

GREEN THUMB PRINTS

Gardening is our Passion Education is our Purpose

September 2023

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We are in the midst of the Hancock County Fair and the MGV display booth looks awesome. Thanks to Linda Finsel and her committee who have done a great job putting it all together.

Upcoming Events

Sept. 1- 4	Hancock Fair
Sept 5	Fair Clean Up
Sept.14	Monthly Meeting
Sept.15	Newspaper Article Due-Laurie Pressel
Sept.16	Native Plant Event

September 14th Meeting

John King will present the Brown Bag at 6:00 PM on Container Gardening followed by the monthly meeting. Refreshments will be supplied by Sharon Milligan and Peggy Biolchini.

2024 Officer Nominations

Nominations are being sought in September for the offices of MGV Vice-President and Secretary whose terms expire this year. Marilynn Beltz is currently serving as Vice-President and Elaine Reynolds as Secretary.

While there are no term limits, we are always looking to involve new volunteers for the future.

If you are interested in serving in either of these positions or would like to nominate someone to serve, please contact Marilynn Beltz at 419-306-7470.

Newsletter Editor Opening

Nick Moore will be stepping back as editor of the Green Thumb Prints as of next year. If you are interested in filling this important lead for 2024 please let Lisa know at 419-722-6235 or enjymzk@gmail.com.

Thanks Nick for the awesome job you have done!!!



President's Comments...

By Lisa McClain

September 2023

County Fair Time!

County Fair Time! We are in the midst of the Hancock County Fair and the display booth looks awesome. Thanks to Linda Finsel and her committee who have done a great job putting it all together. Our theme this year is "Once Upon a Time Ohio Grew Native Plants" which was chosen due to the fair theme of "Once Upon a Time at the Hancock County Fair".

Moving into September, it's time for our Native Plant Education and Sales Event. On Saturday, September 16th, we will be teaming up with the Hancock Park District to showcase and sell native plants at Oakwoods Nature Preserve. This year's event will have more of an educational component with updated displays and Pete Reynolds speaking in the "Doc" Phillips Discovery Center. Please let Nick Moore know how you can help by contacting him at nick@thenickmoore.com or 419-348-0159.

As far as an update on our 2024 committees, the chairs and I were able to get together this month and have "proposed" a few changes for our 2024 committee structure. I would like to discuss these at our September meeting and then work on our goals and budget in September and October. At this time, we are in need of someone to fill the following positions in 2024:

- 1) Social Committee Chair
- 2) Service Committee Chair or Teaching Committee Chair (Tim is currently serving as chair for both)
- 3) Newsletter Editor Lead

Please let me know if you are interested in serving in any of these positions or if you will not be able to continue as a lead for 2024.

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the loss of Doris Salis, a member since 2016. In the past several years Doris was involved on the fair committee, seminar committee, served as a mentor and coordinated the Ask-A-Master Gardener program to name a few. She was certainly a lady of many talents and will be missed. A \$25 donation to the Hancock County Humane Society has been made from Master Gardeners in her memory.

Hopefully you can all get out and enjoy the fall weather that is fast approaching!

MGV NEWS...

Volunteers needed

Native Plants Education and Sale Event Sept. 16

Volunteers are still needed for this year's MGV Native Plant Sale and Educational Event. The September 16 event, scheduled to take place at the Oakwoods Nature Preserve, 1400 Oakwoods Avenue in Findlay, will feature the sale of native plants provided by Dave McPherson of Star Farms Native Plants Nursery, as well as several programs aimed at educating the public on the native plants of Ohio and the vital role they play in our local ecosystem.

The sale will be open to the public at 9AM, with MGVs requested to be there by 8:30AM. The event is scheduled to be over at 12 Noon

Master Gardener Volunteer Pete Reynolds will spearhead the educational program with a presentation on the area's native plants beginning at 10AM in the Discovery Center. Pete will field questions from attendees following the presentation.

New this year in the Discovery Center, MGVs will offer one-on-one site design layout consultation and native plant suggestions for gardens and landscaping.

MGV volunteers are needed for the design consultations, as well as to help set up, cleanup, direct traffic, assist visitors with questions, tally forms and handle checkouts.

Please spread the word about this event on your social media accounts and elsewhere.

Please contact Tim Brugeman at tbrugeman@woh.rr.com or Nick Moore at nick@thenickmoore.com if you are interested in helping.

