

GREEN THUMB PRINTS

Gardening is our Passion Education is our Purpose

October 2023



Last 2023 Field Trip Oct. 9

Our third and final MGCV field trip for 2023 will be Monday, October 9 at 2 pm at Tom Barnes' property located at 8055 TR 32, Jenera. According to Tom, an ODNR report predicts fall peak color in our area should begin Oct. 9. Tom has 15 acres with gardens and many trees to provide fall color.

Election, Nominations Planned for Oct.12

The Hancock County MG Volunteers will be voting for a President for 2024 at the October meeting to complete an unfinished term. The position is for one year only. If interested in, or if you want to nominate someone for President, please contact Ed Lentz at 419/306-9406 or lentz.38@osu.edu.

2024-25 MGCV Board Officer Elections Candidates for Vice-President and Secretary will be presented at the October meeting and voted on during the November meeting.

If interested in, or if you want to nominate someone for either position for 2024-25 please call Marilynn Beltz at 419-306-7470.

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Upcoming Events

Oct. 9.....Field Trip-Tom Barnes

Oct. 12.....Monthly Meeting

Oct 12.....NW Ohio Native Plants
-Pete Reynolds

Oct 15..... November Courier
Article Due-Laurie Pressel

Oct 21...Embrace Fall -John King

October 12th Meeting

The Brown Bag for October will be at 6pm on fall planting of garlic by Debra Evans, The monthly meeting will follow.

October refreshments by Debra Evans and Margi Habegger.



President's Comments...

By Lisa McClain

October 2023

Welcome Fall!

Welcome fall!!!! The autumnal equinox—the September equinox or the fall equinox—arrived on September 23rd. Not only do the temperatures drop, but plant life slows down and so do we. Anyhow, it's official. Fall is here. Hope you enjoy the cooler temperatures and the beautiful leaves as they start to turn colors.

It was a busy September with two big events to reach the public. A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the fair booth – set-up, staffing the booth and tear-down. Thanks to Linda Finsel for taking on the fair booth project and getting everything organized. The booth looked great!!!

Our native plant event with the Hancock Park District went extremely well. A big thanks to Nick Moore for organizing this event. Attendance and sales were up from a year ago and Pete Reynolds did an awesome job with his presentation. Also, thanks to the many of you who participated. We are “Bringing Nature Home” by making native plants available to Hancock Co. residents.

The Community Garden project wrapped up on September 23rd after a very good season. Our plot has been cleaned up along with the stakes pulled and put away. We've donated 1,062 pounds of produce this year from our garden at Tom Lawrences. Thanks to all who helped and especially to Brint for leading this project for several years in a row.

In October and November, we will be planning for the year ahead. We will vote at our October meeting on the proposed 2024 Committee Structure I presented at our September meeting (Please see a copy in this newsletter) The committee chairs and I have also been working on Proposed Goals for 2024. These will be presented at our October meeting.

Please consider running for an office or nominating someone for 2024.

Looking forward to seeing you at our October meeting.

Lisa

MGV NEWS...

Native Plants Event Draws Crowd of Over 150, Nets MGV's \$400



This year the Master Gardener Volunteer Native Plant Event and Sale, held September 16 at Oakwood Nature Preserve, drew an estimated 150+ attendees who came to learn about and purchase plants native to our area.

Educational opportunities included a Native Plants of NW Ohio program by Pete Reynolds which drew 31 attendees and Ask-A-Gardener one on one help in native plant garden design which was attended by several members of the public.

A total of 245 native plants from Star Farms was sold at the event, which netted the Hancock Master Gardener Volunteers and Hancock Parks about \$400.00 each. Last year each organization netted \$307 from the sale of 207 native plants.

Thanks to all for a successful event, about a dozen MGVs assisting. Nice job Tim, Nick, Tally Team Elaine and Sandy, Ann as cashier, Pete for program, Chad for Park District.



