



Digging It!



All the Dirt from the Allen County Master Gardeners

OCTOBER 2021

Notes from Joanne

~ Allen County Master Gardener Volunteers ~

Fall is here and we are getting ready to close the garden soon. It is so hard to believe. It seems we were just unpacking a few short weeks ago. It has flown by this summer, and it has been so enjoyable to support all your efforts this summer. I just have a couple of important things this month.

1. The 2021 MG State Conference is virtual this year. This is an optional opportunity for additional training if you are interested. For the cost and more information on the sessions offered: <https://mastergardener.osu.edu/resources/mgv-state-conference-registration-2021>

2. If you need additional training hours for this year, please remember there are upcoming Hort Happy Hour and Lunch and Learn Seminars for this fall here: <https://mastergardener.osu.edu/resources/2021-2022-hort-happy-hour-and-lunch-learn-webinar-series> There are also previous recordings found here: <https://mastergardener.osu.edu/resources>

3. To prepare for our annual banquet, I would like everyone to email me your volunteer hours for 2021. I need everyone to please submit your hours for the year before **October 31st**. I would like a list of:

- a. Total number of continuing education hours
- b. Total number of volunteer hours
- c. Events or presentations that you contributed in

I do not need an itemized list; a total number will be just fine. We will be recognizing your time at the banquet in November. Please email me this information by October 31st. rex.87@osu.edu

4. Our next monthly meeting will be October 19th at 6:30 pm. I will be passing out instructions to set up your profiles on the new Hands on Connect volunteer system. We desperately need new contact information on all our current volunteers.

5. We will currently plan on packing up the garden on Saturday, October 30th from 9 am to approximately noon. We will keep an eye on the weather and everyone's availability and adjust as needed. New information will be provided at the October 19th meeting.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you! **Joanne Rex**



Tidbits from Teresa

September has been a busy month for me so I am using my handout for the topic I presented for Brown Bag, Orchids. Here are tips for growing this beautiful plant.

- ❖ Never leave an orchid pot standing in water. Good rule of thumb, water when the surface is dry.
- ❖ Water softened by a softener may have too much sodium. Rainwater with a pH of 7 is ideal and chipped bark is the preferred medium.
- ❖ You can tell if the light is right for your orchid by the color and condition of the leaves. Healthy leaves tend to be bright green with slight tinges of yellow. Intense dark green usually means insufficient light and yellow green, bleached or burn spots mean too much light.
- ❖ When you are potting or repotting an orchid discard the old medium entirely, examine the roots and any traces of dead tissue must be removed. Green roots are healthy, white roots are under watered and brown/black roots are overwatered.
- ❖ Flowering orchids need repotting every 2 years. Match a pot to the plants' size and when lots of roots present outside the pot it is time to repot. Move up in pot size by 1-2" but not larger. Monopodial orchids (one stem) are repotted in the center of the pot and sympodial (more than one stem) are potted to the side of the pot as they tend to grow horizontally.
- ❖ Time release (granular) fertilizer or a liquid in a (14-14-14, 20-5-10 or 20-20-15) analysis is suggested. Use the directions on your package as the recommendations vary. Orchids in a bark based medium need a higher Nitrogen fertilizer. Be consistent and keep a record so you don't double up on the fertilizer. If the pot is extremely dry, water it first and let it rehydrate before you apply the fertilizer.
- ❖ Regularly fertilized orchids will benefit from an occasional flushing with plain water, especially if you see a salt build up. Some growers fertilize with every watering. When this is done you must dilute the fertilizer to 1/4th or 1/5th of its usual strength and use every time. Some say weekly and weakly! Another source says fertilization is not necessary when it is blooming.the jury is out.
- ❖ Watering varies, one source says 2X a week and another every 7-10 days. Watering can depend on the size pot, amount of drainage holes or amount of air circulation. In orchids that have pseudobulbs, the bulbs hold moisture so water when the mix is

approaching dry. In non-pseudobulbs keep them barely damp as they take more moisture out of the air.

