

# GREEN THUMB PRINTS

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

January 2023



A very special thank to Betsy DeFrancesco for her tireless efforts organizing and conducting the 2022 Wreath Classes. There were 154 participants this year.

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### We are in need of someone to chair the Teaching Committee.

If you are interested or have questions,  
please contact Lisa McClain.

### January Monthly Meeting

January 12 at 6:00 PM

Please plan on attending as we will  
start planning committee activities for 2023.

We need everyone's input!



### Upcoming Events

Jan 9.....Keeping Indoor Plants Alive  
and Healthy-50N

Jan 12.....January Monthly Meeting

Feb 16.....February Monthly Meeting

**\*Please note the February Meeting is  
the 3rd Thursday of the month.**

## ***President's Comments***

### ***January 2023***

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and that you are able to rest and maybe watch some football today. New Year's Day to me is usually a day spent reflecting on the past year and looking at what's ahead in 2023. A day to let go and start anew.

As we say farewell, I want to thank all of you who served in whatever capacity in 2022. It was an extremely busy year with too many accomplishments to list them all. Thanks not only to those who chaired committees or led projects, but also to everyone who contributed in any manner to the successes we had this past year. Special thanks to Marilynn Beltz for organizing our MGV Christmas dinner, Rose Morrison for the Mugs of Joy project and Betsy DeFrancesco for organizing the successful Wreath Making Classes. I would also like to thank Nick Moore for volunteering to become the new Newsletter Editor. He is already preparing for February. Thanks Nick!!!

I would be remiss if I didn't thank Reuben DeBolt and Ann Woolum for their service to the executive board. Reuben stepped up as secretary in 2020 to help as many changes were being made during the pandemic. He was then elected as president and has served for the past 2 years. We were still in lock down just a year ago and went on to have a very busy and successful year under Reuben's guidance. Ann started as treasurer 12 years ago when we had a small budget of a few hundred dollars which has grown to our current budget of over \$5,000. Besides keeping us fiscally sound she worked through the IRS to establish Hancock Master Gardeners as a 501c3, a non-profit tax-exempt organization. Thanks to both for the numerous hours spent serving Hancock County Master Gardeners.

I look forward to working with all of you in 2023 and want to thank everyone who has agreed to continue in key roles. The executive committee and committee chairs have been busy working on proposed 2023 goals and a proposed 2023 budget. These will be presented at our January 12 meeting. Rose Morrison, Lynn Farwig, Tim Brugeman and Peggy Biolchini have agreed to continue as committee chairs for 2023. We are however in need of someone to fill the Teaching Committee Chair position. If you are interested, please let me know.

I look forward to another successful year in 2023. Each of your contributions help to ensure the success of our Master Gardener Program!!!

***Lisa McClain***



## **2023 Meeting Dates**

**January 12**

**February 16**

**(Note: this is on the 3rd Thursday)**

**March 9**

**April 13-Awards' Potluck**

**May 11-Plant Exchange**

**June 8**

**July 13-Summer Picnic**

**August 10**

**September 14**

**October 12**

**November 9**

**December 14-Christmas Potluck**

# ***MG Happenings***

## **Christmas Potluck**

Hancock County Master Gardeners kicked off the Holiday Season with our Christmas Potluck. The food was delicious as usual and we had great conversation with friends. Thanks to Marilynn Beltz for taking charge of the event!!



## **Mugs of Joy**

The Mugs of Joy event was a big success. We touched 35 lives at Taylor House, Heritage Legacy and BVRSI. All residents who participated were excited and pleased with this event. The Christmas carols were a big success if a little off key!

Christmas Mugs will be needed for next year so anyone who has any or finds any at thrift stores or garage sales it would help make next year a success as well. Thank you to all the Master Gardeners who participated in this year's event. It wouldn't have happened without you! Thanks and Happy 2023!

Rose



(Continued)



# ***MG Happenings***

(Continued)

## **First 2023 Educational Program – “Keeping Indoor Plants Alive and Healthy”**

Join us Monday, January 9th at 10:30 AM at 50 North for our first MG 2023 program!!!

