

GREEN THUMB PRINTS

Gardening is our Passion Education is our Purpose

March 2023

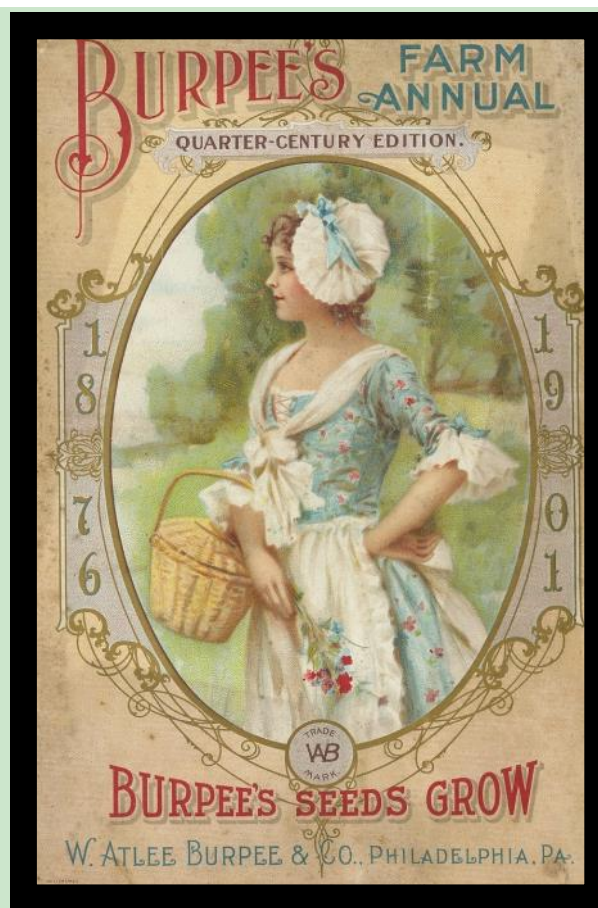
Upcoming Events

March 9th March Monthly Meeting**March 15th** ... Deadline for April Courier article-Rob Biolchini**March 18th** Jump-Start Your Garden Seminar**March 25th** Sure Cure for Spring Fever-Findlay-Hancock Public Library**April 4th** Executive Committee Meeting**April 13th** April Awards Program**April 15th** Exploring Wonders of Nature- Findlay-Hancock Public Library**April 15th** Deadline for May Article-Ann Woolum

March Monthly Meeting

March 9th

A brown bag will be presented at 6 pm followed by the monthly meeting. Refreshments for the meeting will be by Marylyn Beltz, Laurie Pressel and Judi Clymer.



Burpee's Catalogue of 'Flowering Bulbs, Plants and Seeds' (1901) from Smithsonian Collection.

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President's Comments...

By Lisa McClain

March 2023

As of a Sunday, February 26, 2023, we were at 30 Growing Degree Days here in the Findlay area. At the same time last year, we were at 7 GDDs and in 2021 we were at 0 GDDs. It won't be long until the first bloom of the Silver Maple at GDD 34 and full bloom at GDD 42. I know it's too early to predict anything, but let's hope this trend continues and we avoid any inclement weather yet this winter. Only 19 days until spring!!!

What can I say about Rose, but that we are all saddened by her loss. Her contributions to our organization were many! She had served on almost every Master Gardener committee and project imaginable including President. She was currently the chair of the social committee. We will miss her vibrant and ambitious spirit. If you wanted a job done right, you would ask Rose. A contribution of \$25 was made to the Scott Morrison Special Needs Trust. Rest in peace Rose.

A special thank you this month to John King for presenting the Brown bag at our February 16th meeting on "A Crash Course on Slide Design and Presentation Tips" Thanks also to Tim Brugeman for volunteering to lead the Teaching Committee and Emily Hinderliter, Margi Habegger and Betsy DeFrancesco for adding an educational component to our Facebook. Great job!!!

I am very excited that we will host our first all-day seminar since March of 2020. Come "Jump-Start Your Garden" on March 18th at the Presbyterian Church. If you have not registered and would like to attend, please contact Betsy DeFrancesco to register by March 6th at 908-910-5586 or betsmart_207@yahoo.com. You do not have to pay for the seminar and the fee will not be deducted from your allotted \$50 continuing education amount. The Seminar Committee led by Peggy Biolchini has done a wonderful job planning all aspects to insure a successful seminar. If you have any questions, please contact Peggy at biolchini@aol.com or 419-306-4235.

