



Digging It!



All the Dirt from the Allen County Master Gardeners

APRIL 2022

Notes from Joanne

SEMINAR

I just want to thank everyone again for your hard work at the seminar. It was a good turn out and everyone seemed to have a wonderful time. I want to share some of the positive feedback that we received from the evaluation sheets about your part in the seminar.

Well organized, and a good mix of topics.

So well put together.

Great fun! Enjoyable day.

Wonderful job!

A good program as always!

THE FOOD WAS AWESOME!!

Food was great! (Several comments about the great food)

Loved the breakfast foods! And the lunch too. Also, the door prizes were exceptional.

This seminar is wonderful every time I attend.

I look forward to this every year.

Great Day!

Very organized!

A day well spent!

Thank you for continuing to have the seminar!

Everyone had wonderful things to say about the speakers, and I have passed along the comments so they could enjoy them. We only had a couple of negative remarks, and they were mainly about the room being cold. So I think it was a highly successful event!

Many people had comments about topics that they would like to learn about in the future. And many of the suggestions were repeated several times on the sheets. I am passing on some of them to you, so that you might consider them for Brown Bag topics. These would make for great Brown Bag discussions!

Houseplants

Growing organically

Garden design or planning

Controlling weeds

Vegetables

Heirloom plants

Pruning tips (when, how, tools, what not to do)

Container Gardens or Raised Beds (we received this suggestion many, many times)

Easier ways to garden for old age. Ergonomic Gardening

Dealing with pests and what to look for (slugs, bugs, and deer)

Tools of Gardening

Plant division and propagation

Composting

Roses

Bulbs

Succulents (many suggestions)

TREE PACKING

Tree packing for schools will be held on Thursday, April 21st at 4:00 pm at the Rabbit Barn at the Allen County Fairgrounds. There is not a tree sale this year, so you will only be packing trees for the schools. You will be helping the

Kawanis Club of Lima. There will be several school groups there to help with the packing. It should only last for a little over an hour and can be counted for your volunteer hours.

Thank you, **Joanne**

Tidbits from Teresa

We have been having some real teaser days allowing us to get out there in our gardens and testing our winter bodies! Seeing new leaves pop up and out is always a thrill every year. The peepers are peeping, the ducks are back on the pond and I am ready to get back outside.

Our local frost date is May 20th and we can usually safely plant many early vegetables in April. That list includes: beets, garlic, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, onion (sets or plants), parsnips, peas, potatoes, radish, spinach and turnip. My peas didn't do well last year so I researched their needs. I was surprised to learn they need a good supply of phosphorous and potassium and a small dose of nitrogen. Too much nitrogen reduces pod production (5-10-10 is good). They also need good moisture to germinate.

Keeping on my tidbit theme, here are some pluses and minuses for varied mulches.

- Pine needles: light, weed free, absorbs little moisture, does not pack down, slightly acidic and need extra N applied.
- Polyethylene: good weed control, rain can't get through, may make soil too warm, no soil benefit.
- Bark chips: good for permanent mulch, can attract ants or termites, redwood bark may resist water penetration but may repel insects.
- Compost: Good feeding mulch, quickly turns to humus but must have sufficient heating period to kill weed seeds, bacteria or disease.
- Grass clippings: available, adds organic matter, adsorbent and may carry weed seeds, may be mixed with other materials to prevent packing down, must be dried a few days to prevent rotting and don't use clippings from lawns treated with herbicides.
- Leaves: available, best food for earthworms, can become soggy and pack down making it hard for water to penetrate, best to compost first.
- Rocks, gravel: not absorbent, water penetrates easily, not best for weed control, adds no organic matter and should be considered permanent.
- Sawdust: readily available, takes a long time to decompose, water penetration only fair, and may encourage crown rot in some plants.
- Note: By applying mulch before the soil has warmed up will delay growth by insulating the cold soil.

I am looking forward to seeing my fellow Master Gardener Volunteers at our April meeting and at the garden.

