

BACK ACRE NEWS

Volume #57, Number 1

January 19, 2012

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

Organized 1954

→ January 26 – Regular Meeting ←

Topic: Popcorn, with Dick Schweitzer

Refreshments: Sharon DeCooman & Connie Schultz

→ Executive Committee Meeting* – 6:30 PM ←

* **Note:** Members are welcome to attend Executive Committee meetings when space is available (when hosted at a member's house, it gets kind of crowded).

Welcome! As members of a garden club, we are always interested in growth – of plants, of knowledge, of enjoyment of working in our gardens. This year I hope to interest you in the growth of our Club. We have not in the past focused on recruiting new members as a specific activity. We have many opportunities through the year in which we could reach out to interested potential

members, so I invite you all to make a conscious effort this year to do so. Please send any ideas you have for member involvement activities, or new member recruiting, to me, or give them to any Committee member.



On a happy note, the wish books keep arriving, the stores are putting out their seed displays, and the home & garden shows are posting their schedules. Can Spring be far behind?

John

Gee, what did I miss? November was our organizational meeting. The proposed slate of nominees was elected by acclamation. Reminiscences of 2011 were, as usual, varied. And it rained a bit. Bill Jones tested a grafted tomato (see article, April, 2011 BAN) and declared it an exceptionally productive winner.

Next Event: Meeting, February 23, 2012; Hosta Culture and Care; Sharon DeCooman and Ann Brickner

Home and Garden Shows have announced their schedules. If you are hungry for the sight of “green”, mark your calendars. More information can be found at the URLs shown. Cut these and paste them into your browser to see what all the delights are.

Cleveland Home & Garden Show

Great Lakes Expo Center, Euclid

January 20 – January 29

www.biztradeshows.com/trade-events/cleveland-home-garden-show.html

(Cleveland) The Great Big Home & Garden Expo I-X Center

February 4-12, 2012

www.greatbighomeandgarden.com/GBHG/EventsHome.aspx

Cincinnati Home & Garden Show®

February 25 - 26 & February 29 - March 4, 2012

www.hartproductions.com/home-and-garden-show/visitor-information.html

(Columbus) Central Ohio Home & Garden Show

Ohio Expo Center

February 25 - March 4, 2012

Sunday 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday- Friday noon-9 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Closed Monday, February 27

<http://www.experiencecolumbus.com/event-detail.cfm?id=28361>

The Fort Wayne Home and Garden Show

Allen County Memorial Coliseum

March 1-4, 2012

<http://www.home-gardenshow.com/>

(Toledo) PRO Home and Garden Show

SeaGate Convention Centre

Friday March 09 - Sunday March 11, 2012

www.hireaprotoday.com/home_garden_01.html

The “concrete canyons” of New York City are actually a living wonder. On a trip to the Big Apple, your editor and his wife saw some pretty remarkable greenery deep in the heart of the city. These two shots were made from our bus window of side streets in the 30's blocks as we rode up 3rd Avenue. Most of the side streets looked like these.



The left above is a series of cascading pools sandwiched by 15-story buildings at Rockefeller Center. The right is outside of Macy's. The large planters on the right define a bike path. The garden on the left is the one we all saw in *Miracle on 34th Street*.



Palm trees even grow inside, at the World Trade Center observation building. The two memorial reflecting pools, bordered by the names of the victims, are a quietly inspiring sight. The grounds around the two pools are well planted with grass and over 120 swamp oak trees, a very restful park.

The Survivor Tree (a callery pear) at the WTC pavilion, shown below on the left, is battered but growing well. On 9/11, the falling towers crushed the tree's branches, and the ensuing conflagration scorched its stump. Workers sifting through the debris did not unearth the charred remnants of the tree until weeks after the attacks, long after they had given up hope of finding anything alive in the rubble. The Parks Department brought the 8-foot stump up to the Arthur Ross Nursery in Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx and painstakingly coaxed it back to health with fertilizer and careful pruning.

The picture on the right has little to do with gardens, but much to do with our ability to enjoy them.



