



Digging It!



All the Dirt from the Allen County Master Gardeners

JUNE 2022

Notes from Joanne

A big thank you to everyone who has been working in the garden! We will continue to work on Tuesday mornings starting around 9 am. We will take a break and enjoy the Brown Bag Lunch Series each Tuesday, and if you wish to continue to work, I will stay longer. If you would like to work on your own schedule, I will try to keep a Things to Do List posted on the inside door of the shed. You may also pick any area of your choosing to weed, thin, or clean up that you wish.

I will be taking orders for name tags at the next meeting. If you would like to order a replacement name tag, the cost will be \$5.50 each. These name tags will have the magnetic fasteners.

Sandy Bindel is doing a Hands-on Habitat Children’s Class on June 9th at 7 pm at the garden if you are willing to lend a hand, please let me know. This is a fun activity, and the kids all love it. You will have fun if you can volunteer that evening.

Thanks again for all that you do!

Joanne Rex



Tidbits from Teresa

It is tool time! Tools can make our gardening experience so much easier and more enjoyable so I thought I’d share some of my favorites. It is a good idea to head out the door with having had a tetanus shot previously. Tetanus is a common bacterium (*Clostridium tetani*) in the soil. Its’ spores are found in soil, most frequently in cultivated soil. A third of tetanus infections occur while gardening. Of course, your arm might be sore for a few days, sidelining your gardening, but that beats dealing with a debilitating infection.

Next, arm yourself with sunscreen, garden gloves, a hat, and sunglasses (eyes can get sunburn). I have gotten poison ivy much less frequently since I always wear gloves. Some “must have” gardening

accessories for me are my Felco pruners and my soil knife. I have 8 or 9 pruners in my supplies but none of them work as well as the Felcos. Luckily, I found them in a 50 cent box at a garage sale, since they are pricey, but worth it. I have two hoes I use, a regular hoe, especially valuable in the vegetable garden and a flat razor-like one that works well on weed seedlings.

My gas tools are being replaced by battery ones because of the ease of start-up, lighter weight and instant on/off features. I have trouble starting the gas mower and weed eater so now I don't need to call for help to start them. I have recently started using battery pruners and that eliminates dragging a cord to the far flung areas of our property. Many areas were too far for the cord use anyway. Another awesome battery addition is a battery sprayer. No need to pump the plunger, and a greater degree of control of the area of spray. All of these tools have rechargeable batteries. Note that leaving these batteries on the charger after a full charge for extended periods of time can decrease battery life.

Most tools have height adjustments so they can be fitted to your size and saves on backaches. My battery push mower is not as powerful as the gas one but works well for hard to reach areas that my big mower can't get to and I don't leave a wandering stripe on the mowed lawn. Aside from my power tools, I rely on a large garden cart that I pull along with me as I weed or prune. It also carries my hand tools. I like a small shovel for transplanting or digging up undesirables. When you see me at the garden or at our meetings, please share your favorites with me. With the right tool, gardening tasks can be even more enjoyable and you can have more time to "Smell the Roses!"

The Brown Bag series will start on June 7th and we have a great line-up for 2022. Many thanks to our MGVs who volunteered to present a program.

Teresa Diehl

June 2022



June Notes from Sandy B -

June 2022 MGV Meeting

Who hasn't had a Kewpee hamburger? That's what I thought, NOBODY from Lima! For our June meeting, we are on the road to Putnam County to visit the source of the bibb lettuce we enjoy on our Kewpee hamburgers.

Brian Kaufman of Kaufman Hydroponics has graciously agreed to show us around his family's operation. The date is Tuesday, June 21 at 6:30 pm. Please bring a chair. Brian has also requested that we NOT wear clothing that has been worn in our own gardens that day. This is to lessen the chance of contamination of his crop. So please wear something freshly laundered!

The address is: 12262 Road O, Ottawa, OH 45875

Sandy Bindel



Greetings from Gretchen



THANKS FOR YOUR HARD WORK!

Thanks to so many of you, we are off to a good start at the Children’s Garden! The wet spring certainly let the weeds get way ahead of us and thankfully we are really seeing some progress now!

There’s still plenty that needs accomplished, so we hope you’ll commit to a couple hours a week to help! You’re the best!

FUN MEETINGS!

Special thanks to VP Sandy Bindel for scheduling such fun and informative meeting locations for us! Thanks to Chris Fetzer and Tom Sciranka for your very informative tour of the Arboretum at the Ottawa Metro Park! We really learned a lot. This month’s meeting at Kaufman’s is sure to be interesting as well! Can’t wait to see you there!

GET WELL SOON!

Our list of walking wounded continues as we wish Tom Sciranka well and quick recovery from his upcoming surgery. Prayers continue for quick and full recoveries for Harriet Johnson, Marge Lafollate and Mary Payne!

~ Gretchen Staley, President



Happenings from Kay

Dawes Arboretum

The Dawes Arboretum is located in Newark, about 30 miles east of Columbus.

It includes nearly 2000 acres of plant collections, gardens and natural areas. The site has 12 miles of hiking trails and a roadway for a four mile driving tour.

They just opened a new exhibit “**Avian Avatars**” on May 27. It consists of six monumental sculptures from the artists The Myth Makers, Donna Dodson and Andy Moerlein. *Bamboo birds*, some standing over 20 feet tall, are all made from natural materials. The sculptures are site specific and are meant to slowly disappear into nature over the course of their life.

If you’re looking for a day trip this summer, this is definitely worth seeing. Here are pictures of two of the sculptures, the owl and woodpecker.



Submitted by Kay Studer