Teresa Diehl

April 2022

Notes from Sandy B –

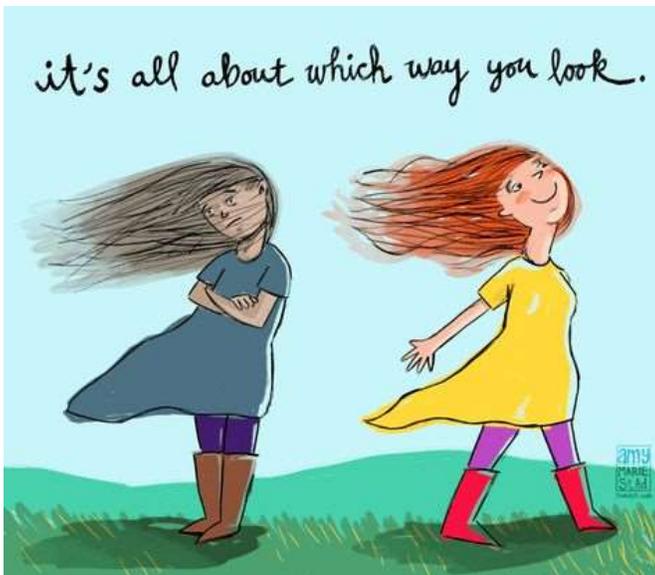
April 2022

Finally, the world is beginning to go back to some normalcy! Isn't it great? And wasn't the seminar spectacular?! Kudos to Gretchen and all of her hard work!

For our first meeting of the season, Kayla, owner of Kayla's Greenhouse has graciously accepted to host us at her business. As Kay mentioned in last month's newsletter, Kayla has re-vamped her operation quite a bit. We get to be among the first to see it. The meeting is TUESDAY, April 19th at 6:30. This is the day after she opens for the season so she should still be well-stocked! Bring a chair. We will be inside in case of inclement weather. The address is: 1745 North Cole Street Lima 45801.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone!

Sandy Bindel



Greetings from Gretchen

BLOWN AWAY

While I am writing this on the most blustery day of the year, I find the title line to be an adequate summary of how you make me feel. I continue to be blown away by the energy, effort, enthusiasm and capabilities of you all! While I felt rusty and a bit discombobulated dusting off the seminar after 2 years hiatus, you all jumped right in and took everything in stride. Thanks to your help and support it was another terrific event and earned the envy of other counties! Thank you! It was so fun to see so many of you again and we are all excited for Spring to spring and to get our educational events and volunteer opportunities back up to pre-pandemic levels. I can't wait to get started with our monthly meetings and our work days/nights at the Children's Garden! I am potting plants already for the Plant Sale, and hope you are too! Cheers to a

great beginning to gardening season in 2022! You blow me away!

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Harriet Johnson is recovering from a difficult back surgery at the Cleveland Clinic. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

Some of you may remember Nanci Cochensparger, a former MGCV who wrote gardening articles in the Lima News during her tenure as an ACMGV. Sadly, Nanci passed away last week. May God bless her and keep her. May His face shine upon her. May He hold her in the palm of His hand.

~ Gretchen Staley, President

Happenings from Kay

April 22 Earth Day

Earth Day is an annual event on April 22 to demonstrate support for environmental protection. First held on April 22, 1970, it now includes a wide range of events coordinated globally by EarthDay.org including 1 billion people in more than 193 countries. The official theme for 2022 is *Invest in Our Planet*. *Wikipedia*

April 29th is the 150th anniversary of **ARBOR DAY**.

A Focus on the Future

While most holidays celebrate something that has already happened and is worth remembering, Arbor Day represents a hope for the future. The simple act of planting a tree represents a belief that the tree will grow to provide us with clean air and water, cooling shade, habitat for wildlife, healthier communities, and endless natural beauty - all for a better tomorrow.

So Sad

Imagine my horror when driving to a meeting and discovering piles of freshly cut trees! Not just one tree, but all the trees that flanked an alley and had for years provided a canopy of shade for fans at the local baseball diamond. After putting in a call to the township trustees, and meeting them at the site, they informed me the trees were old, rotten, and creating a hazard. Also the falling branches had damaged the fence surrounding the ball field. So, "Are you going to replace them?" The answer was No, we need more parking spaces.

I guess parking spaces are more important than all the things listed above for Arbor Day. 😞 Very disheartened.



Submitted by Kay Studer