For those of you looking to gain continuing education hours, OSU Fruit Pathology is offering a 2-part online fruit pruning school on the following dates:

March 9-Tree Fruit Pruning (9:30 AM)

March 14-Small Fruit Pruning (9:30 AM)

While the pruning webinars are free, you must register at go.osu.edu/pruningschool. If you are registered, but cannot log on at the designated time you will be sent a link to watch at your convenience. Remember, you can also get 5 continuing education hours by attending our seminar.

See you at our next meeting on March 9th.

Lisa McClain

MGV NEWS...



Hal Mann, Wild Ones, Oak Openings Region

SPRING SEMINAR UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who has stepped up to volunteer at the upcoming spring seminar on March 18th. I have almost all positions filled except for a few people who are needed to set up the coffee/tea/water station and keep it going during the morning session. If you would be able to do this please contact me asap at 419-306-4345.



Denise Ellsworth, OSU Program Director, Pollinators Education

Registrations are coming in, although not as fast as I would like. Please reach out to your neighbors, friends, family and invite them to the seminar! As of this writing (2/23/23) there are only 51 people who have signed up. We do have some competition on March 18th as Allen County MGV are hosting their spring seminar on the same day as ours and the Christian Clearinghouse Garage Sale is also on the same day.

For those of you who signed up to make muffins, I will be sending you an email reminder once I know the final number of registrations. Muffins are to be individually wrapped, nut and chocolate free. Suggested flavors

banana, cranberry orange, pumpkin, apple cinnamon, etc. I would like to have the muffins delivered to my home on Friday, March 17th or brought to First Presbyterian Church at 8:00 am on Saturday, March 18th.

The spring seminar committee is to meet on Monday, March 13th at 9:00 am at the Extension office to prepare table decorations and stuff attendee folders. The committee will meet again on Friday, March 17th at 1:00 pm at First Presbyterian Church to set up the table decorations, registration table, posters, and coffee service.

- Peggy Biolchini



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



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

MGV NEWS...

Master Gardener Volunteer Public Programs Announced

Linda Finsel and Tim Brugeman

March 18 – “Jump Start Your Garden”, Spring MGV Seminar at First Presbyterian Church (Pre-registration required – deadline 3/11) coordinated by Peggy Biolchini and MGV team.

March 25 – “Sure Cure for Spring Fever” Planning & planting this seasons landscapes and gardens. Findlay Hancock County Public Library 10 am. Presented by Barbara Phillips & Sharon Milligan

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.

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.

Other requested programs need volunteer presenters / timely topics for:

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

* Hancock County Naturalists October 12 (evening at Oakwoods Discovery Center) on Native Plants for NW Ohio.

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



SURE CURE FOR SPRING FEVER
GETTING A JUMP START ON THIS SEASON'S GARDENING

Saturday, March 25th
@ 10 AM in the Lindamood Room

Learn some creative, low maintenance ways to get our gardens and landscapes ready for this season – tips to try for planning, pruning, planting, mulching, and adding more beauty to enjoy with shrubs, flowers and vegetables. Ask a Master Gardener your gardening questions, check out library gardening resources on display, and some door prizes will be available.

FINDLAY - HANCOCK COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Education Committee Update

Brown Bag

John King is doing a great job with the Brown Bag presentations. If you would like to share a topic you know, or investigate one and share it with the group please contact John. Great topics to research are invasive plants – any! Best flowers to attract Hummingbirds and what do Hummingbirds eat when there aren't any flowers? How to create a moon garden. Composting – what's the secret to getting great compost? Pick a vegetable or a plant that you have mastered or one that you struggle with and let us know how you mastered it or how you overcame your struggle. There are thousands of topics!

Ask-A-Master Gardener Program

Cheryl Everett has received several questions already from the Extension office. This will certainly be a busy year for questions as our weather has been so warm this winter and the lack of rain last year will only bring new problems for area gardeners.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are on the Ask-A-Master Gardener team please let Cheryl know when you are out of town so she can direct questions to other people.