MGV NEWS...

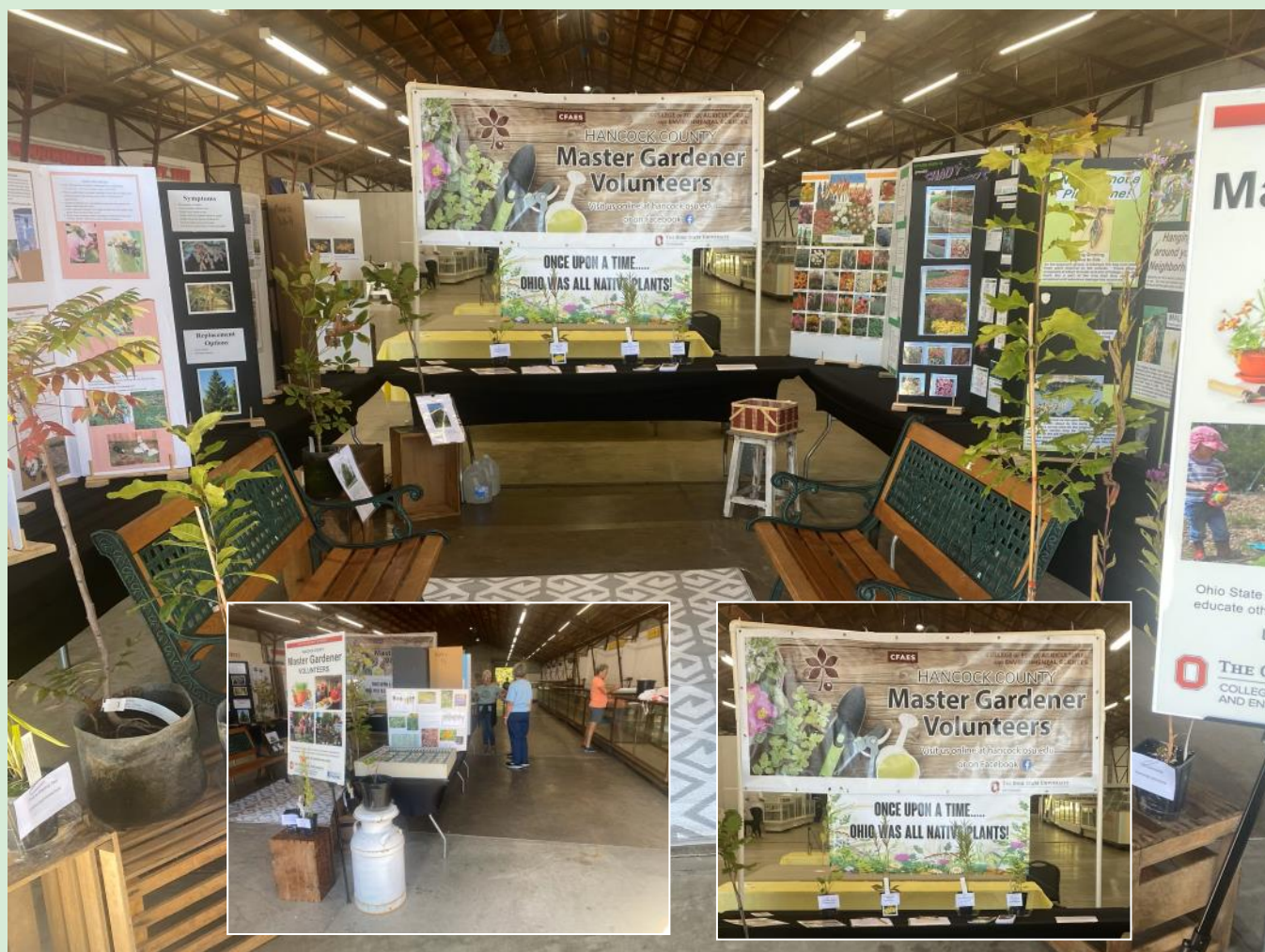
MGV Fair Booth Sparks Positive Feedback

The fair has come and gone for another year, and what a great fair it was. Our theme "Once Upon A Time.....Ohio Grew All Native Plants" went over very well. I heard so many great things about our booth and the things we do for the community. None of this would have happened without the help of every Master Gardener Volunteer member. Thank You!