—Nick Moore



CFAES COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Native Plants Education & Sales Event

Saturday, September 16, 2023
9 am - 12 noon

Oakwoods Nature Preserve Discovery Center
1400 Oakwoods Avenue, Findlay, Ohio

- * Learn about local native plants
- * Check out educational exhibits
- * View native plants in bloom around the Discovery Center Gardens
- * Master Gardeners and Hancock Park District Representatives will be on hand to answer your questions

Help Our Pollinators, Beautify Your Landscape

Native Plants Sale

- * Small native trees, shrubs & perennials
- * Bring boxes or trays to carry home plants
- * Plants available as supply lasts
- * Cash or check only (no credit cards)
- * Proceeds benefit Master Gardeners and Hancock Parks Foundation

In cooperation with Star Farms Native Plants Nursery
Sponsored by Hancock Master Gardeners and Hancock Park District

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Last 2023 Field Trip Planned for Oct. 9

Our third and last field trip for 2023 will be on Monday, October 9 at 2 pm at Tom Barnes located at 8055 Township Road 32, Jenera, Ohio. Tom has 15 acres with many trees so we will be able to see the fall color. The following are some items noted on his Facebook page. Tom raises chickens and turkeys and has visits from deer.

Tom has a large vegetable garden with asparagus, cabbage, corn, cucumbers, tomatoes, garlic, zucchini, peppers, He sells his vegetables.

Tom has Aronia berries for picking which are extremely healthy berries. There are 700 bushes surrounding his natural habitat. He does not groom, trim, or mow the natural habitat where these berries are. Of course zero spray of any kind is used on these berries. He highly recommends going online and reading about this healthy berry. If you go to Amazon and type fresh or frozen Aronia berries, you will see many products sold concerning these.

Tom has approximately 138 adult Purple Martins which start coming to his home beginning in April to nest and raise their young. The Martins will return to South America for the fall and winter months so we will not be able to see them.

—Ann Woolum



Autumn Aerial view of Tom Barnes property, 8055 TR 32, Jenera. Tom has 15 acres with many trees of different varieties so we should be able to see an abundance of fall color.

MGV NEWS...

Chopin Hall Says Thanks!

Chopin Hall expressed appreciation for all the produce donated to the organization from the MGV vegetable garden. As of this writing, 902# of produce has been donated, with more to come!



MGV NEWS...

MGV Aug. 21 Field Trip Featured Tour of Scenic Toledo Botanical Gardens

Amy Stone who is an Extension Educator with Ohio State University in Lucas County, led a group of Hancock Master Gardeners on an informative tour of the Toledo Botanical Gardens on Aug. 21.

With more than 60 acres of display gardens and relevant plant collections, TBG is a place of tranquility and opportunities for exploration and reflection. It is also a center for the arts.



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.



Peggy Biolchini gave an interesting and informative brown bag presentation on hydrangeas at the August MGV meeting.

MGV Public Programs

October 12 Oakwoods DC, **NW Ohio Native Plants**, presenter: *Pete Reynolds* (Pete will also present this program Sept. 16 at the native plant event.)

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).

Brown Bag Education:

In September, John King will do a presentation on Grow Bag Gardening.

In November Betsy DeFrancesco will do a presentation on wreath making classes.

We have one opening left for a Brown Bag presentation in October.

Please share what you have learned about gardening or, share a hobby related to gardening or perhaps share a gardening book review! Do you grow herbs? What do you do with them? Let us know at a Brown Bag presentation!

Contact John King or Peggy Biolchini to sign up for either October or November!

—Peggy Biolchini

**Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteer
Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2023**

Brown Bag talk began at 6:03 pm:

Peggy Biolchini and Ann Woolum gave a presentation about Hydrangeas

President Lisa McLain announced that there were various sign-up sheets in the back of the room, Betsy DeFrancesco brought in Proven Winner catalogs to share, and Karl & Lynn Farwig brought in cut gladioli to share.

Break for snacks and socializing at 6:44

Meeting began at 6:57 pm.

President McClain welcomed everyone.

OSU Report: Ed Lentz

- The Diagnostic Clinic is scheduled for August 25th. It is only for Master Gardeners. The program rotates around the state so it will be many years before another will be held in Findlay. Hancock Co. members who attend will have their fees paid from Ed's department funds, not out of their educational stipend. Lunch will be included.
- Spotted Lanternfly has been seen in Toledo and Columbus as well as in other parts of Ohio. If you travel out of the area, be sure to check your car before you come back.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

Minutes of the July meeting were in the newsletter. Motion to approve: Peggy Biolchini, Second: Linda Finsel. Motion passed.

