

GREEN THUMB PRINTS

Gardening is our Passion Education is our Purpose

May 2023



Marilyn Beltz and Barbara Phillips were among those recognized at the Awards Program April 13. The two former classmates have each served as Master Gardeners for 15 years. (For a complete listing of award recipients see Page 9)

Upcoming Events

Easy-care Small Container Gardens.....	May 9
May Meeting/Plant-Exchange	May 11
Let's Go Gardening Public Event.....	May 13
Courier Article Due-Ann Woolum.....	May 15
Spring and Summer Flowers.....	May 16
How to Plant a Victory Garden.....	May 17

MGV Plant Exchange Scheduled

On Thursday, May 11th at 6 PM the Master Gardeners of Hancock County will hold their annual plant exchange. A brief business meeting will be held, followed by the plant exchange outside on the south side of the building if weather permits. (See details on Page 3.)

Brown Bag opportunities are waiting for you!

September, October and November are the months available for the remaining year. Please contact John King or Peggy Biolchini if you have a topic that you would like to discuss. A Brown Bag presentation can be done with or without a PowerPoint presentation. Just sharing a garden related topic with physical displays or handouts or a poster are perfectly acceptable!

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President's Comments...

By Lisa McClain

May 2023

What a busy April we have had...

What a busy April we have had....potatoes and onions have been planted in our MGv garden at The Lawrence Place, our OSUE Gardens have had their spring clean-up, we were represented at two community events and held our annual Awards' Program. Thank you to Marilyn Beltz for her role in organizing the dinner and decorations. Thank you as well to Lowes for donating door prizes and Debra Evans for giving each of us a seed depth indicator. Congratulations to Barbara Phillips and Marilyn Beltz for 15 years of service and Karl Farwig for reaching 2,500 cumulative hours. Who knew that Barbara and Marilyn were classmates. Also, I would like to thank all of you for your part in a successful 2022.

Our public programs which include speaking events and other programs have had a bang-up year so far. Linda Finsel and Tim Brugeman have put together community programs that have made contact with close to 300 people already this year. In April two programs were held which included "Exploring Wonders of Nature" at the Findlay Hancock County Public Library and "Planting Herbs and Flowers" at the Hancock County Historical Museum. Thank you to everyone who has contributed in any way to the success of these programs!!!

In looking towards May I hope we have some warmer days to speed up our GDD. It seems as though we have been at a stand still lately. I'm also looking forward to our Plant Exchange on May 11th and Let's Go Gardening on May 13th. Please contact John King if you are coming to the Plant Exchange so we have enough Dietsch's Ice Cream. Also, please contact Judi Clymer if you can volunteer for Let's Go Gardening. Volunteers are needed.

See you on the 11th!!!

Lisa McClain

MGV NEWS...

Platinum Standard for Excellence

Hancock MGV Going Platinum?

By Lisa McClain

As was noted at our April Awards Meeting, the Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers have submitted paperwork to be recognized as meeting the Platinum Standards for Excellence in 2022.

The Gold Standard includes meeting the deadlines for 2022 volunteer hours being reported to HOC, 2022 recertification files being up to date on HOC and payment of our 2023 support fees. We also received points for conducting at least one MGV Continuing Education Program in 2022, participating in Grow Ohio, having completed an internal audit of 2022 and having a separate liability policy to protect volunteers.

To qualify for the Platinum Recognition, we met the additional goals of training a new class of MGV's in 2021 to 2022, nominating someone for the state Outstanding MGV of the Year and nominating a project for the state MGV Outstanding Project of the Year.

Congratulations and thank you to everyone for your work in achieving this recognition!!!

May Plant Exchange

Thursday, May 11th, 6:00 PM

On May 11th the Master Gardeners of Hancock County will hold their annual plant exchange. We will have a brief business meeting and then the plant exchange outside on the south side of the building if weather permits.

Each MGV should bring at least one plant to exchange with other Master Gardeners. This can include home grown or purchased annuals, perennials, or shrubs. It is not necessary to buy a plant, but you can do that if you decide to go that route. The main purpose is to share plants that you have in your garden. The best part is getting some new plants for your garden! The question is always where will we put a new plant? Please make sure that the plants are labeled and non-invasive.

