

GREEN THUMB PRINTS

Gardening is our Passion Education is our Purpose

March 2022



Next Meeting:

Karla Dennis is presenting our Brown Bag on March 10th at 6:00 PM on Low Maintenance Vegetable Gardening.

Monthly Meeting to Follow

Refreshments:

Linda Finsel

Betsy DeFrancesco

Schedule of Events

- March 2nd.....MGV Training #4
- March 9th.....MGV Training #5
- March 10th.....March Monthly Meeting
- March 16th.....MGV Training #6
- March 23rd.....MGV Training #7
- March 30th.....MGV Training #8
- April 14.....April Monthly Meeting

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Reuben's Ruminations
March 2022

President's Notes for March, 2022

It's February still, so the ground is snow-covered. Not a lot happening in the garden, but the bird feeder is busy.

Last month I moaned about being back on Zoom, but now (at least as I write) it seems that things are returning to normal. MGV Training classes are in full swing, with 13 students! Thank you to Ed & Karl for pulling this together! And I know that the supporting cast will eventually include almost all of us – mentors, refreshments, educational displays, set up, clean up, etc.

I can't even begin to guess how many hours Karl has put in already this year. Now he's conducting training sessions to get us up to speed on Hands On Connect. Hopefully, we'll soon regain most of the operational functionality we lost when VMS was shut down.

Thank you to all the committee chairs for putting together your plans and budgets for this year. Note that our budget for this year calls for significant investments in our Teaching and Education committees so that we can augment our own knowledge and better educate the public. These two goals are the main reasons for the existence of our organization and did not receive as much attention as we would have liked the last two years. If we actually meet our budget, we will run a deficit of over \$4,300 vs a deficit last year of just under \$300, and we will consume about two-thirds of our reserves. Obviously, we can't do this for more than one year, so it is important that we achieve what we set out to do with the investments we are planning to make.

Stay tuned for information on hosting a couple of State seminars on spotted lantern fly April 11. I'm glad we are again getting together in person so that all the informal exchanges are resuming and we can learn from each other. I look forward to seeing you at the training classes and monthly meetings.

Reuben DeBalt

Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers
Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2022

The Zoom meeting began at 7:02 pm. Meeting was recorded.

Administrative Committee – Lynn Farwig

- Debra Evans will chair Apparel and be group Historian
- Please send any information for social media to Betsy DeFrancesco

Social & Fundraising – Rose Morrison

- Christmas Potluck – budget increase to \$500 because of increase in memberships
- Fundraising – requesting larger budget for more Wreath Class supplies
- Refreshment supplies have been inventoried; reducing budget request since many supplies are on hand
- Plant Exchange & Summer Picnic – increased budget due to more members

Service Committee – Tim Brugeman

- Extension Office Garden – budget is for mulch in spring and for replacement plants when necessary; want to have a public presentation on rejuvenating a garden
- Sensory Garden – committee has been clearing out the old Phenology Garden; committee will develop a plan for this garden; no budget request until this plan is developed and approved
- Community Garden – budget reduced due to smaller size of garden this year
- Mugs of Joy – have extra mugs left so budget has been reduced

Teaching – Judi Clymer

- Courier Articles – topics will be listed in the newsletter and at meetings for easier sign-up
- 50 North / Library – increased budget for new programs; 50 North has new raised bed gardens and wishes us to provide an educational program for them
- Fair Booth – working on arranging space to do presentations twice a day during the fair; suggestions needed for how to keep posters from blowing over; additional budget for new posters, Ask a Master Gardener magnets and miscellaneous handouts
- Breakfast with Ask A Master Gardener – intend to do four per year instead of every month; need a volunteer to coordinate

(Continued)

Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers
Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2022
(Continued)

Education Committee – Peggy Biolchini

- MGV Training Class – increased budget since last year there was no class held
- Each MG Class Trainee to give a presentation – Trainees will be assigned a random topic to give a 20-minute presentation at second last class
- MG members to pick a topic to become an expert on – this overlaps with Teaching Committee and will be coordinated with them
- Brown Bag sessions – all openings but three have been filled
- Educational Seminars – first of two sessions planned for April on spotted lanternfly; increased budget because only one seminar was held last year
- Field Trips – funds are for paying stipends if needed

New Business:

HOC computer system - Karl Farwig gave a demonstration of where to enter information into the new Hands On Connect computer system

Meeting adjourned 8:05 pm.

