

GREEN THUMB PRINTS

Gardening is our Passion Education is our Purpose

April 2023

Upcoming Events

- April 4**.....Executive Committee Meeting
- April 13**.....April Awards Program/ Potluck
- April 15**.....Exploring Wonders of Nature- F-H Public Library
- April 15**.....Courier Article Due-Linda Leiendecker
- April 21-23**..Findlay Home and Garden Show
- April 22**,,,.....Earth Day program at Hancock Historical Museum



Despite inclement weather and competition with other events, the Spring Seminar, Jump-Start Your Garden was a huge success, with 82 people registered. The four guest speakers received an average rating of 4.8 overall from the audience on evaluation forms. (See story and additional photos on page 3)

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MGV Annual Awards Program-Potluck

April 13, 2023 at 6:00 PM. (Please arrive at 5:45 PM)

Come join us at our Annual Awards Program. We will recognize all of our outstanding MGVs. Miller's BBQ Beef and drinks will be provided. We ask that you bring a side dish to share. Please RSVP to Marilyn Beltz by April 6th at 419-306-7470 if planning to attend. This event is for members only. Come join everyone for a fun evening



President's Comments...

By Lisa McClain

April 2023

Spring Has Finally Sprung

Although we had a little slow down in the middle of March...Spring has finally Sprung. Some of those "April Showers" came early this year and with warmer temperatures approaching we should start to see a jump in those Growing Degree Days.

I can't even begin to thank everyone for all that they did to put together an extremely successful seminar. With the exception of a surprise snowfall and a little chill in the air everything went off without a hitch. All four speakers were highly rated on our evaluation form as was the facility. Overall, participants felt the seminar was beneficial to them and that they gathered new ideas to try in their gardens. Thanks to Peggy for taking the lead in getting this all organized!

Don't forget our April Awards Potluck on Thursday, April 13th. This is a fun evening of visiting with fellow MGVs and celebrating all that we have accomplished in the past year!!! We have had a good sign-up response so far, but don't forget to let Marilyn know if you plan on attending. Also, in April we will be having a display booth at the Findlay Home and Garden Show scheduled for April 21, 22, and 23rd. Please contact Margi Habegger or Denise Smith if you are willing to volunteer a couple of hours at our booth. We are in need of volunteers.

Just a quick update on our 2023 MGV Garden. Our garden this year will be located at the Lawrence Place at 15145 OH-568 east of Findlay. When I talked to Brint last Saturday he said Bill Jones has started the seeds for this year's garden and the plants will be ready when the time comes. Brint will be contacting us once the temperatures warm and the ground dries up so we can begin our gardening season. See you on the 13th!

Lisa McClain

MGV NEWS....

MGV Spring Seminar Draws Big Crowd



"Do this again!" *(comment from an evaluation form)*

The Spring Seminar, Jump-Start Your Garden was a huge success, with 82 people registered plus the 4 speakers. It was a great day to be inside as the snow and wind blew all around us outside. Only 3 people didn't show up either due to weather or other circumstances.

A big thank you to Betsy DeFrancesco for doing most of the advertising and registration, to Linda Finsel and Tim Brugeman for procuring the door prizes. To Lisa McClain for her support and help with the advertising. Thanks also go to Sandy Breidenbach for being in charge of the lunch orders. Everyone was well fed! Thank you to Margi Habegger and Cheryl Everett for their help with the table decorations and assistance with the speakers. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help in some way or another on the day of the seminar and either made the delicious snack muffins or stayed after the seminar to clean up; we were out of the building by 4:30 pm. Just to note, the remaining snack muffins were donated to the City Mission.

A special thank you to everyone who donated door prizes for the event. From hand trowels and tee shirts to a great Swamp White Oak tree and everything in between we had quite a variety of door prizes! Star Farms donated 3 native bushes and North Branch Nursery donated a Swamp White Oak Tree and \$50 gift certificate.

We received some very positive comments on the Seminar Evaluation Form, the one I like best is "Do this again!"

Out of the 79 people that attended, we received 73 Evaluation Forms. The Speakers received an average rating of 4.8 overall. The Rain Garden topic was well received with many people planning to install one in their yard. From the comments we received, we learned that the speakers introduced more people to using native plants in their gardens to support insects and birds.

I would like to host an evening seminar sometime this summer. If you have a topic that would be worthy, please let me know.

