



# Digging It!



All the Dirt from the Allen County Master Gardeners

JULY 2023

## *Notes from Nic*

~ Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator

I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying their summer! It is crazy for me to think that I have been on the job for six months already. I want to thank you all for welcoming me into the Master Gardener Volunteers family. It has been great to work alongside you and I look forward to continuing to do so. I am excited for the direction we are heading, one of which is to offer more educational programming for the community as well as yourselves.

One item that I discussed with the board when I first started was that I wanted to see us have clear communication with one another. I want to extend that message to everyone. Please be sure to keep everyone informed as you work on things for the betterment of the group. This allows us to know what is going on and allows us to answer questions more effectively in the office. This also applies to projects at the garden. Please communicate with Joanne and me before making any major decisions at the garden, especially when there may be a cost involved. This will ensure that there may not already be plans in place to address an issue and we are not working against each other.

I have a new site where I post information about agriculture, natural resources and horticulture. The site is <https://u.osu.edu/allenanr/>. I would encourage you to subscribe to it as you will receive a weekly email on Fridays with the information I post there. On the site, you will find information about two upcoming programs. These programs were the ones I talked about at a meeting a few months back that I wanted to do that would be geared more in depth and hands on. The first one coming up is Walk Among Native Plants which will be out at Kendrick Woods where Cadence Richard will give a short talk and then we will explore the Kiracofe Prairie. The other program is a bee keeping program that will be led by Robert and Denise Woodruff. There is full information about the Walk Among Native Plants program and information about the bee program will be coming soon



*Master Gardener Associate/Coordinator Joanne*

I hope that everyone is enjoying their summer because it seems to be going fast. Just a couple of things that I wanted to cover with everyone who missed the last couple of meetings.

Logging Your Hours. If you have mastered how to log your hours in the Hands on Connect, keep it up. If you struggle and would like for me to log your hours at the end of the year, I am more than happy to do so. I realize the new system has some glitches. I have provided a log sheet for you to record your hours. I am no longer able to log in volunteer hours or education hours without putting them into categories. For example, I need to know how many of your volunteer hours were for the Children's Garden, Plant Sale, Christmas Tree Festival etc. I cannot just log "Volunteer Hours". I need a more specific area that you either worked in or received your education hours from. If you prefer, I will total the hours on the log and add them all up if it is easier for you. The log sheets are in the shed under the window in a rack. Please take one or two when you are volunteering at the garden. The log sheets give instructions and category examples for you to use.

Garden Work. Please try to volunteer your time on Tuesday mornings to help at the garden. Either Nic or I will be there by 9 am on Tuesdays. Also watch for emails from Gretchen. Her work schedule has changed during the summer, and she will notify you if she is there in the evening or weekend. This changes from week to week with her schedule, so keep an eye on the emails. Please consider helping. We could use the extra help to battle these weeds.

### Helpful Links.

**Hands On Connect** – to log your hours <https://mgvolunteers.osu.edu/>

Log in red button on top right. Under that is the Help button with useful information if you get stuck.

**Online Education – Hort Happy Hour and Lunch and Learn recordings.**

<https://mastergardener.osu.edu/HortWebinars>

A huge thank you to everyone who has been working hard at the garden and coming to the meetings. Your involvement is greatly appreciated! We could not continue this program without your help.



## *Tidbits from Teresa*

Continuing on the weed theme, here are some tidbits about wild mustard, *Sinapis arvensis*. It is a native of Eurasia and came to North America in the 1700's. It is the same species as cabbage, kale and broccoli. Wild mustard is an opportunistic plant that thrives where human activity disturbs the soil. All parts are edible. They can be annuals or biennials depending on weather conditions. Flowers of wild mustard are a prime source of pollen and nectar. Mustard relatives, rape seed and radish are used as a cover crop to prevent erosion, suppress weeds and soil borne pests and to alleviate soil compaction. Its deep roots break up heavy clay soils and provide channels for air and water. Wild mustard grows best and is most competitive on clay soils and it is very responsive to Nitrogen application. It produces 2000-3500 seeds per plant. It has made the Ohio noxious weed list, one of 21.

