



# Digging It!



All the Dirt from the Allen County Master Gardeners

JANUARY 2023

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## *Notes from Joanne*

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone is well and enjoying this mild winter weather. I have currently made sure that everyone is recertified for 2023 and all paperwork is complete and agreed to. I sent out an email on December 21<sup>st</sup> showing the three forms that you have agreed to. If you did not wish to continue to be an active member for 2023, you must let me know. I sent out a second mass email on December 16<sup>th</sup> with total hours submitted for 2022 for each volunteer. If your total is not correct, please let me know ASAP and I will correct your hours.

Do not forget the Lunch and Learn and Horticulture Happy Hour webinar series and recordings at <https://mastergardener.osu.edu/HHHLNL22-23>. This is a good way to spend your winter months when you cannot get outside. You should be able to easily get in your 10 hours of required continuing education.

Stay warm, well, and safe.

**Joanne**



## *Tidbits from Teresa*

It is below zero and I am not thinking about anything but sitting tight inside and feeling blessed to be warm and cozy. We may be looking at some plant loss with the extreme cold or at least some restorative pruning in 2023. I guess the New Year is a good time to prune out the least desirable and start anew. The good thing about plant loss over winter is that it provides us with an opening for a new plant! Take some time to check out the bare bones of your garden as this gives us a good look at what we need to change or improve on.

We think of pruning as a way to control size and shape, and it does that, but a better way of thinking about pruning is that it is a way of refreshing the plant. When pruned, a plant will produce a greater proportion of young growth. Young wood flowers and fruits better and it is healthier than the old. Too bad pruning doesn't work for people!

Dead wood can harbor disease and thinning improves air circulation within the body of the plant. Mildew and other fungal diseases have less of a chance to settle in with a well pruned plant. You can also prune to enhance a particular feature you want to see, larger flowers or leaves or to emphasize stem color (i.e. Redtwig dogwood). This type of pruning can have its downside as in losing flowers or fruits. Since pruning stimulates new growth at the time at which you cut, timing is important. It is generally unwise to prune after midsummer into autumn because you need to give that new growth time to harden before winter.

You can usually tell new wood, green and supple from late season wood which turns brown and is less pliable. Older wood tends to be grey. When you cut back, make your cut just above a growth bud. With opposite buds two new shoots will grow making a bushier plant. With alternate buds a new shoot will emerge growing in the direction the bud was pointing. This method of pruning will allow you to direct the new growth in the direction you want it to grow. Whatever you do, you won't be making a permanent mistake, pruning is just a learning experience.

Happy New Year

Teresa Diehl

January 2023



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## January Notes from Sandy B –

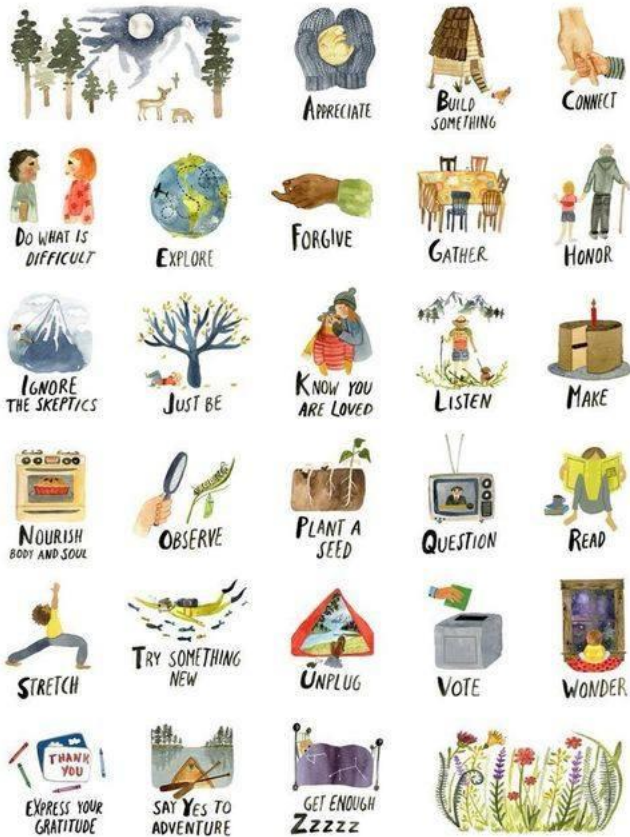
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HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL! May 2023 be a year of peace, love, prosperity and great health for you and yours!

Love, Sandy Bindel



## Greetings from Gretchen



### HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I hope this finds you all safe, warm, healthy and happy! As we look ahead to 2023, I found this Alphabet from artist Lori Roberts to be a form of resolution to aspire to. It is my hope that you will set goals that include sharing your gifts, talents and knowledge with others through acts of service to our group and other organizations that strive to improve the world around us. Thank you for all you do to improve the world around you! You are a blessing!

### PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY

Emeritus ACMGV Jacqueline Fritz died on Tuesday, December 27. Her funeral service is to be held on January 2 in Delphos.

Although Jacqui's health limited her ability to volunteer in recent years, she stayed in touch and we miss her sense of humor and happy smile.

Rest in Peace, Jacqui! God Bless You.

### LOOKING AHEAD

My work continues to finalize speakers for the Art of Gardening. Please mark your calendars for Saturday, March 18. We'll need your help to have another successful conference. Watch your emails mid-month for more information!

~Gretchen

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## Happenings from Kay

Kay is "In hibernation" and wishes everyone all the best in the New Year of 2023..

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