– Peggy Biolchini

MGV NEWS...

Master Gardener Volunteer Public Programs Announced

Linda Finsel

April 15 – “Exploring Wonders of Nature” Earth Day Family / Kids activities at Findlay Hancock County Public Library 10 am – 12 noon coordinated by Linda Finsel and MGV team.

April 22 – ., Earth Day Activities “Planting herbs and flowers”, Hancock County Historical Museum, 422 W. Sandusky Sts, 5:00pm - 8:00pm. (Two MGV's will be needed. Contact Linda Finsel for information.)

May 9 – “Easy-care Small Container Gardens” for seasonal beauty & benefits. 50 North Gardening in Our Golden Years Series, 10:30 am by John King.

May 16 – “Spring & Summer Flowers”. Hancock County Retired Teachers Assoc. Ag Center at noon by Marilyn Beltz.

June 13 – “Square Foot Gardening” getting the most in 4' x 4' for vegetables, herbs and flowers. 50 North Gardening in Our Golden Years Series, 10:30 am by John King.

October 12 - “Native Plants for NW Ohio. Hancock County Naturalists (evening at Oakwoods Discovery Center) by Pete Reynolds.

Other requested programs that still need volunteer presenters and timely topics include:

*The Fostoria Learning Center May 16 (6:00 pm) would like a MGV to talk to them about "How To Plant a WW1 / WW2 Era Victory Garden." The talk is to include what type of fruits and vegetables to use, how deep to plant them and how to conserve space.

* 50 North July 11 & August 8 (10:30 am)

MGVs are always welcome to attend programs for service hours if helping, or participating for education hours. Always wear name badges.



MGV NEWS...

Sure Cure for Spring Fever

MGV Public Program Draws 30 Attendees

Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers held an educational public program to a packed hall of over 30 attendees at the Findlay-Hancock Public Library March 25.

The event featured a presentation entitled “Sure Cure for Spring Fever” and covered planning & planting this season’s landscapes and gardens. The program was presented by Barbara Phillips & Sharon Milligan.

The event, which lasted an hour and a half, included many questions and answers both before and after the presentation.

The program featured free seeds and plant starts by the presenters, door prizes, and a display of gardening resources by Devin Orpurt.

OSU Extension Garden Clean-up, Mulching, Maintenance Volunteers Needed

Cleanup of the OSU Extension gardens will begin after Easter and a mulching day is planned for Friday, May 12th.

Please let me know if you would be willing to help with clean-up before we mulch and on the day of mulching.

I am also looking for a few people to stop by the gardens during the summer to weed and water anything that needs watering. Let me know if you are willing to donate an hour of your time once a week at the most.

- Peggy Biolchini



2023 Findlay Home and Garden Show

April 21, 22 and 23

We have a great opportunity to showcase our Hancock Co. Master Gardener Volunteers and the services we provide for the community at this year's Home and Garden Show which will be held at The Cube-3430 N. Main Street.

Volunteers are needed for all time slots. If you are interested in volunteering to staff the booth please call or text Margi Habegger at 419-306-8554. Signup sheets will be available at the April 13 MGV Awards Banquet/Potluck. In addition to staffing the booth, volunteers are needed to help move

MGV BOOTH SCHEDULE:

At least two MGVs are being sought for each times slot.

Friday, April 21st

Volunteers needed to help transport items to the Cube and also to help set up the booth. Should meet at the Cube at 2 :30 pm.

4:00 PM-6:30 PM

Denise Smith

6:30 PM-9:00 PM

Randy Greeno

Saturday, April 22nd

10:00 AM-1:00 PM

1:00 PM-4:00 PM

Linda Leiendecker

John Leiendecker

4 PM-7 PM

Denise Smith

Sunday, April 23rd

11 AM - 2 PM

2:00 PM-5:00 PM



Mystery Seed

Hancock MGV president Lisa McClain challenged master gardeners at the March monthly meeting with identifying the object being held by Hancock Extension Agent Ed Lentz in this photo. The puzzling object was soon identified as a seed of the *Lodoicea maldivica* or coco-de-mer palm, which is renowned for producing the largest and heaviest seeds in the world. The specimen had been on display in the MGV office.

Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteer

Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2023

Meeting began with a Brown Bag talk at 6:03 pm.

