



Digging It!



All the Dirt from the Allen County Master Gardeners

MAY 2023

Notes from Joanne

I hope that everyone is having a good spring. How many of you are getting your exercise every day dragging your plants inside at night and out in the morning? I love getting everything early so I get the colors that I want, but it keeps me busy.

Workdays are starting on Tuesdays. We would appreciate everyone's help on Tuesdays to keep the garden looking good. We will start around 9:00 am. Either myself, Nic, or both of us will be there. Be on the lookout for an email when Gretchen starts bringing in all the annuals to plant. We will need lots of extra help to get everything potted. We usually like to have everything in good shape before the plant sale, but that will depend on this persistent frost we are still having.

Don't forget we will be having our Plant Sale on Saturday, May 20th. We would love to have lots of donations from your garden. Please start potting your donations ASAP, so they will be looking good on the 20th. 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 are also in the shed. Thank you so much for any donations and time spent working the Plant Sale. We will have a sign-up sheet for working the plant sale at our next meeting on the 16th. Please save the date for the sale. We will need lots of help!

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

How to spot a healthy plant at the garden center:

- **Vendor:** Look to see whether the majority of the plants seem healthy and well cared for.
- **Foliage:** Are the leaves green, shiny and lush? Stressed plants may not recover and may harbor pests and fungi.
- **Insects and Disease:** Closely inspect both the plant and the container for signs of insects or disease. Check both sides of the leaves and avoid plants with blackened areas, holes, spots, mushy areas and stickiness, webbing and distortions.
- **Shape:** Is it compact and full, with multiple stems?
- **Root system:** If the plant is root-bound and the roots are growing out of the bottom of the pot, the plant may be so stunted or stressed to recover. If there are very few roots and the plant pops out very easily, it was probably recently repotted and could use more time to be ready for the garden.
- **Root ball:** When buying a balled and burlapped tree or shrub, the root ball should feel solid. If it appears broken, there is a good chance the roots have had a chance to dry out and the plant will suffer.
- **Stem damage:** If the plant has a thick or woody stem, make sure there are no cracks or scars. Prior damage can weaken a plant or be an invitation for disease or insects.
- **Weeds:** Weeds in the pot are competing with the plant for nutrients. They also signal some neglect on the part of the nursery staff. We don't need any new weeds!
- **Buds or Flowers:** Although it is tempting to want to buy a plant that is already covered in flowers, plants in the bud stage will transplant and thrive better than plants in flower. Also a budded plant will give you a longer floral display.
- **Sometimes** you just decide to ignore all the above and nurture that ailing bargain or pick that Charlie Brown tree because you just had to have it!

Along those lines – in prepping plants for our May plant sale—

One to 3 weeks before our sale:

- 1) Use decent soil to fill in around the roots.
- 2) Give perennials a chance to settle in and grow some roots before the sale.
- 3) Water your transplants and keep them out of full sun.
- 4) Label, label, label....any unknown plants will be tossed.
- 5) Larger fuller plants present better than small specimens.
- 6) Don't bring plants that are invasive and will cause our buyers an issue.
- 7) If bringing houseplants make sure they are insect and disease free.

Old Spanish Proverb “More grows in the garden than the gardener sows.”

Teresa Diehl

May 2023



May 2023 meeting

For our May meeting we have an unexpected treat! Cadence Richard, a recent high school graduate, contacted Joanne to ask if she could address a meeting for a graduation project. Her presentation is entitled: Natural Landscaping and Ecology. This seems a natural “fit” for our group!

I asked her to submit a biography and she replied quickly:

“Hello, my name is Cadence Richard. I am a homeschooled senior. Natural Resources and environmental sciences has always been one of my passions, as I am a regular volunteer for Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District and a 10 year member of 4-H, completing a wide variety of natural resource projects. This year I am a representative of ODNR’s Conservation Teen Advisory Council or “CONTAC” for short. This fall I am attending Hocking College to start an Associate in Park and Museum education.”

This will be a nice opportunity for learning and experiencing the “cutting edge” of this important topic from a young person’s perspective.

The meeting is at The Children’s Garden

Tuesday May 16th at 6:30

Bring a chair (guests welcome)

Sandy Bindel

Greetings from Gretchen

HAPPY MAY!

I may be the only person around who is happy that the weather is cooler and hopefully people are not stripping the greenhouses like a plague of locusts far too soon!

It’s not so bad for those picking up a flat or two of annuals to bring them in and out until it’s actually time for planting, but being forced to buy early to “keep up with the Jones” and keep 20+ flats healthy, happy and warm for the Children’s Garden is a whole different ball game!

So, sorry folks, you won’t see me wringing my hands over the lows this week or next! 😊



PLANT SALE AHEAD!

Our Plant Sale is a huge fundraiser and very important to the beauty of the Children's Garden! All the money raised from the plant sale is used for purchasing plants for the garden!

As you are working in your garden; or helping with a family member or neighbor; or potting up starts that you've got growing well, please share some of those divisions and starts with us to sell at the plant sale!

We will have a fresh batch of plant labels at the garden shed this week. There is a nice supply of 4" pots and some previously used potting soil in the shed as well if you need supplies. Remember that NO PLANT can be sold without a label, so be sure to be prepared.

We will also have a huge amount of digging and dividing that needs done at the Children's Garden so your help in cleaning up beds and potting plants is vital these next 3 weeks!

Watch for an email from Joanne to sign up for Volunteer slots on the day of the sale, Saturday, May 20! This is a fun event to work since it attracts so many gardening lovers from the community! Thanks in advance for helping to make this event a success again this year!

~ Gretchen Staley, President



Happenings from Kay

EARTH DAY-ARBOR DAY-OHIO NATIVE PLANT MONTH

While everyone else was at the local greenhouses shopping for annuals, I made a stop at Dave McPheron's Star Farms, located south of Kenton. Dave has a great selection of native trees, shrubs, and perennials at very reasonable prices. The list of plants that I was picking up for my daughter soon grew almost double. I purchased seven different varieties of oaks, numerous shrubs, and couldn't leave without another bald cypress, my favorite.

A big thanks to Kayla's Greenhouse for allowing me to start plants for my grandson's 4-H project. Along with other 4-H members we grew Butterfly Weed (*Asclepius tuberosa*) Rose Milkweed (*Asclepius incarnate*) and Whorled Milkweed (*Asclepius verticillata*) to support the endangered monarch butterfly and encourage others in the community to plant native plants

and become part of the Pollinator Pathway. Yesterday, the kids gave away over 600 milkweed plants along with packets of native wildflower seeds in Granville. What a wonderful project!



Submitted by Kay Studer