January Flower of the Month – Witch-hazel

By Bill Jones



Witch-hazel, *Hamamelis*, has three species in North America (*H. ovalis*,^[2] *H. virginiana* and *H. vernalis*), and one each in Japan (*H. japonica*) and China (*H. mollis*).

Add a brilliant splash of color to your autumn landscape with witch hazels. These shrubs feature fantastic fall color in shades of gold, orange, and red. Better yet, they bloom -- usually when other plants are done. **Chinese witch hazel blooms in winter**; vernal witch hazel blooms in early spring, and common witch hazel blooms in late autumn. The fragrant flowers appear in shades of red, orange, and yellow, and have a spidery appearance.

Witch-hazel may be recognized by its zigzag branch tips, the presence of capsules throughout the year, and the wavy-margined leaves that have an asymmetrical base.

The witch-hazels are deciduous shrubs or (rarely) small trees growing to 10–26 ft tall, rarely to 39 ft tall. The horticultural name means "together with fruit"; its fruit, flowers, and next year's leaf buds all appear on the branch simultaneously, a rarity among trees. The fruit is a two-part capsule containing a single glossy black seed in each of the two parts; the capsule splits explosively at maturity in the autumn about 8 months after flowering, ejecting the seeds with sufficient force to fly for distances of up to 33 ft., thus another alternative name "Snapping Hazel".

Witch hazel is spelled with a hyphen ("witch-hazel") to indicate that it is not a true hazel. *Corylus* is the genus name of true hazels.

The name ultimately derives from the Anglo-Saxon *wych*, meaning "bend." Witch-hazel branches are used to make divining rods, which are supposed to bend when they detect water. Religious leaders had given dowsing such a bad name over the years that it was apparently easy to corrupt the name into "witch" (another name for divining is "water witching").

The bark and leaves are astringent; the extract, also referred to as witch hazel, is used medicinally. Extracts from its bark and leaves are used in aftershave lotions and lotions for treating bruises and insect bites. Witch-hazel helps to shrink and contract blood vessels back to normal size, hence its use as the active ingredient in many hemorrhoid medications. The seeds contain a quantity of oil and are edible. It is also used in treating acne, psoriasis and eczema.

Witch hazel plants grow best in full sun to partial shade and in a well-drained, acidic soil amended with humus. Witch-hazel plants are understory trees in the wild and are suitable for woodland gardens, although there will be a sacrifice of some blooms if they are not grown in full sun.

A good example of the winter blooming, Chinese witch-hazel may be seen near Bill and Anita Lanning's across from the Liberty-Benton High School. These shrubs normally bloom in January and look similar to forsythia from the highway.

2105 TGOA/MGCA (2012 Calendars	\$31.80	
2106 Sharon Hammer Baker Presentation	\$25.00	
2107 Bill Jones-Hose for Triangle	\$31.94	
2108 Great Scot (Floral arrangements for Fair)	\$61.25	
2109 Ann Brickner (Fair Premiums)	\$292.00	
2110 Hancock Park District-Presentation	\$25.00	
2111 John Platt-Stamps for BAN	\$26.40	
2112 Erie Insurance Group (10/11- 10/12)	\$235.00	
2113 Anita Lanning-Certificate Form	\$16.96	
2114 Marilyn Beltz-Christmas Decorations	\$102.72	
2115 Ann Brickner-Directories	\$95.00	
2116 Void	\$0.00	
2117 Kathy's Corner Christmas Dinner	\$639.40	
2118 John Trice-Christmas Entertainment	\$125.00	
<u>Checking Account Balance</u>		
	12/31/11	\$3,139.43

