

# GREEN THUMB PRINTS

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

February 2023

**Today's Quote -**

"Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle." – Barbara Winkler

## ***In This Issue***

President's Comments.....Pg 2

MGV News.....Pgs 3-7

January Minutes.....Pgs 8-10

January Courier Article.....Pg 11

It's Time To.....Pg 12

## ***Upcoming Events***

**February 7**.....Executive Meeting**February 16**....Monthly Meeting**February 19** ...Library Presentation**February 28**....Executive Meeting**March 9**.....March Meeting**March 18**.....Jump-Start Your  
Garden Seminar

## **February Monthly Meeting**

**February 16th (note this is on the 3rd Thursday)**

John King will present a brownbag at 6 pm on Power Point slide design followed by the monthly meeting. Refreshments by Peggy Biolchini, Linda Finsel and Denise Smith.



# President's Comments...

*By Lisa McClain*

## **February 2023**

The weather has been relatively mild this winter (except for last week) and I'm sure many of you are already thinking about your spring gardens. While enjoying seed catalogs and starting to organize your seed starting supplies— be thinking about what you could share with the community via a presentation this year. This is a perfect time to research, plan and develop presentations for 2023. If you have done one in the past it can always be updated and used again. Tim Brugeman and Linda Finsel are using their 50N presentation on houseplants again at the Findlay-Hancock Public Library and the College First Church of God. John King will be giving us pointers on how to put our presentations together at our meeting on February 16<sup>th</sup>.

A special thank you to Marilyn Beltz for agreeing to serve as Vice-President. Her expertise will be a valuable asset to the Executive Committee. Thanks also to Bill Jones and Randy Greeno for agreeing to audit our 2022 Treasurer's Records, to the committee chairs for moving our committees forward and to all who have already volunteered to write letters, bring refreshments and speak at presentations.

While we have many activities planned for this calendar year, we have an especially important one scheduled on Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. The Education Committee has been busy preparing for this upcoming seminar, "***Jump-Start Your Garden***". We have four excellent speakers lined up to speak on various backyard garden topics. They include Pam Bennett, Hal Mann, Denise Ellsworth and Curtis Young. Please consider attending and/or assisting as a volunteer in any way possible. Peggy Biolchini will have more information for us at our February meeting.

Lastly, while we have certainly missed VMS, it looks like HOC is here to stay. Karl Farwig gave us a great update at our last meeting, but we realize we will all have questions throughout the year. We hope to make it easier for you, by having times set up to help you enter your hours if needed and little "bits" of information throughout the year to keep us all on track. If you have any questions, please direct them to Nicole Hoffman at [hoffman.1458@osu.edu](mailto:hoffman.1458@osu.edu).

I appreciate the knowledge and participation that each Master Gardener Volunteer brings to this organization and am looking forward to a great year!

Only 47 days until spring.

**Lisa McClain**



# MGV NEWS...

## JUMP-START YOUR GARDEN SPRING SEMINAR!



**Pamela Bennett, Assistant Professor, Ohio State University and State MGV Program Director**

***Saturday, March 18th,  
8:30 am to 3:30 pm***

This is our big Spring Seminar for 2023! As Chairperson of the event, I am excited to announce the following speakers: Pam Bennett who will speak on Year-round Color in the Garden, Hal Mann will do a presentation on Making Rain Gardens Work with Native Plants, Denise Ellsworth will speak on Plants for Pollinators, and Curtis Young will discuss Diagnosing Pest Problems in the Home Landscape.

The Seminar Committee is expecting a large turnout for the event, therefore, we are holding the seminar at First Presbyterian Church on South Main Street in Findlay. A box lunch is included in the registration if you request one. Registration forms will be available at our next monthly meeting in February. I encourage you to attend the meeting and our upcoming seminar!



**Denise Ellsworth, OSU  
Program Director, Pollinators**



**Dr. Curtis Young, OSU  
Extension Educator, Van Wert**

The Spring Seminar has already been advertised on the MGV Facebook page for the public. Since you are a Hancock County MGV, please do not register on Eventbrite. I will discuss Hancock MGV registration at our meeting on February 16th. If you cannot attend the February MGV meeting, I will email you a registration form.

I will need many volunteers to help on the day of the event. There will be sign-up sheets at the next MGV meeting.

I look forward to seeing you in February!

**- Peggy Biolchini**

## Let's jump start 2023!

We suggest using winter down-time (if any), to help research, plan and develop some public programs for 2023.

We intend to keep them all on file for future use, recycle and update. Find a topic of interest to collect information and pictures that can be put in a PowerPoint program to share at a later date. If you have done one in the past, please locate,

Help us update and save your program in our files. Maybe useful for monthly Courier articles, MGV Brown Bag series at monthly meetings, or multiple use also at public programs around the county.