Every day when I came into the fair I saw people looking at our posters, playing the board game, checking out the plants and asking questions. What a great feeling that is to know we are educating the community.

The importance of native plants in our landscapes is vital to our pollinators and butterflies.

—Linda Finsel



MGV NEWS...

MGV Vegetable Garden wrapped up September 23

Our vegetable garden project was wrapped up September 23. We harvested a modest amount of tomatoes, peppers and squash. The grand total for the season was 1,062#.

The garden was cleared of spent plant material and stakes were stored in the shed.

Many thanks to everyone who helped throughout the season, especially to Tom Lawrence for the use of his land and water. —**Brint Simmons**



MGV Public Program Schedule Announced

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 Biolchini*

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).

EMBRACE THE FALL

**Saturday, October 21st
10 AM in the
Lindamood Room**

Explore and learn about Hancock County area trees, where to see fall colors, why some trees have the colors they do and best trees for fall plantings.

Presented by the Master Gardeners.
This program is suited for families.

**DOOR PRIZE:
AN OHIO
BUCKEYE TREE**

FINDLAY - HANCOCK COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Proposed 2024 Committees Hancock County Master Gardeners

Executive Committee

Extension Educator

Coordinator

President

Vice-President

Treasurer

Secretary

Administrative Committee

Newsletter

Social Media

Apparel

Historian

Social Committee

Summer Gathering

Christmas Celebration

Refreshments

Plant Exchange

Awards Program

Service Committee

OSUE Entrance Gardens

Community Garden

Rose's Mugs of Joy

Let's Go Gardening

Wreath Classes

Education/Teaching Committee

Fair Booth

Courier Articles

Public Programs

Native Plant Event/Sale

Ask-A-Gardener

Brown Bag

Seminars

Field Trips

Mentors

Coordinator

MGV Classes

Membership

2024 Hancock County Master Gardener Meeting Dates

January 11 — Meeting

February 8 — Meeting

March 14 — Meeting

April 11 — Awards Program

May 9 — Plant Exchange

June 13 Meeting

July 11 — Picnic

August 8 — Meeting

September 12 — Meeting

October 10 — Meeting

November 14 — Meeting

December 12 — Christmas Potluck

**Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteer
Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2023**

Brown Bag talk began at 6:03 pm:

John King gave a presentation on Container Gardening using Grow Bags & Air Pots

Peggy Biolchini shared some additional information about hydrangeas from her Brown Bag talk last month

Break for snacks and socializing at 6:48

Meeting began at 7:02 pm.

President Lisa McClain had everyone participate in an ice-breaker Bingo game.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

Minutes of the August meeting were in the newsletter. There were no corrections. Motion to approve: Patrick Flinn, Second: Linda Finsel. Motion passed.

Financial Report:

Financial reports have been provided to members via email.

Beginning Balance \$7,287.36

Income \$218.56

Expenses -\$396.60

Ending Balance \$7,109.32

Income was from John King' Presentation to Altrusa Club and Reimbursement for Floral Supplies from 50North. Expenses were for July seminar reimbursement-educational stipends, purchase of Doug Tallamy books, cash for plant seminar and donation to Hancock Co Humane Society in Memory of Doris Salis.

Motion to approve: Marilyn Beltz, Second: Peggy Biolchini. Motion passed.

