

# BACK ACRE NEWS

Volume #56

Number 3

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

Organized 1954

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March 18 , 2011

Regular Meeting at 7:00 PM, Third Floor Conference Room, Municipal Building

→ *Executive Board Meeting at 6:30 PM, Third Floor Conference Room, Municipal Building*

Topic: Landscaping With Native Plants – Jan Hunter, Naturally Native Nursery

Refreshments: Jerry Bibler & Larry Schock



Greetings,

At last a day filled with sunshine and a warm breeze. It gives me so much energy and motivation to start all the projects I have been dreaming about. It was great to hear the weatherman say that he could promise no more snowy mornings for the winter, but he could not promise for the spring. A spring snowstorm never seems as bad as you know it will be gone as soon as it came.

The plant sale committee has been busy planning the sale. We will talk about it at the meeting, but for those who can't make it the most important thing we can all do is to get our plants started. The strong healthy plants sell much better than the plants that have just been potted. Perennials seem to sell much better than annuals, unless you have something unique. If there are any questions about dividing plants or other issues related to starting plants, please bring them to the meeting. We have veteran gardeners who would be happy to help.

I am looking forward to our program this month. It is about native plants. I think the timing is right for this topic as we are making decisions about what we will plant this year. The current wisdom is that native plants will tolerate our climate best. This might be some information which will help you to decide what plants to bring to the sale.

I see that the United Way is going to sponsor a large community garden project. They plan to start by having a garden tool drive on March 26. I will have more information about that at the meeting. If you have any old tools that you could donate, I think it would be a worthwhile thing to do. We might even get some new members from the new gardeners.

Enjoy the warmth but don't work too hard. See you all on March 24<sup>th</sup>.

Cathy

**Gee, what did I miss?** Patty Woodard, Master Gardener and Hoe 'n' Hope (Jenera) Garden Club member, describes the joy (?) of raising 500 red wigglers in a home setting. The interesting observation is their influence on one's eating habits – eat healthy veggies and fruits so you generate enough scraps to feed them. (McDonalds has not yet opened branches in worm farms.) Vermiculture is an interesting way to create exceptionally rich compost quickly, a boon to any gardener.

**Welcome our new member:** Connie Schultz, our guest at the February meeting, has joined our Club. Please welcome Connie.

**Membership Book Correction:** Dennis Walters' correct email address is: [sadiem69@aol.com](mailto:sadiem69@aol.com)

**Gardening Reminder:** Our official frost-free date is May 15<sup>th</sup>. Six weeks prior is therefore April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Those of us who start Tomatoes, peppers and the like from seed should be thinking about stocking up on more seed-starter.

**Plant Sale 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.

**Meet the Member:** Cindy Pierce

Cindy is a native New Jerseyite, but was raised in southeastern Pennsylvania. She acquired a degree in Biology from Penn State, and a husband from her time in Virginia. After spending two years in Japan, where she helped pre-school kids learn the basics of English, they returned to Pennsylvania. Five years ago, Doug, her husband of 21 years, accepted a position at Cooper Tire.



Cindy currently works full time as a wife, mother of three daughters, and overseer of the Pierce menagerie. Ashleigh, 17, and born in Japan, is a senior at Findlay High School, and plans to attend Wittenberg University to study Education and East Asian Studies. Jessica, 15, is a sophomore at FHS. She has been accepted into the Medical Technology program at Millstream, and is looking forward to starting that program next fall. Steffanie, 13 and in 8th grade at Central Middle School, is not yet sure what career she wants, but knows that it has to have something to do with animals. In high school next fall, she is planning to take several honors courses.

The Pierce family is rounded out by their pets: 2 dogs, Lady and Storm; 2 cats, Nala and Penny; and 7 snakes. "That's right, snakes", writes Cindy. Steffanie has 2 ball pythons, Noah and Leo. Jessica has 2 corn snakes, Cornflower and Ghost. Ashleigh has 2 king snakes, Lightning and Glitter. Cindy herself has a rat snake named Speckles.

