



Digging It!



All the Dirt from the Allen County Master Gardeners

AUGUST 2022

Notes from Joanne

~ Allen Co. OSU Master Gardener Coordinator

Master Gardener Volunteers –

It's August already! I hope that everyone is doing well. We have had several on the sick/injured list this year, and I hope that everyone is continuing to mend. If you missed the July picnic, after much discussion as a group we decided to take on the Christmas Tree Festival as an annual fundraising event. Please mark your calendars for December 2nd to the 4th. We would like to have everyone's help. The work is easy and enjoyable. We have chairs to sit on if you need to sit. Seeing all the families enjoying Christmas and seeing the trees makes the time go fast. If you spouse or other family members want to help with you, we would love to have them also.

We will be having a workday or two in the late fall to prepare for the festival. In the meantime, if you happen to get to garage sales or secondhand stores, donations of Christmas mugs, baskets, small indoor houseplant pots, and decorations would be appreciated. Last year we created arrangements in mugs and small baskets. We accented our live greenery with artificial Christmas picks or small decorations that we repurposed. If you are cleaning out your own closets or out thrifting, please keep this in mind.

We would also love donations from your own gardens. Some of our big sellers last year were potpourri, small greenery arrangements, pinecones, and small houseplants. Pam Joseph has been working with Marge LaFollette to compile a list and instructions for us. Thank you Pam and Marge for putting the instructions below together for all of us.

*Marge LaFollette will store dried materials for the potpourri project. If you have any questions about how or what to dry, feel free to call her. She has some basic tips – cut the flowers at their peak and **cut when they are dry**. She aims for 11 a.m.-noon cuts. Spread your flowers out on paper, screen, wicker, sweater dryer, or anything else that allows air circulation. Marge dries her flowers in a dark basement with a dehumidifier running. That is the darkest, driest, airiest part of her house. Our goal is to avoid moldy plant parts so **don't seal them up**. For large or compact flowers such as peonies or roses or big zinnias, remove the petals and spread them out to dry. Below is Marge's list of favorites. Other plants will also work. If in doubt, dry it anyway and ask Marge.*

Roses (note: Scented roses hold the scent the best. White petals will dry to a tan color)

Lavender blossoms and also foliage

*Zinnias Delphinium Bachelor buttons Yarrow Calendula sunflower petals Strawflower Globe amaranth
Statice Mint Lemon verbena Sweet woodruff Penny royal Small cones*

Lemon and orange peel (note: cut while soft into strips. You want the colored zest, not the white part.)

Joanne Rex



Tidbits from Teresa

BOLO.....As MGVs we try to be proactive in protecting our natural resources. The Spotted Lanternfly has been found with reproducing populations in just two Ohio counties so far, Jefferson and Cuyahoga. The SLF is native to China and feeds on a wide range of fruit, ornamental and woody trees with Tree of Heaven (Ailanthus) its preferred host. It could impact this country's grape, orchard and lumber industries. Having seen the decimation the Emerald Ash Borer caused to our ash trees, we need to keep this next invader out. The OSU Extension website is: <https://u.osu.edu/spottedlanternfly/>