John King and Linda Finsel will be setting up the site and giving us directions for the selection of plants.

Should you have any questions about the process, please direct them to John King at jhawk88@yahoo.com, **Dietsch's Ice Cream Bars Will Be Served.**

Speakers Still Needed

April Public Programs Well Attended

Linda Fensel and Tim Brugeman

The April events went very well with 63 contacts at the library and 61 contacts at the Hancock Co. Historical Museum.

Rob Biolchini will be doing the May 17, 2023 Fostoria Learning Center program on Victory Gardens.

MGV has been asked by the Fostoria Garden Club to do a program on March 13, 2024 on "How to Start a Vegetable Garden" or "Ohio Native Plants."

If are willing to do this program, please let Linda Finsel know.

Tim Brugeman is looking for volunteers at 50N for August 8, 2023 and October 10, 2023 at 10:30am.

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).

|Speakers are needed for future 50 North "Gardening in Our Golden Years" presentations with requested topics for August 8 ("Cut flowers from the Garden", Make it / Take it home arrangement) & October 10 ("Successful Succulents, Make it / Take it take home arrangement). Please contact Linda Finsel or Tim Brugeman if interested. Help and ideas available.

Scheduled Programs:

5/9 50 North **Small Container Garden**

10: 30 am *John King*

5/16 OSU Ext (Retired Teachers Group) **Flowers**

Marilyn Beltz

5/17 Fostoria Learning Center **Planting A Victory Garden** *Rob Biolchini*

6/13 50 North **Square Foot Gardening**

10:30 am *John King*

10/12 Oakwoods DC NW Ohio Native Plants

Pete Reynolds



MGV NEWS...

Let's Go Gardening Set for May 13 at Local Centers

There is still an opportunity to share your plant knowledge on Saturday, May 13th at the Let's Go Gardening event.

I am looking for MGVS to volunteer at Brinkman's from 1-5 pm, Feasels from 12-3 pm, and Lowe's from 1-4 pm.

There are also 2 morning slots open at Feasel's from 9-12, and 2 morning slots from 10-1 at Lowe's.

If you signed up on line or would like to volunteer for 1 or 2 of these slots please give Judi Clymer a call at 419-345-8086. Thank you!

—Judi Clymer



Randy Greeno and Betsy DeFrancesco enjoying the day at the "Let's Go Gardening" event in 2022

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.

Field Trip Ideas Sought

If anyone knows of a great place to go for a group field trip this year please contact either Ann Woolum or Peggy Biolchini.

Demonstration Garden Project is Well Under Way at New Home

Brint Simmons Jr.

Our Vegetable Demonstration Garden project is well under way.

We have planted two varieties of potatoes, three varieties of onions, and cabbage.

We will plant tender crops around Memorial Day including tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, squash, and perhaps carrots.

The garden is located at the Tom Lawrence farm, 15145 SR 568 just east of CR 236.

Our harvest will be donated to local agencies providing food to those in need.

Watch your email for opportunities to help with this project.

You are also welcome to come any time we are working just to see the project and perhaps get some ideas for your own garden.

MGV NEWS...

Mulch Date for OSUE gardens announced

Mulching at the OSUE gardens will be on Friday, May 12th from 8 am - 12 noon. We will not need to spread mulch around the entire area, therefore, I will be ordering less than before. IF the weather is bad, the rain date will be Wednesday, May 17th from 8 am to 12 noon.

Remember to bring your own tools, gloves, wheelbarrow if you have one and a water bottle!

Please let me know if you will be able to help on Friday, May 12th. - Peggy (419-306-4235 or pgbiolchini@gmail.com).

