

BACK ACRE NEWS

Volume #56

Number 10

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

Organized 1954

October 25, 2011

→ No Meeting! October Meeting was held at Geckle's Orchard ←

[Topic:](#) None

[Refreshments:](#) None

→ Next Meeting is November 17th – Pre-Thanksgiving ←



Greetings,

Rain, rain, rain and more rain! I am certainly glad that I am not a farmer. At least we don't have to worry about snow yet. I did see a prediction for the winter which said that we will have a wetter than normal winter.

I attended a program at the Findlay-Hancock County Library on tulips. The speaker handed out several bulb catalogs which were recommended by bulb growers from Holland. The catalogs' pictures were so enticing that I ordered a large amount of bulbs. Now I am waiting for the soil to dry up enough to get them all in the ground. One fact I learned at the program was the soil temperature should be down to fifty degrees before tulip bulbs are planted. So actually it's better to wait until November.

The leaves seem slow to come down as well. I am collecting all our leaves for mulch for my flowerbeds. I am determined to get rid of the excessive weeds. Every year I think I am making progress until the end of the season. I think I am taking too many trips. The weeds seem to know as soon as I put my suitcase in the car.

I recently read a book titled Gardening for a Lifetime. It is by Sidney Eddison. The subtitle is How to Garden Wiser as You Grow Older. It recommends plants and shrubs that require less maintenance. I felt it had some good suggestions of ways to decrease the labor involved in gardening.

The sun is coming out. Today promises to be warm and bright so I hope that you are all able to get out and enjoy. I will see you at the November meeting!

Take Care

Cathy

Gee, what did I miss? Sarah Betts of the Hancock Park District reminded us that our gardens are usable as habitat, breeding grounds, refuges, and larders by over-wintering critters – insects, snakes, rodents, amphibians, and reptiles. She shared with us ways to make our gardens more hospitable to these beneficial creatures. Her lists of trees, shrubs, plants, and grasses are published at the end of this issue.

You also missed Gene and Jane's apple emporium – good apples, great cider, and a tour of their cider pressing operation. Gene also explained the radical new way of growing apples in a high-density, labor-intensive, and totally counter-intuitive method.

10-2-11 GECKLE ORCHARD OPEN HOUSE

Six garden club members and one guest attended the open house hosted by garden club members Gene and Jane Geckle. Gene explained his new apple tree project. He planted ten varieties of dwarf root stock, using the tall spindle method which is used in Europe. He used feathered trees with at least eight branches, planting them 3 ½ feet apart. Each tree is stabilized by a conduit, and the branches are trained to grow downward. Although this method is more labor intensive with hand pruning and other care, less land is used and more apples are produced, and produced more quickly, than the usual orchard methods.

Jane described their cider-making operation. They use only high quality apples for cider, Gene's mixture of sweet and tart apples. The apples are sorted three times, washed twice, and sanitized once before being pressed by roller belts and cut. After the pulp is removed (used for compost), ozone is bubbled through the cider to kill the germs. Their cider is not pasteurized. Not only does their cider meet very high production standards, it also tastes wonderful!

- Submitted by Connie Schultz, Secretary

One of our own honored: Bill Jones was recognized by our regional governing body for his continuing contributions to our Club and to gardening at large. His recommendation cites some of his efforts:

Bill has been a member of the local club since 2004. He is currently the club Treasurer. Bill co-chairs our triangle flower garden. He is on our Plant Sale Committee and he contributes articles for our club newsletter. Bill does programs for our local club as well as community garden clubs. Bill is a TGOA judge.

Whenever there is anything to be done, just ask Bill and he is there and ready to help. Some times you don't even need to ask him, he just volunteers to help. We are so fortunate to have Bill as a member of our club.



Certificate of Honor

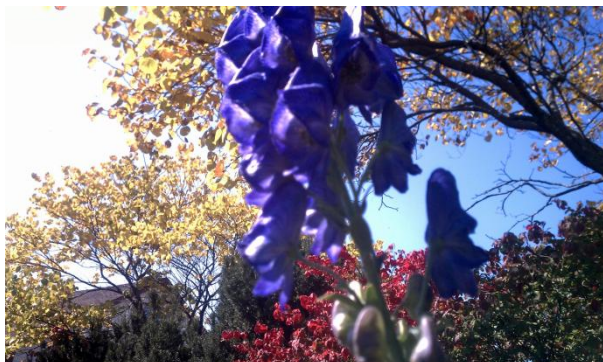
Bill Jones has earned special recognition and is hereby granted
this certificate for Outstanding Service.