Financial Report:

Financial reports have been provided to members via email. Expenses in July were for picnic supplies, seminar supplies and ordering of new checks. Motion to approve: Pete Reynolds, Second: Peggy Biolchini. Motion passed.

President's Report: Lisa McClain

- Thank You to Peggy Biolchini, Patrick Flynn and Bill Jones for their work at the Seminar, Marlene Brunswick for hosting the July picnic, and Linda Finsel for her recent presentation at 50 North.
- Doris Salis is not in good health. Asking for prayers for her and suggested sending her cards.

(Continued)

- The State Master Gardener Conference will be held in Greene County, October 12 – 14th. Nominations have been submitted for awards: Master Gardener of the Year – Peggy Biolchini and Outstanding Volunteer Project of the Year – Native Plant Educational Event.
- The group has struggled recently with filling Committee Chair positions, so Lisa would like to have a meeting to discuss the organizational structure of the group to see if we need to change any of the committee structures. The plan is to meet next week and again late in August for 1-hour meetings. Notify Lisa if you are interested in participating.
- Don't forget that each Master Gardener is eligible for a \$50 stipend to be used for attendance at an educational seminar.

Committee Reports:

- Administrative – Lynn Farwig
 - Lynn & Debra Evans are struggling with how to store the group's historical information in HOC to make it accessible to other members. They asked that Project Chairs keep information on how their project went and what should be changed for next year.
 - Nick Moore will be stepping down at the end of the year as newsletter editor. A new volunteer is needed.
- Education Committee-Peggy Biolchini
 - Ask-A-MG received 16 questions in July and only 10 so far in August. Peggy is asking for a few more volunteers to field questions. The more people who volunteer, the less work each has to do. She would like to have 15 volunteers and currently has only 12.
 - Field Trip scheduled for Monday August 21st to the Toledo Botanical Garden, meeting at the garden at 10:00 am. Amy Stone will be our guide. Lunch afterward will be at Stubborn Brothers Pizza Bar.
 - Brown Bag – September BB will be presented by John King about using Grow Bags. A speaker is still needed for October. Contact John or Lisa to volunteer.
- Service – Lisa McClain for Tim Brugeman
 - Ag Center Front Garden – Peggy Biolchini – She is checking into getting replacement plants for those that are not doing well.
 - Community Garden – So far 593 pounds of vegetables have been harvested. Discussion about trouble with tomatoes not growing as large as expected. Many in the county having similar problems. They may just need more fertilizer.
- Social & Fundraising – Lisa McClain
 - Refreshments – the sign-up sheet is full through the end of the year.
 - Wreath Classes – Betsy DeFrancesco – Class dates have been set:

○ Sundav 11/26

(Continued)

- Monday 11/27 (may be held at Cornerstone Baptist Church)
 - Wednesday 11/29
 - Thursday 11/30
 - Saturday 12/2
 - Sunday 12/3
- Teaching – Lisa McClain for Tim Brugeman
 - Courier Articles –Still need volunteers for December and January.
 - Public Programs – Linda Finsel
 - John King & Craig Lamme, August 16, Fall Cleanup & Spring Bulbs
 - Pete Reynolds, October 12, Native Plants
 - John King & Craig Lamme, October 21, Embrace the Bulb
 - Rob Biolchini, March 13, 2024, How to Start a Vegetable Garden
 - Linda Finsel, April 20, 2024, Library presentation to children about native plants.
 - County Fair – Linda Finsel – Theme for our booth to be “Once Upon a Time Ohio Grew Native Plants”. Working with Star Farms to get plants for display and some posters that they have. Will be purchasing tablecloths with fitted edges, so they don’t blow off in the wind. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the room for sitting at the fair and for set-up & tear-down.

Unfinished Business:

- Diagnostic Clinic – Lisa McClain - A sign-up sheet for those wishing to attend is going around. Volunteers are needed to help set up the room on the afternoon of August 24th. Lisa McClain will be purchasing some refreshments for the event.
- Doug Tallamy Event, 4/27/2024 – Ann Woolum
 - A grant has been received from the Community Foundation. Still waiting to hear about a grant from Hancock-Wood Electric to provide plants and a tree for each attendee.
 - There are 12 different groups coordinating to put on this event. The Master Gardeners will be volunteering in a display booth and in the atrium to answer questions.
 - Tallamy stresses that gardening projects should:
 - Support pollinators
 - Provide a food source
 - Support the watershed
 - Reduce carbon
- Lisa McClain suggested that the group purchase Tallamy’s books for the MG library. Purchase price not to exceed \$100 for “Nature’s Best Hope”, “Bringing Nature Home” and “Nature of Oaks”. Motion made: Pete Reynolds, Second: Lynn Farwig. Motion passed.