Some suggestions for topics of public interest: Getting gardens ready for clean-up, planting to bloom this season, Developing low-maintenance / high yield vegetable gardens, Making landscapes more colorful and easy to care for, Good bugs / bad bugs, keeping our summer gardens healthy, Water features for your landscapes – rain gardens, waterfalls, fountains, Organic everything – is it possible? Something's eating my plants? Ask A Master Gardener, Best trees for flowers, fall color, wildlife and curb appeal (good Arbor Day / Earth week April program).

— Tim Brugeman

### Courier Articles Needed

Anyone interested in writing a Courier Article this year should contact Laurie Pressel at [lauriepressel3@gmail.com](mailto:lauriepressel3@gmail.com) or 419-721-2581 or Sharon Milligan at [milligan@findlay.edu](mailto:milligan@findlay.edu) or 419-435-6503.

### New Master Gardener Volunteers

Congratulations to **Margi Habegger** and **Sandy Breidenbach** who received their MGV certificates at the January meeting!

## Keeping Indoor Plants Alive and Healthy



Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers held their first program of the new year at 50N Jan. 9 to a packed hall of about 20 50N members. The event featured a presentation on houseplants by Tim Brugeman and plant giveaways and drawings. The program will also be presented at the F-H Public Library on Feb. 19 at 1:30 pm.



# MGV NEWS...

## How do you view the Green Thumb Print (GTP) Newsletter?

In an effort to optimize readability, I'd like to get an idea of what device you normally use to read the newsletter.

### Do you read GTP on:

- a smartphone?
- a tablet?
- A laptop or desktop?

(Please email your response to [nick@thenickmoore.com](mailto:nick@thenickmoore.com) —Thanks!)

**Feb. 19 at Findlay-Hancock Public Library**

# House Plants: Keeping Them Alive & Healthy

**Sunday, February 19th  
@ 1:30 PM  
Lindamood Room**

Learn how to brighten up the indoors over the winter with house plants for beauty and other added benefits. Bring your plant questions, view plants that are hard to kill, and learn about the Master Gardeners. There will also be door prizes!

Presented by  
Hancock County Master Gardeners

**FINDLAY-HANCOCK COUNTY  
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

## Gardening Skills Survey

Help us help others with your gardening experience! We have not done this for several years and need an update. Please fill out the attached survey of gardening skills and return to Linda Finsel or Tim Brugeman either by email with info requested or print out form and bring to next meeting. .

Master Gardener Volunteers of Hancock County 2023

### Gardening Skills (strengths, likes, what fun you have with gardening)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Best # to call you: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**For use with various MGV committees to utilize our skills to help others.**

Please list your gardening preferences: (like vegetables, herbs, perennials, roses, landscaping, native plants, other specialties – Butterfly gardens, greenhouse, community gardens etc.):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please return to Linda Finsel or Tim Brugeman. Thank you.

# MGV NEWS...

## 2023 Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteer Committees

### Executive Committee

Ed Lentz, Extension Educator/Coordinator	419-422-3851	lentz.38@osu.edu
Lisa McClain, President	419-722-6235	enjymzk@gmail.com
Marilynn Beltz, Vice-President	419-306-7470	mbeltz@woh.rr.com
Karl Farwig, Treasurer	419-348-7577	khfarwig@gmail.com
Elaine Reynolds, Secretary	419-306-1725	elaine.reynolds@outlook.com

### Administrative Committee

Committee Chair-Lynn Farwig	419-348-0915	lynnfarwig@gmail.com
Newsletter-Nick Moore	419-348-0159	nick@thenickmoore.com
Media-Betsy DeFrancesco	908-910-5586	betsmart_207@yahoo.com
Membership-Lynn Farwig	419-348-0915	lynnfarwig@gmail.com
Apparel-Debra Evans	567-271-1993	debrakevans9093@gmail.com
Historian-Debra Evans	567-271-1993	debrakevans9093@gmail.com

### Social and Fundraiser Committee

Committee Chair-Rose Morrison	419-889-3931	rmorrison@woh.rr.com
Fundraising-Betsy DeFrancesco	908-910-5586	betsmart_207@yahoo.com
Summer Picnic-Marlene Brunswick	419-310-0882	rpbmdb@aol.com
Christmas Potluck-Marilynn Beltz	419-306-7470	mbeltz@woh.rr.com
Refreshments-Linda Leiendecker	419-889-2958	lindaleien@gmail.com
Plant Exchange-John King	419-889-7391	jhawk88@yahoo.com