William C. Jones, Treasurer

Men's and Women's Garden Club of Findlay, Inc. 2011 Budget Reconciliation

<u>Income:</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Delta</u>
Dues (40 members x \$4.00)	\$160.00	\$180.00	\$20.00
Calendars	\$34.00	\$64.00	\$30.00
Donations	\$100.00	\$66.64	(\$33.36)
Plant Sale	\$1,756.00	\$1,957.10	\$201.10
Other	\$0.00	\$104.00	\$104.00
	\$2,050.00	\$2,371.74	\$321.74
<u>Expenses:</u>			
Christmas Banquet	\$300.00	\$297.12	\$2.88
Plant Sale	\$50.00	\$221.74	(\$171.74)
Fair			
Judging/Arranging	\$425.00	\$353.25	\$71.75
Triangle Garden	\$425.00	\$195.55	\$229.45
Insurance	\$250.00	\$235.00	\$15.00
Programs	\$100.00	\$235.52	(\$135.52)
Back Acre News (BAN)	\$150.00	\$57.28	\$92.72
Awards	\$50.00	\$16.96	\$33.04
Directories	\$100.00	\$170.00	(\$70.00)
Miscellaneous	\$200.00	\$31.80	\$168.20
	\$2,050.00	\$1,814.22	\$235.78

Bill Jones, Treasurer 12/31/2011

(National Dues (\$15.00/member), Regional Dues (\$1.00/member) and Christmas Party expenses are passed through and do not need to appear in the budget.)

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

Minutes of the November, 17, 2011, General Meeting

The meeting was called to order.

22 members were present.

Bill Jones presented the Treasurer's report. It was noted that the plant sale earned more than last year, and more than budgeted.

The report was approved.

There was no formal meeting in October, so there was no secretary's report.

Old Business:

Triangle Update: Much of the plant material has been removed, and manure will be added after the ground freezes. The obelisk may need more anchoring next year. Cathy Grossman will store the obelisk and bench from the triangle.

Christmas Party Update: Marilyn Beltz noted that the Christmas party reservations are needed by 12-1-11, with \$15 per meal given to treasurer Bill Jones. The party will be held on 12-8-11 at the Arcadia Lions' Club Park, with dinner catered by Kathy's Korner. Entertainment will be provided. Bring a white elephant gift for a gift exchange. John Platt has sent by email the corrected directions to the Arcadia Lions' Club Park.

New Business:

The Nominating Committee proposed the following candidates for office in 2012:

President	John Platt
1 st Vice-President	Anita Lanning
2 nd Vice-President	Cindy Pierce
Secretary	Connie Schultz
Treasurer	Bill Jones
Director, 3 year term	John Andrews
Director, 3 year term	Pauline Andrews

Nominations were requested from the floor, and none were received. Ron Menges made a motion for election of the proposed candidates by affirmation. This was seconded by Lester Brown. The motion was passed without opposition.

Programs for 2012:

The programs and mostly planned for 2012. Bonnie Plants has a greenhouse and nursery on Jerry City Rd. north of Cygnet. A tour will be arranged for April 22, 2012. The plant sale will be held behind Trautman Interiors on Saturday, May 12, 2012.

A sign-up sheet was passed around for refreshments for 2012. No refreshments will be needed in April, May or July, as these will be the months of the Bonnie Plants tour, the plant sale and the garden tour.

Other business:

Retiring officers Randy Greeno, Darlene Brown, and Lester Brown were recognized.

Refreshments were provided by Ron Menges and Dave Gerber.

The next meeting will be the Christmas Banquet on 12-8-11.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Connie Schultz, Secretary

BAN on the web: a reminder that our newsletter is available on the web. It can help you introduce our Club to others. Our sister organization has the current issue and almost a year's worth of the back issues available at:

www.thegardenersoflima.org/OtherClubsNewsletters.html

Club Officers, 2012

President	John Platt (jlplatt@wcnet.org)	Directors, 3 years	John Andrews
1 st Vice President	Anita Lanning		Pauline Andrews
2 nd Vice President	Cindy Pierce	Directors, 2 years	Sharon DeCooman
Secretary	Connie Schultz		Larry Schock
Treasurer	Bill Jones	Directors, 1 year	Marilynn Beltz
Past President	Cathy Grossman		John Grossman
BAN Editor	John Platt	National Director	Anita Lanning



National Web Site: www.tgoa-mgca.org Regional Web Site: www.acom.net.cqjr
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!