Brown Bag: A video, prepared by Karl Farwig and John King, on Gladiola Care was shown. It was noted that members are encouraged to record a video on their favorite gardening topic, that can be used for a Brown Bag, Library or 50 North presentation. Contact John King for assistance with creating the video.

Break for snacks and social time at 6:33 pm.

The formal meeting began at 6:48 pm.

President Lisa McClain welcomed the group and thanked those who provided the refreshments.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the 2/16/2023 meeting were approved; motion: Pete Reynolds; second: Linda Leiendecker.

Treasurer's Report:

The cash basis sheet of the Treasurer's Report was approved; motion: Peggy Biolchini; second: Linda Finsel. Treasurer Karl Farwig commented that he is against the changes made for how we are accounting for the Seminar, and wishes to have a written directive from the President and OSUE Educator on how it should be recorded.

OSU Report: Ed Lentz

- The planning for the Spring Seminar next week is going well.

President's Report: Lisa McClain

- A memorial donation in honor of Rose Morrison has been sent to the Scott Morrison Trust Fund.
- Ed Lentz & Nicole Hoffman are working on a distribution list for members. When sending an email be sure to use the info from Hands on Connect, and not copy an old email because someone's email may have changed.
- Working on cleaning out the MG Office and organizing the library. Preparing a binder that will have meeting minutes and other information to be kept in the office for members' reference.
- The Gladiola Auction, as mentioned by Karl Farwig & Barb Phillips during the Brown Bag, will be March 26th, 1:00 pm at the Ag Center Conference Room

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- President McClain passed around a mystery object that Master Gardeners owns, for members to guess what it is. It was a seed of Coco de Mare, the world's largest type of seed, from the Seychelle Islands in the Indian Ocean.

Committee Reports:

- **Teaching**

- ⇒ Home Show – Denise Smith - The show will be April 21, 22 & 23 at the Cube. A sign-up sheet is being passed around for volunteers to work a shift.
- ⇒ **Let's Go Gardening** – Judi Clymer – Event will be May 13th at Brinkman's, Feasel's, Garden Central and Lowes. There will be morning and afternoon shifts. Sign-up sheet being passed around.
- ⇒ Courier Articles – Laurie Pressel – There are still openings for articles for the months of September, October, December and January.
- ⇒ Speaking Bureau – Linda Finsel – Programs are scheduled for 50 North and the Library. The attendance at Library events has been better than last year.

- **Administrative – Lynn Farwig**

- ⇒ Facebook – There has been more activity and educational articles than in the past. Pete Reynolds commented that some of the posts have links to other groups which contain requests to join that group. Does that imply we are endorsing those other groups? Lynn will talk to Betsy DeFrancesco about it.
- ⇒ Newsletter - Commented that Nick Moore has been doing a good job with them.
- Hands On Connect – Asked if anyone needed help with entering their hours.

- **Social & Fundraising – Lisa McClain**

- ⇒ This Committee needs a chairperson.
- ⇒ Marilyn Beltz and Lisa are planning the April Awards Banquet. It will be on the April 13th meeting night. It will be a potluck meal with BBQ beef sandwiches provided by the club. This is for members only, no spouses please. Sign-up sheet is being passed around.
- ⇒ John King is planning the plant exchange.
- ⇒ A request was made for someone to host the Summer Picnic.

- **Service**

- ⇒ Community Garden – Brint Simmons – United Way has put their Community Garden in hiatus for this year, due to staffing issues. This year Master Gardeners will have their garden at Tom Lawrence's farm out on SR 568 east of Findlay. Bill Jones has begun to start seeds. Brint will send out emails when it is time to begin helping.
- ⇒ Ed Lentz is checking with the Hancock County Commissioners about using space on the Ag Center property as an alternative Community Garden site for Master Gardeners.

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(Minutes Continued from page 8)

- ⇒ Ag Center Front Garden – Peggy Biolchini – Nick Moore has agreed to help with garden maintenance this year. There is still a need for a minimum of 5 people to help weed and water. There will be a sign-up sheet at the April Awards meeting.
- Education Committee-Peggy Biolchini
 - ⇒ Brown Bag – There are still openings for BB speakers for June, August, September and October. Contact John King to volunteer. It does not need to be an in-depth presentation. Just something you would like to share with the group.
 - ⇒ Ask a Master Gardener – No questions have been received recently.
 - Field Trips – If you have any suggestions for Field Trips, contact Ann Woolum.
 - ⇒ Spring Seminar – Sixty-seven people have signed up, 25 of whom are local Master Gardeners. Still looking for someone to be in charge of setting up the coffee in the morning. Deadline for signing up has been extended to Monday.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Lisa McClain

- Audit – Randy Greeno & Bill Jones have completed the audit. Lisa presented a summary of their report. The report still needs to be reviewed by the Executive Committee.
- Karl Farwig reported that the club has received a donation of \$871.40 from the Men's & Women's Garden Club of Findlay, to be used for education purposes for the general public. It has been recorded in the books as restricted funds. The Garden Club has disbanded and split up their treasury among 3 groups in the area.