Tim Brugeman will be speaking on greening-up our indoor gardens this winter with house plants.  
We will be celebrating “National Houseplant Appreciation Day” (January 10).  
Yes, there is such a day!

While 50 North participants will be planting a small houseplant to take home,  
Master Gardeners are welcome to attend for service hours.  
Please wear your name badge.

Contact Linda Finsel or Tim Brugeman if interested in helping with this program.

## **Winter Research Suggested for 2023 Programs**

Getting excited about gardening topics this winter???

It's a good time to research and prepare for 2023 educational programs.  
Select a topic you would like to research and maybe write about it for a Courier article,  
present about it for a Brown Bag program, or speak at other public presentations this year.  
(area libraries, 50 North or speakers bureau requests)

We would like to have a variety of topics ready to choose from and re-use throughout the year.  
If you have given a program from the past and still have your notes, it can be updated.  
Help with PowerPoint programs and organizing any new and updated programs is available.  
Contact Linda Finsel or Tim Brugeman for support.

Another good way to start your annual service hours!!!

## **New Address for Doris Salis**

Doris Salis has recently moved from her home into Brookdale Assisted Living.  
Here is her new address:

Brookdale Assisted Living Facility  
725 Fox Run Road #116  
Findlay Ohio 45840

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# ***MG Happenings***

(Continued)

## **2022 MGW Wreath Workshops**

**Thanks to everyone who cut greens,  
made bows, donated decorations and helped at the sessions!!!**



## **2023 MGW Hours**

Each year active volunteers must complete  
20 hours of service and 10 hours of continuing education.

# **Succulents 101**

## **West Virginia University Extension**

No longer taking a backseat to more traditional plants, succulents are front and center with homeowners. These water-storing beauties are quickly becoming a favorite, lending to their minimal care and variety of shapes, colors and sizes. They are ideal for every space and situation, and because of the little care they need, every occupation.

### **What are Succulents?**

Succulents are drought-resistant plants that have adapted to dry, arid environments. They store water in their leaves, stems and roots, causing them to appear fleshy. Succulents thrive on neglect and dry soil. Overwatering is a common way to kill a succulent. They can be grown indoors and outdoors and are suitable in any window that receives at least six hours of light.

### **Benefits of Succulents:**

These plants can bring more than visual appeal to your home. They are known for improving air quality, their medicinal properties and mental wellness.

#### ***Air Quality***

Succulents and household plants improve indoor air through a chemical process called photosynthesis. Photosynthesis is a chemical process that takes in carbon dioxide and releases oxygen into the air.

#### ***Medicinal Properties***

Some varieties, such as aloe, have been used to help with ailments like cuts, burns and stomachaches. Healing properties can be found in the juice and gel of the leaves of the aloe plant.

#### ***Mental Wellness***

Planting and tending to the care of succulents lowers stress, lowers blood pressure, improves mood and gives a sense of accomplishment.

### **Succulent Care:**

Succulents are low maintenance plants and require little attention. They need little amounts of water and fertilizer, but large amounts of sunlight. They are ideal for both indoor and outdoor spaces. Pests are typically not a concern. If mealybugs or scale appear, wipe the plant with a cotton swab dipped in alcohol.

#### ***Soil***

Succulents need good drainage and proper soil. If planting in pots, the containers should have drainage holes at the bottom. Proper drainage prevents root decaying and rotting, as well as other fungal and bacterial issues. If there are no drainage holes, place coarse gravel at the bottom of containers. This creates some drainage; however, excess moisture can still be drawn back into the soil. Ensure that overwatering does not occur, especially in shallow containers.

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# Succulents 101

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Pre-bagged succulent growth medium can be purchased at a local hardware or garden store. Similar medium can be created by mixing one part potting soil and one part coarse sand. Fertilize plants only a couple times a year throughout the warmer months by using a household plant fertilizer and diluting it to half the recommended rate.

