

GREEN THUMB PRINTS

Gardening is our Passion Education is our Purpose

October 2022

October Monthly Meeting

October 13th-6:00 PM

Brown Bag

Rob Biolchini-Fall Color in Hancock County

Refreshments

Rose Morrison and Peggy Biolchini

Debra Evans is picking up our long awaited
apparel order and will be
distributing items at our meeting.



John King helping a young fair goer match common flowers with their names.

Upcoming Events

October 4.....Fall Fun in the Garden-50N

October 13.....Monthly Meeting

November 1.....Wildlife-Friendly Plants
for Your Yard-50N

**Community Garden Grand Total
for 2022 is 1,633 pounds.**

See page 7.



Volunteers at the Native Plant Program

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Reuben's Ruminations

October 2022

President's Notes for October, 2022

Wow! When Fall arrived, Fall arrived! If anyone needed a reminder that it was about time to wrap up and clean up in the garden, the change in weather sure let us know.

"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, tear-down." (Those two sentences are quotes from a year ago – and still fit.)

Thanks to Rose for taking on the fair booth project and getting everything organized. The booth looked great! I'll be interested to hear an assessment of how some new wrinkles worked out.

Judging from the buzz of activity and smiling faces I saw, I think our native plant event with HPD at Oakwoods went extremely well – especially for what was a trial balloon. A big thanks to Tim for hatching the idea and coordinating the event. And to the many of you, including interns, who participated. This was all new, so we'll be very interested in the assessment of how it went.

By the time you see this, the Community Garden project should be all wrapped up after a very good season. We've donated about 1,500 lbs of produce, including some from members' gardens. Even with the smaller plot this year, the garden still required significant labor. Thanks to all who helped, and especially to Brint for tirelessly leading the project so that we had a real demonstration garden.

Thanks to Lisa McClain for the latest Courier article on harvesting seeds from native plants. And for tying it in to the native plant event.

Thanks to Rob Biolchini for his presentation on fall colors at our Gardening in Our Golden Years series at 50North. And to Tim and Linda Finsel for organizing the whole series.

We'll be looking forward to returning to a regular schedule here in October and November and planning for 2023. First step toward 2023 will be elections. VP Lisa McClain is seeking nominations for candidates (See note elsewhere in newsletter).

Look forward to seeing you at our October meeting.

Reuben DeBolt



MG Happenings

2023-24 MGV Board Officer Elections

Candidates for the office of President and Treasurer will be presented at the October monthly meeting and voted upon during the November meeting. If interested in, or if you want to nominate someone for either position for 2023-24 please email Lisa McClain at enjymzk@gmail.com.

“Gardening in Our Golden Years”

Tim Brugeman

Thanks Rob Biolchini for your great presentation on Fall Colors of Hancock County. Rob and Tim Brugeman gave a virtual tour of Hancock County trees discussing what trees have the best fall color, how and why they turn colors, and where to find them. There were 16 guests and 3 MGV's in attendance.

The winner of the tree was Dorothy Harvey in the Hillcrest area. Thanks to Menards for the tree and Rob for letting us use his truck!!!



The next presentations are as follows:

October 4 at 10:30 AM —“Fall Fun in the Garden”

Make fun out of fall landscaping cleanup, getting outdoors ready for winter and planting for spring bulbs by Master Gardeners John King and Craig Lamme. Each person will receive spring bulbs to take home and plant.

November 1 at 10:30 AM —“Wildlife-Friendly Plants for Your Yard”

Learn about incorporating plants that can attract wildlife to your yard the year around with Master Gardener Lisa McClain. Get ready for winter birds; add plants for next springs butterflies, hummingbirds and bee-pollinators. Registration required.

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. MGV's need not register to attend unless doing the \$25 December wreath workshop.

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MG Happenings

(Continued)

2022 MGW Wreath Workshops

Betsy DeFrancesco

Our Wreath Workshops information is live on Eventbrite.com and we already have some people signed up! In fact, the Monday, November 28th class is full of ladies from Cornerstone Church. We also have the winners from the fair that will be added this week.

