

BACK ACRE NEWS

Volume #56

Number 4

The Men's and Women's Garden Club of Findlay

Organized 1954

April 24, 2011

!!! 6:15 pm – Living Wreaths @ Brickners' Greenhouse !!!

Topic: Learning to make living wreaths

Refreshments: Sharon DeCooman, Dick and Dorothy Robinette

To those who signed up for the living wreath seminar. The class will begin at 6:15 at Perennial Plant Peddler. Please bring wire cutters if you have them. Also, since we'll be handling soil and wet sphagnum moss, gloves would be beneficial. Ann & George will be providing a selection of succulent plants for you to begin your wreath.

Any member can join us and observe the wreath making process, or wander the display garden or the greenhouses.



Greetings,

Spring is here, so the calendar tells us. It has been frustrating to wait for those days to be outside digging in the dirt. Wind and rain seem to be the rule of thumb for this spring. Those cold north east winds have made it so miserable that staying outside is not pleasant. We were spoiled by last spring.

We have managed to get the onions, potatoes and sweet peas planted. We have some lettuce and spinach coming up. With the lack of sunshine I am sure the plants are not doing much. They are probably waiting as anxiously as we are for the warmth.

I have had time to read a lot of garden books and magazines. After hearing last month's speaker regarding native plants, I been noticing several articles about invasive plants. It is important for all of us to be aware of what these plants are for Ohio. If we see any of these plants for sale in the nurseries we should encourage that they not be sold. There are many alternative plants available to replace the invasive ones. If we have invasive plants in our landscapes we should remove them.

Recently at a garden program one of the naturalists for Hancock County Park System spoke about invasive plants. She said that as global warming continues there will be new invasive plants for NW Ohio. She mentioned that the butterfly bush is becoming invasive. I will have a little trouble giving this up. It seems difficult to believe global warming is an issue for us. But it seems to be true as 2010 was the warmest year since temperatures have been recorded.

The next month is a busy one for our club. The plant sale on May 14 is our only fund-raiser. I can't express how important it is for everyone to participate. We not only need plants, baked goods, garden tools and garden art to sell, we need your expertise. We need each member to support the sale with your participation. Most of the people who come to the sale are also looking for advice on what to plant and where. The plant committee is hoping that all members will be able to give at least 3 hours of their time. If you are unable to be there or donate please consider a donation. Please put the word out to all your family and gardening friends.

The Triangle planting will be on May 21st. The Triangle Committee has worked hard at preparing the plans. The more members who are able to help, the quicker it will go. Besides it's a fun way to get know each other.

I hope that we have a good turnout for the April meeting. Remember it is at Brickners. Hopefully it will be warm. The speaker does programs all over so it should be interesting. See you there. Cathy

Gee, what did I miss? Jan Hunter, from the Naturally Native Nursery (Bowling Green), gave an impassioned presentation on the need for, and use of, native plants in landscaping. Naturally acclimated to our area, these plants are hardier, easier to maintain, and can be as attractive as the more exotic species sold by commercial nurseries.

Welcome our new member: Vaun Wickerham, WFIN Farm Services Director, and a long-time friend of our Club, has joined us. Many of you may have met him and his wife at our Christmas get-together.

The Triangle Garden was prepped on April 1st to look attractive for the spring tulip, daffodil and iris show thanks to the efforts of *Dick Robinette, Jeannette Miller, Marilyn Beltz, Bill Lanning, Jerry Bibler, John Grossman, and Bill Jones.*

For those of us whose names are missing from the above list, other opportunities to volunteer our efforts will occur through the course of the year, including the upcoming Plant Sale (May 14th), Triangle Planting (May 21st), Hancock County Fair activities (August 30-31 & September 3rd), and the planning and execution for our Christmas Party to be held on December 8th. Just give your name and event preference(s) to Cathy Grossman; she will pass them on.

Plant Sale Re-Reminder: The Plant Sale is on May 14. The hours are 9 AM to 1 PM. Items are to be brought out by 8 AM. The location will be announced at our meeting. We particularly need perennials.

Bill Jones is going to head up the Set Up responsibilities and could use help with this. Marilyn Beltz and Anita Lanning are going to contact businesses for garden related items for a raffle (which is new this year). Myra Sustae is in charge of the raffle. There will be a sign up sheet for items to donate and workers at the next meeting.

Myra Sustae and Bill Jones offered to pick up items if anyone needs them to. Bill also volunteered to help pot up plants if necessary.

Plant Sale Tips from Plant Sale Committee:

Plants

1. Mark :
 - Name of plant
 - Color if you know
 - Shade or Sun
 - Picture if you have one
2. As many healthy sturdy plants as you can contribute
3. Variety

Baked Goods

1. Packaged for individual sale as appropriate- cookies or brownies
2. Marked as to kind for Pies and cakes

Resale Items

1. Books and Magazines
2. Garden Tools
3. Garden Art
4. Decorative Pots or containers

Price as you think appropriate.