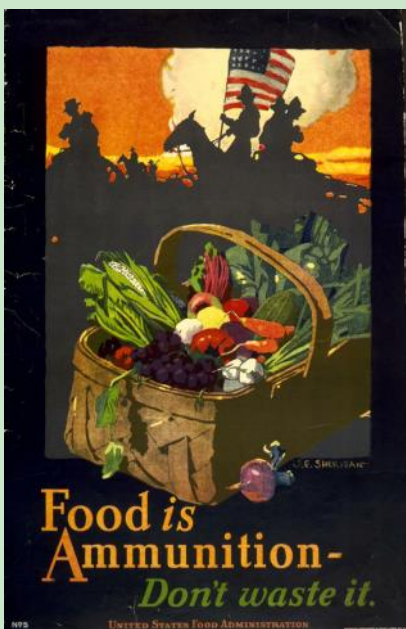
—Peggy Biolchini



Historical Horticulture Highlights

When Gardeners Went to War: Gardening Posters from WWI, WWII

During World War I and World War II, US citizens were encouraged by the government to grow their own backyard produce (dubbed “war gardens” during WWI and “victory gardens” during WWII). Posters such as those pictured below were used to inspire citizens in this patriotic effort.



1918



1939-1945



1918

Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteer

Meeting Minutes

April 23, 2020

Opening Remarks were made at 6:02 pm. 22 members and Ed Lentz were in attendance

Lisa McClain thanked Marilyn Beltz, Lynn Farwig and Tim Brugeman for set up. In particular, Marilyn Beltz for making the arrangements and organizing the meal and set up. She also thanked everyone for their participation in 2022 and up to this point in 2023.

Potluck-Jeff Wingate said grace and members were dismissed to eat. Miller's BBQ was served along with delicious sides and desserts.

Business Meeting-The formal meeting began at 6:48 pm.

- I. McClain welcomed members and called to order the April 13th meeting.
- II. President's Comments
 - A. The executive committee has looked over the State Gold and Platinum Standards and our local Master Gardener Volunteers qualify for Platinum Recognition for this year. We will be submitting this along with nominations for the 2022 State MG of the Year Award and the 2022 State Master Gardener Volunteer Project of the Year Award which are due April 30th.
 - B. Reminder to please use our Tax Exempt # when purchasing anything for Master Gardeners. Party Place and Hobby Lobby already have the # along with Garden Central. When in doubt please contact Karl Farwig.
 - C. Remember you have up to \$50 to spend per year for seminars, courses, and programs that are at least 3-hour credits.
 - D. Thank you to Peggy and Seminar Committee for putting together a great seminar.
 - E. Thank you to committee chairs Lynn Farwig, Tim Brugeman and Peggy Biolchini for all of their work as committee chairs.
 - F. Karl Farwig shared information on several programs:
 1. August 9th-Green Industry Seminar at Owens College, Perrysburg campus -More information to follow as it becomes available to us
 2. Owens College Plant Sale on May 13 at Perrysburg campus. All plants grown by Horticulture students.
 3. Amy Stone and several other Ohio State Educators have published a new pest book. The book is not available to purchase yet, but there will be arrangement made to get them in each county office.

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(Minutes Continued from Page 7)

4. Program 60-Ohio Residents 60 and older are invited to take courses tuition free at any Ohio public college offering this program. Karl also passed around the Owens College Horticulture curriculum. Addition to the minutes, Amy Stone is a graduate of this program and is now the Lucas County Educator.
 5. New MG Banner- A huge thank you to Tim Brugeman for who came up with the idea for a new banner. It will be used at all of our community events and be great for MG awareness. A special thank you as well to Nicole Hoffman in our local OSUE office and the OSU Extension in Columbus for their help getting banner approved. Also, thanks to Chris at Chatelains for artwork and making it on short notice.
- III. The minutes of the March 3/9/2023 meeting were approved. Motion: Peggy Biolchini; second: John King.
- IV. The March Treasurer's Report was approved. Motion: Marlene Brunswick; second: Margi Habegger.
- V. Upcoming Activities
- A. Exploring Wonders of Nature-April 15
 - B. Celebrate Earth Day-April 22
 - C. Findlay Home and Garden Show-April 21, 22, 23-(CANCELLED)
 - D. May Plant Exchange-May 11-Will begin at 6:00-Dietsch's ice cream will be served
 - E. Let's Go Gardening-May 13-Sign Up Sheet
- VI. Awards' Program-Ed Lentz Presented the 2022 Awards (Please see Attachment A)
- *After Awards' Program Brint Simmons reported that potatoes and onions would be planted at the Community Garden at The Lawrence Place tomorrow morning, Friday the 14th. Volunteers should be there at 9:00 AM.
- VII. Motion to Adjourn
- Door Prizes-Raffle tickets were distributed and door prizes were given to each person in attendance. A special thank you to Lowe's for their donations and Debra Evans for the Seed Depth Indicators for e everyone.

