

GREEN THUMB PRINTS

Gardening is our Passion Education is our Purpose

July 2023



MG Emeritus and founding editor of this newsletter, Sharon Hammer Baker, displays a soft plastic lifelike cast of a thumb given her when she completed her MG training. She relates the story of how the curious memento inspired the naming of the publication 30 years ago. (See story on page 4)

Summer Picnic July 13th

We will eat promptly at 6:00 PM

Please RSVP to Marlene Brunswick at rpbmdb@gmail.com or 419-310-0882 by July 6th if you plan on attending this event so we can complete the picnic planning.

(See page 3 for details)

In This Issue

President's Comments.....Pg 2
Summer Picnic.....Pg 3
Summer Seminar.....Pg 3
MGV Public Programs.....Pg 4
MGV Newsletter OriginPg 4
Tallamy Event Set.....Pg 5
MGV GardensPg 5
Field Trips.....Pg 6
Garden Tour.....Pg 7
June Minutes.....Pg 8
Courier Article.....Pg 11
It's Time To.....Pg 12

Upcoming Events

July 13.....Summer Picnic

**July 15.....Courier Article
Due-Tim Brugeman**

**July 24....."Keep Your Vege
tables Healthy" Seminar**

August 10.....Monthly Meeting

**August 21.....Field Trip to Tole
do Botanical Gardens**

August 25.....Diagnostic Clinic



President's Comments...

By Lisa McClain

July 2023

We are Already Preparing for Next Year

On June 25th, we were at Growing Degree Day 984 which is slightly behind 2021 and 2022. With a few warmer days this should catch up quickly if it hasn't already. Expect to see linden trees and bottlebrush buckeyes coming into bloom. Azaleas, rhododendron and rose of Sharon should also come into bloom during this time. The color of these plants will attract pollinators such as bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. Unfortunately, this is also a time to be on the lookout for Japanese beetles, different types of leaf scale and invasives such as emerald ash borer, spotted lanternfly, and Asian long-horned beetles. If in doubt when trying to diagnose a problem, always know you can contact a fellow Master Gardener.

Believe it or not, we are already preparing for next year. We are scheduled to host a 2024 Training Class in February and March and are looking forward to Doug Tallamy in April of 2024. We have started gathering the names of people who might be interested in attending the training class and will soon be putting information out to the public. Please try to think of 1 or 2 neighbors, friends or acquaintances who might be interested in taking the classes and send me their names along with their email and/or phone number. We will contact them with details.

Thanks to all who have made this an incredible first 6 months of 2023. As we look to the rest of this year and start to look at 2024, I am interested in any and all feedback you might have for improvements. Please let me know of any suggestions you might have for the remainder of this year and next.

See you at the picnic on July 13th and the "Keep Your Vegetables Healthy" workshop on July 24th. Happy 4th of July!!!

—Lisa McClain



MGV NEWS...

Mark your calendars

Summer Picnic Slated for July 13th

by Lisa McClain

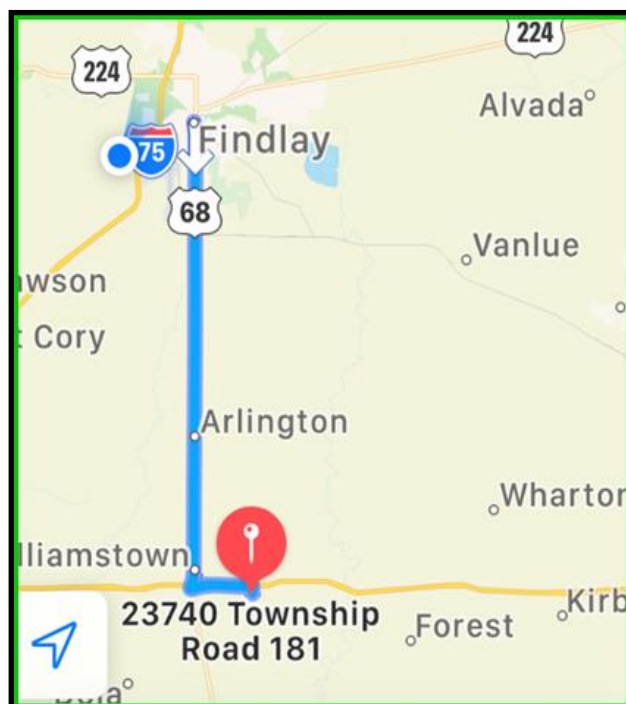
This annual event will be held at Marlene Brunswick's home at 23740 Township Road 181, Forest OH 45843