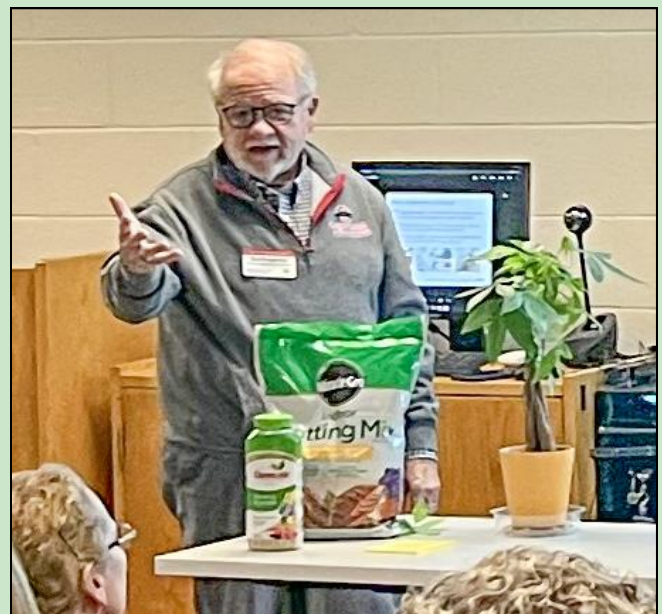
Field Trips

Do you know of a great place for the MGV to visit or tour? Please let Ann Woolum or me know. We like to do two field trips each year.

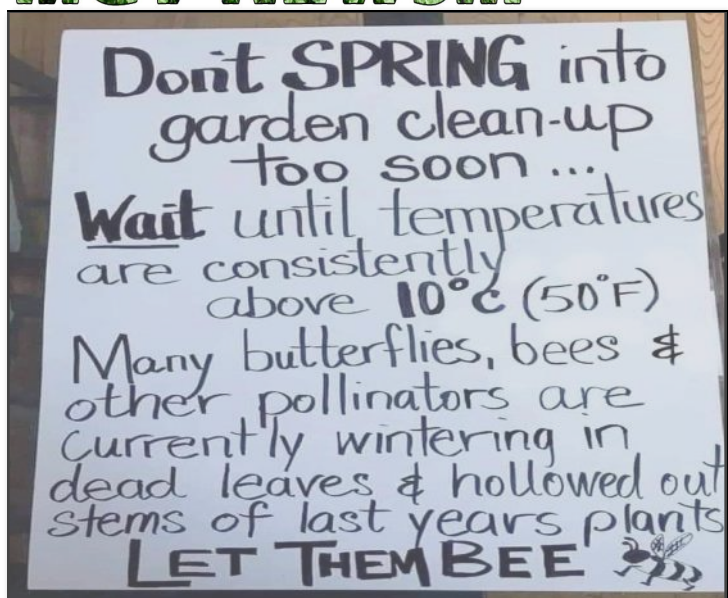
- Peggy Biolchini

Second 2023 MGV program draws crowd

Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers held their second program of the new year Feb.19 to a packed hall of over 20 attendees at the Findlay-Hancock Public Library. The event featured a presentation on houseplants by Tim Brugeman and plant giveaways and drawings.



MGV NEWS...



Poster made by a student at a local school science fair. Looks like future MGV potential!



Gardening Skills Survey

I want to say "thank you" to everyone who took the time to fill out the survey at the February meeting or sent it back to me already.

For those who have not yet completed this survey, please take a few minutes to complete it. We need everyone's input on their talents and interests.

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.

Hancock County Master Gardener

Meeting Minutes February 16, 2023

Meeting was called to order by Marilyn Betz who was filling in for Lisa McClain who was unable to attend the meeting.

6:00 Brown Bag—John King gave a presentation on “A Crash Course on Slide Design and Presentation Tips” to provide information on avoiding Death by PowerPoint and ways to keep audiences engaged in MGCV presentations.

6:45 Break for Snacks

7:00 Business Meeting

1. Welcome- Marilyn Betz asked for a moment of silence in memory of Rose Morrison.
2. Approval of January Minutes: Motion made by Tim Brugeman; seconded by Linda Finsel
3. Approval of January Treasurer's Report: Motion made to accept by Judi Clymer; seconded by Peggy Biolchini

Unrestricted cash	\$6827.97
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Community Garden	\$489.07
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Total Cash	\$7317.04
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Income this month was \$320.00 from Seminars.

Expenses were \$195.00 (\$25.00 for a memorial and \$170.00 for Education Stipend)

4. Coordinator's Report: Ed Lentz

- A. Ed Lentz discussed issues with the HOC website and looking at easier ways to track hours of service. As it stands, an event needs to be created in order to track hours, which is inefficient. He wants the MGCV members to let him know what is frustrating with HOC. As a stop gap solution, Ed handed out a spreadsheet for MGCV's to track their education and Service Hours.
- B. Ed also discussed a seed company that is interested in supplying us with seeds. After discussion, it was concluded that we get enough seeds from Lowe's and do not need another supplier.

5. President's Report: Reported by Marilyn Betz

- A. We received a thank you card from the Jim Barnhart family for our donation to Bridge Hospice in his memory.