My brother-in-law gave me some sweet onion plants and now we are in deadly competition over the best onions! He has a head start as he plants over 200 plants each year. The bulbs (called sets), can be planted as soon as you can work the soil and the plants can be planted up till early June. Onions benefit from compost, manure or a balanced fertilizer worked into the soil pre-planting and side dressed during growth. Plant 4 to 5 inches apart and provide 1 inch of water per week. If you keep your onions watered and weeded they require little else. I plant my white onion sets closer and thin them out for use as green onions. The tops will fall over

and the bulbs develop a papery skin when they are ready to harvest. Leave them in the ground for a few more days then pull them and let them dry in a warm airy place out of sun and rain for a couple weeks. Old screens work well to make sure they get air on all sides. My brother-in-law sent a picture of his 33 inch scapes today, so as soon as the rain stops I'm getting out there with a measuring tape on mine!

"Adopt the pace of nature: her secret is patience." Ralph Waldo Emerson

Teresa Diehl

July 2023



---

## July Notes from Sandy B –

---

The month of July brings forth DAYLILIES!!!! Our monthly meeting will be held at the home and garden of a local expert. Phil Valentine possesses a wealth of knowledge about this diverse plant. He is excited to host us on:

Tuesday, July 18th at 6:30 pm

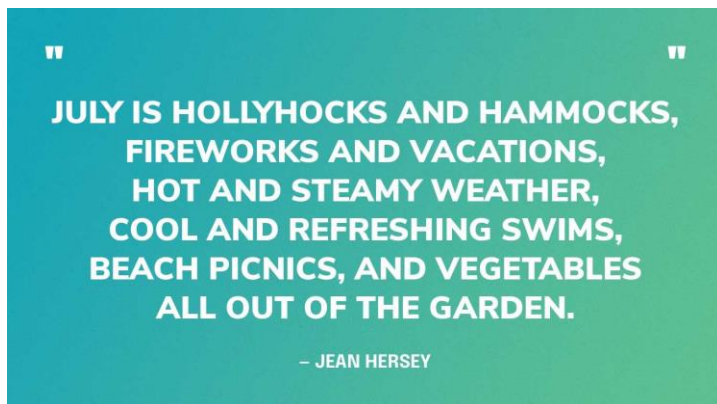
16295 Nottingham Drive, Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Bring a chair and a guest, if you like. He will have some daylilies available for purchase.

Directions: Route 198 north of Wapakoneta (1/2 mile north of the water tower and Grandview Plaza). Turn west onto Infirmary Road. Nottingham Drive is first road on the left.

I want to extend a thank you to Roxanna Shoffstall for hosting us last month. It's fun to see how our members garden in their personal spaces. Roxanna knocks it out of the park!!

Sandy Bindel



### HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!

I hope you are able to enjoy the holiday with your friends and loved ones! I hope that you take the chance to be grateful for the blessings of freedom that we enjoy! I hope this finds you all well and enjoying the gardening season!

Since we are spending Tuesday enjoying the holiday, we will not have a work day or Brown Bag this first week, but that doesn't mean that there's not work to be done! I am

going to be at the garden on Saturday, July 8 starting at 9 a.m. to continue to focus work efforts on targeted areas so that we can continue getting mulch down in the flower beds. Please join me!

TUESDAY EVENING WORK NIGHT ADDITION

Tim and I will be at the garden on Tuesday, July 11 at around 5 p.m. to give a chance for those of you who need hours but can't make Tuesday mornings work for you. I work that day myself so I will be jumping into my gardening gear and heading to Lima, too. Hope to see you!

THANKFUL FOR FRIENDS OF THE GARDEN

Special thanks to Dennis Fritchie, the former owner of Fritchie Asphalt, who worked together with his contacts to fix the spot at the start of the Lincoln Highway where a tree root had created a trip hazard! We are so blessed to have good friends who care about the work we do to make Lima a better place! While they were there they filled in a couple of those nasty potholes in the Museum parking lot! Such a blessing!

VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE SIGN UP

As I have mentioned at the last two meetings, it is time to update our committee listings. Our last sign up was pre-Covid and then of course we were sidelined from a lot of our projects and educational programming. Nic Baumer hasn't had the chance to meet you all yet or to learn your skills and interests so signing up for the committees will be a great way to help him get to know you and to know who to reach out to when help is needed – which is all the time! I have put together a Google Form that will be emailed to you. It's super easy to sign up for 2 committees and reply.

Just a note – if you don't reply, you'll be added to committees by us.... Just so you know. 😊

~ Gretchen Staley, President



*Happenings from Kay*

We hope Kay is enjoying her summer.