



Digging It!



All the Dirt from the Allen County Master Gardeners

JANUARY 2022

Notes from Joanne

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone has had a wonderful Christmas and New Year's, and that you are staying well. This year has really flown by, and I am amazed with all that we have accomplished together. From opening the garden, Brown Bag Tuesday's, monthly meetings with educational speakers, children's classes, Butterfly Release, packing the garden up, year end banquet, and a Christmas Tree Festival this has been a very busy year and I am grateful for everyone that has helped this year. As we look forward to 2022, we will start planning the Art of Gardening Seminar soon and plan on adding more opportunities throughout the year for everyone.

I will continue to send any free educational opportunities to you via email. Be sure to check the website mastergardener.osu.edu under the resources tab for any recordings that you are interested in. Winter is a great time to catch up on some continuing education hours.

Again, Happy New Year and stay well and safe.

Joanne

Tidbits from Teresa

Happy New Year to all, the years whiz by and I am starting my 12th year of monthly Tidbits! Searching for a new topic, I absconded with an article Roxanne had gotten for Gretchen on Osage orange. I did give it to Gretchen after making a copy so I am a quasi-thief!

Today Osage orange trees are not usually seen in this area. Before the last Ice Age, the Osage orange ranged from Florida to Ontario. Once the glaciers covered and receded their distribution shrank in range. Before the settlers arrived they were mostly found in Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas. There were scattered trees in six other states also. Native Americans valued the wood and used it for archery bows because of its strength and flexibility. According to one early account a

bow made with this wood could set you back a horse and a blanket! The wood is resistant to decay and has the highest heating value of any native species, making it ideal for firewood. It's easy to split, fragrant, easily forms coals and doesn't smoke much.

Native Americans may have helped spread the tree and might have traded in its fruits or cuttings as well as the Osage orange wood. Early French settlers called it bois d'arc or bow-wood. Lewis and Clark obtained cuttings of Osage orange in St. Louis and sent them to President Thomas Jefferson for propagation. With its thorns on lower branches it made the perfect hedgerow. Fencing was hard to come by and maintain but Osage orange hedges were said to be "horse high, hog tight, and bull strong". By the mid 1800's around 60,000 miles of trees had been planted to last until barbed wire replaced it.

The evolution of this plant is a bit of a mystery. Most animals don't eat the fruit so dispersion that way is limited and because of the size of the fruit it would take a very large animal to eat it. Hedge apples are not tasty to most animals because they are full of milky latex, with sensitive seeds which do not tend to germinate after passing through the digestive system. This fruit is the opposite of most fruits where the flesh is testy and the seeds are durable and often noxious, like an apple. Since the huge animal species are mostly extinct, the "dinosaur theory" can't be tested although seeds have been found in mastodon dung. In general extra- large fruit production is not very efficient use of the plants' resources.

I am looking forward to our spring seminar in March and new opportunities to garden and learn with our new interns as well as our seasoned gardeners. See you in March!

Teresa Diehl

January 2022



January Notes from Sandy B –

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL! May 2022 be a year of peace, love, prosperity and great health for you and yours!

Love, Sandy Bindel

Greetings from Gretchen



LOOKING FORWARD TO 2022 WITH YOU!

While 2021 provided a much needed return to many of our activities with the Master Gardener Volunteer Program, we enter into 2022 with hopes and goals of resuming even more of our training, education and volunteerism.

I am working to secure speakers for the seminar, though it is proving slightly more challenging than in the past because the speakers are as unsure as we are that things won't change again between now and March 19. We are venturing forward and hope to have the lineup finalized soon!

The board and I are looking forward to working with Clint and Joann to plan a fun and engaging gardening season! We hope you are as excited as we are to redouble our strength and efforts to share our love of gardening with the people of Allen County and the region in 2022! Cheers!

WITH OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY

December was a sad month for members of our organization. Please pray for Mary Kay Koch (ACMGV 2011) and her family. Mary Kay barely retired when her husband, John was diagnosed with ALS. Mary Kay has been caring for him at home and his illness took a sudden turn. John died on December 24. She sends her gratitude to all who are thinking of and praying for her at this difficult time. Mary Kay's current address is: 321 West St., Columbus Grove, OH 45830

Emeritus ACMGV (1998) Nancy Stienecker's husband Charles died in North Carolina on December 17. Their daughter, Merilee (Ziccardi) Wale was also an ACMGV for several years. Nancy is staying in North Carolina for the winter but still has her home at: 1200 Winterberry, Lima, OH 45805 if you'd like to send her a card or note.

LEADERS NEEDED

As we look ahead to the seminar, we have a couple key positions that need leadership. Sue Lyon has been the coordinator of the breakfast/snack organization for as long as anyone can remember. Sue is taking a step back from activity but is a treasure trove of information and data regarding what is needed to prepare for the event. If you would be willing to work with us (using Sue as our touchstone) on this project please reach out to Gretchen or Joann. I am hoping to sit down with Sue in the coming few weeks to go through the plan. Thanks in advance!

We have a collection of items for the door prizes left from Margie Bushes hard work before the planned 2020 seminar but we need someone (or better yet – a small team) to take over the coordination of the door prize collection and distribution. We would like to return to a group effort on this instead of placing the burden of collecting prizes on one person but we still need a leader to oversee this piece of the seminar this year, and for years to come. Margie left us a note book of contacts etc., so we have a great place to start. Again, please reach out to Gretchen or Joann (before you're drafted! LOL). Thanks!!

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL SUCCESS

Thanks so much to all who participated in the Christmas Tree Festival Gifts of the Earth booth this year! The Historical Society folks were very pleased with our efforts. While we were hoping for even greater results, given that the festival attendance was down 30% from 2019, they felt our efforts were wonderful.

We will have meetings coming up regarding the future and extent of our participation in this event going forward. The discussion of whether we will become one of the "Sponsor" groups and participating in the money raised from the event will need to be balanced with what additional duties we would have to support the event. Stay tuned and stay positive!

Thanks again for all you do! ~Gretchen



Happenings from Kay

Kay is away for the holidays but wishes everyone all the best in the New Year of 2022.

From the topic of Teresa "Osage orange trees".

https://www.etsy.com/listing/1084016695/50-osage-orange-tree-seeds-grow-your-own?gpla=1&gao=1&&utm_source=bing&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=shopping_us_all&utm_custom1=_k_d3102e72fe011bea780a4fa1b63a50a4_k_&utm_content=bing_319339186_1310617986645934_81913644654434_pla-4585513245482005:pla-4585513245482005_c__1084016695&utm_custom2=319339186&msslkid=d3102e72fe011bea780a4fa1b63a50a4