### Service Committee

Committee Chair-Tim Brugeman	419-672-8897	tbrugeman@woh.rr.com
OSUE Entrance Gardens-Peggy Biolchini	419-306-4235	biolchini@aol.com
Community Garden- Brint Simmons	419-306-5446	brintsimmons@sbcglobal.net
Mugs of Joy-Rose Morrison	419-889-3931	rmorrison@woh.rr.com

### Teaching Committee

Committee Chair-		
Let's Go Gardening-Judi Clymer	419-345-8086	clymerjudith@gmail.com
Fair Booth-Linda Finsel/	419-424-3213	lindamf@earthlink.net
Home and Garden Show-		
Margi Habegger/Denise Smith	419-306-8554	margi1976@aol.com
Courier Articles-Laurie Pressel/Sharon Milligan	419-721-2581	lauriepressel3@gmail.com
Public Programs-Tim Brugeman/Linda Finsel	419-672-8897	tbrugeman@woh.rr.com

### Education Committee

Committee Chair-Peggy Biolchini	419-306-4235	biolchini@aol.com
Ask-A-Gardener-Cheryl Everett	419-307-8362	cherylhelena@yahoo.com
Brown Bag-John King	419-889-7391	jhawk88@yahoo.com
Seminars-Peggy Biolchini	419-306-4235	biolchini@aol.com
Field Trips- Ann Woolum	419-348-5191	awhcpa07@gmail.com
Mentors-Tim Brugeman	419-672-8897	tbrugeman@woh.rr.com
MGV Classes-Karl Farwig	419-348-7577	khfarwig@gmail.com

# **MGV NEWS...**

## **2023 Hancock Co. Master Gardener Calendar of Events**

<b>January 12</b>	January Monthly Meeting
<b>February 16</b>	February Monthly Meeting (Changed to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday)
<b>March 9</b>	March Monthly Meeting
<b>March 18</b>	Spring Seminar-“Jumpstart Your Garden”
<b>April 13</b>	Awards’ Program
<b>April 21-22-23</b>	Home and Garden Show-Tentative
<b>May 11</b>	Plant Exchange
<b>May 13</b>	Let’s Go Gardening
<b>June 8</b>	June Monthly Meeting
<b>July 13</b>	Summer Picnic
<b>August 10</b>	August Monthly Meeting
<b>August 30-Sept 4</b>	Hancock County Fair
<b>September 14</b>	September Monthly Meeting
<b>October 12</b>	October Monthly Meeting
<b>November 9</b>	November Monthly Meeting
<b>Nov/Dec</b>	Wreath Classes
<b>December</b>	Mugs of Joy
<b>December 14</b>	Christmas Potluck

# Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteer

## Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2023

Meeting began at 6:00 PM

President Lisa McClain welcomed everyone and announced that John King has volunteered to be the new Brown Bag Coordinator. For next month's Brown Bag, John will give a talk on how to give better presentations, including how to use Power Point.

**Brown Bag:** Karl Farwig gave a presentation on using the Hands On Connect (HOC) computer system and how to enter Master Gardener volunteer and education hours.

Break for snacks at 6:50

The formal meeting began at 7:03 PM.

**Appointment of Vice President:** Marilynn Beltz has been appointed to fill out the remaining term of the Vice President position vacated when Lisa McClain became President.

### **Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**

Elaine Reynolds gave a review of the minutes from 11/10/2022. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Lynn Farwig and seconded by Judi Clymer. The motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Lisa McClain for Ann Woolum, and Karl Farwig

Unrestricted cash	\$6778.59
Community Garden	\$489.07
Total Cash	\$7267.66

- Income during December was \$967.60, and expenses were \$377.37. There was also a donation from Lowes with a value of \$274.50.
- Karl Farwig reviewed the year-end Treasurer's documents and noted that there were some errors in the listed budgeted amounts on the Actual vs Budgeted – 2022 year-end document; A copy of the hand-corrected document is attached to these minutes.
- A motion to approve the corrected Treasurer's Report was made by Pete Reynolds and seconded by Peggy Biolchini. The motion passed.

**Coordinator's Report:** Ed Lentz

- We currently have 36 active members and all have been recertified for 2023.
- Nicole Hoffman is assigned to the A&R section at the OSU Extension office which includes the Master Gardener program. When you stop in the office, please take the time to introduce yourself to Nicole. If you will need help making copies or other help, please contact the office to be sure she will have time to assist you when you arrive.
- Everyone is recertified, but be certain that you have actually READ the documents you signed. There is important information in there.
- When giving gardening advice to the public, avoid giving specific brand or business recommendations.