(Minutes Continued on Page 8)

(Minutes Continued from Page 7)

- B. Thank you to-Peggy Biolchini-Linda Finsel-Denise Smith for bringing refreshments tonight.
- C. Thank you to Laurie Pressel for getting a great start on the Courier signups
- D. Teaching Chair Update-Would like to thank Tim Brugeman who has agreed to fill the Teaching Committee Chair.
- E. 2022 Audit is underway-Bill Jones and Randy Greeno have all records they need and have started.
- F. Toledo Zoo Orchid Show- Runs through February 26th at the Toledo Zoo.
- G. Master Gardener Office Makeover-Starting in March books will be put in order to be checked out by us and possibly the public.
- H. March 18th Seminar-Jump-Start Your Garden Please register to attend and sign up to help. Peggy will give details in committee report.
- I. Next meetings: March 9th-March Meeting
April 13th-Awards Potluck.
April 21-22-23 Home and Garden Show

6. Committee Reports:

- 7. A. Administrative: Lynn Farwig-Nothing to report
- B. Education: Peggy Biolchini

8. ***SEMINAR**

-Advertising: We have advertised the seminar, Jump-Start Your Garden on the Hancock MGVS website, MGVS Facebook page and Facebook's local events page, and the Visit Findlay Events website. The flier has been sent to surrounding MGVS groups, the OSU Extension List Serve, area garden clubs, the Hancock and Bowling Green Park Districts, it has been posted at Feasel's and at the Hancock Public Library. Lisa McClain wrote an excellent article promoting the seminar that was printed in the Courier on Saturday, February 11th.

-Registration: All Hancock County MGVS are to register through Betsy DeFrancesco. Not through Eventbrite. There are registration forms on the back table. You have the option to order a box lunch, or you may bring your own. **Register only if you plan to come or if you are volunteering for the event.** You do not have to pay for the seminar, and the fee will not be deducted from your allotted \$50 continuing education budget. That \$50 continuing education is for outside our group seminars/workshops that you attend. **You must register by March 6, 2023.**

-Door prizes: As the host for the seminar, Hancock MGVS are not eligible to win a door prize. We plan to offer 10 door prizes. If anyone would like to donate a gardening related (i.e., garden tool or decorative garden item) door prize, or money to purchase a door prize, please see Linda Finsel, Ann Woolum or myself. Based on any donated door prizes, the remainder will be obtained from local stores, i.e., Lowe's, Tractor Supply, etc.

-Volunteering Opportunities:

Peggy asked for 15 volunteers to make 2 dozen muffins for the event. No nuts and individually wrapped in plastic. Muffins are to be dropped off at Peggy's house on Friday, March 17th or delivered by 8:00 am on Saturday, March 18th. Sign-up sheet on back table. (Please notify Peggy if you can make 2 doz. Muffins) Volunteers to help on the day of the event: Administering box lunches, coffee and breakfast set up & maintenance, collecting evaluation forms, someone to help Betsy at the Registration table. Sign-up sheet is on the back table.

(Minutes Continued on Page 9)

(Minutes Continued from page 8)

C. Education: Peggy Biolchini (Continued)

- * ASK A MASTER GARDENER- Cheryl gave an update on “Ask a Master Gardener” and indicated we recently have had 2 questions to the phone line.

D. Service: Tim Brugeman

- * COMMUNITY GARDEN – Brint indicated that the United Way was still in limbo on plans for this year as to if they will have a community garden. As an alternative Tom Lawrence has indicated he would allow us access to his farm so that we could have a community garden.
- * No OSUE GARDENS until April-Peggy Biolchini.

E. Social:

- * Marilyn and Lisa will be organizing the AWARDS PROGRAM
- * John King will be organizing the PLANT EXCHANGE in May.

F Teaching: Tim Brugeman

- * Tim Brugeman indicated that no one had returned the form he gave to the group at the January meeting requesting our Gardening Skills. He made the request again.
- * Judi indicated that a sign-up sheet for “Let’s Go Gardening” will be available at the March meeting.
- * Linda Finsel indicated that planning was being conducted for the fair booth at the Hancock County Fair.
- * Denise brought up the Home and Garden Show at the Cube and indicated the date is April 21, 22 & 23 and will be looking for volunteers.
- * Volunteers are needed to write articles for the Courier in September, October, November and December.
- * Linda spoke on building our public reach out by doing more programs at the Public Library and was looking for volunteers.

7. Old Business:

NONE

8. New Business:

NONE

9.. Patrick Flynn moved to adjourn the meeting and Judi Clymer seconded.

