



Digging It!



All the Dirt from the Allen County Master Gardeners

August 2023

Notes from Nic and Joanne

Thank you to everyone for their hard work this summer. The garden is really looking great. August is going to be rough for us to be at a couple of the Tuesday workdays. We have vacation time, fair, and other OSU obligations that interfere with a couple of Tuesdays this month. Please do not be alarmed if you do not see us every single week. This is a really busy month, and we apologize. There will probably one or two that we unfortunately miss. Our schedules should improve next month.

You will see in the notes from Gretchen that she refers to a substitute program that we are working on in place of the Butterfly Migration. We just learned that due to circumstances beyond our control, we will have to postpone the idea until next year. We were looking into a mobile Bug Lab from OSU, but the lady who heads this is now on maternity leave. They are not planning any additional locations right now. We will continue to pursue this and additional education for 2024.

Nic and Joanne



Tidbits from Teresa

Each spring as I plant my vegetable garden, I forget how much work will go into weeding, watering, feeding, harvesting and preserving those tiny seeds. I am just getting started with the harvesting and preserving part, but come winter I will be happy for those jars of beans, carrots, beets and tomatoes. As I become a better vegetable gardener and our family gets smaller, my crops become more abundant and I wonder if I am nuts or a glutton for punishment!



Within 2 weeks Oriental bittersweet has overtaken a spot in our woods. It has grown over 15 feet into the trees in an area and is on the move. I am taking it seriously as it chokes out and kills any other vegetation by growing over other plants so they won't get any sunlight, air or water. Oriental bittersweet produces an abundance of berries which the birds eat and spread for quite a distance. It has a 95% germination rate and also spreads by underground roots. It is a deciduous vine that can reach 100 feet. It has greenish yellow flowers followed by berries that ripen to

yellowish-orange in the fall. The vine can grow up to 4 inches in diameter and coil around trees, shrubs and any other support. The berries are poisonous.

To get rid of oriental bittersweet, pull small vines by hand and remove the roots if possible. If the vine is entangled with a tree, cut at the base and brush with glyphosate concentrate. Then pull the vines out of the tree. Keep checking to see that it does not regrow. Native to China, Japan and Korea, it was introduced in the 1860's. It grows in full sun or shade and in many locations, even on dunes and beaches. It girdles trees and the sheer weight breaks or uproots the tree. It is hardy in zones 4-8 and one of the worst invasive plants on North American soil.

The Native American bittersweet however, is a highly desirable plant. Unlike oriental bittersweet it has smooth stems and oblong leaves. The berries of the native variety grow only at the tips of the vines while the Oriental variety's berries grow along the vine. Unfortunately, American bittersweet is becoming increasingly rare. Further endangering it is the fact that the oriental kind sometimes hybridizes with the native species.

I noticed our July meeting host had it along a fence and in another area. He said he prunes it aggressively as it is a very attractive plant with shiny leaves but very hard to control. Initially I was happy to have such an attractive plant until I researched it and found out it is the devil in disguise! Hope to see you at the August meeting, the food is delicious and the company is enjoyable!

Teresa Diehl
August 2023

August Notes from Sandy B –

AUGUST 2323 MEETING ACMGV

Picnic in the Children's Garden: Tuesday, August 15th

Bring your own service, a favorite dish to share, a chair

Chicken, iced tea and water provided

6 PM (note time)

Guests Welcome!!!

Sandy Bindel



Greetings from Gretchen

BOTANICAL GRUDGE MATCH

We were stopped in our tracks on the Garden Walk on Saturday morning watching this WWE style grudge match between two garden THUGS! My money is on the Chameleon Plant that has reverted to its solid green to win the day over the dreaded Bishops Weed!

Tim and I had a wonderful time revisiting the Open Gardens and Garden Walk in Buffalo, NY this past weekend! If you are looking for a place to go for a night or two next July, the greater Buffalo area is a gardener's paradise on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays in July!