Cindy reports her local gardening activity as, "I enjoy planting flower beds around my house. I was unhappy with the foundation shrubs that were at the house when we bought it, so I have been making some changes. (Jessica single-handedly removed several barberry bushes from our front garden so we could plant more flowers.) I also plant containers for my front porch and my back deck. My houseplants are limited to one African violet and a hanging pot with Christmas cactus. Unfortunately, my cats eat any plants they can get, so my indoor plants are few. I hope to learn more about gardening in this area. I am relatively new to gardening, and still learning a lot about the plants that can do well in the soil conditions here."

Cindy is also involved in Martial Arts. She takes lessons at the Findlay Martial Arts Academy, and currently holds a first degree black belt in karate. She has been taking lessons in 'iaido', which is the way of the Japanese sword.

Cindy saw the name of our Garden Club on the sign at the Triangle, then saw that the Club would have a spot at the Hancock County Fair, so she decided to get more information. She joined the Club in 2010.

**Gardening in Ohio:** An established publisher, 'State-by-State Gardening', (15 magazines, 13 states) has begun an issue specific to gardening in Ohio. Your editor and his wife ran across this at the Columbus Home and Garden Show, and subscribed (\$19.95, one year, six issues). Two issues will be available for review at the March meeting. Please note that this is an announcement, not an endorsement, of this new product. More at [www.OHGardiner.com](http://www.OHGardiner.com).



## Coming Next Month: *Hands-On with Living Wreaths*

At the April 28 meeting, club members will have the opportunity to make Living Wreaths. Generally, succulents are the plants of choice because they require much less water and are long-lived. Kevin Kwiatkowski of Oregon, Ohio, who has conducted several workshops on the topic, will probably be our presenter. The wire structures for the wreaths must be purchased, so we must have a good estimate of how many people are interested in making wreaths. There will be a fee, probably in the \$10-\$20 range. (We'll try to have a better estimate by the March 24 meeting date.)

For those who are not interested in making a Living Wreath but are still interested in making a succulent planter of some sort, that is also possible. The meeting will be at Brickners' Perennial Plant Peddler location, and they have for sale several open basket type containers, pairs of old shoes, and a couple of logs, which are all good containers. Or you are welcome and encouraged to bring containers of your own. Brickners are donating Hens & Chicks and numerous sedum (stonecrop) suitable for the purpose, but club members should bring any plants (or just cuttings) they think would be good. Additional special succulents may be purchased.

For those who are not really interested in making anything, you are welcome to watch the demonstration and then wander around the gardens (yes, there should be flowers in bloom) or sit and relax and chat. Refreshments will be served.

We will discuss this further at the March 24 meeting and hope to have a better idea as to the cost involved for the wire wreath structures. It is essential to know how many want to make wreaths, and it would also be helpful to know how many others want to make other types of planters so we can make sure we have enough succulents available. Please notify Sharon DeCooman, [flower4645@aol.com](mailto:flower4645@aol.com), 419-348-3965 or Brickners, [annbrick@tds.net](mailto:annbrick@tds.net), 419-306-0783 if you want to do either.



## March Flower of the Month- Forsythia

By Bill Jones

Forsythia, pronounced *for-sieth-ee-a*, is a genus of the flowering deciduous shrubs in the Oleaceae (olive) family. The common name of Forsythia is also the genus name for this plant. It is named for William Forsyth (1737-1804) who made the first rock garden in the UK and was one of the founders of the Royal Horticultural Society. He was also a superintendent of the Royal Garden of Kensington Palace.

The common forsythia shrub, *Forsythia x intermedia*, was introduced to America about 100 years ago. It is familiar as the early blooming herald of spring with its many yellow blossoms preceding the emergence of the leaves. The plant is long-lived, often reaching 50-60 years. It tolerates a wide range of growth conditions and has very few serious insect or disease problems.