(Continued)

New Business: Denise Smith is looking for the supplies for the Mugs of Joy project and cannot find them. If anyone knows where they are, please contact her.

Sharing:

- Peggy Biolchini discussed a book she received at a seminar she attended, called “Ohio Forest Pests, a Field Guide”. Lynn & Karl Farwig have two copies of this book, so they offered to donate one copy to the MG Library.
- Debra Evans stated that many people commented on the beauty of the building’s front garden on election day while she was working at the polls.
- Marlene Brunswick told everyone about a native garden at the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, near Port Clinton, west of Magee Marsh

Motion to Adjourn: Peggy Biolchini; second Lynn Farwig. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm.

Respectfully Submitted: Elaine Reynolds



New Invasive Honeybee Predator

By Bob Bruner, Exotic Forest Pest Educator, Purdue University

A new invasive insect of concern has been identified in the state of Georgia. In August of 2023, Georgia's Department of Agriculture, along with the USDA, confirmed the presence of the yellow-legged hornet, *Vespa velutina*, outside of the city of Savannah. To date, this is the only confirmed identification of this insect in the United States; it has already established in Europe, the Middle East, and parts of Asia outside of its native range. *V. velutina* is a native of the subtropical and tropical regions of southeast Asia, and it is not yet clear how it arrived in North America. Much like the northern giant hornet, previously known as the Asian giant hornet or 'murder hornet', this insect will attack honeybee hives in search of food and represents a potential danger to the beekeeping industry.



Yellow-legged hornet

Yellow-legged hornets are predators and will regularly attack honeybees to provide food for their young, though it is possible they could attack other, similar species. Since honeybees concentrate their numbers in hives with a lot of in-and-out traffic, they provide an excellent opportunity for the hornets to hunt and provide food for their young. The hornets are effectively ambush predators, waiting in front of hive entrances and capturing workers with their legs as they leave the hive. The hornets then dismember the bees, returning to their young with only the thorax, which contains the largest amount of protein. However, it is believed that yellow-legged hornets only represent a lethal threat to weaker hives that are already experiencing problems; it is also too early to tell how already-existing honeybee issues, such as mite and disease issues, will interact with the presence of this insect.

As with any new invasive species, it is critical to successfully identify it and differentiate it from other species of wasps and hornets that we experience in the Midwest. At a glance, the yellow-legged hornet is barely discernable from European hornets, yellowjackets, and similar insects; they possess aerodynamic shapes with heavy yellow and black color patterns like many of their cousins. The most easily identified trait is their namesake: the legs of this insect tend to be black closer to the body, with the lower half of the leg bright yellow. The segments of the abdomen follow a similar pattern, with those segments closer to the center of the body being dominated by black, steadily becoming more yellow as you reach the tip of the abdomen. The yellow-legged hornet is also approximately an inch in length, with reproductive individuals sometimes reaching an inch and a half.

While remaining observant will be critical to reporting any invasive species, there are a few things to keep in mind about the yellow-legged hornet. This insect has only been found in one location in Georgia; no other states have any sightings or confirmed reports of this insect. There is also no evidence the insect has established a population in Georgia, there is only one confirmed sighting. The best course of action for now is to be vigilant and report any potential sightings by calling 1-866-NOEXOTIC, or you can contact our local Purdue Extension educator for assistance.

From The Courier Aug. 5, 2023

Hydrangeas are all-season showoffs

by Tim Brugeman

The big blooms of hydrangeas are now showing off in gardens and landscapes. Hydrangeas are no longer limited to the flower shades of white or green found in our grandma's garden. Over one hundred varieties now come in living colors, many changing colors with the seasons. Hydrangeas are stunning garden focal points, from the dwarf cultivar "Bobo" (2–3 feet in height), to "Limelight" (6–8 feet) to tree forms that reach 4-20 feet. They are vital pollinator plants as well, attracting butterflies and helpful insects, providing food sources for them while making gardens healthy.

