



Digging It!



All the Dirt from the Allen County Master Gardeners

MAY 2022

Notes from Joanne

It's Spring!! I know it officially happened awhile back, but it is finally starting to look and feel like Spring. The garden will officially be open for the 2022 season when you read this. I really appreciate all the help getting set up. Don't forget we will be having our Plant Sale on Saturday, May 14th. We would love to have donations from your garden. Be sure to take as many pots as you want from the stash located along the wall by the steps in the shed. Extra labels will be on the table under the window. Thank you so much for any donations and time spent working the Plant Sale.

We have several new interns that completed their training last fall and are ready to help around the garden. They are very eager to help and will be full of questions. Please work with them and show them around as they put in their first-year hours. They will need your assistance to help complete their required hours.

Please consider helping with the Brown Bag Lunch Series. Teresa is looking for volunteers. Please let her know if you can speak at a session. We had a good crowd every week last year. Gardening is a hot topic right now, and anything that you talk about will be well received.

Please keep an eye open for emails throughout the month with important information. Thank you for all that you do! Your support this Spring and Summer is greatly appreciated.

Joanne



Tidbits from Teresa

Spring 2022 is here and we are starting a new Master Gardener Volunteer season. Since I will be chairing the Brown Bag, I am looking for volunteers to share their knowledge, newly acquired or on your favorite topic. Please let me know if you can present any Tuesdays from June through August (12:15 to 12:45). This is a good opportunity for hours and learning more about a topic you are interested in.

My daughter brought me Calla Lilies for Easter, and voila, I found my topic for May! Calla lilies have meanings that stretch back to Ancient Greece. The name is Greek for beautiful, which is

why the goddess Venus, supposedly out of jealousy, cursed the flower with an unsightly pistil. Traditionally it is a symbol of marital bliss and devotion, making it a choice for bridal bouquets.

The Calla Lily is native to South Africa and in some areas it is considered a food source when cooked. In the African wetlands, the plant can grow as high as six feet and despite being prized by us, callas are considered weeds in Africa and some zone 8-10 areas.

Zantedeschia is a genus of 8 species, not a true member of the lily family but a rhizome like cannas or dahlias. They are long lasting as a cut flower. They are zone 8-10 perennials so are treated as annuals in zone 5 but can be overwintered if you bring it in before the first frost. You can allow it to go dormant by reducing the water in November, cut off the dead leaves at soil level. It is best to store the rhizome in peat moss in an area no cooler than 45 degrees. In March, slowly start watering and don't bring outside until later in May.

Calla lilies can also be kept indoors year round, keeping soil moist but not soggy, in bright indirect light and apply fertilizer monthly while in flower. Keep away from heating and AC ducts. For indoor planting, plant 1 inch deep and 1-2 inches apart in a well-draining pot at least 10-12 inches in diameter. Brown foliage tips usually indicate overwatering. It is toxic to cats and dogs.

If you choose to plant the rhizomes outdoors, planting is a little different. Choose rhizomes that are firm and plump, and in our zone they do well in at least part sun. Plant when the soil is at least 65 degrees, 4 inches deep and 12 inches apart. Water well the first couple weeks until you see growth. Fertilize throughout the growing season. Calla lily colors run the gamut except true blue and several bi-colors are available.

Teresa Diehl

May 2022



May Notes from Sandy B -

May 2022 meeting

The Johnny Appleseed Park District is celebrating 50 years in existence this year. Great cause for celebration! We are so fortunate to have this wonderful entity here in Allen County, Ohio!

To mark this momentous occasion, the Park District has planted 50 new trees in the Evans Arboretum. This arboretum is located on the campgrounds of Ottawa Metro Park in Bath Township. I discovered this delightful addition to the parks about two years ago when my husband and I were riding our bikes on the bike path. Each of the initial trees planted has significant historical ties to the past. I was truly impressed! The 50 recently planted trees come with a QR code to enable the observer to learn more about it.