Master Gardeners and a guest are welcome.

Please bring a dish to share at 5:30 pm. Meal will begin promptly at 6 pm. Meat, bottled water, soft drinks, and table service will be provided. BYOB if you prefer other beverages.

Tables and chairs will be set up, but feel free to bring a lawn chair if you wish.

Quick Directions: Heading south from Findlay, State Route 68 South to State Route 30. (You will go



through Arlington and Williamstown then inter-

sects with Route 30). Head East 1 mile to Township Road 177 and turn right or South. Take immediate left East on Twp Road 146 (runs alongside Rt 30). This will intersect with Township Road 181 in 1 mile and you will need to turn Right or South. We are the only house South of 30 on 181 and live in a gray ranch in a woods. If you reach the Hardin County line, you have gone too far.

Feel free to call Marlene for specific directions if you have any trouble finding her house at 419-310-0882.

Hope to see you on July 13th.



MGV summer picnic 2022

Summer Seminar Set for July 24

The summer seminar, Keep Your Vegetables Healthy will be held on Monday, July 24th from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm. Dr. Beth Scheckelhoff, an OSUE Educator, will be speaking on diseases and pests of common garden vegetables. The seminar will be held at the Hancock County Extension office conference room and is *free* and open to the public. To register, call the Hancock Extension Office at 419-422-3851.

. After Beth's presentation, we will have a question-and-answer breakout session with Beth, Bill Jones and Patrick Flinn. Deadline to register is Friday, July 21st.

I need 2 volunteers to bake 2 dozen cookies that are wrapped, or bagged, that will be served at the seminar. Please contact me, at pgbiolchini@gmail.com and let me know if you will make cookies. — Peggy Biolchini

How Green Thumb Prints Got Its Name

By Sharon Hammer Baker, MG Emeritus

As Master Gardener numbers increased, we saw a need to communicate with everyone, and to provide information on programs, volunteer opportunities and items of horticultural interest to our young organization. I volunteered to do a newsletter, and set out on an adventure that was challenging, rewarding and educational.



MGV Public Programs

August 8 50 North, **Arranging Cut Flowers from the Garden** 10:30 am, Presenter: Linda Finsel along with Jeff Hingson, Floral Dept. Manager at Krogers, (flowers provided by Krogers. If MGVs want flowers they need to register as 50 North members and bring their own vase. Registration and \$15 fee due by Friday, August 4. If not registering, MGVs can come watch for education hours, or assist as a volunteer for service hours.)

August 15 Historical Museum, 6:00 pm.
for the Altrusa Club, **Spring bulb planting and fall clean-up**, presenters: John King and Craig Lamme

October 10 50 North, **Succulents Success**
10:30 am, presenter: Margi Habegger

October 12 Oakwoods DC, **NW Ohio Native Plants**, presenter: Pete Reynolds

October 21 Findlay Public Library, **Embrace the Fall**, 10 am, presenters: John King and Craig Lamme.

March 13, Fostoria Garden Club, **How to Start A Vegetable Garden** 12:00 noon, presenter: Rob Bilchini

MGVs are always welcome to attend programs at 50 North or the Library for service hours if helping, or participating for education hours. Always wear name badges. Other programs for groups as part of their meetings are closed and only the speaker handles the presentation (with helpers as arranged).