Next Meeting: February 10, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted: Elaine Reynolds

Don't Let That Heavenly Name Fool You

The Courier-February 5, 2022

Peggy Biolchini

<https://mynewsonthego.com/courier/Reader/Story.aspx?id=e04505f9-7d24-406c-bbbb-6016bdac4ad3>

Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers
Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2022

Meeting was called to order by Treasurer Ann Woolum at 6:00 pm.

Brown Bag: Peggy Biolchini introduced the speaker, Cheryl Everett, who spoke on Buddleia's Usefulness in the Garden.

The formal meeting began at 6:45 pm. Ann Woolum asked everyone to introduce themselves for the benefit of the MG Interns attending their first meeting.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the 1/13/2022 meeting were approved; motion: Rose Morrison; second: Patrick Flynn.

Treasurer's Report--Ann Woolum

- \$6,853.80 cash on hand
- \$750.91 restricted for Community Garden
- \$6,102.89 unrestricted funds
- The only expenditure in January was for a \$25 memorial.
- Treasurer's report approved; motion: Lynn Farwig; second: Barb Phillips.

President's Report – Ann Woolum

- Reviewed President DeBolt's notes from this month's newsletter.
- Discussion about seed catalogs.

Volunteer Coordinator's Report - Karl Farwig

- MG Class Update
 - * Classes started yesterday with 13 Interns.
 - * All MG Volunteers should have received the schedule of classes and are invited to attend any classes for continuing education hours. Yesterday's class was Botany.
- Hands On Connect (HOC) Training
 - * Training Guide for the new computer system was handed out. Anyone comfortable with using HOC can go ahead and begin recording their hours
 - * There will be Zoom training classes held during the next month. Members asked to be sure to set up their account BEFORE the Zoom class.
 - * Interns will be trained on HOC later.
 - * Miscellaneous questions were answered about the system
 - * Send information about new events to Karl so he can enter them on the HOC calendar. Include the number of people needed/allowed for the event.
- Results of Project & Proficiency Survey
 - * Handout of the survey results was distributed. If members haven't filled out the survey yet they are asked to do so.

(Continued)

Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers
Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2022
(Continued)

Committee Reports

- Administrative – Lynn Farwig – The bill for the shirts has finally been received from OSU.
- Social & Fundraising – Rose Morrison
 - *Looking for volunteers for refreshments for the MG Training Class. Morning person will need to make coffee and afternoon person responsible for cleanup.
 - *When bringing snacks for meetings, members are reminded to take home any of their leftovers and serving containers.
 - *Betsy DeFrancesco announced that the Wreath Class dates for 2022 have been scheduled:
Sun 11/27 2-4 pm Thurs 12/1 2-4 pm Mon 11/28 6-8 pm
Sat 12/3 2-4 pm Wed 11/30 6-8 pm Sun 12/4 2-4 pm
The new price will be \$25 with the organization paying the EventBrite fee for anyone registering online. Betsy has wreath photos posted on the group Facebook page.
- Service – Tim Brugeman – Bill Jones will soon be starting the seeds for the Community Garden project.
- Teaching – Judi Clymer
 - *Doris Salis is asking for additional volunteers for Ask-a-Master-Gardener.
 - *Arrangements have been made with the Fair Board to do 15 minute presentations at certain times during the Fair. Any volunteers should contact Linda Finsel.
 - *Coffee with Master Gardeners – Chairperson needed. These will be held 4 times this year, probably at the Extension Office.
 - *A Library program for children will be presented 4/23/2022 from 10 am to noon. Volunteers are needed. Contact Linda Finsel.
- Education – Peggy Biolchini – The March Brown Bag will be presented by Karla Dennis on Low Maintenance Vegetable Gardening.