Next meeting: March 9, 2023

Respectively submitted by: John King

From The Courier, Feb. 11, 2023

Jumpstart your garden

By Lisa McClain

Ready to get a head start on the growing season? Join the Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers for a public event, "Jump-Start Your Garden," on Saturday, March 18, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 2330 S. Main St., Findlay. The cost is \$40 and includes a light breakfast, lunch and a chance to win door prizes.

The full-day seminar will feature gardening experts from across the state. Each presentation is packed with gardening information to help you plan and manage your backyard garden. All levels of gardeners, from beginners to experienced, are encouraged to attend.

Discover how to bring "Year-Round Color in the Garden" from Pam Bennett, assistant professor at Ohio State University and State Master Gardener Volunteer program director. Pam specializes in herbaceous ornamental plant trials and every year evaluates more than 200 varieties of annuals and two genera of ornamental grasses. An in-demand speaker, she presents programs on annuals and perennials as well as other landscape topics locally, statewide and nationally.

Interested in native plants? Hal Mann, Wild Ones, Oak Openings Region Chapter, will present on "Making Rain Gardens Work with Native Plants." In 2012, Hal decided to convert his entire home landscape to native plants. Since that time, he has become a passionate speaker and advocate for native plants. His presentation will introduce the concept of rain gardens, including why they are important, how they work and how to make them most effective by using native plants. You'll also learn how rain gardens provide a host of ecological benefits.

Pollinators are vital to our natural ecosystem and they are on the decline. Denise Ellsworth, program director of pollinator education at Ohio State University, will speak on "Plants for Pollinators." Denise specializes in honey bees, wild bees and other pollinators. She also has an interest in pollinator habitat creation, insect and bee phenology, plant pests, integrated pest management and plant identification.

If you'd like to become better at identifying and addressing problems in your garden, you'll enjoy the presentation, "Diagnosing Problems in the Home Landscape," by Dr. Curtis Young, Ohio State University Extension educator from Van Wert County. Dr. Young has a doctorate in Entomology and has been a popular Biology Instructor at Ohio State University — Lima. He is an avid photographer, known for photos of insects, diseases and problems associated with landscape plants.

Registration for the seminar is open online at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) or by calling the Hancock County OSU Extension office, at 419-422-3851. Registration deadline is March 11. Please join us for a fun and informative day of gardening!

The Jump-Start Your Garden Seminar information and information about the upcoming Master Gardener Training Classes in 2024 can be found by visiting <https://hancock.osu.edu>

McClain is president of the Ohio State University Extension — Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers.

It's Time To...

March 6

- Purchase trees and shrubs for planting later this month.
- Clean and sharpen pruning tools.
- Repair fences and trellises.
- Prevent damping off by using sterilized soil to start seeds.
- Wash and sterilize seed starting containers in 1-part bleach to 9-parts water.
- Enjoy the blossoms of vernal witch hazel.
- Grow compact varieties where space is limited.
- Take cuttings of geraniums for new bedding plants.
- Continue feeding the birds; natural food sources are scarce.

March 13

- Prune woody landscape and fruit plants when the temperature is above freezing.
- Plant woody plants as soil conditions permit.
- Sow seeds of dahlia, snapdragon and verbena indoors.
- Sow seeds of broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower indoors.
- Rake debris from the lawn when the soil is fairly dry.
- Before planting have your soil tested at a lab recommended by your Extension office.
- Repot houseplants as needed.
- Digging in wet soil causes compaction.
- Provide food and water for birds and other wildlife.

March 20

- Prune shrubs, landscape trees and grapes before the plants break dormancy.
- Sow seeds of petunia and salvia indoors.
- Plant woody plants when the soil and weather conditions permit.
- Remove winter protection from rose bushes.
- Soil that sticks to the spade is too wet to work. Wait to dig until it dries a bit.
- Remove mulch from established strawberries before growth begins.
- Look for snowdrops blooming under the snow.
- Use the pruning waste of grapevines to make grapevine wreaths.
- Provide food for wildlife.

March 27

- Seed new lawns as weather and soil conditions permit.
- Sow seeds of eggplant and pepper indoors.
- Sow peas outdoors as weather conditions permit.
- Apply lawn fertilizer as weather permits.
- Remove tops and dead leaves from asparagus and rhubarb.
- Side dress asparagus and rhubarb with nitrogen fertilizer.
- Prune trees and shrubs.
- Plant pansies and Propagate houseplants.



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COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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hancock.osu.edu



*Today's Quote—O, wind, if winter comes
can spring be far behind? - Percy Bysshe Shelley*

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