The name of the newsletter came about due to a small token we received when we finished our training and were given our certificates. We were presented with a green thumb – a soft plastic life size cast of a thumb – that Dr. Leon Walker made for each of us. He was professor of Biology at the University of Findlay and instrumental, along with Extension Agent Gary Wilson, in bringing the Master Gardener program to Hancock County. The association with gardening was clear, and since we “print” a newsletter, I thought “Green Thumb Prints” seemed like a good name for our new publication. As no one else had any suggestions for a name, the first edition was duly christened in June, 1993.

In those days, the extension office was in the old county home building and the Master Gardener station was a desk in the hallway. Cold in the winter, hot in the summer, and in the traffic pattern of nearly everyone who came to and worked in the office. Each month, I typed out the text for the newsletter on my home computer, pasted clip art to the pages, then made copies in the office copy room. I collated, folded, labeled and stamped each and delivered them to the post office to be mailed.

I enjoyed writing an editorial each month and many volunteers wrote articles and provided information that was included. From that modest beginning, the “Green Thumb Prints” has evolved into the sophisticated on-line newsletter it is today. However, it still serves its initial purpose of providing program and horticultural information to volunteers – and I’m happy to note that it still bears the name “Green Thumb Prints.”

Doug Tallamy Event Developments

Bringing Nature Home, One Person at a Time!

As an update / preview, our Doug Tallamy event is developing nicely for April 27, 2024. A dozen Northwest Ohio organizations are involved, with Hancock County Master Gardeners handling education parts for it. Peggy will be leading this part to be developed this fall. Public programs by Ann and Tim also being considered, with the Library, University and others, as a both a lead-in and follow up to Tallamy coming to Findlay.

Eventually it is hoped MGV volunteers will handle many of these programs. Over the summer, grant applications for funding, marketing / promotions and book orders for sale and Tallamy to sign at the event are being done. Questions and suggestions always welcome to Ann and Tim co-chairs of Team Tallamy. **SAVE THE DATE** for 4/27/2024.

Suggestion - This summer read the Tallamy books if you haven't already. They are easy, interesting reads, packed full of native plants and gardening info. The Library is ordering more copies to arrive soon, ready to loan. Audio books available to purchase on-line.

—Tim Brugeman

MGV Education Funds Still Available

Remember you have up to \$50.00 per year for seminars, courses, and programs that are at least 3-hour credits.

The paid receipt for the course must be submitted to Karl for reimbursement.

As of March 31 there was \$1,720 left in the budget for this expense.

We encourage you to use this money to further your education.

Thought for the day...

Life begins the day you start a garden.

— Chinese Proverb

Vegetable Garden Doing Well

Our vegetable garden project is doing very well. Recently, we harvested seven heads of cabbage weighing 17 pounds. More cabbage will be ready to harvest soon. Potatoes should be ready around the first half of July.



The cucumbers did not come up, so we will replant them soon. There should still be time for a good harvest.

Please feel welcome to help with the garden. Watch your email for scheduled work days. Usually, we work for a couple of hours starting at 8.

—Brint Simmons

MGV NEWS...

Sixteen Attend Lavender Farm Field Trip



Even though rain showers were around all day on Friday, 16 people attended our field trip to the Luckey Road Lavender Farm. Kylee, the owner, gave us a very informative presentation on how her business got started, care of lavender and uses for the different types of lavender. Many stayed afterwards to pick their own bunch to take home and then headed over to Beeker's General Store for ice cream. Well worth the trip. Thanks Ann for organizing it!!!



Photos by Lisa McClain

Toledo Botanical Garden field trip changed to August 21

August 21, Monday at 10 am Toledo Botanical Gardens 5403 Elmer Dr., Toledo, OH 43615. Tour of the grounds by Amy Stone. We will plan to eat lunch at a nearby restaurant. No fee.

October 9, Monday at 2 pm, Tom Barnes, 8055 Township Road 32. Jenera, Ohio 45841. Tom owns 15 acres with lots of trees, views of fall color. No fee.