Presented by Central Great Lakes Region

July 30, 2011

October Flower of the Month-Monkshood

By: Bill Jones



Monkshood (*Aconitum napellus*) has been in cultivation for a very long time. These fibrous- and tuberous-rooted perennials belong to the Buttercup family, Ranunculaceae. They are found wild in the meadows of Europe and East Asia. Herbalists were writing about its toxic properties as early as the sixteenth century. The herb Monkshood maybe recognized by its other names, Friar's cap, Old woman's night cap, Chariots drawn by doves, Blue rocket and Wolf's bane.

The generic name "Aconitum" comes from the Greek word "akoniton" meaning dart. The Greeks used to dip their arrowheads in the juice they had collected from the plant, it was also used by the Arabs and the Chinese for the same reason. The Greek botanist Theophrastus in also noted this plant as very poisonous 300 years BC.

Showy dark purple-blue flower spikes open the first week of October. Individual flowers are shaped like a helmet or a hood. The leaves resemble delphinium foliage. Plants grow 4 to 5 feet tall. Be sure to wash your hands after pruning plants.

Aconitum grows best where night temperatures regularly fall below 70 degrees Fahrenheit and it has afternoon shade. The soil should be high in organic matter and moist but not swampy. Plant tubers early enough in the fall so that the roots have time to get established before the frost. Set the crowns just below the surface and do not disturb plants after they have been placed in the garden. Monkshood is long-lived and does not react well to division or transplanting.

The monkshood family has a number of worthwhile relatives that expand the color range beyond the fetching azure found in the traditional monkshoods, *Aconitum napellus* and its equally well known cousin, *A. carmichadii*. There's a white-flowered cultivar, *A. napellus* ssp. *vulgare* 'Album', and two pink versions: 'Carneum' in salmon and 'Roseum' in shell pink. *A. lycotonum* ssp. *neapolitanum* has abundant yellow flowers, while 'Ivory' has pale ivory-yellow blossoms.

Monkshood is prone to two diseases linked to poor soil drainage. Crown rot causes leaf yellowing and brown streaks in the foliage; verticillium wilt causes yellowing on one side of the plant only. To prevent these problems, allow soil to dry between waterings and plant in a well-drained location. Because of its toxicity, monkshood is virtually pest free.

Although its poisonous qualities add to the plant's fascination, monkshood is no more dangerous growing in the garden than many other common plants that are poisonous, including daffodils, lily of the valley, azaleas, rhododendrons, ivy, iris, holly, certain kinds of daisies, Datura, castor bean and many others. Gardeners should not worry excessively about growing the plant. As a general rule, because poisonous plants are so common, children should be taught not to put any plants in their mouths except those they are certain are edible. Animals generally know to avoid eating poisonous plants.



A Cookbook Reminder – Anita Lanning has distributed a call for recipes for inclusion in a proposed TGOA/MGCA cookbook to be published as a fundraiser next year. If you missed the call, or need a new copy of the instructions for submission, please contact her at amlan@thewavz.com or Anita Lanning, 9374 SR 12, Findlay, OH 45840.

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

Minutes of the September Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM, President Cathy Grossman presiding. Nineteen members and one guest were present.
It was noted that our secretary, Julie Kroske, resigned her position at the August meeting due to critical personal demands on her time. Therefore, no minutes are available for the August meeting. It is noted here that no official business was conducted at that meeting.
Bill Jones presented the Treasurer’s Report. A copy was circulated to the membership present.
The Triangle Garden is holding up well. Deadheading will continue until a hard frost, after which a cleanup day will be scheduled. Planning for the Christmas Party continues apace. Possible menus are being considered, and potential entertainment is being contacted.
Bill Jones was awarded a Certificate of Honor for his tireless contributions to the Club and to local gardening education. Presentation was made by our national representative, Anita Lanning.
It was noted that our regional body has changed its name from the Central Great Lakes Region to the Central Great Lakes Gardeners. The national organization is planning to collect recipes from the membership and publish a cookbook as a local and national fundraiser.
The President made a call for program topic ideas for the 2012 year. Few ideas were forthcoming.
Anita Lanning moved, seconded by Marilyn Beltz, that we adjourn. Refreshments were served following the meeting.

