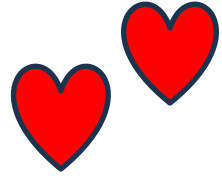




# Digging It!



All the Dirt from the Allen County Master Gardeners  
**February 2024**

## *Notes from Joanne*

Happy February! Our spring seminar is just around the corner. I hope that everyone has signed up and is able to come. This is an excellent way to earn six hours of the required ten for continuing education. This is one of our main sources of funding for our MGV program, and we ask that everyone help support the event. Be on the lookout in the next couple of weeks for an email with food sign ups. We ask that you try to contribute in some way to help us keep the cost low. Please reach out to either me or Roxanne if you have any questions.

Have a good month and let's hope Spring is just around the corner.



## *Tidbits from Teresa*

*"Every gardener knows that under the cloak of Winter lies a MIRACLE." Luther Burbank*

February is the month most gardeners get really itchy for gardening to commence. The Old Farmer's Almanac had an interesting perspective on this month. When Valentine's Day became popular in the Middle Ages, the climate was warmer than now. Flowers and love bloomed! Identifying weather patterns is somewhat controversial, but 1000 years ago Europe was very warm compared to today's February temps.

The Medieval Warm Period (MWP), which coincided with the Middle Ages, lasted from 950 to 1250. These warm conditions prevailed from Greenland through Europe and parts of Asia. The possible causes of this MWP are increased solar activity, and changes to ocean circulation. This warm period was followed by a decline in temperature levels. This was called "The Little Ice Age" because it was the coldest phase since the last ice age occurred. Made me think of the January freeze!

Technically, solar winter ends on February 5. This is the darkest quarter of the year with the least amount of daylight for the Northern Hemisphere. It lasts from November 5 to February. After the solar winter, the

Northern Hemisphere enters the time of year when the sun's rays are getting stronger. Until April, day length across the Northern Hemisphere will grow at its quickest rate. However, with both our air and ocean temperatures, there is a phenomenon called 'seasonal lag'. The warmth from the summer and fall months carries into the first part of winter, just like the cold from winter will carry into the first part of spring. Once we move into March I am mentally in Spring mode and looking for any signs that it is coming soon. Our March seminar is always a bright spot in the season and encourages me that Spring is on its way. I am looking forward to seeing many of you there. Gardeners are optimists and know that each season, though different, has its own beauty.

Teresa Diehl  
February 2024



February 2024

I'm so glad that cold snap has ended! Not unexpected for Ohio in January. I actually love the season changes and try to embrace each one, though extreme cold is my least favorite!

I don't have much to contribute this month. I'm working on getting our meetings set up for this year. I have some ideas, but heartily welcome your suggestions! If you would like to host a meeting or nominate another member or outside entity, please call, or test me at (419) 230-5143. I appreciate any lead you might have!

Sandy Bindel



### *Greetings from Gretchen*



THE LOVE OF  
GARDENING IS A  
SEED THAT ONCE  
SOWN NEVER DIES.  
~ Gertrude Jekyll

HAPPY FEBRUARY

We've made it through the darkest days of winter and are returning to the light! Spring will be here before we know it!

I trust you are spending the time inside dreaming garden dreams, shopping for seeds and planning for this year's bounty.

I recently stumbled into a conversation with fellow gardeners about Winter Sowing! Many of you may be utilizing that method, as I am, using the information we learned years ago at the Art of Gardening Seminar. If you weren't part of the MGV program at that time and are interested in more information about this easy and interesting method of starting seeds outdoors in the winter, let me know. I still have the handouts and seed lists from Ann Brickner who taught the program and I am happy to share them with you. Just shoot me an email!

ART OF GARDENING REGISTRATIONS

We are nearing 90 registrations from 9 counties so far but are watching for your registration! Lots of Allen County MGV's still need to get registered!

Your attendance at this event checks a lot of boxes in your commitment as a Master Gardener Volunteer by: 1) securing 5 hours of quality, science based continuing education from leading industry professionals, 2) contributing to the financial stability of the Master Gardener program, the Children's Garden and our other programs, 3) providing opportunities for Volunteer hours by helping with the event and 4) giving you an opportunity to refresh and renew your garden friendships, which is the biggest perk of all!

I will be watching for your registration and will be looking to seeing you at the seminar! PS, there's room for you to invite your gardening friends and share the joy!

~ Gretchen



## *Volunteer Voices*

*New! – This is new section will have guest articles from our volunteers about anything nature, gardening, or just something that you would like to share. If you are interested in sharing something, just email me your articles the last week of the month and I will be glad to add it. Looking forward to learning more from everyone.*

**We did not have any contributions this month. We would love to hear from you next month.**



## *Happenings from Kay*

### **GREETINGS FROM ARIZONA**

The garden centers and Farmer's markets are full of flowers, vegetables, and lots of citrus fruits. Outside the Yoga center there was a huge bucket of fresh lemons with a "free" sign on it, of course we helped ourselves. We enjoyed lots of fresh lemonade!

Before I left for Arizona, I started a huge amount of seeds by "winter sowing". This is too lengthy to explain, so here is a YouTube video to watch.

[https://youtu.be/G-VFwVXNXos?si=l6d-x8MIDv8q\\_4JY](https://youtu.be/G-VFwVXNXos?si=l6d-x8MIDv8q_4JY)

There are a lot more videos on winter sowing, and what to grow, so please educate yourselves, try this and I know you'll be surprised and pleased at the number of plants you will have.

Also included is a flyer to "Homegrown Habitat", featuring Doug Tallamy, that is being held in Findlay on April 27th. I attended his talk in 2022, and he was the most inspirational speaker I've ever heard. He also can be found on YouTube.

FEATURING  
AUTHOR  
DOUG TALLAMY



**HOMEGROWN  
HABITAT**



BRINGING NATURE TO  
YOUR COMMUNITY



University of Findlay  
Winebrenner  
950 N. Main Street  
Findlay, Ohio

Saturday  
April 27, 2024

9 AM - Exhibits & Food  
10 AM - Tallamy Speaks  
11 AM - Book Signings,  
Exhibits, Plant Distribution

Admission Includes a Native Plant & Continental Breakfast

General: \$25 | Student ID : \$10

Presentation, Q&A Session,  
Book Sales & Signing, Resource Fair

Registration Deadline:  
April 12, 2024

Learn More & Register at:  
[homegrownhabitat.org](http://homegrownhabitat.org)



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Hancock Park District  
Hancock County Master Gardeners  
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University of Findlay  
West Central Ohio Land Conservancy  
Wild Ones Oak Openings Region Chapter (NW Ohio & SE Michigan)

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