## **Light**

Succulents need plenty of light to thrive. If indoors, a bright, sunny windowsill is preferred with at least six hours of direct daylight. Artificial light also can be used to mimic sunlight if the location does not provide adequate natural light.

During the spring and summer, succulents benefit from being outdoors during their growing season. Plants can be transferred to outdoor spaces to liven up patios, decks, porches, etc. Transition plants to the outdoors by placing in a shady place for a few days and slowly move to a sunnier location. Avoid outdoor areas that receive intense, hot sunlight during mid-day. Bring plants back indoors during the fall before the first freeze occurs.

## **Water**

During the active growing season of succulents, plants will need more water. During the spring and summer, watering is typically done once a week. In the winter, plants need watered just to prevent leaves from wilting, typically once every two to three weeks.

Proper watering in containers is achieved by soaking the soil until water is running out of the drainage holes. Water only once soil becomes completely dry. Avoid watering small amounts frequently as this can cause distorted and poor growth of the succulent. Dependent on the variety, watering recommendations may be slightly different,

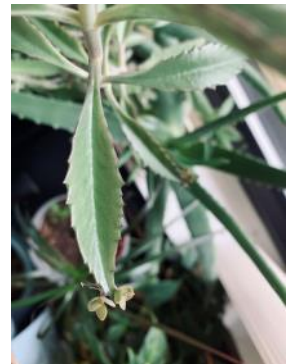
Certain varieties may require slightly different care, refer to full care instructions for the variety.

## **Succulent Propagation:**

Plant propagation is the process of producing a new plant from an existing one. Plants utilize two routes of reproduction: sexual (seeds) and asexual (cuttings/offsets). Succulents can be easily propagated by stem cuttings, leaf cuttings and offsets. These methods of propagation create a clone of the parent plant, resulting in the new plant being genetically identical to the parent.

## **Offsets**

Many succulent varieties reproduce naturally by generating new tissue known as offsets or plantlets. These offsets occur when root tissue forms leaf buds, causing them to sprout at the base of the mother plant. Once the offset plants are big enough to easily handle and have established roots, they can be separated and repotted. A quick test to determine root establishment can be done by gently tugging on the offset – if resistance is felt, roots have formed, and the plant is ready to be repotted. If an offset has not formed roots or has been damaged and broken off the mother plant, it needs to callus before repotting. See section on stem and leaf cuttings for information on callusing succulents. Some varieties of succulents, such as Pink Butterfly Kalanchoe, will produce offsets on the margins of leaves.



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# Succulents 101

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### *Stem and Leaf Cuttings*

Most varieties of succulents can be propagated by leaf and stem cuttings. Leaf cuttings will take longer to mature than a stem cutting.

**Stems:** Find an actively growing part of the mother plant and cut a section 3 to 4 inches long and remove any lower leaves, leaving the upper foliage.

**Leaves:** Cut an actively growing leaf from the mother plant. A healthy leaf, one that is fleshy and green, needs to be used to ensure a good result.

For both stems and leaves, the cuttings need to heal or callus before planting. Allow the cuttings to air dry on a counter for a minimum of four to seven days. Remember to use a sharp knife when cutting to create a clean cut, which will ensure proper callusing. Once the cutting is callused, stick the callused end into a slightly moistened growing medium suitable for succulents. Ensure that the end is not too deep or the cutting will not develop roots and grow.

Suitable medium can be created by mixing either one part potting mix and one part perlite or three parts potting mix, two parts coarse sand and one part perlite. Rooting hormone is optional to expedite rooting, but it is not necessary. Water sparingly throughout the growing process, excessive watering will cause rotting.

Consider potting each individual cutting in small, separate containers to prevent the cuttings from receiving too much moisture. It will take at least a month for cuttings to develop sufficient root growth. Once mature with plenty of root growth, the new plants can be removed and repotted in larger containers and with other succulents or cacti, if desired.

