corn with Pablano and Red Pepper)  
1 cup chopped green onions  
1 cup mayonnaise  
1 cup shredded cheese  
1 bag BBQ Twist Fritos or Chili Cheese Fritos

Drain corn. Combine mayonnaise, onions, cheese and corn. Add Fritos just before you serve.

## Calico Beans

Jeff Wingate

Serves about 8 to 10 servings

Ingredients:

1/2 cup bacon, chopped or could use bacon bits  
1 pound lean ground beef (I used ground pork)  
1 (15 oz) can pork and beans  
1 (15 oz) can kidney beans, drained  
1 (15 oz) can butter beans  
1 (15 oz) can lima beans, drained  
1/2 cup ketchup  
1 cup packed brown sugar  
1 cup chopped onion  
3 tablespoons apple cider vinegar  
1 teaspoon mustard powder  
1 tablespoon garlic (minced) or 1 clove garlic

Directions:

Step 1- Preheat oven to 350 degrees or you can use a crock pot.

Step 2-Place bacon and ground beef in a large, deep skillet. Cook over medium high heat until evenly browned. Drain and set aside.

Step 3-If using your oven, get a 4 quart casserole dish, mix together the bacon, ground beef, pork and beans, kidney beans, butter beans, lima beans, ketchup, onion, vinegar, dry mustard, and garlic. If using a crock pot, mix all the previous items listed together in the large skillet, cook for about 10 minutes and pour into crock pot.

Step 4- If using oven, cover and bake for 1 hour. If using crock pot, place the lid on the pot and cook as you would when using a crock pot.

Enjoy!!!

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# Christmas Dinner Recipes

*Continued*

## Chicken and Noodles

Marlene Brunswick

Free range chicken stewed, shredded and mixed with Cream of Chicken Soup.

Homemade chicken broth bring to boil and add bag of Amish homemade noodles until soft.

Mix together and heat in crock pot until ready to serve.

## Pomegranate and Pear Green Salad with Ginger Dressing

Judi Clymer

### Ingredients:

#### Salad

- 1/2 cup raw pecans (halves or pieces)
- 5 ounces baby arugula
- 2 ounces (about 1/2 cup) goat cheese or feta, crumbled
- 1 large ripe Bartlett pear, thinly sliced
- 1 Honeycrisp or Gala apple, thinly sliced
- Arils from 1 pomegranate

#### Ginger Dressing:

- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar, to taste
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 1 tablespoon maple syrup or honey
- 1 teaspoon finely grated fresh ginger
- 1/4 teaspoon fine sea salt
- About 10 twists of freshly ground black pepper

### Instructions:

1. To toast the pecans, place them in a skillet over medium heat. Toast, stirring often, until they're fragrant and starting to turn golden on the edges, about 4 to 5 minutes. Remove the pecans from the heat and roughly chop them (no need to chop if you started with pecan pieces). Set aside.
2. Arrange the arugula across a large serving platter (or bowl, but the salad looks prettiest on a platter). Sprinkle the chopped pecans and crumbled goat cheese over the arugula. Fan out your slices of pear and apple and arrange them across the salad in sections (see photos). Sprinkle all over with fresh pomegranate arils.
3. To prepare the dressing, combine all of the ingredients and whisk until blended. Taste, and if it isn't quite zippy enough, add another teaspoon of vinegar.
4. Wait to dress the salad until you're ready to serve (the dressing will wilt the greens over time). When you're ready, drizzle the ginger dressing lightly all over the salad (you might not need all of it). Serve promptly.



# **Sharpening Your Tools**

G. Denny, University of Florida, Environmental Horticulture Department



After sharpening, wipe a thin layer of oil on the blade of the shovel to prevent rust. Credit: G.C. Denny

Many landscape and garden tools are used for cutting or chopping, and they also benefit from sharpening. Some obvious examples are axes and pruners, but tools like shovels and hoes also are used to cut and chop. Digging with a sharpened shovel often requires less effort and can reduce the amount of time a job takes.

In fact, keeping tools like pruning shears, shovels, and mowing blades sharp actually means better results for your plants. Clean, sharp cuts allow pruned or cut areas to close more quickly and reduce the chances of rot or infection.

Some useful equipment for sharpening tools includes the following:

- Protective eyewear and gloves
- Steel wool or wire brush
- Files: Flat mill file (8 - 10 inch), Round or half-round file (8 - 10 inch)
- Bench vise, clamp or other bracing system
- Grinding wheel/bench grinder
- Scissor sharpeners
- Sharpening stones
- Sandpaper
- Oils

## **Sharpening Techniques**

When sharpening tools, be patient and remember—the angle matters. Take your time and do the job right. The angle, or bevel, that you put on a tool's edge determines how sharp the tool is. However, the proper angle is also determined by the intended use of the tool. The proper bevel for a shovel is not the same as that for hand pruners. The smaller the angle, the sharper the edge, but an edge with a smaller angle is not as durable.