Old Business - None

New Business:

Proposed Budget – Ann Woolum

- Reviewed the numbers on the proposed budget. The negative net balance of \$4350 will come out of our excess checking balance of \$6853.80.
- Karl Farwig reminded members that anyone attending a Continuing Education class that has a fee can be reimbursed, up to \$50 per year per member.

Motion to Adjourn: Rose Morrison; second: Judi Clymer. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned 7:37 pm.

Next Meeting: March 10, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted: Elaine Reynolds

MG Training Classes



New Trainees

Craig Lamme	Jerry Bryant
Sandy Breidenbach	John King
Denise Smith	Rob Biolchini
Margi Habegger	Nick Moore
Pete Reynolds	Page Badertscher
Jeffrey Jump	Amanda Gnepper
Emily McBeath Hinderliter	

Come meet our new trainees and earn continuing education hours by attending the remaining classes.

Topics:

March 2: AM-Vegetables
PM-Small Fruits/Tree Care

March 9: AM-Invasive Insects & Plants
PM-Lawns

March 16: AM-Trees/Pruning Fruit Trees
PM-Entomology

March 23: AM-Class Presentations
PM-Pollinators

March 30: AM-Herbaceous Plants
PM-Backyard Wildlife

MG Happenings

Community Garden

Brint Simmons

With all the winter weather we've had in January and February it's hard to believe that Spring is just around the corner. But it is coming and we need to get ready for many gardening opportunities. One of those is the MGV Community Garden project. This year our garden will be considerably smaller than last year. We plan to grow cabbage, potatoes, tomatoes, peppers, squash, and zucchini, but in smaller quantities. Our goal is twofold: 1) demonstrate good gardening practices to educate members of the community and 2) raise 3000 pounds of fresh produce to donate to CHOPIN Hall and City Mission. The 3000 pounds will include what we grow in our project garden and donations from individual MGVs' gardens.

If you want to help with this exciting project, log on to Hands On Connect and add the Community Garden to your ongoing opportunities list.

Courier Article Sign Up

We just have two months left to fill for 2022!

March	Doris Salis
April	Debra Evans
May	Linda Finsel
June	???????
July	???????
August	Peggy Biolchini
September	Lisa McClain
October	Elaine Reynolds
November	Laurie Pressel
December	Tim Brugeman

If interested in writing an article please contact
Judi Clymer at 419-345-8086 or bbjec94@bright.net

or

Laurie Pressel at 419-721-2581 or lauriepressel3@gmail.com

Continued

MG Happenings

Continued

Brown Bags All Filled for 2022

THANK YOU-THANK YOU-THANK YOU!!!

March	Karla Dennis	Low Maintenance Vegetable Gardening
April	Patrick Flinn	Garden Tool Maintenance
May	Plant Exchange	————
June	Linda Finsel	Roses
July	Summer Picnic	————
August	Sharon Milligan	Monarchs
September	County Fair	————
October	Elaine Reynolds	Fall Clean Up
November	Cheryl Everett	Selecting Native Perennials for Spring Planting
December	Christmas Party	————

Findlay-Hancock County Library Speakers

April 19th-6:00 PM-Debra Evans-Spotted Lanternfly
April 23rd-Linda Finsel-Children's Program at Library
May 18th-6:00 PM-Linda Finsel-Roses

Please contact Linda Finsel at 419-424-3213 or lindamf@earthlink.net
if interested in speaking in the community.

Refreshments for Monthly Meetings

We need volunteers to sign up for refreshments for this year's meetings.
If interested please contact Linda Leiendecker at
419-889-2958 or lindaleien@gmail.com

Snowdrops

Penn State University Extension
Martha Murdock-Master Gardener

Snowdrops are one of the first flowers to emerge in late winter. Learn more about the origin and care of this popular bulb.



Looking forward to spring? One of the first flowers you may see is the common snowdrop (*Galanthus nivalis*). The appropriately named snowdrop blooms in much of Pennsylvania in late February or March, often peeking up through a cover of snow.

Snowdrops, which are native to Europe and the Middle East, are very popular in the northern U.S. and have naturalized widely. Also common in Great Britain, visitors can take special tours where the naturalized flowers form impressive carpets of white blooms. There are even snowdrop festivals in Scotland. However, you do not need to travel abroad to attend one of these events. Consider traveling to Dowingtown, Pennsylvania, which has an annual *Galanthus Gala*.