*(Continued from Page 8)*

- Interns who have recently completed their 50 service hours are Margi Habegger and Sandy Breidenbach.

**President's Report:** Lisa McClain

- Lisa thanked Reuben DeBolt and Ann Woolum for their service to the group as President and Treasurer respectively. She also thanked all the people who have stepped up as committee chairs.
- Nick Moore will be the new Newsletter editor
- Jim Barnhill, a long-time member passed away recently. A \$25 donation to Bridge Hospice was sent in his memory
- The 2023 calendar and list of committee chairs were reviewed and are attached to these minutes.

**Proposed 2023 Committee Goals** – The goals were reviewed by each of the committee chairs. The list is attached to these minutes.

- **Administrative Committee** – Lynn Farwig
  - ◇ Thank you to Lisa McClain for preparing the newsletters and to Nick Moore for stepping up to take over from her.
  - ◇ Margi Habegger and Emily Hinderliter will now be assisting Betsy DeFrancesco with our Social Media presence.
  - ◇ There will be no printed copies of a membership directory. The information can be obtained on the HOC system. If you have changes to your contact information, you are responsible for changing it on HOC. If you need help, contact Nicole Hoffman in the OSU Extension Office.
  - ◇ Debra Evans is working on keeping historical information for the group.
- **Education Committee** – Peggy Biolchini
  - ◇ Ask-A-Master-Gardener - There are currently only 8 people signed up to answer questions. She would like to see at least 15. Ed Lentz noted that everyone received 50 hours of training to become a Master Gardener, so all are well trained enough to answer these questions. There are also others in the group you can go to for help, if needed. Beginning in February Cheryl Everett will chair the committee.
  - ◇ For the goal of recruiting people for the 2024 MG Training Class, there is already a brochure with a form for people to fill out. These should be used at all public events.
- **Service Committee** – Lisa McClain for Tim Brugeman
  - ◇ Community Garden – Brint Simmons reported that no one is sure what will happen to this project because United Way may not have garden for us to participate in. There are other options that will be explored if that is the case. Tim and Brint are also exploring additional locations to donate our produce. Members made some suggestions for what those options might be.
  - ◇ Mugs of Joy – Rose Morrison reported that we have received compliments for last year's event and have been requested to come back in 2023.

*(Continued from page 9)*

- **Social Committee** - Rose Morrison
  - ◇ The committee goals remain the same as last year
  - ◇ The fundraising goals have been removed for this year. The Wreath Class will continue, which brings in funds, but no further fundraising will be done.
- **Teaching Committee** – Lisa McClain
  - ◇ Chair needed for this committee.
  - ◇ Courier Articles – Laura Pressel reported that this year's articles will be reviewed to assure that they are seasonally appropriate and topics don't overlap from month to month.

**Proposed 2023 Budget** – Karl Farwig

- The overall budgeted income has increased this year due to expected income from the Spring Seminar. Expenses have also increased due mostly to inflation, and partly due to the rental cost of the facility for the Spring Seminar.
- This budget will spend approximately \$1000 more than expected income.
- A question was raised about how we will use the \$7000 sitting in the checking account. Expenses for any new educational programs we may want to do can come out of those funds.
- A copy of the proposed budget is attached to these minutes.

**Old Business: None.**

**New Business:**

- **Spring Seminar** – Peggy Biolchini
  - ◇ A flyer advertising the seminar, "Jumpstart Your Garden", was passed out and has been posted on the MG website.
  - ◇ The event will be at First Presbyterian Church in Findlay, on Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>.
  - ◇ Master Gardeners who wish to attend the seminar **SHOULD NOT REGISTER ON EVENT-BRITE**. Notify Betsy DeFrancesco and she will add you to the list. The \$40 charge will be deducted from the \$50 continuing education stipend each Master Gardener is eligible for each year.
- **Audit** – Lisa McClain
  - ◇ Marilyn Beltz has contacted Randy Greeno and Bill Jones requesting they perform the annual audit again this year. They both agreed.
  - ◇ A motion to accept them as auditors was made by Margi Habegger and seconded by Barb Phillips. The motion passed.
- A motion was made to approve the 2023 Goals was made by Rose Morrison and seconded by Marlene Brunswick. The motion passed.
- A motion was made to approve the 2023 Budget was made by John King and seconded by Barb Phillips. The motion passed.
- A motion was made to adjourn was made by Rose Morrison and seconded by Marilynn Beltz. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.

**Respectfully Submitted: Elaine Reynolds**

*From The Courier, Jan. 07, 2023*

# Plan your garden for spring

**By Laurie Pressel, Master Gardener Volunteer**

January is a month for gardeners to dream and plan. With the rush of the holiday season behind us, take advantage of this quiet winter month to get ready for spring.

