



Digging It!



All the Dirt from the Allen County Master Gardeners

APRIL 2023

Notes from Joanne

April is here! I am so excited for Spring. For those of you who did not see my email about the seminar, it was a huge success. Everything went very smoothly from the set up to the cleanup. The surveys were all good news (just a few complaints about it being cold). I have passed along the comments to our speakers who all thank us again for inviting them. Thanks again to everyone helped with everything at the seminar. We could not do it without all your donations and hard work.

Mark your calendars for Thursday, April 20th at 4:30 pm. The Kiwanis Club along with Allen Co Soil and Water is looking for help with the tree packing for local schools. If you can lend a hand, it usually lasts about 1 -2 hours depending on the number of volunteers. Tree packing will take place at the Allen Co Fairgrounds in the Rabbit Barn. It is a tan building and has a sign.

We are working on getting started with a new 2023 class of Master Gardener Volunteers. If you know of anyone who is interested, it is not too late to get them started. We will be doing the online class as in the past with five hands on labs. As soon as the new group gets through the first few chapters and completes a background check, we hope to see them in the garden helping this summer.

Be sure to check out the information below from Sandy and Gretchen about our first meeting of the season and opening day.

Thanks again, **Joanne**

**Whoever said money can't
buy happiness has clearly
never been to a garden center!**





Tidbits from Teresa

I was so glad to see many of you at our Spring Seminar. This seminar gets me thinking about our upcoming MGV educational events. I am again chairing the Brown Bag series, every Tuesday at the Children's Garden gazebo from 12:15 to 12:45. I am looking for volunteers to present a short 30 minute talk on your favorite topic or any topic you would like to research and learn about. Our BB series starts in June and runs through August, and I have 12 slots open. I will have a sign on sheet at the April meeting but feel free to call me at 419-204-7199 if you want a particular date.

April is the time to wander the woods and check out the early spring ephemerals. Ephemerals are plants that only bloom for a short period then go dormant and their foliage dies down. Their preferred habitat is woodlands, often damp areas. These wildflowers take advantage of the short time before the trees leaf out and block the sun on the woodland ground. They are visible in April and May then fade away until next spring. They grow from underground corms or rhizomes and utilize the high levels of moisture and nutrients of the soil. By growing low to the ground they are out of the range of cold drying winds. The moisture in the soil helps moderate the extreme difference between day and night temperatures. Since there are not many flying insects active yet so they rely on pollination by specialized beetles or ants.

Look for Spring Cress, Virginia bluebells, Dutchman's breeches, Bloodroot and Spring Beauty first. The next arrivals are the Trout lilies, Trillium and May apples. Dutchman's breeches look like upside down pantaloons, Bloodroot gets its name from the red sap extruded when the plant is crushed. May apples have a single stem in juvenile plants and the adults have a "Y" stem with the bloom in the center of the Y. Lesser Celandine is a non-native plant that is considered invasive since it out-competes our native species.

Teresa Diehl

April 2023



Notes from Sandy B - April 2023

It's very exciting to begin a new season of growing! I have planted onions, lettuce, radishes and snow peas. I hope they produce well!

Our first meeting for the year will be held at Village Green Garden Center in Wapakoneta. The owner was most gracious when I visited to request they host us! After our business meeting, he will give us a tour and run-down of what they have for sale. I spotted 3 of the meditating frog sculptures we raffled at the conference and he said we could purchase items if we wish. They have a nice selection of garden art and I'm sure the annuals and perennials, as well as trees and shrubs, will be at capacity.

The location 902 S. Blackhoof Street in Wapak. The meeting is Tuesday, April 18th at 6:30. Bring a chair. We will be inside the greenhouse unless it's warm enough to set up outside.

Sandy Bindel



Greetings from Gretchen

ART OF GARDENING THANKS

A big Thank You is in order for all of you who helped in any way, BIG or small, in making the Art of Gardening seminar another fun and successful day! Special thanks to Roxanne Shoffstall, Joanne Rex, Sandy Bindel and Denise Woodruff for keeping us so well fed and caffeinated throughout the day!

Teamwork makes the dream work!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Saturday, April 29 will be the opening day at The Children's Garden! We will be there from 9 a.m. – Noon to clean up the beds, clean up the garden, set up displays, etc.

Please plan to be there. Husbands, partners, friends, task-oriented kids, welcome. Many hands make light work! We are looking forward to seeing you there and to get our hands back in the dirt, making Allen County and better place!

NEW MAILING ADDRESS

In a continued effort to pinch our pennies, we have changed the mailing address for the ACMG and



Children's Garden to: PO Box 262, Cairo, OH 45820.

Please make a note for yourself so that if you get asked you will be aware of the change. The price of a box in Lima has continued to rise and Cairo is about half the price! Thanks to Treasurer, Lynn Ellerbrock for doing the legwork on these changes!

~ Gretchen Staley, President

Happenings from Kay

PEEPING TOM

Yes, there's a Peeping Tom around my house. In fact there's more than one! Worry not, for Peeping Tom is the name of an early flowering daffodil. These short but sweet daffodils are one of the first varieties to bloom in spring, and they don't flop over in the rain and wind. Their name and their return each year is always a welcome sign of spring. It's been a very mild and warm winter here and my daffodils are a full two weeks ahead of the usual peak bloom time, which is the second week in April. Look for more changes in your plant's bloom time due to global warming.



Submitted by Kay Studer