George and Martha Washington's Mount Vernon – a visit by John and Pauline Andrews

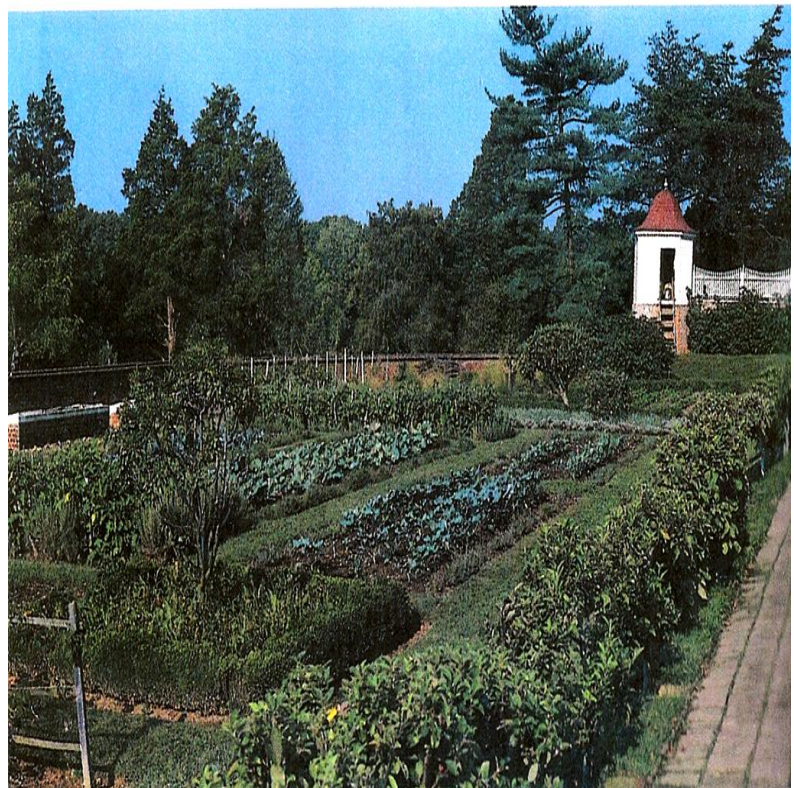
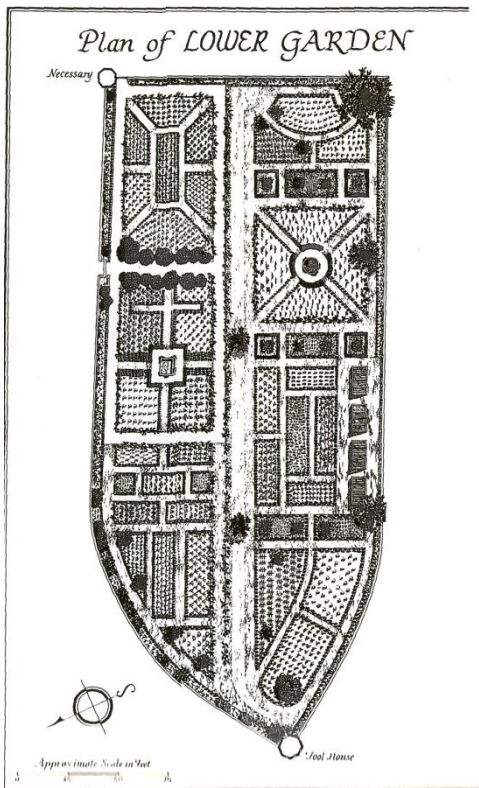
October, 2010, was a beautiful time of the year to visit George Washington's Mount Vernon. This special weekend was their Fall Harvest Family Days. Even with large crowds, the docents were many, and moved the crowds easily through the beautiful home where Martha and George Washington lived, 1759 – 1799.



Mount Vernon during our visit (left).



One of several trees planted by George Washington still grows (right).





Fall lettuce and vegetable bed.



Vegetable gardens.

The Washington Gardens were beautiful even in October. We are sure you would enjoy a visit there. The Lower Garden plan and garden picture are from the official guide book. The others we took with our camera.

Flower of the Month – Lilac

By Bill Jones



***Syringa* (Lilac)** is a genus of about 20–25 species of flowering woody plants in the olive family (Oleaceae), native to southeastern Europe and eastern Asia.

The genus name *Syringa* is derived from Greek *syrix* meaning a hollow tube or pipe. A pale purple color is generally known as lilac after the flower.

So beloved are lilacs that they were one of the first plants that early settlers brought to America. Lilacs are so hardy and easy to grow that they often persist for hundreds of years after the person that planted

them is gone. While considered old-fashioned by some, lilacs are one of the most planted landscape shrubs in North America.

Lilacs bloom on old wood; the blooms form on stems that grew the year before. Too much pruning at the wrong time will leave you with no flowers. Prune lilacs immediately after they flower. If the bush is too large and overgrown, take out the largest and oldest stems first, the ones with woody bark. Unless you need a drastic pruning to restore order, don't remove more than 1/3 of the plant at a time.

Common lilac tends to flower profusely in alternate years, a habit that can be improved by deadheading the flower clusters after the color has faded and before seeds, few of which are fertile, form.

The term *French lilac* is often used to refer to modern double-flowered cultivars, thanks to the work of prolific breeder Victor Lemoine.