—Ann Woolum



2023 Findlay Garden Tour

MGV Betsy DeFrancesco Garden featured on Tour

The garden of MGV Betsy and Doug DeFrancesco at 3103 St. Andrews Dr., will be one of the gardens featured on the 2023 Findlay Garden Tour. The tour, hosted by the Findlay Garden Club, is planned for 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on July 15 and from noon-5 p.m. on July 16 and is open to the public.

Other gardens featured on the tour include:

- 980 Township Road 229, Efraim Bilgili**
- 932 Fifth St., Becky and Bill Dawson**
- 1325 Woodworth Dr., Jamie and Mitchell Powers**
- 221 Rector Ave., Jeff Hingson**
- 235 Frazer St., Jan and Rob Young**
- 313 Sixth St., Valerie and Steve Mahler**
- 701 W. Sandusky St., The Courier, By Junior Bloomers and Findlay Garden Club**
- 3103 St. Andrews Dr., Betsy and Doug DeFrancesco**
- 258 Prospect Ave., Shannon Lussier and Randy Woerner**
- 723 Center St., Kristen and John Hunter**
- 15640 Brookview Trail, Nicki and Brian Strunk**



'All About Container Gardening'

Hardin County Master Gardeners hosted Hancock County MGV John King at their Friendship Gardens in Kenton June 26. John gave a presentation on ***'All About Container Gardening'*** to 38 visitors. Rain did not dampen the enthusiasm.



**Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteer
Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2023**

Brown Bag talk began at 6:03 pm:

Ed Lentz presented "What's the Big Deal About Glyphosate?"

Break for snacks and socializing at 6:45

Meeting began at 7:03 pm.

Presentation: Sharon Hammer Baker, first editor of the Green Thumb Print Newsletter, discussed some of the history of how it got started and was named.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

Minutes were provided in the last newsletter. No changes. Minutes stand approved as written.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's report was provided to members via email ahead of meeting. No changes or questions. Report stands as written.

OSU Report: Ed Lentz

- Denise Smith has completed her volunteer hours to become a Master Gardener, and was presented her MG nametag.
- Diagnostic Clinic date has been changed to August 25th. Karl Farwig gave a brief overview of what is covered at the clinic.

President's Report: Lisa McClain

- Thanked Debra Evans for her work as historian and for coordination with Sharon Hammer Baker on tonight's presentation.
- Bill Jones has shared electronic copies of his past presentations if anyone wishes to use them as a basis for a future presentation.
- Donations – Six donations were received as memorials for Jack Kelbley and a donation received from a garden club that has folded. Lisa asked for suggestions of a project that would be an appropriate use of these funds. The garden club donation has stipulated the money should be spent on educational activities. Nick Moore suggested a scholarship either for the Master Gardener class or for a horticulture student.
- Lisa asked everyone to begin thinking about what we should begin planning for 2024. She also asked if anyone has any get-to-know-you activities that would be good for the group.

(Minutes Continued on Page 9)

(Minutes Continued from Page 8)

- Names are being collected for the 2024 MG class. If you know of someone, notify Lisa or Ed

Committee Reports:

- Administrative – Lynn Farwig
 - No directory is being published. It is online in Hands On Connect.
- Education Committee-Peggy Biolchini
 - Field Trip scheduled for 6/23/2023 at 5 pm. to Luckey Rd Lavender Farm in Pemberville. They are charging \$50 for the entire group to attend. You can purchase a bundle of lavender for \$10 cash or \$11 credit card. Meeting at 4:15 at Becker's General Store in Pemberville for ice cream beforehand. Sign up sheet going around or contact Ann Woolum.
 - Field Trip being planned for 8/25/2023 to the Toledo Botanical Garden. The date may need to be changed now that it conflicts with the Diagnostic Clinic.
 - Field Trip to Tom Barnes farm in Janera planned for 10/9/2023.
 - Ask-A-MG received 23 questions in May and only a few so far in June. Suggested that everyone check their plants for spider mites or aphids since there has been no rain for so long.
 - Brown Bag – There are still a few open dates for fall
 - Seminars – Working on advertising. Event is scheduled for 7/24/2023, 6:30 – 8:00 pm. It is free and open to the public. Topic is "Keep Your Vegetables Healthy". It has been posted on the MG Facebook page. Be sure to share it onto your own page to help with advertising.
- Service – Tim Brugeman
 - Ag Center Front Garden – Peggy Biolchini – Have been trimming, mulching and watering. The garden at the back door is looking good too.
 - Community Garden – Brint Simmons - The garden is growing well. Thank you to the workers. Additional workers are always welcome. Watch for emails from Brint.
 - Mugs of Joy - New chairperson is needed. Denise Smith volunteered to chair the project.
- Social & Fundraising – Lisa McClain
 - The Summer Picnic will be July 13th.
 - Planning is beginning for the Wreath Classes.