Next Meeting-Plant Exchange-May 11th

Respectfully Submitted: Judi Clymer

(Minutes Continued from Page 9)

**Attachment A
2022 Awards Summary**

Monthly Meeting Attendance

Perfect Attendance 3 in 2021 and 3 in 2022

- Linda Finsel
- Debra Evans
- Judi Clymer

Years of Service

5 years Master Gardener

- Peggy Biolchini
- Betsy DeFrancesco

15 years Master Gardener

- Marilyn Beltz
- Barbara Phillips

Volunteer Hours

Group organized in 1992, cumulative total service hours of 83,640.

In 2021 there were 3964 hours with 7 people over 100 hours.

In 2022, 3237 hours with 13 people over 100 hours (700 < 2021 and 200 < 2020).

100 Hours for 2022

- Peggy Biolchini
- Tim Brugeman
- Marlene Brunswick
- Judi Clymer
- Reuben DeBolt
- Karl Farwig
- Linda Finsel
- Lisa McClain
- (Rose Morrison)
- Elaine Reynolds
- Brint Simmons
- Jeff Wingate
- Ann Woolum

500 Cumulative Hours

- Marlene Brunswick
- Reuben DeBolt
- Linda Finsel

1000 Cumulative Hours

- Lynn Farwig
- Linda Leiendecker

2500 Cumulative Hours

- Karl Farwig



From The Courier, April 8, 2023

Is Your Garden Soil Up to Par?

By Rob Biolchini

Spring has sprung and it is almost time to plant your garden. Vegetables and other annuals (flowers and herbs) may be planted after the last frost date, which is May 15 in our locale. You may have already planted cold weather crops such as peas, lettuce and onions. To ensure healthy plants, beautiful flowers and a bountiful harvest, your soil must provide proper growing conditions and essential nutrients. Is your soil up to par?

The soil in most areas of Hancock County tends to have a relatively high clay content and is typically alkaline in nature, whereas most garden plants prefer well-drained, neutral to slightly acidic conditions. Moreover, garden plots may be in areas disturbed during construction of housing or underground utilities. The topsoil may have been compacted or even removed. If you have noticed that your plants grow slowly, or they are more susceptible to pests and diseases, poor soil could be to blame.

If you suspect that your soil isn't up to par, should you amend existing soil with compost and/or fertilizer, and if so, how much? Too much fertilizer is a waste of money and can harm the environment. Or should you purchase new topsoil and place it in a raised bed? Soil testing is the best tool for answering these questions. Soil tests provide information to help you prepare your garden for spring planting and can also be a diagnostic tool if plants are experiencing problems during the growing season. More on soil testing later, but first let's discuss what your plants need.

Plants require 17 essential nutrients to grow properly. Three of those (carbon, oxygen and hydrogen) come from the air and water. The remaining 14 nutrients come from the soil. Nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium are required in larger quantity than the others and are termed primary macronutrients. Calcium, magnesium and sulfur are secondary macronutrients. The remaining eight nutrients, such as iron and copper, are all required but in lesser quantity and are called micronutrients.

Nutrient availability depends on several factors including soil clay content, organic matter and pH. Clay particles and organic matter in soils are chemically reactive and will hold and slowly release nutrients that can be used by plants. Organic matter also improves soil structure by acting as a bonding agent that holds soil particles together in aggregates. Without organic matter, aggregates are less stable and can be easily broken apart. Good soil structure promotes water movement and root penetration while reducing soil crusting, clod formation and erosion.