Here are some tasks you may want to tackle:

- Put out bird feeders and keep them filled. If you place a feeder close to a window, you can enjoy watching and identifying the different birds that pay you a visit. Attracting feathered friends to your landscape has an added benefit in the spring when the birds can help control insect pests.
- While you are outside filling the feeder, examine your shade and fruit trees. When you get a nice day in late winter, you can prune the trees while they are still dormant. Make sure you get rid of any diseased or damaged branches.
- Also, take a critical look at your garden's structure. The bare-bones view of your landscape in January can help you identify what's missing. Do you need to add more evergreens, or large or small trees or shrubs? Do you need more structural elements, like garden paths, a shed or a gazebo? Do you need an evergreen screen or fence along a property line for increased privacy or to block out an unsightly view like a compost pile? Do you have a sunny spot where you can tuck in a small, raised bed vegetable garden? Or perhaps you want to carve out a space to entertain and relax in the shade? Go inside and sketch out your ideas on paper.
- Plan your vegetable garden - what are you going to grow this year and how many plants/seeds will you need? Write out a list of changes that you want to make in the garden this year. Brainstorm a list of plants that you would love to try in your garden.
- For inspiration, browse through magazines and read gardening books. Specialty gardening magazines will be hitting the store shelves soon. These magazines are packed with beautiful pictures and articles about real gardens. If a plant combination or design idea catches your interest, flag it and try to mimic it in your garden. Also, make note of the articles that showcase new varieties of flowers and vegetables that you may want to try this year. Visit the Findlay-Hancock County Public Library for a nice selection of gardening books on a variety of topics, from landscape design to basic gardening how-to.
- Spend quality time reviewing the new seed and plant catalogs. They should be clogging your mailbox soon if they haven't already. If you are new to gardening, you can check out the websites of many seed and plant companies. Make a list of the seeds/plants you want to try and place your order early because popular new varieties sell out fast.
- Make an inventory of your gardening tools and supplies. If you didn't clean your gloves or tools in the fall, bring them inside and do it now. You can soak gardening tools (like hand spades and hand pruners) in a mixture of water and bleach to sanitize. Some gardeners paint the handles of their tools bright orange in the winter so they are easier to find in the garden come spring. Make a list of the tools that you need to replace and start shopping.



# It's Time To...

## **FEBRUARY 4**

- Start houseplants from seed for a challenge.
- Grow vegetables among your flowers.
- Grow fresh parsley and other herbs in containers in a sunny window.
- Look for disease-resistant varieties when ordering seeds.
- Wash and sterilize seed-starting containers.
- Read garden magazines and books for new ideas for your garden.
- Visit an arboretum to see plants with winter interest.
- Plan to grow extra vegetables in 2023 to share with the needy.
- Provide fresh water for wildlife.

## **FEBRUARY 11**

- Force paper white narcissus bulbs.
- Look through seed and nursery catalogues for gardening ideas.
- Draw your vegetable garden plan on paper.
- Clean and sharpen garden tools.
- Share seed orders with a friend and save money.
- Use sterilized soil or soilless mix when starting seeds indoors.
- Avoid walking on the lawn during thaws.
- Provide food and water for wildlife.

## **FEBRUARY 18**

- Give your Valentine a plant or a gift certificate for garden supplies.
- Consider planting some fruit this year.
- Know your USDA plant hardiness zone before ordering plants.
- Cottonseed meal can lower soil pH.
- Cool temperatures extend the life of cut flowers.
- Start tuberous begonias for June bloom.
- Use dwarf plants where space is limited.

## **FEBRUARY 25**

- Repot rootbound houseplants.
- Get pruning tools sharpened and ready for use.
- Review your gardening plans for 2023
- Replant frost-heaved plants.
- It is too early to apply dormant oil.
- Make plant labels from plastic bleach and milk bottles.
- Give unwanted garden catalogs to teachers and childcare workers.
- Start garden plants from seed indoors.
- Provide food and water for wildlife.
- Purchase vegetable seeds from your favorite suppliers.
- Purchase nursery stock for planting next month.



# THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Ohio State University Extension  
Hancock County  
7868 County Road 140 Suite B  
Findlay, OH 45840  
419-422-3851

Facebook: Master Gardeners of Hancock County Ohio  
[hancock.osu.edu](http://hancock.osu.edu)



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.

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information, visit [cfaesdiversity.osu.edu](http://cfaesdiversity.osu.edu). For an accessible format of this publication, visit [cfaes.osu.edu/accessibility](http://cfaes.osu.edu/accessibility).