(Minutes Continued on Page 10)

(Minutes Continued from page 9)

- Teaching – Tim Brugeman
 - Let's Go Gardening – July Clymer – There were 183 total contacts made at this event, 86 male and 97 female. Feasel's made a \$100 donation to the group afterward.
 - County Fair – Linda Finsel – The Fair's overall theme is "Once Upon a Time" so the committee has chosen the MG theme to be "Once Upon a Time Ohio Was All Native". Linda is asking for volunteers for the planning committee.
 - Courier Articles –Project is going well. All months are filled except December and January
 - Public Programs – Linda Finsel – Speakers are set for 50 North through October. The list of the programs has been printed in the newsletter.
 - Native Plants Event – Nick Moore – Event will be held 9/16/2023, 9 am to Noon. The Park District Natural Resource Manager will be there but there will be no tours this year. Asking for more ideas for educational resources/presentations. Pete Reynolds will give a presentation on native plants as a repeat of the presentation he is giving for the Hancock Naturalists.

Old Business: Items have already been discussed.

New Business: None.

Sharing: Discussion about grubs and about whiteflies

Motion to Adjourn: Lynn Farwig; second Patrick Flinn. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted: Elaine Reynolds



From The Courier, June 11, 2023

Container gardening with native plants

By Ann Woolum, Master Gardener Volunteer

Add beauty to your outdoor living space and support pollinators by filling outdoor pots and containers with colorful native plants this summer. Why native plants? Life as we know it depends on native pollinators. Over time, native insects and native plants have evolved together. If native insects were to disappear, most flowering plants would go extinct. This would change the physical structure and energy flow of most terrestrial habitats, which would cause the rapid collapse of the food webs that support amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals (including humans).

Collectively, we are the best hope for the survival of pollinators. We can save them by changing the way we landscape. If you live in an apartment or have a small yard, you may think you cannot help. But you can still provide a habitat for pollinators by planting a container and placing it on your balcony, patio or deck.

To have the biggest impact on our environment, consider using keystone native plants in your containers. Keystone plants are called as such because they promote insect populations. These insects pollinate plants and provide food for birds and other animals. Keystone plants generate a network of relationships that support numerous other species that impact the overall health of the local ecosystem and food web. Without keystone plants in the landscape, biodiversity declines dramatically. The following native plants are considered keystone plants in our area and can be used in container gardening.

Smooth aster is a full-sun perennial with a height of 2 to 4 feet that blooms late summer through fall. Water requirement is low to average. The small and densely blooming flowers are a striking blue purple color with a golden-yellow center. This plant has no serious pests or diseases.

Woodland sunflower is a partial-sun perennial with low water requirements. It grows 2 to 6 feet and blooms during the summer and fall. The Woodland sunflower produces a profusion of 2-inch yellow flowers that are attractive to many species. This plant is deer-resistant and relatively pest- and disease-free.

Black-eyed Susan is a full-sun perennial growing to a height of 2 to 3 feet with low to average water requirements. It produces 3-inch blooms and flowers during the summer and fall. Black-Eyed Susan can tolerate a wide range of growing conditions. It has no serious pests or diseases and is deer resistant.