- ❖ Cleaning and grooming are your best defense against diseases. They can be afflicted with scale, thrips, spider mites, fungal diseases and viruses. Ringspot is a symptom of tobacco mosaic virus.
- ❖ Troubleshooting; Dark green leaves with no bloom= low light or too much nitrogen. Leaves limp, shriveled despite watering = root rot or pot with poor drainage. Flowers wilt, fade or drop quickly especially on a new plant = change in environment, near heaters, tv, or fireplaces. (I.E. dry hot air)
- ❖ Blooms can last up to 6 months. When they fall off prune with a sterile pruners just above the notch where the first flower bloomed. If a stem is brown or you have re-bloomed it, cut an inch above the base of the stem. The leaves are delicate and take care not to cut them as this could cause the plant to die.

Enjoy the beautiful fall weather and all the bounty that fall brings.

Teresa Diehl

October 2021



October Notes from Sandy B –

October ACMGV meeting

On October 19th we will be meeting with the new master gardener class-in- training at the Children's Garden. The meeting begins at 6:30. Bring a chair. Let's support the incoming members to our organization!

I also want to say that I was disappointed that the weather forced cancellation of our September meeting. At my house, we had nearly 5 inches of rain starting that evening! I did get out to pick some apples on my own on Tuesday morning. Picked a bagful of very delicious honey crisp apples! I hope to put this location on for a meeting next September.

Sandy Bindel



Greetings from Gretchen



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

We have had enough interest in the group to go forward with supporting the Allen County Museum by creating and running the “Gifts from the Earth” booth for the Christmas Tree Festival. We will limit our hours of operation to: Friday, Dec. 3 from 10 am – 8 pm; Saturday, Dec. 4 from 10 am – 5 pm; and Sunday, Dec. 5 from 12 pm – 5 pm (or until we run out of things to sell).

We have free reign to decide what items we’d like to sell that meet that theme. Historically the previous group has created small baskets of greenery; sold live plants; Osage oranges (hedge apples); buckeye necklaces, etc.

We think it will be important to “test the waters” and try a few new ideas but not go overboard this year. We plan to focus on greenery baskets, live plants and dried plants and would like to introduce a small number of other ideas that you all might have! If you have ideas, please share them with me.

We are mostly scavenging for free greenery and things, with a very limited budget for reimbursement for supplies. We will be planning one or two fun group “creating” nights. Stay tuned for that info.

We will need a lot of us to make a few items. “Many hand make light work”. We will also be signing up for times to man the booth. We’ll talk more at the Meeting! Call or email if you have ideas or questions!

CHRISTMAS TREE AT THE FESTIVAL

Let me know if you would like to design and set up a Christmas tree at the festival for our group. Set up is on Monday, November 29. Tear down is on Monday, December 6.

GARDEN CLEANING

As we begin cleaning up both the Children’s Garden and our own gardens, please keep in mind that we will be wanting to use some of the decorative dried flowers and seed heads at the festival as well as we will be looking for greenery including any evergreens, including boxwood and holly. If you can wait to prune your evergreens and share them for the festival that would be great. We will do some harvesting of things to dry at the end of this month’s meeting at the garden.

BUTTERFLY MIGRATION CELEBRATION

Thank you to all of you who helped make the Butterfly Migration Celebration such a beautiful event this year! It was a lovely day and we had many positive comments about the event! Margie Bush’s friends were profoundly touched by the event and appreciate our allowing them to release a few butterflies in Margie’s memory.

BANQUET INVITATION

Yay! Banquet preparation time! Please RSVP ASAP so that Sandy Kennedy can plan! Note: this year it is on FRIDAY due scheduling conflicts.

Gretchen Staley, President

Happenings from Kay Enjoying the beautiful autumn colors in her travels.

You are Invited!

Allen County Master Gardener Volunteer Recognition Banquet

Friday, November 5th at 6:30 p.m.

Bath Township House, 2880 Ada Rd., Lima, OH

Please bring a covered dish, salad or dessert to share.

Main course, beverage and table
service will be provided.



Guests welcome!

Please RSVP by October 29 to: Sandy Kennedy 419-733-

6334

or by emailing : tkennedy@watchtv.net

If you'd like to volunteer to help set up the event please contact Sandy at the contact information above.