Motion to Adjourn: Marilynn Beltz; second Randy Greeno. Motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm.

Respectfully Submitted: Elaine Reynolds



From The Courier, March 3, 2023

Enliven your home with houseplants

By Margi Habegger

Do the cloudy and dismal days of winter dampen your spirits? Are you longing to see green again with the arrival of spring?

Whether it be buds appearing on trees, a plant emerging from its hibernation beneath the soil, or even the first dandelions popping up in the yard, the color green adds a certain sparkle to our day-to-day lives. All of these things will happen in time outdoors, but in the meantime, you can add some green to your indoor living with houseplants.

Houseplants can help destress your life by creating a healthy green haven indoors. Many people shy away from plants, both indoors and outdoors, saying, "I don't have a green thumb!"

But here is the simple truth: plants are a lot like people. They thrive with air and the right amount of water and food to sustain them. And like people, plants like to fit in. Some need more attention, while others are just happy to be left alone, as long as their basic needs are met. So, with a little effort, you can learn to care for plants and develop a "green thumb."

Location, location, location is everything for plants. Deciding where you want to put your plant is one of the first decisions you'll need to make. Plants have different light requirements. Whether direct sun or low light levels, there are plants to fit almost any location.

Make sure to put your houseplants in areas where you can enjoy them. Consider corners, windowsills, countertops and even your bedroom. One important thing to remember is to stay clear of heat vents or areas that might be drafty, such as a front door that gets opened frequently.

Houseplants provide incredible physical and mental health benefits in addition to their beauty. They can improve our air quality by increasing oxygen levels and humidity levels and by reducing airborne dust by natural processes. They can also help us sleep better and aid in concentration and memory.

Knowing what your plant needs is as simple as looking at the plant marker, which comes in most containers you purchase at a nursery or store. Also, do a bit of online research if you have a particular plant in mind for more in-depth information on what is needed to keep your plant thriving.

You can also choose an easy, almost impossible plant to kill. These plants require very little attention. Here are three that I recommend:

·Snake Plant, aka "Mothers-in-law tongue." This houseplant is very forgiving, even if you forget to water it, because it is drought tolerant. It can also do well in low light areas.

·Philodendron. This fast growing, vining houseplant does well in medium to low light areas. In fact, it does not like direct sunlight. Pinch off growth if you desire a manageable sized plant. Philodendron come in various colors and leaf variations. This is my personal favorite among "easy" plants to grow.

·Spider Plant. Easy care, fast growth, little watering, and medium light are a few perks of owning this plant. This houseplant likes a cramped container and prefers cooler temperatures. It will "helicopter out" new growth (babies) that can be pruned off and given to friends to enjoy. **(continued next page)**

Enliven your home with houseplants (continued from previous page)

Garden centers have employees that can help you determine which plant(s) will fit your likes/needs. They can also help you in determining which plants are non-toxic or low toxicity if you have small children or pets.

Add some green to your life before the official arrival of spring, and you won't be sorry you did!