Lanceleaf coreopsis is a full-sun perennial with a height of 1 to 2 feet. Flowers are produced late spring and continue through mid-summer. Water requirements are low. This attractive yellow flower draws a wide array of native pollinators. In the right conditions, this plant grows quickly and can self-seed. It is relatively free of pests and naturally resistant to deer.

Orange Coneflower is a full-sun to partial-sun perennial with average water requirements. It grows to 2 to 4 feet and blooms mid-summer through fall. This bright flower blooms profusely in full sun, but can tolerate some shade. It is low maintenance, highly disease-tolerant, deer-resistant and attracts butterflies.

(Continued on page 13)

It's Time To...

JULY 4

- Remove spent annual blossoms daily for continued blooming.
- You can still sow beets, beans and carrots.
- Hanging plants often need daily watering.
- Water deeply when needed. Avoid light sprinkling.
- Lightly fertilize onions, tomatoes, peppers and other long-season plants.
- Remove faded flowers and over-ripe fruit that attract Japanese beetles.
- Prop branches of heavily loaded fruit trees.
- Stir mulch to improve aeration and water movement.

JULY 11

- Keep weeds out of the garden.
- Renovate overcrowded strawberry beds.
- Plant late-season cabbage transplants in the garden.
- Sow another row of bush snap beans.
- Put a net over blueberry plants to keep birds from beating you to the harvest.
- Cut lavender for drying just as the flowers begin to open.
- Never apply pesticides to stressed plants.
- Pinch mums for the final time of the season.

JULY 18

- Plant rutabagas for harvest in early autumn.
- Cut back vigorous shoots of wisteria to check their growth.
- Sharpen mower blades if lawn appears brown after mowing.
- Examine trees after severe thunderstorms for damaged limbs.
- Sow parsley, dill and basil in pots for use indoors during winter.
- Allow broccoli to develop side shoots after central head has been harvested.
- Pinch mint, oregano, and savory to promote bushy growth.

(Continued on the following page)

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

JULY 25

- Keep annuals blooming by removing spent blossoms.
- Prune suckers and water sprouts from apple trees.
- Plant Chinese cabbage, endive, snap beans, kohlrabi, lettuce and radish for fall harvest.
- Cut back mints, oregano, and savory to promote bushy growth.
- Harvest summer squash when they are young and tender.
- Blanch celery a week before harvesting by wrapping stalks with paper.

Container gardening with native plants (continued from page 11)

Blanketflower or firewheel is a full-sun, short-lived perennial that will continually produce flowers during the growing season. It grows 1 to 2 feet with low water requirements. This showy flower has a striking red center up to two inches wide and abundant nectar. This easy-to-grow plant attracts no serious pests or diseases.

Wreath goldenrod is a full-sun to partial-sun perennial growing 1 to 3 feet. It blooms late summer through fall with low to average water requirements. This plant bears a profusion of flowers in late summer that are highly attractive to a variety of species. This less-aggressive goldenrod is deer-resistant with no serious pests or diseases.

Native plants typically have extensive roots systems, so you will need to use large pots. Your container should have at least one hole in the bottom to ensure proper drainage. Since some of the native plants will grow tall; you may need a stake or trellis to support the plants. Many of the native plants are perennials, so they may come back year after year and you can leave the pots outside. During the cold seasons, you will need to place the pots in a protected or semi-sheltered area. Consider using plastic pots since they are the least likely to crack during the cold months.

If you have been contemplating starting a garden, container gardening is a good way to jump into a hobby that you just may grow to love!

Be sure to follow us on Facebook, "Master Gardeners of Hancock County Ohio", for information on upcoming events, classes and gardening tips.