A member of the Amaryllis family, snowdrops comprise a small genus (*Galanthus*) with about 20 species. The common snowdrop (*Galanthus nivalis*) grows only 3-6" tall, with linear leaves. The plants have a single small drooping bell-shaped flower with six white petal-like sepals arranged in two circles. The inner sepals are sometimes marked with green. The giant snowdrop (*Galanthus elwesii*) looks very similar, merely larger, growing from 14-16" tall.

Snowdrops prefer part shade to full sun, and benefit from a rich humus soil with good drainage. However, they will tolerate a variety of soils. Plant the bulbs in the fall about 2-3" deep. Snowdrops need a cold period, known as stratification, in order to bloom. Temperatures need to go below 20°, so you won't see this plant growing in southern gardens. Nor will you see them in the far north, as they will not survive temperatures below minus 30°.

Snowdrops provide charm and a promise of spring in woodland settings and rock gardens alike. They may be planted under deciduous trees, as they will bloom and die back before the trees leaf out. Pretty planted in drifts of up to 25 bulbs, they will spread over time. To speed up propagation, one can carefully dig and divide them soon after they are done blooming.

Snowdrops have no serious insect or disease problems and are deer resistant. However, there is a caution for pets and children: the plants are poisonous if ingested. Some gardeners also report skin irritation and recommend gloves when handling.

So, plant snowdrops and look forward to seeing these beauties early every year. They are such a joy to see after a long gray winter.



IT'S Time To.....March

Ohio State University Extension

March 6

- Purchase trees and shrubs for planting later this month.
- Clean and sharpen pruning tools.
- Repair fences and trellises.
- Prevent damping off by using sterilized soil to start seeds.
- Wash and sterilize seed starting containers in 1-part bleach to 9-parts water.
- Enjoy the blossoms of vernal witch hazel.
- Grow compact varieties where space is limited.
- Take cuttings of geraniums for new bedding plants.
- Continue feeding the birds; natural food sources are scarce.

March 13

- Prune woody landscape and fruit plants when the temperature is above freezing.
- Plant woody plants as soil conditions permit.
- Sow seeds of dahlia, snapdragon and verbena indoors.
- Sow seeds of broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower indoors.
- Rake debris from the lawn when the soil is fairly dry.
- Before planting have your soil tested at a lab recommended by your Extension office.
- Repot houseplants as needed.
- Digging in wet soil causes compaction.
- Provide food and water for birds and other wildlife.

March 20

- Prune shrubs, landscape trees and grapes before the plants break dormancy.
- Sow seeds of petunia and salvia indoors.
- Plant woody plants when the soil and weather conditions permit.
- Remove winter protection from rose bushes.
- Soil that sticks to the spade is too wet to work. Wait to dig until it dries a bit.
- Remove mulch from established strawberries before growth begins.
- Look for snowdrops blooming under the snow.
- Use the pruning waste of grapevines to make grapevine wreaths.
- Provide food for wildlife.

March 27

- Seed new lawns as weather and soil conditions permit.
- Sow seeds of eggplant and pepper indoors.
- Sow peas outdoors as weather conditions permit.
- Apply lawn fertilizer as weather permits.
- Remove tops and dead leaves from asparagus and rhubarb.
- Side dress asparagus and rhubarb with nitrogen fertilizer.
- Prune trees and shrubs.
- Plant pansies.
- Propagate houseplants.



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Orange Cookies

Linda Finsel

I made these cookies for the new MGV training class for their afternoon snack and had several people asking for the recipe.

1 Whole Orange, rind and all, ground fine	2 cups sugar
1 cup shorting	2 eggs
1 cup buttermilk	5 cups flour
2 teaspoons baking power	1/4 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon baking soda	

Cream sugar, shorting and eggs together, add buttermilk and orange. Mix in the dry ingredients.

Drop by teaspoon on cookie sheet, bake at 375 degrees for 10-12 minutes. When cooled frost.

Frosting

1 whole orange, rind and all, ground fine
1 Tablespoon shorting
4 cups power sugar

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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