OSU Report: Ed Lentz

- Members are reminded to keep track of their hours. If you aren't using Hands On Connect, then be sure to keep a paper record and turn that in to the office.
- Ed has received authorization to hire a paid Coordinator for 10 hours/week. This will be an OSU employee, paid for out of County Commissioner funds. As an OSU employee, they will have access to the HOC database as well as a key to the building. The total hours worked will probably be more than 10 hours per week, so the remaining hours will be classified as MG volunteer hours.
- Lisa McClain will be stepping down from the President's position as of the end of the year, leaving 1 year of her term open. Ed's intention is that a new President will be

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(Meeting Minutes Continued from previous page)

elected at the October meeting. Then the Secretary & Vice President positions will be elected at the November meeting as usual. Let Ed know if you are interested in running for any of the positions.

President's Report: Lisa McClain

- Courier articles are still needed for December & January.
- A donation was made to the Humane Society in memory of Doris Salis.
- Craig Lamme will no longer be part of the Hancock MGVs because he has moved out of the area.
- New books in the library are the Ohio Forest Pests Field Guide, which was donated by Karl & Lynn Farwig, and the 3 books by Doug Tallamy.
- Thank you to Elaine Reynolds for typing up a spreadsheet of the books in the library.
- Judy Clymer reported that she was approached at the Fair by a homeowner who was renewing their overgrown yard, and invited any Master Gardeners to come dig up whatever plants they might be interested in from the yard. Contact Judy if you are interested. The house is on South Main St.

Reports:

- Hancock County Fair – Linda Finsel
 - The group received many compliments on the booth.
 - There were 249 contacts made during the fair.
- Native Plant Event – Nick Moore
 - More volunteers are still needed for Saturday.
 - Set up time will be 8:00 – 8:30, and event will be open to the public from 9:00 am to noon.
 - Pete Reynolds will be giving a presentation on Native Plants at 10:00 am.
 - Nick is considering having a food truck at the event but will need to clear it with the Park District first.
- Field Trips – Ann Woolum
 - October 9th at 2:00 pm there will be a tour of Tom Barnes' Farm at 8055 TR 32 in Jenera. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the room.
 - The Toledo Botanical Gardens trip only had 7 people, but it was a good tour.
- Community Gardens – Lisa McClain for Brint Simmons
 - Over 1000 pounds of produce has been harvested.
 - Final cleanup of the garden will be on September 30th at 8:00 am.
- Ask A Master Gardener – Cheryl Everett
 - There have been 97 questions so far this year. Last year there were only 99 for the entire year.
 - Many questions have been about trees, vegetable gardening and insect pests.

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(Meeting Minutes Continued from previous page)

- Cheryl related the details of some of the questions they have answered.
- Ed Lentz pointed out that the volunteers answering these questions should choose either education or service hours for their time spent. Don't try to split the hours and include some of each. If you can't decide, Ed would prefer you choose service hours.
- Committee Structure Changes – Lisa McClain
 - She is suggesting that the committee structure be changed to combine the Education & Teaching Committees into one, change Social & Fundraising to only Social, move some of the projects to be under different committees, and put the MGCV classes under the Coordinator's duties, not the Education Committee.
 - These changes will be reviewed further at next month's meeting for further discussion.
- Donation from the Garden Club – Lisa McClain
 - This donation had a stipulation that it be used for education purposes. The chairs of the Education & Teaching Committees will choose how this money should be spent.
- Meeting Dates - A review was made of the dates for next year's meetings
- Nominations - Nominations are being accepted for the position of President to complete the remaining 1year of Lisa's term, which will be voted on at the October meeting, and for the positions of Vice President and Secretary which will be voted on at the November meeting.
- Master Gardener Volunteer class
 - The classes for new MGCVs are expected to be held on Thursdays, starting the second week in February for 8 weeks. February 8 through March 28.
 - Members should please spread the word about the classes, but the actual sign-up won't be until January.

