



Digging It!



All the Dirt from the Allen County Master Gardeners

DECEMBER 2021

Notes from Joanne

Happy Holidays to everyone! I want to thank everyone for all their hard work this year. Without everyone's contributions we cannot be successful. No matter how big or small that you helped, we appreciate everything that you were able to do this year.

I also want to thank everyone for their donations and time with the Christmas Tree Festival. This has been a new experience for everyone. If you did not sign up to help, please come and support our booth and the Allen County Museum from December 3rd to 5th.

Please stay safe this winter and have a wonderful Christmas and New Year's. Enjoy your family and the wonderful Holiday events this year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Joanne

Tidbits from Teresa

Thanksgiving 2021 and I am thankful for our many volunteers who have donated their time and talents to our ACMGV program. Our suspended programs are back in swing and we have a new group of interns eager and ready to volunteer and become full Master Gardeners. A big thank you goes to Joanne and our board. This group has done a great job of getting everything to run so smoothly and to make it fun to boot.

Noticing the outstanding color of burning bushes, *Euonymus alatus*, I decided to give it a closer look. There are pros and cons to consider. Among the pros are its beautiful fall color, it tolerates nearly any soil condition and it is a statement shrub. Burning bushes prefer full sun but can adapt to shadier areas also. It can be grown in zones 4-8.

The cons with this shrub includes its size, the compact variety reaches 10 feet and needs to be pruned twice a year to maintain for most landscape uses. Since arriving from Asia many years ago it has spread rapidly and is listed as an invasive in many states. It spreads by underground roots to develop new shoots. It also

spreads easily from the berries consumed by birds and wildlife. Its berries have less nutritional value to birds than the shrubs it replaces. *Euonymus alatus* is toxic when ingested, both leaves and berries to humans and household pets.

As gardeners our choices sometimes should be labeled "Buyer Beware" so research is essential. I have some "pass-along plants" that I wish I had never accepted.

I want to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas, it was wonderful to get back to our mission of educating the public and sharing our love of the art of gardening.

Teresa Diehl

December 2021



December Notes from Sandy B -

MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR !!!!!

-- Sandy Bindel



Greetings from Gretchen



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Sending you wishes of peace, comfort and joy this holiday season! I hope that you are able to spend time enjoying your friends and loved ones. I hope that you have the opportunity to share your gifts and blessings with those around you. I hope that you are ridiculously and abundantly blessed!

With Warmest Wishes ~ Gretchen

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES

Please review all info from Joanne regarding the Christmas Tree festival this week!

We are still interested in donations of all types of fresh greens and berries as well as dried flowers, ribbon, baskets and cups. If you are unable to attend the work day on Tuesday, I will also be at the museum and Children's Garden on Thursday afternoon from 4 – 5 p.m. They will be

open for the festival so if you have items to drop off, text or call me and I'll arrange to meet you in the parking lot. Thanks!!

Gretchen Staley, President

Happenings from Kay

Christmas Trees

It's the Christmas season and time to decorate the house! Yes, the frustration of dragging out boxes of decorations, lights that are tangled and don't work, pine needles everywhere.....all to decorate the Christmas tree, but what a beautiful tree when completed. Ever wonder how the tradition of the Christmas tree began? Here's some information from the National Christmas Tree Association.

<https://realchristmastrees.org/education/history-of-christmas-trees/>

Kay ~~