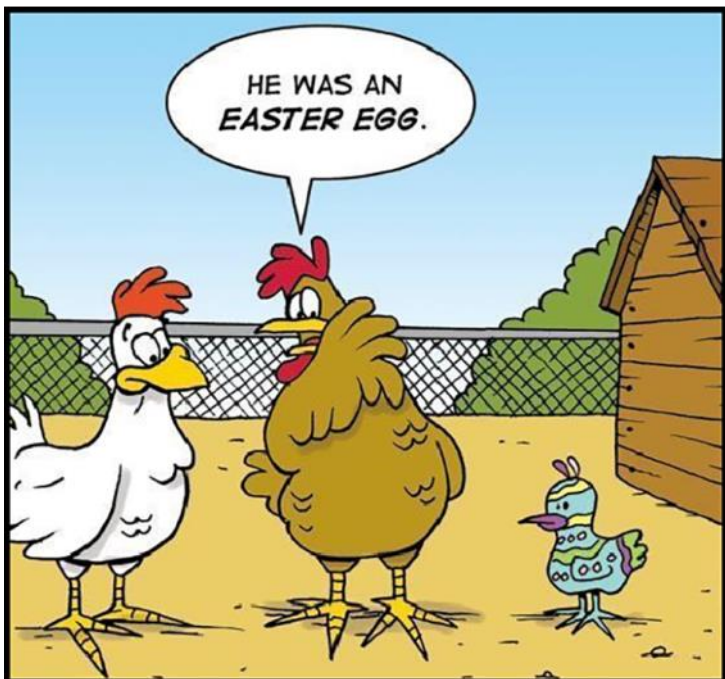
For more information on choosing plants to fit your needs, visit plantfacts.osu.edu, or call the "Ask a Master Gardener" information line at 419-422-3851. A Master Gardener Volunteer will be happy to help you, or to research answers to any questions you might have.

Don't forget to register for the Master Gardener's Seminar "Jump Start Your Garden" program. This program will include four speakers that will provide ideas for all-season floral gardens, rain gardens with native plants, and pollinator gardens. One session will be devoted to identifying and managing pests associated with horticultural gardens. See the Hancock MGV website for more information at <https://hancock.osu.edu>, select Hancock County Master Gardeners and then click on "Horticultural Events and Programs." Online registration through Eventbrite.com deadline is Saturday, March 11. Mail in registration deadline is Monday.

Habegger is an Ohio State University Extension Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteer.

Reminder of \$50 Educational Stipend

The Hancock County Master Gardeners, Inc. will reimburse any Active/Intern Master Gardener Volunteer up to \$50.00 per year for seminars, courses, and programs that are at least 3-hour credits toward the 10 Education hours required for re-certification.



It's Time To...

APRIL 1

- Plant carrots, Swiss chard, peas, collards, kale, kohlrabi, leaf lettuce, onions, parsley, parsnips, radishes, salsify and spinach as soil and weather conditions permit.
- Sow seeds of hardy annual flowers (calendula, clarkia, larkspur, California poppy, and sweet pea).
- Apply pre-emergent herbicides to control crabgrass
- Fertilize the lawn.
- Sow tomato seeds indoors.
- Fertilize woody plants, raspberries and roses.
- Finish pruning fruit trees, grapevines, raspberries and roses.
- Plant pansies.
- Provide food and water for wildlife.

APRIL 8

- Crabgrass pre-emergent control while the forsythia are in bloom.
- Fertilize woody plants.
- Plant early cabbage and broccoli plants outdoors.
- Start tuberous begonias and caladium indoors.
- Sow seeds of beets, carrots, leaf lettuce and radishes in the garden.
- Plant trees, shrubs, ground covers, and perennials as soil and weather conditions permit.
- Allow the soil to warm and dry a bit before applying mulch.
- Add organic matter to soil to improve soil tilth and drainage.
- Continue to provide food and water for wildlife.

APRIL 15

- Apply pre-emergent herbicides to control crabgrass.
- Start tuberous begonias and caladiums indoors.
- Plant a second crop of beets, carrots, leaf lettuce and radishes
- Plant woody plants and perennials as soil conditions permit.
- Begin fertilizing houseplants.

It's Time To... (continued from previous page)

- **Apply horticultural oil to trees and shrubs that had mites, scale or aphids last year. Read the label.**
- **Divide perennials that need it.**
- **Add organic matter to improve soil tilth.**
- **Fertilize asparagus with nitrogen-rich fertilizer.**

APRIL 22

- **Plant a tree for Earth Day**
- **Plant trees, shrubs and perennials as soil conditions allow.**
- **Check roses for black spot and insect pests.**
- **Spread aged manure and humus around woody plants, keeping it at least four inches from the trunk.**
- **Create a grass-free zone around trees in the lawn and apply organic mulch over the roots.**
- **Plant scab-resistant varieties of potato.**
- **Use horticultural oil to control spruce spider mites.**
- **Remove tent caterpillar nests from fruit trees.**
- **Plant a row for the hungry in your vegetable garden.**





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*Today's Quote— "April is the cruellest
month..." — T. S. Elliot, The Waste Land*

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