

# Marshall Area Garden Club

## GARDEN CLIPPINGS



### MAGC OFFICERS 2014

**PRESIDENT:**  
Steve Rhodes

**1<sup>st</sup> VP's of PROGRAMS:**  
Diane Peart  
Natalie Rector

**2<sup>nd</sup> VP of MEMBERSHIP:**  
Lucy Overhiser

**RECORDING SECRETARY:**  
Jamie Evans

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:**  
Judith Mansfield

**TREASURER:**  
Gail Woods

### President's Message

Well, it is October 9<sup>th</sup>, as I write this note and I just came in from my first official leaf-blowing session of fall 2014. Ann and I have been doing this up here on Hill Rd./Wooded Lane for twenty-five years and I am always surprised at how many leaves are on the ground - YET - the leaves in our trees have not even begun to fall!!!

Thinking of fall, here are 10 signs of a rough winter from the Farmer's Almanac:

1. Very thick onion skins or corn husks
2. Woodpeckers sharing a tree
3. Early arrival of crickets on the hearth
4. Spiders spinning larger webs
5. Lots and lots of acorns
6. Raccoons have thick tails
7. Squirrels gather nuts early in the year
8. Pigs gather sticks
9. Frequent halos around the sun or moon
10. Heavy and numerous fogs in August

Well, I know our cats tell us that we have plenty of crickets showing up in our basement - and - I played quite a few sunrise rounds of golf in August where the fog was so thick I could not see 200 yards. That's 2 out of 10 on my personal score card - what about yours? And what about those wooly caterpillars? Most of the ones I've seen are mostly black...

***Don't forget that we set Saturday, October 18, at 9am as our cleanup day for Carver Park with October 25, as our back up rain date. Also watch for an announcement on the cleanup for Fountain Circle.***

President Steve Rhodes

#### Please contact:

Editor Janet Schoenmeyer,  
621 East Dr., Marshall or at  
janscho46@gmail.com to submit  
articles. Garden Clippings is  
published every other month.

Volume 21, Issue 2  
October/November, 2014



## October 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting



Ever wish you could have an apple orchard in your backyard or even grow a few bountiful apple trees? October's speaker, **Bruce McDonald**, co-owner of Old MacDonald's Farm will tell us how. Bruce will speak from his experience of raising 20 different varieties of apples trees and selling them at the local farmers market and at his farm. He'll explain how growing apple trees in the home garden can be fun and rewarding. Bruce will give the specifics on apple variety and rootstock, site selection, proper planting, training and pruning, adequate fertility, and pest control which all contribute to healthy and productive trees.

Social Time 6:30pm, Program 7:00pm,  
Business Meeting 8:15pm.

1<sup>st</sup> VP's of Programs, **Natalie Rector** and **Diane Peart**

---

## November 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting Silent Auction & Munchie Night

Get creative, get going and plan ahead for the November 18<sup>th</sup> Silent Auction. The November meeting is all about creating a fun decoration for fall or the holidays, donating it to our silent auction, then taking your chance at bidding on them and taking someone else's creation home with you.

We hope at least 20 or more creative pieces will be contributed to the silent auction. This is a great time to recycle and reuse. Start by looking in your basement or cupboards for materials to create a table centerpiece, wreath, or swag composed of dried or fresh material; either small or large.

You can make something at home and bring it on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> to the meeting or you can come to a "make and take session" on **Saturday, Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>, from 10 a.m. to noon, at 404 N. Madison Street** (Natalie's garage).

## November 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting Cont.

**Marlene Glotfelty, Natalie Rector, Diane Peart** and others will be on hand to help you. **Marlene Glotfelty** will donate some baskets from her stash and **Diane Peart** will bring some other unique supplies to the Nov. 15 session. We'll have some supplies of fresh greens, oasis, straw wreaths and pins for everyone. Just show up and we'll supply you with items and suggestions. If you are experienced, bring your talents and a handful of whatever you have (pine cones, nuts, dried flowers, ribbon, etc.) or other accessories to suggest a theme or focal point. Together we can share and see what we come up with. Depending on time and supplies, you can make one for yourself and one for the silent auction.

Also for the Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, let's celebrate the spirit of the season and invite a friend or neighbor to come with you. The more the merrier for the holidays and for more folks to bid at the silent auction.