Our own Chris Fetzter, volunteer coordinator for the parks, has arranged for us to have our May meeting at this location. She will give a brief tutorial about the arboretum and then we will be able to wander the grounds to learn more if we like.

The meeting is Tuesday, May 17th at 6:30 in the Wyandot Shelter. The address is 2532 Ada Road (near the park office and Teddy Bear Park). Bring a chair and your smart device so that you may access the QR codes, if you desire.

This should be a fantastic learning experience! Thank you, Chris!

Sandy Bindel



Greetings from Gretchen

PLANT SALE REMINDERS

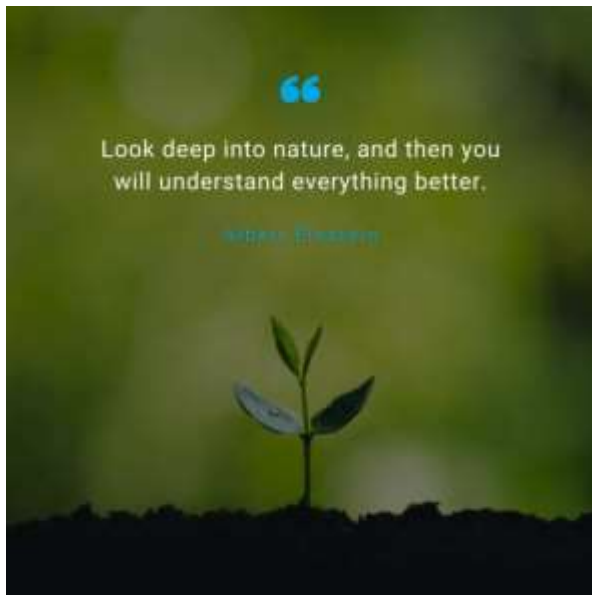
As we look ahead to the upcoming Plant Sale, here are a couple reminders to make the sale successful:

Plants cannot and will not be sold without labels. Do your best to be as accurate as possible when labeling your plants. Consider how disappointed our shoppers will be pay for a plant they don't want.

There are extra labels and pots in the shed at the garden if you need them.

Plants are priced by the size of the pot. If you have something precious that you think deserves a top price, put it in a larger pot.

Our goal is to receive a minimum of 10 plants from each ACMGV.



Those volunteering during the event, please freely share your knowledge to talk with and welcome our customers/guests.

Please don't bring plants that are on the invasive plant list. If you aren't familiar with the list check out the web list: <https://agri.ohio.gov/divisions/plant-health/invasive-pests/invasive-plants>

The plant sale funds the purchase of plants and supplies for the Children's Garden. If you don't have plants to share please consider making a cash deposit.

Thanks in advance for making the Plant Sale a success!

REGARDS FROM OUR FRIEND IN FLORIDA

Gayle Edwards, former ACMGV and donor of the Gazebo, sends her best wishes and gratitude to you all! She is so grateful for your continued dedication to keeping the Children's Garden a treasure in Lima. She included a generous donation to help us continue our efforts!

A LITTLE COLD, A LITTLE WET, A GREAT GROUP OF TROUPERS!

Thanks to all who came out to clean up the garden and unpack the shed on Saturday! We got a great start and are looking forward to warmer, brighter days together soon! Special shout out to the husbands, son and grandkids who joined in to help! We appreciate you!

~ *Gretchen Staley, President*



Happenings from Kay

DEATH TO THE BRADFORD PEAR!

Yes, last month I was complaining about removing trees, and this month I want you to cut them down! Yes, cut them down.....all the Bradford Pears. Ohio has now put them on the invasive species list. To see hundreds of invasive trees, check out the fields behind The Dollar Store on N. Cole St., just north of Kayla's Greenhouse. Please log on to the following link for more information.

Kansas biologists are poisoning invasive trees to save birds and butterflies |

<https://www.kcur.org/news/2022-04-12/in-johnson-county-biologists-are-poisoning-trees-to-save-birds-and-butterflies>

Submitted by Kay Studer