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

October Financial Report

Bill Jones, Treasurer

Balance: January 1, 2011.....	\$ 1,950.91
Income YTD	\$ 2,624.74
Expenses YTD	(\$ 1,698.14)
Balance: October 21, 2011.....	\$ 2,877.51

From Sara Betts’ Presentation:

A useful bibliography:

The Woody Plants of Ohio Braun, E. Lucy. ISBN 0-8142-0497-X

Newcomb's Wildflower Guide Newcomb, Lawrence. ISBN 0-316-60442-9

Grasses An Identification Guide Brown, Lauren. ISBN 0-395-62881-4 *(some of the "Native & non-Native" classifications are incorrect for this area)

The Tallgrass Restoration Handbook For Prairies, Savannas, and Woodlands Packard, Stephen and Mutel, Cornelia F. ISBN 1-55963-320-4 *(did not bring this book, but another excellent resource for grasses, forbs, sedges, and rushes - includes history, how to manage, etc.) - one of the attachments comes from this book

The following are some general lists that have beneficial wildlife qualities through the winter:

Trees, Shrubs, and Vines

- *Amelanchier canadensis* (Serviceberry)
- *Aronia melanocarpa* (Black Chokeberry)
- *Cornus drummondii* (Roughleaf Dogwood)
- *Cornus florida* (Flowering Dogwood)
- *Cornus racemosa* (Gray Dogwood)
- *Crataegus* sp. (Hawthorn sp.)
- *Gaultheria procumbens* (Creeping Wintergreen)
- *Ilex glabra* (Inkberry)
- *Ilex pendunculosa* (Longstalk Holly)
- *Ilex verticillata* (Winterberry)
- *Lonicera x hekrottii* (Goldflame Honeysuckle)
- *Malus* (Flowering Crab)
- *Myrica pensylvanica* (Northern Bayberry)
- *Pinus strobus* (Eastern White Pine)
- *Prunus virginiana* (Chokeberry)
- *Rhus typhina* (Staghorn Sumac)
- *Sambucus canadensis* (American Elderberry)
- *Viburnum prunifolium* (Blackhaw Viburnum)

- *Aesculus* sp. (Buckeyes)
- *Betula nigra* (River Birch)
- *Buddleia* (Butterfly Bush)
- *Campsis radicans* (Trumpet Creeper)
- *Celastrus scandens* (Bittersweet)
- *Celtis occidentalis* (Hackberry)
- *Cornus* sp. (Dogwoods)
- *Diospyros virginiana* (Persimmon)
- *Fagus grandifolia* (American Beech)
- *Ilex opaca* (American Holly)
- *Lindera benzoin* (Spicebush)
- *Morus rubra* (Red Mulberry)
- *Nyssa sylvatica* (Black Gum)
- *Parthenocissus quinquefolia* (Virginia Creeper)

- *Prunus serotina* (Black Cherry)
- *Quercus* sp. (Oaks)
- *Sassafras albidum* (Sassafras);
- *Viburnum trilobum* (American Cranberry Bush)
- *Viburnum dentatum* (Arrowwood Viburnum)
- *Viburnum lentago* (Nannyberry)

Grasses & Forbs:

Aster (Asters)

- *Deschampsia* (Tufted Hair Grass)
- *Dicentra spectabilis* (Bleeding Heart)
- *Echinacea* (Coneflower)
- *Fragaria* (Strawberry)
- *Liatris* (Gay Feather)
- *Lobelia cardinalis* (Cardinal Flower)
- *Miscanthus sinensis* (Maiden Grass)
- *Monarda* (Bee Balm)
- *Rudbeckia* (Black-Eyed Susan)
- *Sedum spectabile* (Showy Stonecrop)
- *Solidago* (Goldenrod)
- *Valeriana* (Valerian)

Ann Annuals:

- *Amaranthus*
- *Cosmos*
- *Helianthus* (Sunflower)
- *Nasturtium*
- *Salvia*
- Snap Dragons
- Zinna

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	Connie Schultz		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.acom.net.cjlr
 Check out the bargains offered to every TGOA/MGCA member:
 Go to the **Members Only** page of the national web site. Password is **lily**
 No internet access? Use your local public library!