Motion to Adjourn: Patrick Flinn; second Judy Clymer. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted: Elaine Reynolds

A Garden Gone Wild

By Betty Jakum, Adams County Master Gardener

An automobile accident in mid March caused major trauma to my neck, chest and legs and, to say the least, put a serious damper on any plans for this year's gardening season. These many months later, I am still unable to bend and kneel easily or do many of the things necessary to keep a garden going during the growing season.

At first, I looked glumly toward a summer without the beauty and comfort of watching things grow in the garden. Even though my husband gave what time he could, there would be no day-long trips to nurseries to find new varieties and old favorites of flowers and vegetables, there would be no crisp, weed-free borders in the flower beds, there would be no well-tended tomatoes or crowded rows of slender green beans. Truth be known, I wasn't sure just what there'd be. All I knew was that I was in no shape to make any meaningful difference about it anyway.



Like a parent letting a child do for itself for the first time, I sat back (or more appropriately laid back) and watched with much apprehension to see what the garden would do. To my delight, there developed a garden as diverse and surprisingly beautiful as any I ever planned. Maybe not the garden I would have purposely designed and surely wilder and more haphazard than in previous years, it nevertheless has a specialness that makes it truly memorable.

No doubt a large measure of thanks goes to the good graces of Mother Nature in supplying us with barrels of rain this year that kept everything growing profusely. As a result, the perennials had no trouble growing quickly and abundantly and oftentimes smothering or, at least, hiding the weeds that grew right alongside of them. The rain also provided ideal growing conditions for plant volunteers that came from hardy varieties that successfully overwintered and from wild plants in the surrounding fields that found a place to grow in the untended gardens. Nodding heads of cleome, not seen since their original planting five years earlier, appeared in the garden once again, blooming profusely without the competition from the more practical vegetables usually planted there. There was one enormous, towering sunflower proudly displaying over 50 shining seed heads. Had this been a normal gardening season, it would have been weeded out as a tiny seedling, misplaced in an area usually reserved for cabbages. Where it came from, I am not sure; but many afternoons it was a moving image of vivid yellow flashes as the goldfinches visited for their midday snacks.

The flower bed at the end of the driveway is usually home to some carefully-tended daylilies. This year they had to share their space with some errant dill plants and a dozen or so opportunistic milkweed. The latter more than paid for the real estate provided for them by filling the air with their intoxicating scent and attracting beautiful butterflies. The dill heads bobbed and weaved in the slightest breeze; and, when needed, added their unique flavor to this summer's cucumber and potato salads.

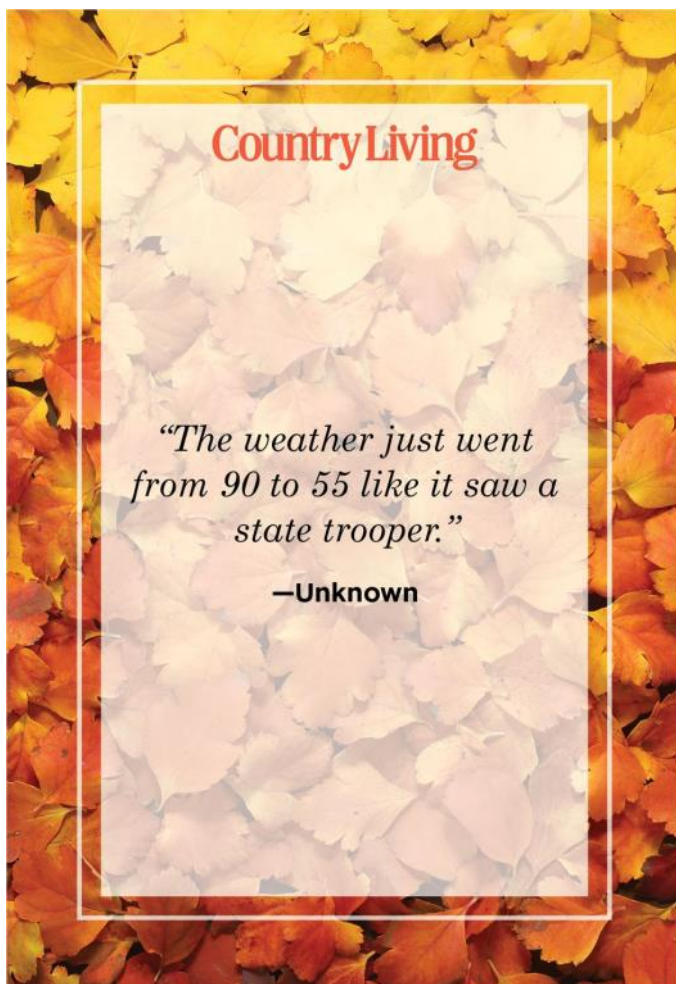
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Garden Gone Wild (Continued from previous page)