For most tools that are sharp when you buy them (pruners, axes, etc.), it is best to follow the factory bevel when you re-sharpen them. It is easy to ruin a pair of pruners by putting an incorrect angle on the edge. Tools that are dull or blunt when they are purchased (shovels, hoes, etc.) benefit greatly from sharpening. Selecting the proper angle for these tools depends on how you intend to use the tool. Most shovels require about a 45° angle; any sharper and the edge will dull too quickly. The proper angle for hoes depends upon the intended use, but generally ranges between 20° and 45°. For heavy chopping and cultivation, 45° is best. A good general purpose edge for most hoes is 30° to 35° while fine weeding may require a bevel between 20° and 30°.

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# **Sharpening Your Tools**

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## **Sharpening Shovels and Hoes**

Start by removing any surface rust or dirt on the tool using steel wool or a wire brush. Clamp it right side up in a vise, and drag a metal file along one edge in a smooth, even motion. Work in one direction and try to maintain a consistent angle. Then repeat on the other side.

You should be able to see a line of clean steel as you work. Keep doing this until you have a clean steel edge across the entire blade, with the desired bevel.

Your goal is to hone the edge without removing too much metal. You can use a bench grinder or rotary tool instead of a file. Just be sure to wear the proper protective equipment.

Use 300-grit sandpaper to remove any burrs on the back side of the blade. Finally, apply a light coating of a good-quality oil to protect the blade from rusting.



Using a round or half-round smooth file, file the edge of the curve perfectly flat. It is critical that you file this edge at 90° to the inside of the blade. Again, move the file in only one direction and avoid short, jerky strokes.

## **Sharpening Hand Pruners**

Sharpening hand pruners is very similar to sharpening shovels and hoes.

Loosen the pivot bolt and separate the blades. Don't forget to clean off any rust or dirt. Place cutting blade in the bench vise or clamp. Make sure the blade is positioned so that you can put the proper bevel on the cutting edge, and follow the steps above.

Find the appropriate angle for the bevel. Remember, it is best to follow the factory bevel that was on the blade initially.

Now, place the blunt blade in the bench vise. Make sure the blade is positioned so you can work on the inside of the curve. Using a round or half-round smooth file, file the edge of the curve perfectly flat. It is critical that you file this edge at 90° to the inside of the blade. Again, move the file in only one direction and avoid short, jerky strokes.

Use 300-grit sandpaper and oil afterwards.

A properly sharpened tool can make a job much easier. Sharp tools help save time and effort. If you are patient and have the right equipment, putting a sharp edge on your landscape and garden tools is not difficult. However, if you are not comfortable sharpening these tools yourself, professional sharpening services are available to put a keen edge on your tools.

## Care and Maintenance of Garden Tools

### Oregon State University Extension Services

Tools deteriorate from time and dampness combined with soil and rust. Proper cleaning and care described below will keep them in good working condition and extend their life.

**Storage** Store tools in a clean, dry place. Tools can be stored on shelves or in racks, or simply leaned up against a wall. Do not store tools that have wooden parts with the wood in contact with soil or concrete. Clean thoroughly and restore handle finishes before storing over the winter.

**Care During the Gardening Season** For shovels, hoes, forks and other long-handled metal tools, keep a 5-gallon bucket 4/5 full of sand, with (optionally) about a quart of car engine oil thoroughly mixed into it. After each day's use plunge the tool into the bucket a few times to help clean the blade and coat it with oil. Remove and wipe with a lightly oiled rag.

**Winter Storage** Give tools a good cleaning before storing them for the winter. Scrape off soil, using a stiff wire brush if necessary. Remove rust with sandpaper. After cleaning, give metal surfaces a protective coating such as WD-40 or clean lightweight motor oil.

**Step-by-Step Instructions for Thorough Cleaning** Keep tools clean and sharp – well-maintained tools make work easier and more enjoyable. After every use, clean off any dirt or rust. Clean the entire tool including blades, handle(s), etc.

1. Use a brush to clean off any dirt, then a dry rag.
2. If necessary, follow up with a damp rag, then dry the tool.
3. If there is a heavy buildup of sap, scrape with a paint scraper or sharp chisel while taking care not to gouge the metal. Clean with alcohol, mineral spirits (paint thinner) or household foaming bathroom cleaner. Follow up with fine steel wool.
4. If rust remains, clean away with a wire brush and/or sandpaper.
5. When the blade is clean, wipe all metal surfaces with a lightly oiled rag.
6. Wooden parts should have any rough spots or splinters cleaned up by trimming off and sanding smooth. Maintain a coating of linseed or mineral oil.