We need volunteers for cutting greens on Friday, Nov. 25 and Saturday, Nov. 26. We also need properties where we can cut the greens. To volunteer for cutting or to offer your property, please call Betsy DeFrancesco at 908-910-5586 or email her at [betsmart 207@yahoo.com](mailto:betsmart207@yahoo.com). The workshops will be held in the conference room at the Hancock County Agricultural Services Building with one exception. New this year, we are teaming up with 50N to offer a morning class on Tuesday, Nov. 29th for 50N members.

DATES & TIMES:

Sunday, November 27	2 pm
Monday, November 28	6 pm (SOLD OUT)
Wednesday, November 30	6 pm
Thursday, December 1	6 pm
Saturday, December 3	2 pm
Sunday, December 4	2 pm



Horticulture Lunch and Learn & Happy Hours Series

MGVs, Interns and Emeritus. We are excited to announce that our next horticulture webinar series will begin next week on October 5th. Starting off our series, we will have Dr. Tim McDermott who will be discussing "Gardening in the Winter: Indoors and Out". For each webinar you attend (or recording that you watch), you will earn one hour of Continuing Education credit. We are scheduled through June of 2023 with amazing speakers and topics. Registrations for presentations in 2023 will be available soon. Handouts are usually available the day before the presentation.

For more information and free registration, please visit: <https://mastergardener.osu.edu/HHHLNL22-23>

Intern Opportunity Hours Still Available for 2022

- Attend or assist with 50N "Gardening In Your Golden Years" Programs
- Assist with wreath workshops starting in late November

Please remember to send hours monthly to Ed Lentz at lentz.38@osu.edu.

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MG Happenings

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2022 Hancock County Fair

Rose Morrison

Thank you to all MG's who helped make this year's fair a success.
We had many contacts and everyone loved the seeds!
The Fair Committee worked together to make our booth look fantastic.

For the first time, we had daily education presentations. While we didn't have a lot of attendees, the education provided was a success. Special thanks to the presenters Debra Evans, Sharon Milligan, Linda Finsel, Margi Habegger, Peggy Biolchini and myself who volunteered to try this new adventure.

The MG'S updated and created new posters that were well received by the attendees. Special thanks to Jeff Wingate who created and made holders for the posters. For the first time, the posters didn't blow down!

Special thanks to all the interns and everyone for volunteering. Additional praise to John King and Jeff Wingate who worked almost everyday!

The Fair is a time for the Master Gardeners to meet, greet and educate the residents of Hancock County. The success of this year's booth was a team effort. Thank you to all who worked to make it a success.



**A special thank you to Rose Morrison for taking
the lead in this important activity.**

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MG Happenings

(Continued)

Native Plants-Education and Sales Event

Tim Brugeman

Our first “Native Plants Event” September 17 at Oakwoods Nature Preserve drew several hundred visitors according to the Park District.

Thanks to Dave McPherson of Star Farms, all the MGV volunteers who volunteered, HPD and their staff in making this a success. A special thanks to MGV’s Ann Woolum, Nick Moore and Chad Carroll from the HPD who all did so much behind the scenes.

207 native trees, shrubs and perennials went home with gardeners to help our pollinators and add beauty to area gardens. Exhibits, tours and educational information from Master Gardeners were well received. Gross sales were \$1267. After the cost of the plants, a balance of \$614 was split for a \$307 donation each to Master Gardeners and Hancock Parks Foundation.

Thank you Tim putting this entire program together!



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MG Happenings

(Continued)

Community Garden

Brint Simmons

This has been a good season for the community garden project. Several MGVs and quite a few of our new interns have participated in the project. City Mission and CHOPIN Hall have been grateful for the fresh produce we have provided for their clients.

- Many thanks to everyone who shared in the work.
- A special thank you goes to Tim Brugeman for making two large notice boards to provide gardening information to the folks who use the community garden.
- And a special thanks to Bill Jones for providing tomato, pepper and cabbage seedlings.

Our total harvest for the season came to 1,633 pounds including some donated by individuals from their personal gardens. Although we fell short of our goal of 3000 pounds, we had a good season and enjoyed a successful garden.