A sheltered nook between a rose bush and an abelia bush next to the sidewalk became a wonderful miniature garden of portulaca and petunias that had managed to overwinter in this protected spot. Had I been my normal hundred percent, the area would have been neatly weed and mulched, and I would have wiped out this tiny piece of nature's own design.

And there were other surprises as well: a white nicotiana appeared at the edge of an herb patch as did a clump of bronze fennel from who knows where. Even a grape tomato seedling managed to make it through last winter, coming along late in the season but still in enough time to produce plenty of small delicious fruit for summer salads. Several cantaloupes ripened on a vine that grew at the base of the compost pile.

Mirabel Osler in her great gardening book, "A Gentle Plea for Chaos," echoes her appreciation for this kind of gardening serendipity when she writes: "Random seeding can sometimes be a godsend. What gardener doesn't make a mental genuflection on discovering a self-sown group of violas by the doorstep, or on finding a spire of deep blue Jacob's ladder under the blackish-crimson blooms of a rose?" I couldn't agree more; and I hope in years to come, even when I can, I won't weed everything clean or arrange the garden just the way I want it. There's too much joy to be found in a garden gone wild!



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 July 31st there is still \$1,710 left in the educational stipend account. If you have attended workshops this year please remember to turn in your receipt to Karl for reimbursement.

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

From the Courier Sept. 10, 2023

Tackle these fall gardening chores

by Debra Evans

The Hancock County Fair signals a time to relax and enjoy the animals, food, entertainment and wonderful displays in the Grange Building. But it also signals that summer is ending and the first frost is just around the corner, bringing a close to the growing season. As autumn approaches, it's time to put your gardens to bed and prepare for next spring. There are several tasks you should tackle.

First, take time to reflect. Ask yourself: "Did my garden do well in its location?" "What grew well this year and what should I not bother planting again?" "Should I try container gardening or raised bed gardening next year?" Make decisions now for next year and write them down so you don't forget when spring rolls around.

The best time to start your fall cleanup is when plants are dying off after the first frost. Don't be too quick to cut back everything before then. The last of the tomatoes may mature in your garden before the first killing frost comes knocking. Many gardeners are also choosing not to completely clear their garden in the fall to allow beneficial insects, like ladybugs, to overwinter in the debris and hatch in the spring.

Diseased plants, however, should be removed and the debris destroyed. Do not add these plants to your compost. Cut your beans and peas down to ground level, but do not pull them out to keep the nitrogen from the roots in the ground for next year. Do a last weeding to prevent as many weed seeds from your garden as possible.

Autumn is also the time to plant for spring color. Add some daffodil, tulip and crocus bulbs into your beds. Also, fall is an ideal time to plant trees, shrubs and perennials. The soil is warmer in the fall than in the spring, and the cooler daytime and evening temperatures means less stress on the plants. Plant evergreens by no later than October 1, however, as they need longer lead time to set down roots.

Also, consider a soil test this fall. The results will tell you what nutrients should be added now so they will be available for next year's flowers and vegetables. It's also a good idea to top dress your beds with compost, manure, and organic matter that will break down over the winter and improve the overall soil health of your garden.

