



# Digging It!



All the Dirt from the Allen County Master Gardeners

JULY 2022

## Notes from Joanne

~ Allen Co. OSU Master Gardener Coordinator

This summer is just flying by. I don't recall watering my garden and pots so often for several years. We could really use some rain and some milder temperatures. I hope everyone has had a safe and happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

Be sure to check your email. I sent two important emails on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. The first was to order a name badge if you need one. I will take orders until July 6<sup>th</sup>. The second was very important and it requires you to respond with a vote on our involvement in the Christmas Tree Festival. If you have already responded, I have your vote, but about half of the volunteers have not yet responded. For those who have not yet replied, please send me your vote or comments on this very important project. Even if you wish to refrain or do not have a preference, please let me know. I would like to see everyone vote and I need see how many people might be willing to help.

Sandy Bindel has set us up with some very interesting meetings so far this year. Be sure to read her section below for some changes for July.

Don't forget we have workday every Tuesday morning and Brown Bag at 12:15 pm. Thank you to everyone who has hung with us through some very hot and dry days. I really appreciate your help!

**Joanne Rex**



## Tidbits from Teresa

*Foliage is just as important as flowers in a garden. It is the backbone and structure around which everything revolves. Foliage provides interest in its own right and variegated foliage is the eye grabber in the foliage field. Variegation can come in many colors and shades from pure white to deep burgundy. The green parts of a plant contain the chlorophyll which transforms sun's energy into sugars for growth so there are no pure white plants for this reason. Yellow has an underlying hint of green as does purple. Some purple leaved plants revert to green in shady, low sun spots.*

*There are two kinds of variegated silver leaves, those who are really silver like cyclamens, lamium and pulmonaria and the silver look-alikes that are covered with fine white hairs giving them a silver appearance like lamb's ears. These have developed hairs to cope with hot dry conditions and do best in sun.*

*Variegated foliage has many uses: brighten dark corners, unite a planting scheme by combining colors, and define neighboring plants. They can also add light and texture to a solid green mass, provide color and pattern over a long period and don't rely on the presence of blooms. My favorite pot combo combines deep purple and bright chartreuse and looks great without blooms. Some variegation is delicate and best viewed up close and other boldly variegated plants stand out from a distance.*

*Variegated plants start out as random seedlings, "sports" or mutant shoots on an otherwise green plant. Some are virus-induced, the same way the streaked colors of "Bizarre" tulips come from a harmless virus. In red or purple plants the chlorophyll is masked by anthocyanins, in yellow and white the cells that hold the chlorophyll are absent or imperfect. Variegated plants are often weaker and have fewer blooms than their all green counterparts. The all green bishop's weed we have trouble with in the Children's garden is much more invasive than the variegated version. Shelter is more important for variegated plants, especially thin leaved yellow and white variegation as the sun and wind will brown their edges. Reversion is when you get all green shoots on a variegated plant. These shoots make the plant healthier and more robust but can eventually overwhelm the variegated shoots and should be cut out as soon as you see them.*

*Many variegated "sports" of hosta varieties need to be propagated vegetatively, and some need to be cloned to keep the trait of the original sport. The intensity of the leaf color is affected by how much light is available. Generally, variegated rue and certain hostas tolerate more sun than their all green sisters. Purple, maroon and yellow variegated leaves do best in full sun. White or cream tend to prefer shade and if a plant is happy in sun or shade, variegation tends to be sharper in sun. In dry soil the leaves are smaller and more compact. The sun/shade issue is a grey one, if it is happy where it is, leave it be and unhappy find a new spot for it. Guess that is true for us humans too!*

**Teresa Diehl**

**July 2022**



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## July Notes from Sandy B –

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### July Meeting of ACMGV

I'm still marveling at the lettuce-growing operation of the Kaufman family in Ottawa! Thank you to all who attended on that VERY hot evening. Turn-out was great! I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did! Bryan and family were so gracious, inviting, and informational. I enjoy a Kewpee even more these days!

Thank you, Teresa for suggesting this venue.

For our July meeting, we are having our annual picnic in the garden. The date is Tuesday, July 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. Bring a chair and a dish to contribute (salad, side, or dessert). Chicken, serving ware and drinks provided.

Heads-up; our August meeting is another "road trip" that I think everyone will find very interesting: Hint-Marge Lafollette has arranged it and we will be traveling to Hardin County!

Sandy Bindel



#### TO ALL WHO HAVE SERVED

Taking a moment this weekend to honor and remember our fellow Master Gardener Volunteers who have served our country!

Several of our current members are Veterans and many of our former members were too. We owe them our gratitude and respect! Thank You!

#### HOT AND DRY

There's just no substitution for a good, soaking rain. In spite of the irrigation system at the garden, it is a challenge to keep our plants, both in pots and in the ground, green and growing in these conditions. If you are in need of volunteer hours, please consider reaching out Joanne for quick

refresher about hooking up the hose to the irrigation system and volunteer for a time to add supplemental water to the containers and "hot spots" at the garden.

#### WEATHER PERMITTING

It's the time of year when I end up working extra days at my day job due to vacation coverage. Weather permitting (still hoping for rain next Tuesday, July 5), I am planning to work on Tuesday evening from around 5:30 to around 7:30 p.m. If that works better for your schedule too, feel free to join me. If the weather looks iffy – shoot me a text to be sure we're working!

~ Gretchen Staley, President



## *Happenings from Kay*

### **TOO WET - TOO DRY**

How soon we forget how much rain we had in May. In fact, it was the wettest May on record for the past 128 years! Totals from the Allen County Airport and from meteorologist Adam Musyt WLIO TV stated we had a total of 6.3 inches, twice the normal average of 3.3 inches of rainfall.

However, this month the rainfall has only amounted to 2 inches, 1.5 inches below the monthly average. Allen County (68.8 %) is classified as *abnormally dry*, not in drought conditions yet.

Hopefully we will receive some much-needed rain this coming week. Until then, keep on watering!



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<https://www.freepik.com/free-photos-vectors/rain-garden/3>

<http://clipart-library.com/dry-weather-cliparts.html>