



# Digging It!



All the Dirt from the Allen County Master Gardeners

JUNE 2023

## *Notes from Joanne and Nic*



### Tidbits from Teresa

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Since May and June seem to be filled with weed pulling, I will highlight a couple we are seeing this season. Bedstraw, aka Cleavers, or Stickywilly (*Galium aparine*) is a fast-growing plant in the Madder family and a native. It is not picky where it grows and is a garden pest. It causes problems in crops during harvesting when it becomes tangled with the crop or equipment. It supposedly has medicinal uses. The dried and roasted fruits can be used to make a coffee substitute (same family as coffee). The young leaves can be eaten or cooked. The leaves and stems adhere to clothing and animal fur, the name cleavers. Because they don't mat down easily the pioneers used them as a mattress filler, the name bedstraw. Seeds germinate early in spring and they can grow as tall as 6 feet but are not upright so they cling to other vegetation for support. They flower in early spring and are pollinated by flies or beetles and the fruit is burred for easy dispersal. Each plant produces 300-400 or more seeds. They are easy to pull but the roots usually remain in the soil and can grow again.

*Lamium amplexicaule*, known as henbit, is native to Europe, Asia and N. Africa. It is a low growing 4-12" tall with soft fine hairy stems. The leaves are opposite, rounded with a lobed margin. They can play intermediary host to a few baddies including tomato spotted wilt virus but on the plus side they are great early food sources for bumble bees and other native bees and pollinators. They are edible and are said to be high in antioxidants. They are in the *Lamium* family, the same family as mint. Chickens and ducks love it, hence the name henbit! They reproduce solely by seed, and each plant can produce 2000 or more seeds. They pull easily so they are not as much an issue as other weeds.

Another nemesis I ran into this year was the Cedar-apple rust. This disease is caused by a fungus that affects both apples and certain species of juniper and red cedar. It cannot spread from apple to apple, or cedar to cedar but needs both to alternate between the two. In spring the juniper or cedar produces fruiting bodies that look like little orange octopi (weird looking) that produce the spores that are blown up to 3 miles to the apple (or other members of the Rosacea family, i.e. other fruit trees and crabapples). The spores infect the leaves and fruit, causing spotting and leaf and apple drop. The

spores then blow back to the cedar and the cycle continues. It will show up on the apple leaf as spots orangey-rust colored with black dots. I have a red cedar (the only evergreen native to NW Ohio) that is close to my apple and pear trees so I have that issue. I didn't account for the red cedar that was native to our property. Years ago I planted a Hawthorn (Roseacea family) close to a juniper and it ended up with apple-cedar rust. Ortho suggests you spray the apples with a fungicide with zineb or ferbam, before the fact, once you see the spots it is too late for that year. They say not to plant apple trees within several hundred yards of a juniper or red cedar. Some varieties are more susceptible and the red cedar, apple and crabapple are among that list. I recommend "Ortho Home Gardener's Problem Solver" book as an excellent source for info.

Our Brown Bag series begins June 6<sup>th</sup> and we have a full roster of half hour topics every Tuesday through August. Come, bring your lunch and learn from 12:15 to 12:45.

Teresa Diehl

June 2023



**Galium aparine or Bedstraw**



**Laminum amplexicaule or Henbit**



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## June Notes from Sandy B –

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### June 2023 MGV Meeting

For our June meeting we will be traveling to Roxanna and Kenny Shoffstall's farm. It's a bit of a hike, but I'm sure we will enjoy their hospitality. I also hear that Roxanna has a very interesting story to tell about how SHE dug their garden pond!

The meeting is Tuesday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. Bring a chair. Guests welcome. Directions: Either Route 33 east out of Wapak to Route 65 south. Or take 65 south from Lima. Route 65 south then gets you to St. Rte. 720.

Turn left (east). The destination is just past Santa Fe on the left. It's the big white house, NOT the brick house!  
For you GPS, the address is: 15524 St. Rte. 720, Lakeview, OH 43331

Sandy Bindel



## Greetings from Gretchen



### HOT AND DRY MAKES FOR GROUCHY GARDENERS

I don't know about you but trying to keep young plants happy in these hot, dry and windy conditions isn't my favorite thing. At home it's been a daily event of watering pots by hand and running sprinklers around the landscape.

At the Children's Garden, the irrigation is set to run nightly but it's a struggle to get enough water into the large containers.

We could really use your help to check the containers and supplement the water. We try to give them a deep soak each Tuesday but they need an extra eye by the weekend all summer, and every other day during this weather.

If you can give 30 minutes to an hour of your time, please help out!

### MORE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Nic has been busy getting the Master Gardener program back up to speed with educational opportunities in the community! Just the leadership we've been waiting for!

Now it's our chance to expand our own comfort zones and get back to sharing our knowledge and skills in the community. It's our mission and it's what we trained for!

Two immediate opportunities are coming up with Hands on Habitats happening this week and the Delphos Farmer's Market on June 22. If you need more information on either event reach out to Sandy Bindel for Hands on Habitat or Nic Baumer regarding Delphos Farmer's Market. Thanks in advance!

### THANKS FOR A GREAT PLANT SALE

We had another successful Plant Sale thanks to all of you! Special thanks to those who brought such healthy plants and a wide selection of items! Thanks, too, to those who were able to help! The community loves interacting with you at the sale and you did a great job representing the best of what the Master Gardener Volunteer program has to offer! Great work, Team!

~ Gretchen Staley, President



## *Happenings from Kay*

### **PEONIES**

I'm sharing some photos of my peony blooms for a little color this month. Peonies symbolize bashfulness or good luck, while in China and Japan the blooms mean wealth, honor and fortune. Peony flowers are also said to represent compassion, making them a strong choice for many looking for sympathy bouquets.





*I was shocked to learn of Vi Scheele's passing. Several months ago, Vi had contacted me about a song that she heard at my church and wanted to know the name of it and if she could purchase one of our Welsh hymnals. I had no idea what song she was referring to, so she sang the melody to me. Yes, I found the song and the hymnal, and it's being played at her funeral on Saturday. Good memories of Vi and that crazy, cackle, laugh of hers.*

**Submitted by Kay Studer**