**Thank you Brint for all of your work
on the garden!!!**



Harvesting Native Seed Will Help Grow Your Garden

The Courier-September 10, 2022

Lisa McClain

<https://mynewsonthego.com/courier/Reader/Story.aspx?id=447f2d1d-80d2-48cd-9659-4fdcac70b4ac>

Growing Horseradish

PENN State Extension-Charlotte Welliver-Master Gardener-Columbia County

Horseradish has been used as a condiment for thousands of years. This easy-to-grow vegetable can be planted in early spring or late fall.

Horseradish is a tough, cold-hardy perennial that grows best where there is enough of a winter to force the plants into dormancy. There are two types of horseradish: common, which has broad, crinkled leaves, and Bohemian, which has narrower, smooth leaves.

Choosing a Site

Horseradish thrives in full sun but tolerates light shade. It grows best in deep, rich, moist loamy soil. Roots tend to be malformed and yields are reduced if grown in hard, shallow, or stony soils.

Planting

Set out your plants or root cuttings in early spring, as soon as the soil is workable, or fall. Roots are available at farmer's markets, supermarkets, and mail-order nurseries. You can use the top half of the root to make a peppery condiment and plant the bottom half. Loosen the soil to 12 inches deep and add a shovel full of compost. Plant the root cutting at a 45-degree angle, with the top of the cutting 2 inches below the soil line. For smoother, straighter, and fatter roots, remove the suckers — leaf-bearing sprouts that form above ground. When the plants are about 8 inches tall, use a sharp knife to cut off the suckers, leaving only three or four at the center of the crown. One plant is usually plenty for a family. If you do plant more than one root, space them 30 inches apart.

Growing

Horseradish needs little to no attention in order to thrive. To keep the plant from looking too unsightly, water once a week during dry spells and use a couple inches of mulch around the plant to hold in moisture. Compost should give the plant most of its food for the season, but if needed apply a balanced or low-nitrogen fertilizer two to three times during a growing season. The soil should be pH 5.5 to 5.7. You can check your soil pH with a soil test. Soil test kits are available at your local Penn State Extension office.) Also, keep your bed clear of weeds.

Harvesting

You can start using the horseradish one year after planting. Use a garden fork or shovel. Carefully dig away the soil from around the main root, being careful to free up the side roots and remove them at the same time. Start harvesting after frost kills the foliage. Scrub the main root under running water and dry well. You can store the roots in a perforated plastic bag in the vegetable bin of your refrigerator for three months or longer. Prepare your horseradish in a well-ventilated area or even outside. It emits fumes that can make your nose run and irritate your eyes. Grating horseradish crushes the cells of the root, releasing the volatile oils which give horseradish its heat. Adding vinegar stops the enzymatic reaction. The longer you wait to add the vinegar, the hotter your horseradish will be. For instructions on preparing and preserving fresh horseradish, consult a cookbook or recipe site online.

Problems

The most common problem with horseradish is how to keep it from growing where you don't want it. It can become aggressive if not kept under control. To control the spread, remove the entire root, even the branches, when harvesting. Replant only the number of roots you want for the following season. Whatever you do, don't till up soil containing horseradish roots because you will risk spreading the plant all over the garden. Almost every little piece of root will sprout where it lies.

Horseradish flea beetle is a serious pest on foliage. It deposits egg clusters on leaf petioles (leafstalk). Its larvae burrow into the petioles and will kill some of the leaves. A floating row cover will help. Horticulture oils also have some repellent effect on this insect. Remember to read and follow the directions on all insecticides.

Why Do Tree Leaves Change Color in Autumn?

Christopher Enroth-University of Illinois Extension



In the language of folklore, Jack Frost has often been credited with spurring the onset of fall color by pinching leaves with his icy fingers. Obviously today we know that's not the case, but for a long time, scientists thought coloring of fall leaves was caused by the accumulation of waste products over the season that were then revealed as the green chlorophyll pigment faded away. This, as it turns out, is mostly untrue.