We'll do our usual "bring a dish to pass" and start at 6:30 p.m. that evening. Table service and drinks will be provided.

Questions, contact **Natalie Rector** at:  
[rec33not@gmail.com](mailto:rec33not@gmail.com)



Remember to disinfect your garden tools before storing them for the winter. This is especially important for those who planted at the Fountain Circle in May. Many of the annuals had a fungus disease that member **Sharon Linklater** replaced with mums.

One typical method is soaking the tools in 1 gallon of water with 2 cups of bleach in a bucket for about 10 minutes. A cup of dishwasher detergent mixed with 1 gallon of water is also effective. Rinse with water after disinfecting and dry the tools with a soft cloth.



## Gardening in Germany



Members **Mick and Gail Woods** recently visited their son, Christopher who is stationed at Ramstein Air Force Base, located 80 miles southwest of Frankfurt, Germany. The Woods spent time there themselves in the 1980's and wanted to share with MAGC members how Germany focuses on gardening. Gail wrote the following account:

The German villages are very old and quaint. They feature little courtyard style gardens; either directly in front, or along the sides, or sometimes in the back as well. It all depends on how large their lot may be. Some of them do not have a yard at all, so they create fabulous window box plantings. People live in very close proximity to one another, but they are clever at creating private retreats within their square footage. Many times these gardens are walled with a unique fencing, which may use wood, concrete planters, cement walls, and paver stones for their landscaping. Field stone and river stone may be used, but not to the extent as here in the U.S. Many gardeners have embraced structures, such as pergolas or arbors, which they plant with vines for privacy screening, perhaps concealing a Biergarten. One garden I noticed even leaned towards a Japanese style, complete with a lantern.

Many of the people practice extensive use of specimen plantings. There were many homes in the surrounding areas, which focused on certain plantings such as hydrangea standards, or tree standards, or rose specimens. The Germans are also famous for their window boxes, which contain their ever popular red geraniums, purple lobelia, and vines, but also the more exotic as well. I was impressed with their use of different foliage plants, which seemed to be more prevalent than 30 years ago. Window boxes can be found in nearly every home, and they are lush, full, and colorful. This only enhances the old stucco, half-timber, and brick of their centuries-old buildings.

Germans also use a concrete gravel mix, which is molded into round planters. They then stack these, and use them for retaining walls, which they will plant with colorful annuals. For the most part, they don't use fountains, bottle trees, or old farm tools as garden art, which are often used in the U.S. However, I noticed that several of the yards contained birdhouses styles like little Swiss Chalets! I didn't get close enough to see whether they were handmade or mass produced, but they were very unique!

If you ever have the opportunity to travel overseas, start noticing the different ways that different countries focus on gardening. It was the starting point for my own garden education.



Condolences were sent to member, **Randy Boehmer** on the passing of his wife, Mary Beth on September 26. Mary Beth was not a MAGC member, but she generously offered her time by volunteering as a ticket taker at this year's garden tour.

Corresponding Secretary, **Judith Mansfield**



## Woolly Bear Caterpillar Info



The Isabella moth, with yellowish-orange and cream-colored wings spotted with black, is common from northern Mexico throughout the U.S. and across the southern third of Canada.

The Isabella isn't much to look at compared with other species, but its immature larva called the *black-ended bear*, the *woolly bear* or the *woolly worm*, is one of the few caterpillars most people can identify. Ironically, they do not actually feel much like wool, but are covered with short, stiff bristles of hair.

Woolly bears, like other caterpillars, hatch during warm weather from eggs laid by a female moth. They emerge from the egg in the fall and overwinter in their caterpillar form, when they literally freeze solid. They survive being frozen by producing a cryoprotectant in their tissues. Mature woolly bears search for overwintering sites under bark or inside logs. (That's why you see so many of them crossing roads and sidewalks in the fall.) Woolly bears crawl at a neck-snapping .05 miles an hour or about a mile a day! When spring arrives, they thaw out and resume eating (mostly cabbage, spinach, grass and clover) until pupating in a cocoon made from silk and their own hair. They emerge from their pupa as a moth in two weeks.

Most scientists discount the folklore of woolly bear predictions. Some entomologists believe there is a link however, that the number of brown hairs has to do with the age of the caterpillar-how late it got going in the spring. The band in other words, is telling you about the previous year.

Source: *Old Farmer's Almanac*