Soil acidity or alkalinity is measured by pH and is directly related to nutrient availability. Pure water has a neutral pH of 7, while values below 7 are acidic and those above 7 are alkaline. Garden plants do best in soils with a slightly acidic pH in the 6 to 7 range. Soils with a pH outside that range may limit the uptake of one or more nutrients, even if they are plentiful in the soil.

A common question received by Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers is whether lime should be added to the soil. Hancock County soils typically have a pH above 7 due to the alkaline nature of its parent material which consists of limestone bedrock. Amending soil with lime increases pH, which is typically counterproductive in our area, since it increases soil pH even further out of the recommended range.

(Continued on page 13)

It's Time To...

MAY 1

Apply straw mulch to strawberry plants when frost is predicted.
Plant hardy perennials.
Thin early seeded root and leaf crops.
Dig, peel and grind horseradish root.
Divide overgrown herbs.
Place row covers over beets and chard to protect them from leaf miners.
Weed the garden before weeds go to seed.

MAY 8

Plant strawberry plants as soon as possible.
Sow sweet corn.
Plant gladiolus corms.
Begin to harden-off tomato plants.
Sow cucumber and melon seeds indoors for transplanting into the garden in mid-May.
Place row covers over beets and chard to protect them from leaf miners.
Sow a second crop of beets, carrots, radishes, leaf lettuce, and chard for continuous harvest.
Harvest rhubarb by pulling off leaf stalks rather than cutting them.

MAY 15

Remove spent blossoms from spring-flowering bulbs.
Prune spring-flowering shrubs as the blossoms fade.
Enjoy green onions, leaf lettuce and rhubarb fresh from the garden.
Seed cabbage for a fall crop.
Plant more gladiolus corms for continuous bloom.
Soak okra seeds in household bleach for an hour prior to sowing.
When fruit trees are in full bloom, avoid spraying insecticides that will kill honeybees.
Grow vining crops on trellises to save space.
Control euonymus scale.

MAY 22

Plant seeds of bush and pole lima beans, corn, pumpkin, and watermelon.
Plant sweet potato slips.
Plant annuals.
Inspect the garden and landscape regularly for developing problems.
Remove flowers from newly established strawberry plants.
Apply a “starter” fertilizer to help vegetable transplants get off to a good start.
Cover tender plants if late frost is in the forecast.
Prune spring-flowering shrubs after flowers fade.

(Continued on the following page)

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

MAY 29

Pinch garden mums back for full, bushy plants.

Sow cabbage, Brussels sprouts and cauliflower for fall garden transplants.

Apply mulches to woody plants once the soil has warmed up and dried out a bit.

Remove spent rose blossoms and fertilize the plants.

Mow the lawn regularly, removing no more than 1/3 the total leaf blade.

Transplant peppers, eggplant, and okra into the garden.

Thin beets, carrots, and leafy vegetables.

Harvest mature asparagus beds for 6 to 8 weeks.

Control weeds before they go to seed.



Is Your Garden Soil Up to Par? (continued from page 11)

Most Hancock County soils have enough secondary macronutrients and micronutrients to support healthy plant growth. The primary macronutrients nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium are the ones most likely to be deficient and require compost and/or supplemental fertilizer.

So, what is your soil pH, what are its nutrient levels, and does it have enough organic matter? Should you add fertilizer, and if so, what type and how much? The only way to know for sure is to test your soil. Certified testing labs will provide accurate numerical values for pH, organic matter content, and macronutrients, along with recommendations for augmenting your soil if required, all for a reasonable cost. Two regional labs with a proven track record in our area are A & L Great Lakes Laboratories, Inc (algreatlakes.com) and Spectrum Analytic, Inc. (spectrumanalytic.com). Their websites provide detailed sampling, testing, and cost information. You collect a representative sample following the lab instructions, place one cup (8 ounces) of the sample into a zip-lock bag and ship it to the lab. You can expect test results within two business days after the lab receives the sample.

Once you receive your test results, you can call Ask a Master Gardener at 419-422-3851 through the OSU Extension Hancock County office for help interpreting the results. This may include how much compost to add, how much and what type of fertilizer is recommended, and methods to adjust soil pH if needed.

