



Digging It!



All the Dirt from the Allen County Master Gardeners

MARCH 2022

Notes from Joanne

I hope that everyone is doing well. We are starting to see a few warmer days and more hours of sun, a great reminder that Spring is coming. It can't come soon enough for me.

Just a few reminders for this month:

- March 16th 1 pm to 3 pm we will need help stuffing seminar bags. We will be meeting at the Allen Co Fairgrounds in the Youth Activities Building in the Red Cross Room. This is the same room that we worked on greenery. Come in the main gate off SR 309.
- March 18th 3 pm to 5 pm we will need help setting the room up for the seminar. Same room as before at the OSU/Rhodes Campus.
- March 19th – Seminar! We will need help before, during, and after. We hope that everyone will be able to attend and donate a food item or help in some way. Everything that you can do is appreciated.

Any work that you do for the seminar will be considered as Volunteer Hours and the Seminar also counts as 6 hours of continuing education. You do not need to notify me that you can help, just show up!

I was able to offer old members who have been on inactive status for several years an opportunity to become active again. They must complete some additional training, retake the final exam, and get a new background check to become active. I have a few who are interested, so if you see some old members, please welcome them back again. They will be a great asset, and we are glad to have them.

See you at the Seminar!

Joanne



Tidbits from Teresa

Apples are not indigenous to North America. They originated in Central Asia mainly in Kazakhstan and have been grown in Asia and Europe for thousands of years. The former capital of Kazakhstan, Alma-Ata, literally means “Father of Apples.” By 1500 BCE apple seeds had been transported throughout Europe by the Romans and were eventually brought to North America by European colonists.

About 750,000 years ago early Paleolithic food gatherers in modern Kazakhstan discovered sour crab apples growing wild. 8000 years ago Neolithic farmers in Asia cultivated wild apples and by 1300 BC Egyptians began planting orchards along the Nile Delta. By 800 BC Ancient Greeks had learned grafting techniques, in 200 BC Romans planted apple orchards in Britain, and between 1500 and 1600 Spaniards brought apples to Mexico and South America.

Apples have been revered by cultures around the world as symbols of love, beauty and wisdom. Gaia (Mother Earth) presented an apple tree to Zeus and Hera as a wedding gift. An apple with the inscription "For the Fairest" was pursued by 3 goddesses. To end the dispute over it, Paris, a mortal, picked Aphrodite from the three. According to Greek legend this eventually led to the Trojan War. To the Iroquois the apple tree is the Central Tree of Life and in the Bible it was regarded as the Tree of Knowledge and Immortality.

Johnny Appleseed, aka John Chapman was born 9-26-1774 in Massachusetts and died in 1845 near Fort Wayne. He was an American missionary nurseryman of the frontier who supplied apple tree nursery stock throughout the Midwest. He expected to make a profit from the sale of his seedlings. Around 1800 he started collecting apple seeds from cider presses in W. Pennsylvania. He then traveled West planting apple nurseries from the Alleghenies to central Ohio and beyond.

He sold or gave away thousands of seedlings to pioneers whose apple orchards became a memorial to his missionary zeal.

His distinctive characteristics helped establish the myth. He was cheerful, devoted to the Bible, knew medicinal herbs and was in harmony with the Native Americans. His appearance was unforgettable, flowing hair under a mush pan, bare feet, ragged trousers and an old coffee sack over his shoulders with holes cut out for arms.

He was an owner of 1200 acres of planted land and died from exposure in 1845 but his legend lives on. According to local history, a tree, no longer standing, that was in front of the Shawnee Middle School was planted by Johnny. Our Children's Garden apple tree came from that tree. So Johnny Appleseed is now part of our own CG history.

As of today, there are only 20 days left before the first day of spring. Hope to see you all at the Spring Seminar as we start off another season.

Teresa Diehl

March 2022



Notes from Sandy B -

March 2022

Spring is within view and I, for one, am so excited! Looking forward to seeing long-time gardening friends and learning a ton at the seminar. See you there!

Sandy Bindel

Greetings from Gretchen



THE ART OF GARDENING!

Just wanted to give you an update as we prepare for the seminar!

We currently have some spaces available so for the few of you who have yet to register, please send your registration now!

Thank you to those who have reached out to Joanne and Roxanne regarding donations for the breakfast and snacks! We know how much our guests LOVE your food!

We will be reaching out to some of you directly in the coming week for assistance in specific areas of the

event.

If we don't reach out to you personally, please be prepared to arrive early and stay late after the event for set up and clean up! Throughout the day, remember that as an ACMGV you are personally a host of the event and ask leaders how you can help and make sure to be welcoming and hospitable to our guests.

I have missed seeing your smiling faces! I can't wait to see you again at the Art of Gardening!

~ Gretchen Staley, President

Happenings from Kay

Submitted by Kay Studer



Kayla's Greenhouse

If you haven't traveled on Cole Street this winter, you've missed the construction happening at Kayla's Greenhouse. The greenhouse located at 1745 North Cole St. has undergone some dramatic changes. Several greenhouses were torn down and replaced with new ones, adding an additional 10,000 square feet of growing space. The parking lot was also expanded to accommodate more vehicles and entrance and exits into the greenhouse will be changed.

Kayla will have over 7500 hanging baskets and 10,000 geraniums in 30 different colors for sale. She's excited to offer new things this year including roses, hydrangeas, lilacs and other woody ornamentals along with many new varieties of succulents and other annuals.

Mark your calendar, **Opening Day will be April 18th!**