Most hydrangeas are easy to grow and provide excellent cut flowers, dried arrangements, and landscape features. One bonus is their long bloom season, late spring through fall. The winter character of dried blooms also gives nice contrast to the gray gloom and snow, while lasting to spring. No plant is pest-free; however, hydrangeas are relatively disease- and insect-resistant.

Six species commonly grow well in Ohio, each with many varieties, sizes, bloom styles, and colors, making selection fun. Look for smooth (*H. arborescens*), oakleaf (*H. quercifolium*), bigleaf (*H. macrophylla*), mountain (*H. serrata*), climbing (*H. anomala petiolaris*) and panicle (*H. paniculata*). Local nurseries and garden centers have plants adapted to our winter hardiness zone.

Hydrangeas can be the right plant in the right place. Best planted for sunny mornings and shady afternoons, they can tolerate a range of light and moisture. Some thrive in full sun like panicle hydrangeas, while oakleaf hydrangeas do well in dense shade. Check plant tags, research your yard locations and find the types suited for your soil.

Proper soil conditions determine bloom color. A soil test is helpful to determine pH levels — low pH (acidic soils) produce blue blooms while pinks favor higher pH (more alkaline). Mixed colors and whites bloom in the middle pH ranges. Tree hydrangeas are grafted versions of the shrubs; both have common planting requirements except for the space needed for growth. Depending on the species, blooms may occur on new growth wood or old wood. Bigleaf and mountain hydrangeas are unique because they re-bloom in the same season, growing on both old and new wood.

Spring fertilizer and weekly watering is essential for cultivating bloom growth. Because they are basically a woodland plant, hydrangeas that live in our yards may need us to provide the fertile and moist soil they need to thrive. Based on a soil test, bloom boosting fertilizer applied every couple of months can help extend blooms. Read labels for the amounts of nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K) in a specific fertilizer. Typically, hydrangeas thrive when fed an all-purpose, balanced fertilizer like a 10-10-10 N-P-K or 12-4-8 N-P-K. To increase the size and quantity of hydrangea blooms, consider a fertilizer with more phosphorus.

Tending to the garden brings you closer to Nature's beauty, not to mention you get to enjoy fresh air and exercise. Hydrangeas may take a little more effort, but it is worth it when you consider the benefits added to the neighborhood environment. Now is the time to look around, see the hydrangea blooms at a garden center and look for the right spots to add that color to your yard.

Be sure to follow us on Facebook at "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.

Brugeman is an Ohio State University Extension Master Gardener Volunteer, OSU graduate landscape architect, and retired Hancock Park District director.

It's Time To...

September 4

- Plant trees, shrubs, and ground covers this month.
- Establish a small grain cover crop on empty vegetable garden space.
- Begin moving houseplants indoors.
- Compost garden debris.
- Potatoes are ready for harvest when their tops begin to turn brown.
- Order spring-flowering bulbs now.
- Have your soil tested before applying lawn fertilizer.
- Test grapes for ripeness by tasting.

September 11

- Purchase spring-flowering bulbs.
- Allow gourds to remain on the vine as long as possible without exposing them to frost.
- Water evergreens when the soil dries.
- Ripen green tomatoes away from the sun.
- Harvest seeds of dill, coriander and caraway by hanging stems with the seed heads enclosed inside a paper bag.
- Aerate the lawn where soil is compacted.
- Cure pumpkins for two weeks at 75 to 80 degrees F before storing them.
- Broken and diseased branches may be removed; delay other pruning until early next spring.
- Record gardening successes and failures now for reference next growing season.

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

September 18

- Harvest green tomatoes before a killing frost.
- Ripen green tomatoes in a warm place away from direct sunlight.
- Purchase spring-flowering bulbs while supplies are in-stock.
- Dig tender bulbs, such as cannas, caladiums, tuberous begonias and gladiolus, before frost.
- Harvest Brussels sprouts, carrots, and parsnips after they have been exposed to frost.
- Continue to weed.
- Share your harvest with those in need.
- Provide food, water, and habitat for wildlife.