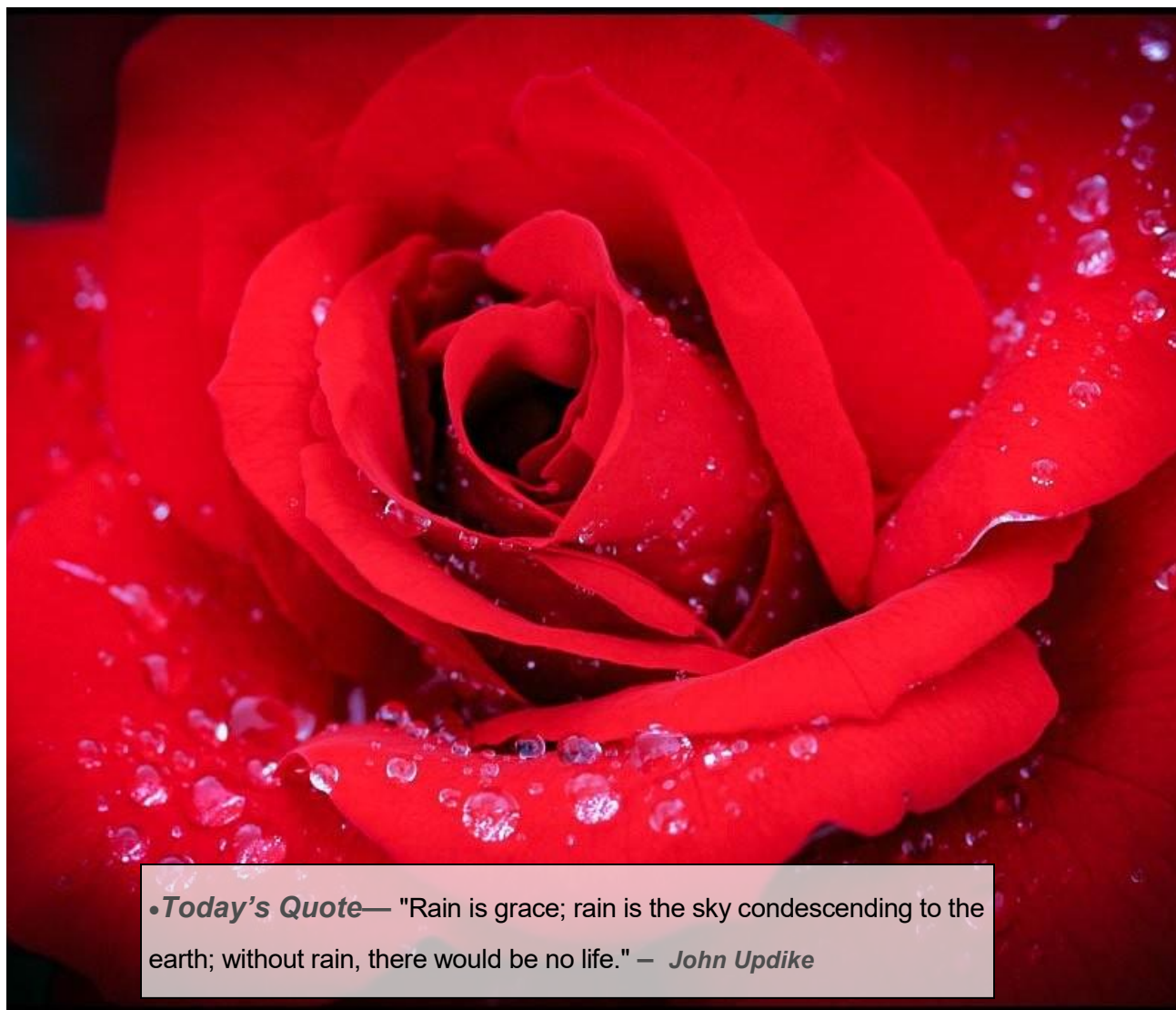
Woolum is an Ohio State University Extension — Hancock County Master Gardener volunteer. If you have gardening questions this summer, be sure to ask a master gardener at 419-422-3851 through the OSU Extension Hancock County office. Also, follow us on Facebook, "Master Gardeners of Hancock County Ohio" for information on upcoming events, classes and gardening tips.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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•**Today's Quote**— "Rain is grace; rain is the sky condescending to the earth; without rain, there would be no life." — *John Updike*

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