The Science of Fall Color

What really happens to produce fall's leafy display? A combination of shortening day length and cooling temperatures are picked up by receptors in the tree that begin to produce hormones to initiate leaf senescence. Senescence is the process of leaves' breaking down complex molecules into smaller soluble ones, such as sugars and amino acids. These smaller compounds are resorbed by the tree for use in spring. Resorption of the sugars and amino acids allows the tree to recover energy that would otherwise be lost when the tree sheds its leaves at the end of senescence.

Leaf senescence also includes the formation of the abscission layer, a barrier that forms at the base of the leafstalk and severs the flow of materials between leaf and tree. Once the layer is complete, the leaf is ready to fall and is usually removed from the tree by wind or rain.

So what role does fall color play in leaf senescence? It takes energy for the tree leaves to resorb those soluble compounds back into the tree, which means the chlorophyll still has a job to do in producing this energy. But with chlorophyll quickly degrading, the leaf is now vulnerable to ultraviolet exposure from sunlight, pests that might take advantage of a dying leaf, and a host of other environmental factors, including freezing temperatures. This is where the other tree leaf pigments come into play; they help protect and give a boost of energy to resorb those nutrients back into the tree.

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Why Do Tree Leaves Change Color in Autumn? (Continued)

Leaves' Multiple Pigments

The orange and yellow colors you see in the fall are carotenoids. They are present throughout the growing season, but chlorophyll's green pigment is so overpowering that our eyes can't see the others. In the growing season carotenoids and chlorophyll work together to absorb visible light energy, which is converted to chemical energy through photosynthesis. In the fall, chlorophyll breaks down more quickly, revealing the yellow and orange of the carotenoids as these pigments continue to process energy for the resorption process. Some of our favorite vegetables—tomatoes, carrots, sweet potatoes—get their bright oranges and yellows from the carotenoid pigment.

Tannins cause the autumn browns and coppers seen in fall in a lot of in oaks and beech trees. Tannins, which make leaves taste very bitter, are considered a waste product of certain plant processes. Leaves store them up as a defense mechanism against pathogens or anything that might feed on them. This pigment is also present throughout the year, but it is visible only after the chlorophyll fades.

The brilliant shades of red, purple, and crimson come from anthocyanin. Yellows, golds, oranges, and even browns are fairly consistent from year to year, but anthocyanin can be unreliable. Anthocyanin forms as plant sugars accumulate in the leaves because of the ever-constricting abscission layer, which slowly narrows the tubes that allow the tree to resorb nutrients. The more sunlight a leaf is exposed to, the more sugar is produced; the more sugars that accumulate in the leaf, the more anthocyanins are produced, and the redder the leaf becomes. Not all plants are genetically programmed to produce anthocyanins, but some produce reddish foliage all year long, including the well-known Crimson King Norway Maple.

Anthocyanins perform a multitude of functions in fall, including absorbing free radicals and protecting plant leaves as they move nutrients back into the tree. They also promote frost tolerance to help ensure that leaf senescence completes in time for the nutrients to move back into the tree. There's also a theory among some scientists that the anthocyanins' red color warns leaf-feeding insects to stay away.

Like all of nature's displays, fall color is fleeting, so get outside and enjoy autumn's hues!



IT'S Time To.....October

Ohio State University Extension

OCTOBER 2

Enjoy local apples fresh from the orchard.

Transplant roses if necessary.

Watch weather forecasts for possible killing frosts.

Harvest frost-sensitive produce (squash, pumpkins, and gourds) when frost is forecasted.

Plant tulip, daffodil, hyacinth bulbs and crocus corms.

Dig dahlias after the foliage is killed by a frost.

A clean garden will have fewer diseases next spring.

Eat imperfect fruits; store perfect ones.

Place chicken wire on the ground over newly planted bulbs to deter animals from digging.

OCTOBER 9

Plant snow drop, hyacinth, and star of Bethlehem bulbs.

Enjoy locally grown apples.

It is not too late to plant trees and shrubs.

Pot and force bulbs for winter enjoyment.