September 25

- Harvest apples, pears, grapes, and everbearing strawberries and raspberries.
- Remove raspberry canes after they bear fruit.
- Reseed bare spots or new lawns using a good-quality seed mixture.
- Dig onions and garlic after tops fall over naturally and necks begin to dry.
- Harvest winter squash when mature (skin is tough) with deep, solid color, but before hard frost.
- Plant, transplant or divide peonies, daylilies, iris and phlox only if you can apply irrigation during dry spells.
- Plant spring-flowering bulbs beginning in late September.
- Bring houseplants moved outside for summer indoors before night temperatures fall below 55°F.
- Poinsettias saved from last year can be re-flowered for this year's holiday by providing complete darkness for 15 hours daily from about Oct. 1 until about Dec.10.

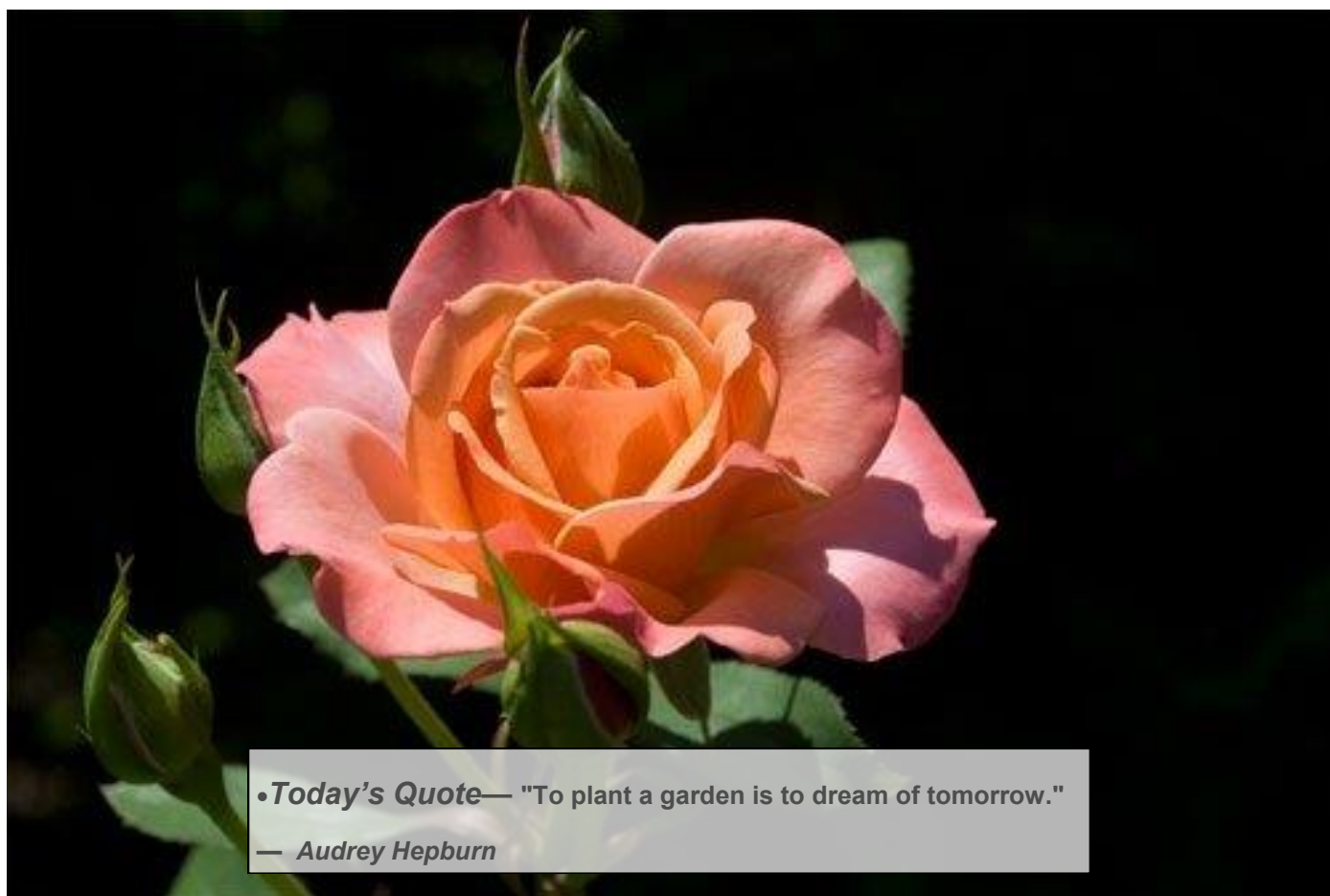


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•*Today's Quote*— "To plant a garden is to dream of tomorrow."

— *Audrey Hepburn*

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