The wood of lilac is close-grained, diffuse-porous, extremely hard and one of the densest. The sapwood is typically cream-coloured and the heartwood has various shades of brown and purple. Lilac wood has traditionally been used for engraving, musical instruments, knife handles etc.

Numerous locations around North America hold yearly Lilac Festivals. Mackinac Island celebrates a weeklong lilac festival and Lilac Parade each June.

Lilac is the 8th wedding anniversary flower and the state flower of New Hampshire (symbolizing the hardy character of the Granite State's citizens).

In the language of flowers, purple lilacs symbolize the first emotions of love, while white lilacs represent youthful innocence.

Do try this at home: Increase Yields With Grafted Tomatoes. (from *Johnny's News Letter*)

Grafting is not difficult. It involves growing two sets of plants: the variety you want for its fruit, called the scion variety, and a special rootstock variety with extra vigor and/or disease resistance. When the seedlings are a few inches tall, the stems are cut and joined with a silicone clip. The stems grow together, creating a plant that has the strong root system of the rootstock and the desirable fruits of the scion variety.

The vast majority of commercial greenhouse tomatoes are grown on grafted plants, which reduces the risk of soilborne diseases carrying over from one crop to the next. Many growers are now using grafted plants for their field-grown tomatoes as well, due to the grafted tomatoes' higher yields.



Grafted Plants

Ungrafted Plants

A photo from the Johnny's trial greenhouse. Two tomato plants grafted to Maxifort are on the left, two ungrafted plants of the same variety are on the right. It is easy to see that the vigor of the grafted plants is much greater.

In addition to rootstock and scion seedlings of matching stem size, you will need old-fashioned, double-edged razor blades, grafting clips, and a spray bottle or humidifier.

Take a plant of your rootstock variety with stem diameter that matches your clips and sever the top just below the cotyledons at a 45° angle. Discard the top. Find a scion whose stem matches the rootstock you cut, and sever the top below the cotyledons in the same manner, at a 45° angle. Discard the root ball. At this point, many people like to cut all the leaves off the scion except the leaf at the growing point. This is to reduce respiration and the amount of leaf area for the healing plant to support.



You will need a healing chamber to protect the plants until the graft has taken. A healing chamber keeps newly grafted plants in a high humidity, low light environment so they do not respire too much and dry out before the vascular structure is reconnected. This can be as simple as plastic domes placed over individual flats to keep the humidity high, a plastic tent or tunnel suspended over a group of plants, or any structure to keep the humidity at 80-90% during the healing process.

Ed. Note: it is also quite possible to graft tomatoes onto potato vines! If you would like the web references for either complete procedure, please ask or email your BAN editor.

Financial Statement:

Men's and Women's Garden Club of Findlay, Inc.

April Interim Financial Report

The April interim treasurer's report is as follows:

Checking account balance as of 3/24/11 \$ 1,816.03

Income..... \$ 61.00

Disbursements..... (\$ 77.87)

Checking account balance as of 4/22/11..... \$ 1,799.16

We have added one new member since our last meeting: Vaun Wickerham.

Bill Jones, Treasurer

March, 2011, General Meeting Minutes:

Meeting called to order 8:05, March 24, 2011

Treasurer's Report approved.

Secretary's Report approved

Old Business:

A sign-up sheet was passed around for workers for the Plant Sale

Set-up will start at 7:30 A.M..

A reminder that now is the time to plant starter plants so they are well established for the sale. We still plan on having a bake sale along with the plant sale this year as well as a possible raffle. Still looking for publicity. Maybe post the sale on Craig's List?

Idea for next year's Plant Sale: location would be the Senior Center.

Triangle update:

Just waiting for planting day: Sat., May 21st., 8 A.M. rain date: Sat., May 28th.

Garden Tour update: Still waiting for volunteers to share their gardens on the tour.

Calendars: Orders are to be pre-paid this year. See Anita.

April 28th. Meeting: We will be learning to make Living Wreaths. Cost of materials \$20.00

Meeting time will be 6:15

Location: George and Ann Brickner, dba The Perennial Plant Peddler

8755 TR 251, Findlay, OH

New Business:

4 Star Greenhouse Tour in Carleton, MI

Dates are April 9th, 16th or 30th. We would like to know the best date for a group to go

If you choose not to go on these dates, the best time to visit the greenhouse would be mid June - mid August.

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted by Julie Kroske, Secretary

Club Officers, 2011

President	Cathy Grossman	Directors, 3 years	Sharon DeCooman
1 st Vice President	John Platt		Larry Schock
2 nd Vice President	Anita Lanning	Directors, 2 years	Marilynn Beltz
Secretary	Julie Kroske		John Grossman
Treasurer	Bill Jones	Directors, 1 year	Darlene Brown
			Lester Brown
Past President	Randy Greeno		
BAN Editor	John Platt	National Director	Anita Lanning



National Web Site: www.tgoa-mgca.org Regional Web Site: www.acorn.net.cglr

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Go to the **Members Only** page of the national web site. Password is ***lily***

No internet access? Use your local public library!