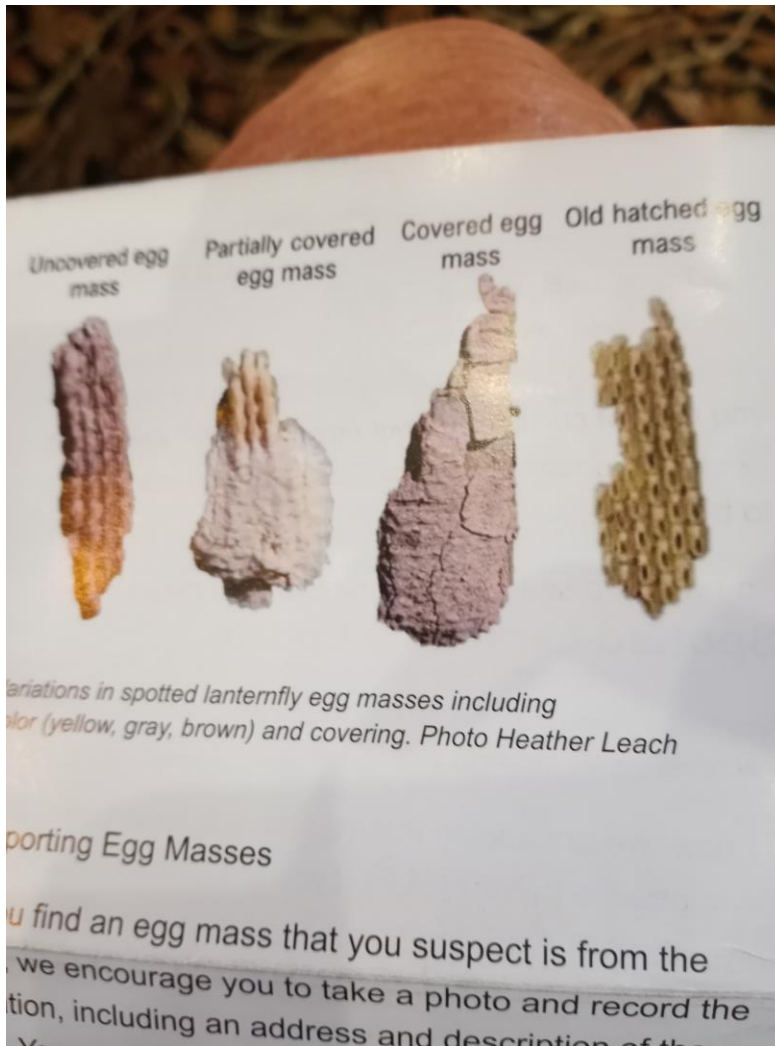
The egg masses are the items we need to look out for now. The adult female SLF lays between 30-50 eggs and will lay between 1-2 egg masses in her lifetime. The eggs are laid in late summer through fall and into early winter with the majority of egg laying in October. The nymphs hatch in spring and the eggs are laid on any flat surface. The eggs are laid in rows and covered with a waxy coating and are about 1 ½ inches long. The brown to grey egg mass is then covered with a white to grey glossy substance to protect them. Each egg mass is equipped with a top "hatch" that the nymphs use to escape.

The egg masses are most commonly found on trees next to their feeding sites. Look on the undersides of tree limbs, picnic tables or other horizontal surfaces. So as we go about eyeballing our gardens BOLO for this invader.

According to Michigan State Extension, perennial flowers, ground covers and grasses generally don't need a lot of fertilizer and some react negatively if too much is applied. An over-fertilized perennial will show excess growth that flops over and becomes leggy. It can also affect bloom performance producing foliage at the expense of blooms. Many perennial experts recommend no fertilization in healthy soil. Tall phlox, daylilies, peonies and mums are heavier feeders and benefit from two applications of fertilizer, spring and summer. If a perennial plant blooms twice a season, it also benefits from a second application. MSU advises not to fertilize perennials in late summer or early fall. This causes additional growth that may not have time to harden off in time for an early winter freeze.

Teresa Diehl

August 2022



August Notes from Sandy B –

AUGUST 2022 MEETING

This month's meeting should prove to be a really fun and informational one! Marge LaFollette has been friends for many years with an Amish family from Belle Center. We have been invited to tour and learn about their farming practices typical of the High Order Amish (not Old Order Amish). They have a landscaped yard, perennials, herbs, vegetables, raised bed, an orchard, a meadow, and a prairie. Something for everyone to enjoy!

The meeting is Tuesday, August 16th. We will meet early at the Eastgate parking lot (Behind Wendy's and Taco Bell, west of Big Lots) on Harding Highway. We'll meet at 5:45 and car pool to the farm. The directions are pretty simple if you wish to travel there on your own.

Michael Schlagbach, 4429 County Road 96, Belle Center, OH 43310

Route 117 to Road 96. Turn left (east) off of 117 to 96 just before the stone quarry. 4429 is not far from the turn off.

Please bring a chair, but refrain from taking pictures. Guests welcome!

Sandy Bindel



Greetings from Gretchen (vacationing in Ireland!)

WHAT'S AHEAD

Sunday, September 12 Setup time 1:00 pm Butterfly Migration Celebration

PLEASE PLAN TO HELP WITH THE BUTTERFLY MIGRATION CELEBRATION!

WE WILL NEED ALL HANDS ON DECK!

Gretchen Staley, President



Happenings from Kay

HEDGES FOR WILDLIFE

Hedges are a better choice of boundary for wildlife than fences or walls, especially if native trees and shrubs are used. Hedges allow wildlife to move about between gardens and other spaces and provide feeding and nesting sites.

Hedgers offer food in the form of leaves, nectar-rich flowers, berries, fruits, seeds and nuts and are good hunting grounds for predators seeking insects and other invertebrates. They make natural windbreaks, creating sheltered areas in the garden, which is particularly important for butterflies. They also create areas of shade, increasing the range of habitats within the garden. (*The Wildlife Trusts*)

Last week I was working in one of the hedges I have on the farm. I was cutting out some tall weeds when a bird flew up in my face. Parting the leaves in the hedge of hydrangeas, this little nest was discovered. I was worried I had removed a bunch of weeds and foliage and she would abandon her brood, but happy to report, the little family is doing fine.