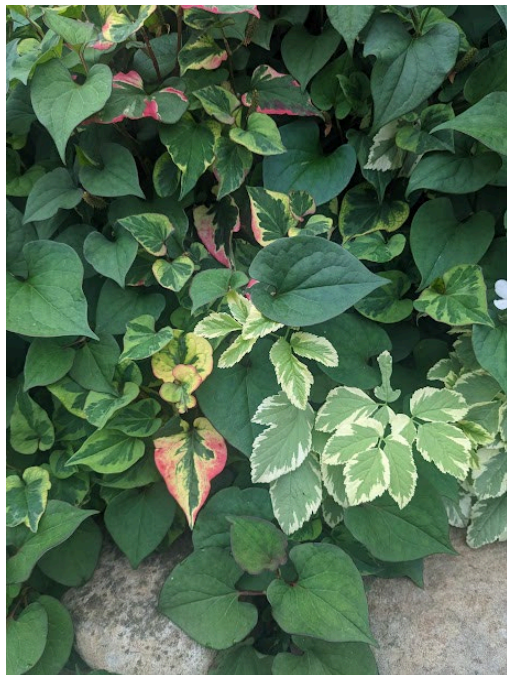
GREAT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS HAPPENING AT THE GARDEN!

It's been a great season so far for ACMGV's and our educational programming! I am so happy that with the help and support of Nic and Joanne, we are regaining our footing and our mission by sharing our horticultural knowledge with the community with programs both at the Children's Garden and around the community. A special thanks to all who are working on these projects including (but not limited to): Brown Bag; Kid's Classes including Hands on Habitat and the Bug Class; Kindergarten Kamp at Heritage Elementary; Allen County Museum event; Natives Walk at Kiracofe Prairie and the Bee Program at the garden this Thursday! Kudos!

BUTTERFLY MIGRATION CELEBRATION NEWS

We've had several conversations and questions about whether we will be having the Butterfly Migration Celebration this year. The short answer is No. Several factors have been considered in this decision, not the least of which is the shortage of Monarchs. There are other factors as well.

Since that has been such a long-running and successful event, we know that if we attempt to offer an event under that name, the public will have the expectation of being able to individually release Monarch butterflies, as was done in the past. So that's not a viable choice.



Instead, we are working together to plan a different event, perhaps one featuring all Pollinators. Nic and Joanne, along with members of the Children's Education Committee are considering options for a replacement event. Stay tuned. We'll keep you posted as more information is available.

COMMITTEE WORK

I sent out a reminder email yesterday to those of you who have not responded to the Committee Selection Form previously. (If you are not currently actively volunteering due to your health or distance, you didn't get the email). Please check your email and respond this week, or we will be happy to assign you to the committees that can use your help and talents. Thanks to the many of you who have responded! We appreciate your willingness to help make the ACMGV program better and stronger!

CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATION

I would like to have a break from decorating the ACMGV Christmas tree at the Christmas Tree Festival. If you would like to have the opportunity to take on that project please let me know! Set up must be done on Monday, November 27 and tear down must be done on Monday, December 4.

~ Gretchen Staley, President

Happenings from Kay

Bees & butterflies get lots of love..and so should moths!

Moths are often under-appreciated and overshadowed by bees when it comes to pollinator conservation. A new study revealed that moths visit a much wider range of tree species and fruit crops than previously recognized. These findings highlight the important role moths play in pollination across various plant types.

Both day-active (bees and butterflies) and night-active (moths) pollinators face many threats, including habitat loss, pesticide exposure, disease, and invasive species. But a hazard unique to nocturnal pollinators is light pollution.

You can support our nocturnal pollinators by growing native trees and shrubs and turning off your exterior lights when possible. If you must use outdoor lighting, consider dim low-voltage lighting, lights that are motion activated, or LED lights with a warm color temperature.

FUN FACT: Ohio has 140 species of butterflies, but more than 3,000 species of moths!

The Licking County Pollinator Pathway