



Digging It!



All the Dirt from the Allen County Master Gardeners

MARCH 2023

Notes from Joanne

We are just a couple of short weeks away from our annual Art of Gardening Seminar. I would like to remind everyone that we are still in need of a few food donations such as eggs, grapes, fruit, and donuts. If you have not already signed up, please consider helping out. Here is the link to sign up <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4aaca723a3f5c43-artofgardening#/> or you can email me at rex.87@osu.edu or call Roxanne at 937-407-5402. If you cannot attend or do not have time to bake, you can send a donation to Lynn Ellerbrock at 3262 Bonnieview Drive, Lima, OH 45801. Please make your checks out to Allen Co. Master Gardeners. We will use the donations to purchase the needed items. Thank you so much for your continued support of this event.

Nic, Gretchen, and I attended the Christmas Tree Festival wrap up meeting this morning. The festival attendance was up this year and continues to grow since Covid. Our portion of the profits this year was \$2,600.00. We were very excited about this successful fundraiser. We are already working with the committee for next year to make improvements for an even more successful 2024 festival. As you are doing your spring cleaning, remember we are still looking for donations of Christmas mugs and small baskets (preferred lined). The children’s Christmas shop is looking for small items that are new or almost new that could be purchased for gifts by the children. They are always in need especially of men’s gifts.

I hope to see everyone at the seminar.

Joanne



Tidbits from Teresa

“As I suspected someone has been adding soil to my garden.” The plot thickens!

Red twig dogwood can be winter showboats but the show depends on your pruning. Just before spring growth starts, you can cut down the entire plant to a few inches above the soil. This should be done every 2 or 3 years unless you want a smaller shrub with uniform stems. Removing a third of the oldest each year will produce a more billowy form and more variation in stem color. Make sure the plant is firmly established, around its third year, before you begin any pruning schedule.

When buying a red twig plant, take care to research what cultivar you want as red twig is a pretty generic term and some are more desirable than others. Red osier dogwood or *Cornus sericea*, has 3 cultivars that are memorable, “Isanti, Cardinal or Baileyi. *Cornus alba*, Tartarian dogwood, is best known for its variegated form, *Elegantissima* or *Argenteo-marginata*. *C. sanguinea*, bloodtwig dogwood, tends to grow rapidly and can become leggy or scruffy without aggressive pruning. All three tolerate wet soils and shade although the color is better in sunny sites. They are not picky about pH or soil texture.

I was wondering why my Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*) was not fruiting. I discovered you need pollen from a second tree for fruit set. My pawpaws are native plants in a grove, a one multi-stemmed suckering tree that cannot self-pollinate. Transplanting pawpaws from the wild, (mine are native to our woods), is rarely successful. Your best bet is to buy one or more and plant it near the wild grove. Pawpaw pollinators are carrion beetles and blowflies which do not fly great distances so it is important to plant close to the grove. These insects are attracted to rotting meat, thus the flowers are not pleasant smelling.

By purchasing a named cultivar you can choose some of its attributes. These grafted plants are likely to bloom and produce early since a tree must reach adulthood before flowering.

Teresa Diehl

March 2023



Notes from Sandy B –

March 2023

I’m certainly enjoying my crocus, aconite, hellebores and snow drops now in bloom! Makes me anxious to get going gardening!

It’s March...time for our wonderful “Art of Gardening” seminar. This years’ line-up of topics appears to be stellar. Thanks, Gretchen!

See you there!

Sandy Bindel





Springtime is the
land awakening.
The March winds are
the morning yawn.

Lewis Grizzard

FILLINGTHEJARS.COM

Greetings from Gretchen

LOOKING FORWARD TO SPRING!

As Spring starts to spring we are looking forward to all the activities that it brings!

The Art of Gardening Seminar will be a great start to the gardening season! We are looking forward to gathering again amongst friends and fellow gardeners.

Plans are coming together for this season's projects and educational opportunities.

As you start to explore your gardens again this spring, please begin the process of digging, dividing and potting plants for the May plant sale.

Can't wait to see you!

ART OF GARDENING SUPPORT

Just a reminder that if you are attending the seminar, we need your help with providing food for the breakfast/snack buffet. If you haven't already, please reach out to Roxanne Shoffstall or Joanne Rex to let them know how you plan to support that project.

FA-LA-LA

We are happy to report that we received \$2,600 from participation in the Christmas Tree Festival 2022. Everyone involved with the festival expressed their happiness with our partnering with them and are truly impressed by the work that you all contributed to the Gifts of the Earth booth. We are glad that this has become such a good partnership for us. These funds will go a long way to assist us since the attendance at the seminar is down since Covid. A true blessing.

~ Gretchen Staley, President

Happenings from Kay

MARCH CHORES

So many things to do and so little time before heading back to Arizona. Luckily the February weather has been mild, and I have whittled down my list of spring gardening chores. I recently heard a weather report that our area is nearly three weeks ahead of an average year. Here are some things you may do in your garden.

- Remove leaves, twigs and trash from lawn. (A daily chore with all the wind)
- Prune trees and shrubs while dormant (except those that bloom early)
- Remove coverings from roses as soon as new growth appears
- Prune and fertilize roses
- Remove tree wraps
- Seed bare spots in lawn
- Prune grape vines
- Remove weak or damaged canes from raspberry plants before new growth
- Remove old asparagus and rhubarb tops and side-dress with nitrogen
- Start flower and vegetable seeds indoors
- And lastly, enjoy all the wonderful signs of life in the garden and nature.
- Welcome Spring!

Submitted by Kay Studer

~~~~~ Voodoo Lily 2023 ~~~~~



The inflorescence emits a scent of decaying flesh in order to attract insects, Most floriculturalist described it as smelling "like roadkill, very strong, a little bit of mothball smell too". Though a number of species give off a pleasant odor. Through a number of ingenious insect traps, pollinating insects that entered a spathe when female flowers were receptive remain inside the spathe for about 1 day while male flowers mature and release pollen. Pollen falls on these insects, and they carry pollen as they exit the spathe and can pollinate female flowers in another spathe. Amorphophallus species are used as food plants by the larvae of some Lepidoptera (butterfly and moth) species including *Palpifer sexnotatus* and *Palpifer sordida*. By Sandy Laus (These lilies are about 5 foot tall-grown at home)