**Step-by-step Instructions for Adjusting the Blades** For two-bladed cutting tools, sometimes the blades are sharp but the tool won't cut. If your pruners are sharp but the object cut is not smooth, tears or leaves a little heel, your pruner is out of alignment. Examine the tool for loose parts. Close the handles and look for space between the blades. If the blades are misaligned, loose, or bent, the tool must be disassembled for adjustments.

1. Secure the tool well, with the pivot point exposed, and both the head of the bolt and the nut accessible. A good bench vise will help, but a stout table with clamps will do. It is important that the tool is securely held, as force will be exerted from varying angles during disassembly and reassembly, and if the tool moves severe injury can result.
2. You may need to free-up rusted bolts first. Apply WD-40, Liquid Wrench, or another penetrating liquid, following label instructions.

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## **Care and Maintenance of Garden Tools**

(Continued)

3. Using wrenches, screwdrivers, or other appropriate tools, remove the pivot bolt. Be certain to note the location and alignment of any washers or spacers. Some may be cupped to place pressure on other parts of the assembly, so make note of the direction of the cupping for later reassembly. In some cases there is a lock nut or other device to keep the nut from turning. If so, loosen and remove this first. In some cases the nut is permanently fastened to one blade, but usually it is free. NOTE: some pivot bolts are left-hand threaded (tightening counter-clockwise). These will usually have an arrow on the head of the bolt that shows the direction to turn to loosen the bolt.
4. Check for bent parts and straighten or replace as necessary.
5. Thoroughly clean all parts, including the inside surfaces of the bolt holes, the bolt and the nut.
6. Using light machine oil (e.g. 3-in-1 Oil), lubricate the bolt, bolt holes and the base of both blades around the bolt holes.
7. Reassemble, first slipping the bolt into the blade. If the bolt is threaded into the blade, tighten it firmly. Or, it may be keyed, and will only go in when aligned to a slot in the blade. Be certain to place any washers on the bolt as they were before.
8. Assemble the other blade and any washers or other parts in the order and alignment they were in before disassembly.
9. Tighten the nut onto the bolt. At this point you should not be able to open the tool easily. Begin to loosen the bolt in short increments. Imagine the face of a clock. Start with a five minute increment. Remove the tool from the clamp or vise and check its operation. Do this repeatedly until the blades are beginning to pass. Now reduce your increments to one-minute size. When you are in adjustment, the blades will pass smoothly and easily without wobbling.
10. Work the tool a few times, and then give it a final wipe to remove excess oil and coat exposed metal surfaces with oil.

### **Refreshments for January 13th Meeting**

Debra Evans



# IT'S Time To.....January

## Ohio State University Extension

### JANUARY 7

- Check trees and shrubs for signs of rodent feeding.
- Salt used to melt ice on walks and driveways can damage plants.
- Have power yard equipment serviced now.
- Clean, repair, or replace garden tools and equipment.
- Move houseplants away from frosty windowsills.
- Use branches from your Christmas tree to mulch perennials.
- Group houseplants to increase humidity.
- Split your seed order with a friend.
- Provide food and water for birds.

### JANUARY 14

- Inspect stored roots, corms and tubers.
- Write for seed and nursery catalogs.
- Try a few new varieties this year.
- Avoid creating blind spots with piled snow at sidewalk and road intersections.
- Research plants before purchasing and planting.
- Consider fragrance when ordering plants for the garden.
- Winter is a good time for garden dreaming.
- Gardening keeps you physically and mentally fit.
- Provide water for birds.
- Provide seed, fruit and suet for birds.

### JANUARY 21

- Join a garden club or civic beautification group.
- Read a few OSU Extension fact sheets at [webgarden.osu.edu](http://webgarden.osu.edu)
- Consider interplanting vegetables in the ornamental garden.
- Espalier dwarf fruit trees to save space.
- Tamp snow around fruit trees to discourage rodent damage to the trunk.
- Attract bees to your garden and avoid spraying Sevin during the day.
- Start some grass seed in pots for your cat.
- Allow water to reach room temperature before watering house plants.
- Provide seeds, fruit, and suet for the birds.

### JANUARY 28

- Repair leaky garden hoses.
- Sharpen shovels, spades, hoes, and pruners.
- Clean and organize garden tools.
- Add statuary, birdbaths, and wind chimes to the garden.
- During the January thaw, water woody plants if the soil is dry.
- During the January thaw, spray evergreens with an antidesiccant.
- Check hardiness before ordering plants.
- Beware of plants advertised as miracle plants.



# THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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Mugs of Joy

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