Repair garden fences and tools.

Dig and pot up chives and parsley for winter use.

Prune everbearing raspberries.

Watch weather forecasts for frost warnings.

Leave seed heads on asters, sunflowers, and cosmos for birds to eat.

(Continued)



IT'S Time To.....October

Ohio State University Extension (Continued)

OCTOBER 16

Plant tulip, daffodil, hyacinth bulbs and crocus corms.

Dig gladiolus corms when leaves turn yellow. Store corms in peat moss, sawdust or sand in a cool part of the basement.

Keep leaves from accumulating and smothering the lawn.

Shred fallen leaves for faster composting.

Store tomato stakes, cages and garden hoses before winter.

Call an arborist for serious tree troubles.

Store leftover seeds for next year.

Remove weeds and debris from the garden.

Edge garden borders if you haven't already

OCTOBER 23

Rake and compost fallen leaves.

Make a jack-'o-lantern for Halloween.

Continue to plant trees and shrubs.

Do not prune spring flowering shrubs.

Destroy slug egg masses found under garden debris and mulch.

Cut perennials to the ground.

Plant garlic and horseradish.

Start your "want" list for next year.

Provide food and water to attract wildlife.



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Ohio State University Extension

Hancock County

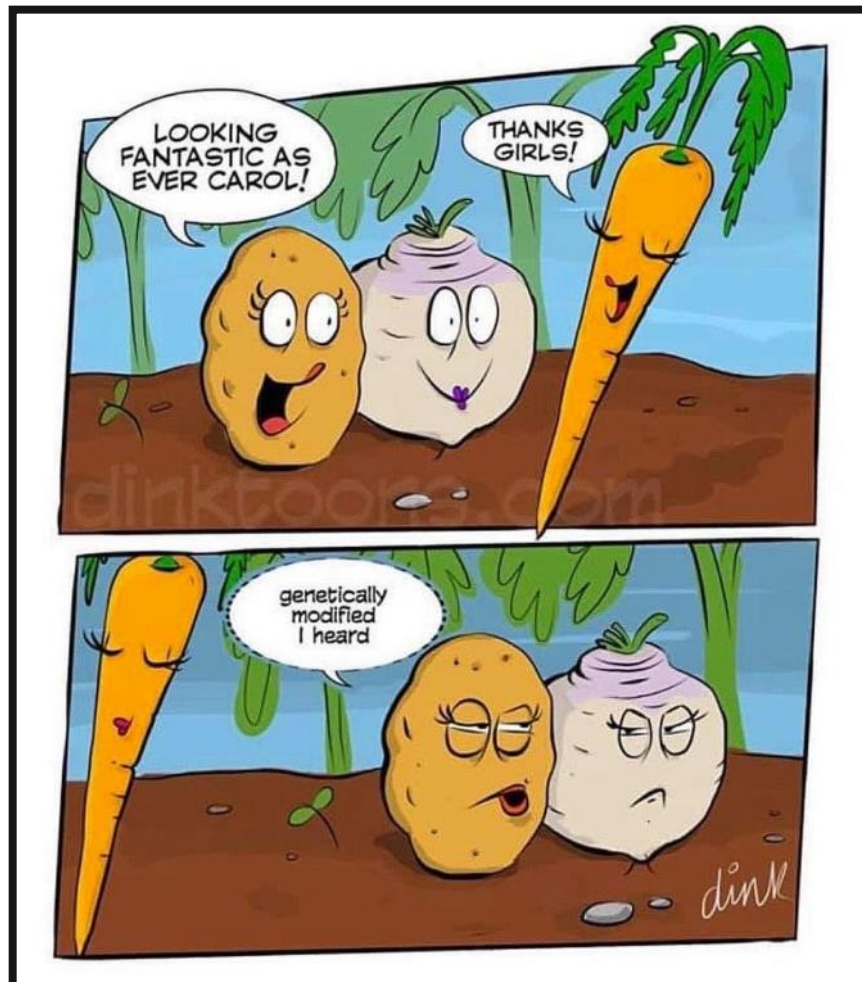
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