### **Succulent Varieties:**



It is common to plant several different varieties of succulents in the same container to provide visual appeal. Get creative, but be sure to pair varieties that require similar care, especially water requirements, and have similar growth rates.

**(Continued)**

# Succulents 101

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Common Varieties	Characteristics	Best Suited for Indoor/Outdoor	Companion Succulents
Sempervivum 'Hens and Chicks'	Propagates easily and quickly reproduces multiple offspring called "chicks"	Outdoor	Not ideal to pair with other succulents due to quick reproduction
Agave	Typically, a larger plant	Outdoor	Not ideal for companion planting, but will work in
Echeveria 'Briar Rose'	Short-stemmed, compact rosettes of pastel greens and pinks; easy to propagate via offsets and leaves	Both, but should be brought inside during the winter	Ideal to companion plant with most other echeveria succulents, small cacti and string varieties
Echeveria 'Blue Bird'	Rosettes of silver/blue leaves; will stay smaller if offsets are left to cluster; easy to propagate via offsets and leaves	Both, but should be brought inside during the winter	Ideal to companion plant with most other echeveria succulents, small cacti and string varieties
Echeveria 'Ruby' Plush	Shrubby, grows up to 12 inches tall; spreads and branches several feet wide; easily propagated by leaf cuttings	Both, but should be brought inside during the winter	Can be planted with trailing and string varieties
Kalanchoe 'Pink Butterflies'	Incredibly colorful, cautious light levels; prefers warm temperatures and several hours of daylight	Outdoor	Great for landscapes; pairs well with other outdoor varieties
Aloe	Over 300 different species of aloe available; grown typically for its medicinal purposes	Both	Most cacti varieties

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# Succulents 101

## (Continued)

Common Varieties	Characteristics	Best Suited for Indoor/Outdoor	Companion Succulents
Jade Plant	Can be toxic to cats, dogs, and horses; can be easily propagated by stem/leaf cuttings	Indoor	String of pearls, string of tears and other cascading varieties
String of Pearls	Trailing stems that grow up to 3 feet long, ideal for hanging baskets; if planting in smaller containers, will need to keep short; toxic to animals and children	Both, but should be brought inside during the winter	Ideal to pair up with most other succulents
Snake Plant	Typically, can survive	Indoor	Not ideal for companion

*There are many, many more variety options, be sure to refer to full care instructions indicated on the label or contact your local nursery.*



Leaf propagation of a Jade plant with the leaflets.



Jade plant.



String of bananas plant.



Hen and chicks.



String of pearls plant.



Tiger jaws faucaria succulent plant.



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

## **Home (indoor plants and activities)**

- Keep holiday poinsettias and other plants near a bright window. Water as top of soil becomes dry.
- Increase humidity around houseplants by grouping plants together, placing them on a pebble-water tray or running a humidifier.
- Check stored produce and tender flower bulbs and roots for rot, shriveling or excess moisture. Remove and discard damaged material.
- Repot houseplants as they outgrow current pots.

## **Yard (lawns, woody ornamentals and fruits)**

- Check young trees for rodent injury on lower trunks. Prevent injury with hardware cloth or protective collars.
- Keep road and sidewalk salt away from plants. Construct a screen of burlap, if necessary, to keep salt spray off plants.
- “Leaf” through nursery catalogs or visit websites and make plans for landscape and home orchard additions. Order plants early for best selection.
- Early spring-flowering trees and shrubs such as forsythia, crabapple, flowering quince, and flowering dogwood can be forced for early indoor blooms by placing cut branches in water in a warm location.

## **Garden (flowers, vegetables and small fruits)**

- Send for seed catalogs for the garden.
- Sketch your garden plans on paper, including what to grow, spacing, arrangement and number of plants needed.
- Order seeds and plants as early as possible for best selection.
- Wood ashes from the fireplace can be spread in the garden, but don't overdo it. Wood ashes increase soil pH, and excess application can make some nutrients unavailable for plant uptake. Have soil tested to be certain of the pH before adding wood ash.





# THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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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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