The flowers appear when 86 growth-degree days are accumulated, which normally occurs near the end of March. The flowers have no scent and are able to produce lactose (the milk sugar) which is rarely found in other natural sources except milk. The buds are set for the next year's flowering soon after bloom. Pruning after mid-June will significantly reduce the next year's show. The floral buds are continuously lost when winter temperatures fall between -5 to -15 degrees Fahrenheit. Below these temperatures, all floral buds are lost except for those that are below any existing snow line.

The forsythia plant benefits from annual pruning in the month after bloom. This keeps the plants within bounds and creates a bushier growth habit. It also encourages better flowering in the following spring.

A good rule of thumb for gardeners and landscapers is to apply pre-emergent crabgrass herbicide to their lawns in the period after the forsythia blooms but before the lilac blooms. This assures that the crabgrass has not received enough heat to begin germination.

**Regional meeting:** The Central Great Lakes Region meeting will be held April 9<sup>th</sup> at Kingwood Center in Mansfield. The meeting begins at 10:00 AM. There is a break for lunch at 12:00 noon and then we return to finish up any Business, and there is a program. John Martin from the Ohio Gourd Society will be the speaker for this program. John is a friend and he is very interesting. I am sure you will enjoy hearing him speak. Bill & I will be going and invite anyone who would like to attend to ride along. Just let us know. – Anita Lanning

## Financial Statement:

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

#### March Interim Financial Report

##### Interim Financial Report:

Checking account balance as of 02/24/11 .....	\$1,926.91
Income.....	\$ 20.00
Disbursements.....	( \$ 130.88)
Checking account balance as of 03/15/11.....	\$1,816.03

Bill Jones, Treasurer

I am not a vegetarian because I love animals; I am a vegetarian because I hate plants.

-- A. Whitney Brown

Sacred cows make the best hamburger.

-- Mark Twain

## February, 2011, General Meeting Minutes:

February 24, 2011

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm

Discussed the Financial Report: Balance of \$1926.91

Old Business updates:

Marilyn has secured \$100.00 worth of plants from Brinkmans for the Plant Sale. We are still looking into the "Gas Station" for the location of the Plant Sale. Should know by mid-March, but we know that Karens will be a safe bet.

Randy Greeno is back to work at the same job.

New Business:

Kathy Schock discussed the Findlay Gas Light Festival. This is the weekend of Mothers Day. We should consider setting up a display with fancy planters and baked goods to sell. Good way to get advertising for our Plant Sale the following weekend. 20% of the proceeds goes to the organizers. The fancy planters would need to be ready. Be Creative! Marilyn and Kathy have agreed to look into this suggestion more.

The Triangle News: Plants to purchase have been ordered. Other plants have been started. The Triangle Planting Workday is Sat., May 21st at 8 A.M. (rain date is Sat., May 28th)

The position of 2nd VP has been graciously fill by Anita Lanning. Thanks Anita!

New Business:

We need to start taking 2012 Calendar orders. The price for each calendar is \$3.00. The order should be e-mailed in as soon as possible. No later than June 6th.

We are still in need of a meeting place for next year. Suggestions were made included the Senior Center or possibly changing the meeting time to an earlier hour.

April meeting was discussed. The subject is Living Wreaths and other Succulent Planters. Do we want to make the actual wreathes that night or just start them and finish them on our own. Ann and George Brickner have plenty of succulents on hand, but we will need to purchase other supplies. This would be a great project to sell at the Gas Light Festival. Asked for more ideas for the next meeting.

Next meeting will be Thursday, March 24, 2011. Refreshments will be provided by Jerry Bibler and Larry Schock

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted by Julie Kroske, Secretary

**Just about the last chance:**

Marion, Ohio, Spring Home and Garden Show, April 1 – 3, at the old Lowe's building, corner of SRs 95 and 23. Yes, it is small-town, but you never know what you'll find. In Fremont, we found an example of a landscaped mobile home, and an example of a cottage garden (the cottage garden was full-sized.):



**Club Officers, 2011**

President	Cathy Grossman	Directors, 3 years	Sharon DeCooman
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	John Platt		Larry Schock
2 <sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.tgoa-mgca.org) Regional Web Site: [www.acorn.net.cgjr](http://www.acorn.net.cgjr)

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!