More information on soil testing may also be obtained on the Master Gardener Website: <https://hancock.osu.edu>. Click on the "Master Gardener Volunteers" link and then the "Soil Testing and Water Quality" link.

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

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

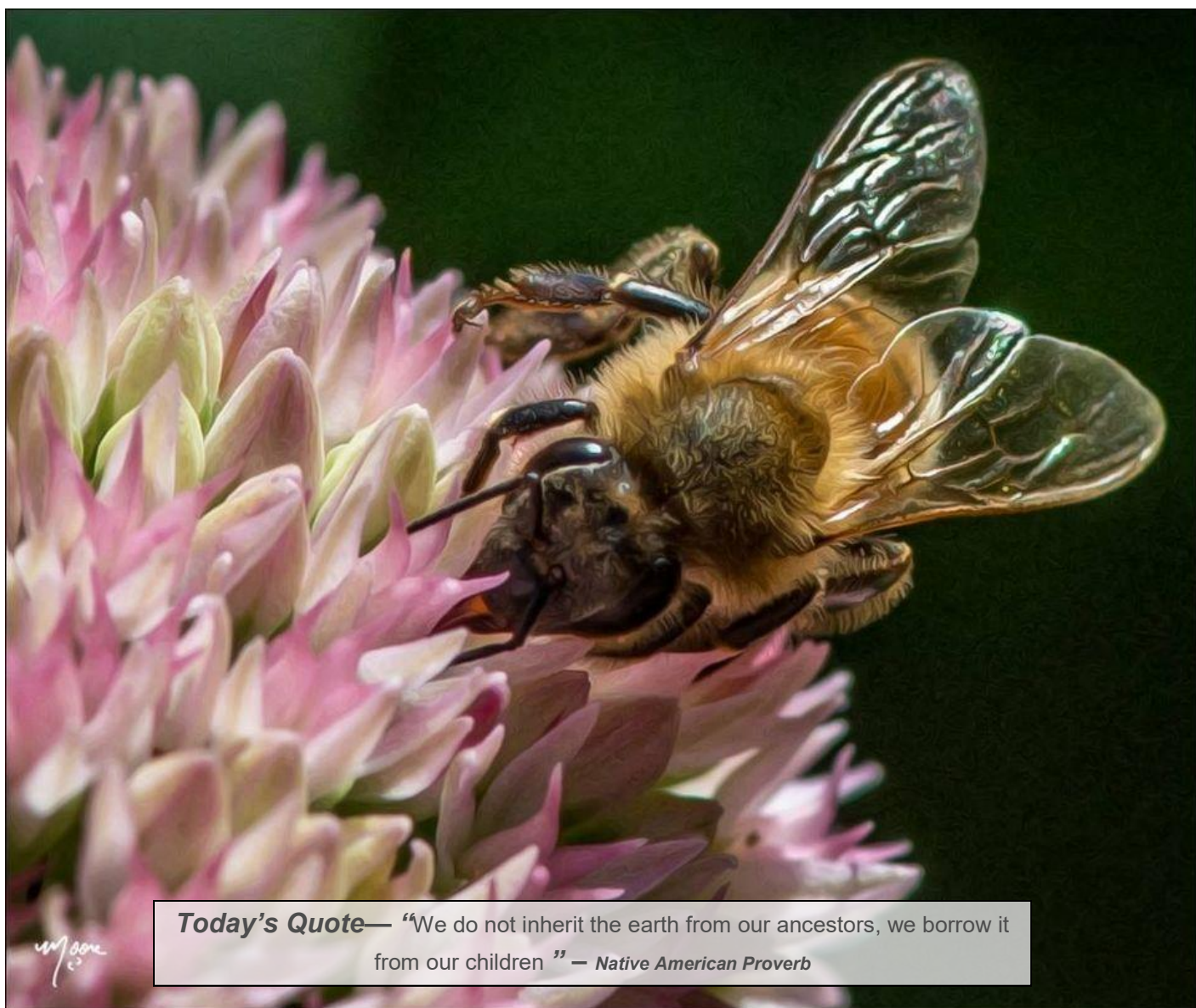


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Today's Quote— “We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it
from our children ” — *Native American Proverb*

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