After you have put your garden to bed, turn your attention to your garden equipment. Clean your gardening tools with a wire brush, soak them in a diluted solution of household bleach and wipe dry. Rub wooden handles with linseed oil. Inspect your fencing and plant supports and make repairs if needed. When you put your tools away, remember where you put them! Make a checklist of things you need to purchase in the spring.

By completing these tasks this fall, you can take a breather this winter and rest assured that your garden will be ready come spring!

Be sure to follow us on Facebook, "Master Gardeners of Hancock County Ohio," for information on upcoming events, classes and gardening tips. You can also call our "Ask a Master Gardener" phone line with any gardening questions at 419-422-3851.

Evans is an Ohio State University Extension Master Gardener Volunteer.

It's Time To...

HOME (Houseplants and indoor activities)

- Keep poinsettia in complete darkness for 15 hours each day — for example, between 5 p.m. and 8 a.m. — for eight to 10 weeks until red bracts begin to show.
- Pot spring-flowering bulbs to force into bloom indoors. Moisten soil and refrigerate 10 to 13 weeks. Transfer to a cool, sunny location, and allow an additional three to four weeks for blooming.
- Houseplants, especially those grown outdoors during the summer, commonly drop some or many of their leaves in response to the lower natural light intensity in the autumn and reduced light intensity indoors.
- Water indoor plants less frequently, and discontinue fertilizer as plants slow down or stop growing for the winter season.

YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals, and fruits)

- Keep plants, especially newly planted stock, well-watered until ground freezes.
- Have soil ready to mound roses for winter protection. Do not mound or cover roses until after leaves drop and soil is near freezing, usually late November or early December.
- Strawberry plants need protection from winter's extremes, but applying winter mulch too early may cause crowns to rot. Apply winter protection when plants are dormant but before temperatures drop below 20F, usually late November or early December.
- Rake or shred large, fallen tree leaves, such as maple, to prevent them from matting down and smothering grass. Raking smaller leaves, such as honey locust, is optional.
- Continue mowing lawn as needed.

GARDEN (Vegetables, small fruits, and flowers)

- Harvest root crops and store in a cold (32 F), humid location. Storing produce in perforated plastic bags is a convenient, easy way to increase humidity.
- Harvest brussels sprouts as they develop in the axils of the leaves from the bottom of the stem. Brussels sprouts will continue to develop up the stem.
- Harvest pumpkins and winter squash before frost, but when rind is hard and fully colored. Store in a cool location until ready to use.

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

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GARDEN (Vegetables, small fruits, and flowers)

- Harvest gourds when stems begin to brown and dry. Cure at 70-80 F for two to four weeks.
- Harvest mature, green tomatoes before frost and ripen indoors in the dark. Warmer temperatures lead to faster ripening.
- Asparagus top growth should not be removed until foliage yellows. Let foliage stand over winter to collect snow for insulation and moisture.
- Remove plant debris from the garden to protect next year's plantings from insect and disease buildup. Compost plant refuse by alternating layers of soil, plant material, and manure or commercial fertilizer.
- Have garden soil tested for fertilizer needs every three to five years.
- Incorporate organic matter in fall to avoid the rush of garden activities and waterlogged soil in spring. Soils prepared in the fall tend to warm faster and allow earlier planting in spring.
- Dig tender garden flower bulbs for winter storage. Gladiolus corms should be dug when leaves begin turning yellow. Caladiums, geraniums and tuberous begonias should be lifted before killing frost. Dig canna and dahlia roots after a heavy frost. Allow to air dry, then pack in dry peat moss or vermiculite, and store in a cool location.
- Complete planting of spring-flowering bulbs.





THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

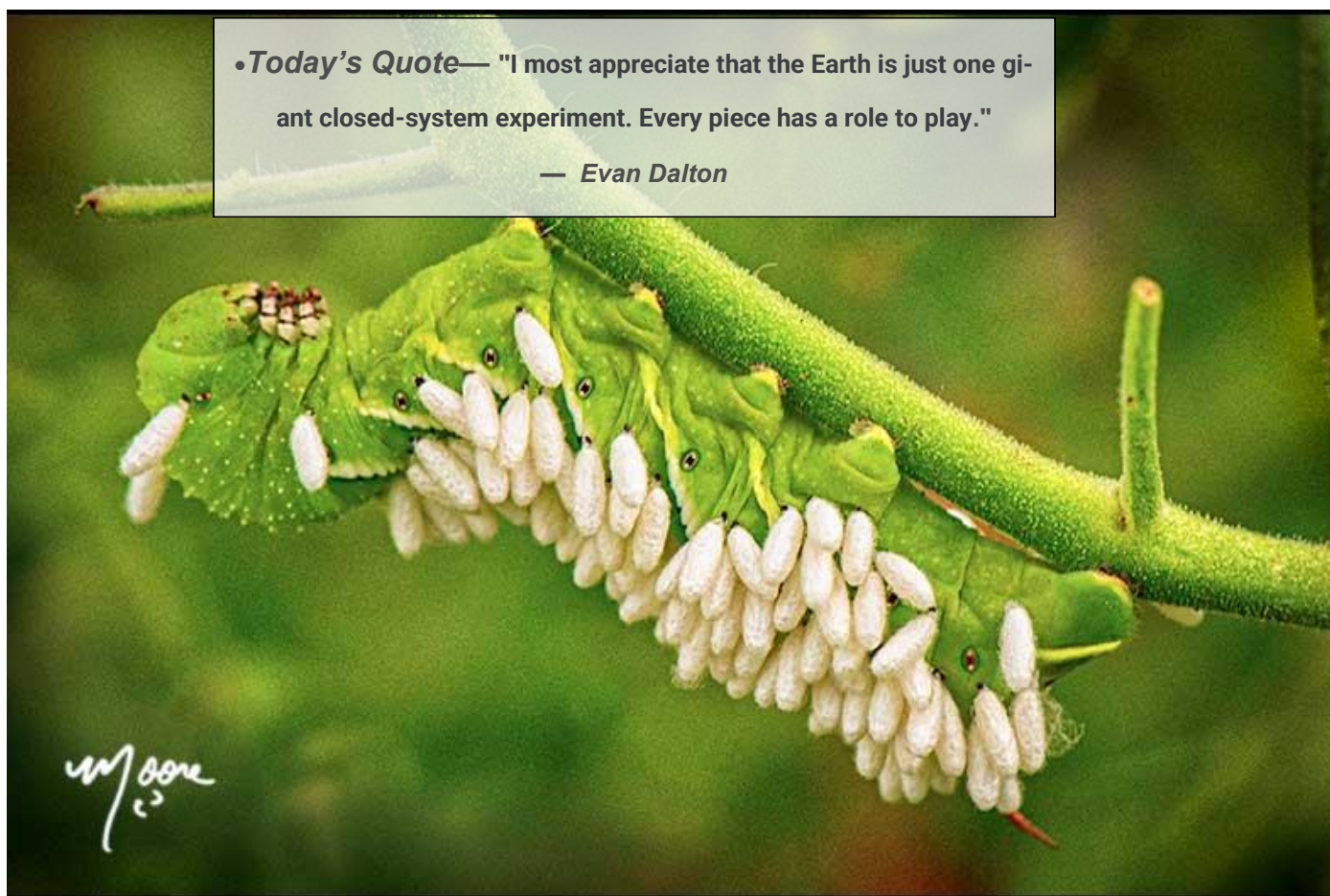
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
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•*Today's Quote*— "I most appreciate that the Earth is just one giant closed-system experiment. Every piece has a role to play."

— *Evan Dalton*



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