



Digging It!



All the Dirt from the Allen County Master Gardeners

April 2020

Tidbits from Teresa

Hoping everyone is safe and not going bonkers. Having to cancel the Spring Seminar was hard on us all both mentally and financially. I'm so glad we are seeing signs of Spring, it gives us hope for better days. Interviews for a MGV coordinator have been completed and the viable candidates are being vetted by the OSUE system. We are hoping to have a person in place before the growing season but with the coronavirus situation that may change. We will keep you informed as soon as we know anything. Gretchen has posted the sad news about the death of Margie Bush. We will miss her. She had a deep love for the Children's Garden and had spent untold hours making it shine.

Good advice for our landscape is to work a season ahead. The prep work done in spring will set us up for a successful summer. Dig in and clear away dried leaves, prune out winter damage and bring in fresh compost before the weed seeds have a chance to get established. Do a walk through now and check on last year's transplants and check to see what didn't survive the winter.

Prune back perennials and rake away the dead foliage which can harbor fungal diseases and pests. A clean-up now will take away slugs "home sweet home". You might consider leaving an area untouched giving beneficial insects and hibernating pollinators a chance to stir. Crowd out weeds by using ground covers. Tilling stirs up weed seeds and doing it while the soil is moist can risk compaction and damage to the soil profile. When it comes to staking tall plants, the rule is to do it before the plant needs it, and stake so the support can't be seen. Pinching can eliminate the need to stake at all. By cutting them back in mid-May you can encourage more flowers and stronger shorter stems.

I am looking forward to getting our lives back to normal and thinking of those families that are facing more than an inconvenience.

Teresa Diehl

April 2020

The peepers are peepin, the spring cress is blooming and I even saw some trillium leaves.

Photos by Teresa Diehl





From Sandy Bindel:

April Meeting Canceled

OK, first the seminar had to be canceled, then we lost Margie and now we have decided to plan our 2020 meetings on a month-month basis. That's the bad news.

However: Here's some good news! ~ ~ **It's SPRING!!!!!!** ~ ~

- ~ We are seeing the earth come back to life with wonderful, cheery blooms!
- ~ We'll soon be digging in the dirt!
- ~ Especially at times like these, I'm thankful that I am a Master Gardener Volunteer. My backyard garden is my refuge. It makes me smile when I look out my windows at any time during the year!
- ~ Now for the REALLY GOOD news: ~ Working at The Children's Garden is a wonderful way to get out of the house. **The garden opens in April!**
- ~ We can (and usually already do) practice social-distancing while working at the garden!
- ~ Let's make this the best year ever for the garden! Lima needs us!!!!



WELCOME SPRING!!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



Thank you to all of the active ACMGV's who used their seminar dues refund to instead pay their dues and generously donate their monies to help offset the deficit from cancelling the Art of Gardening!

As you all know, the Art of Gardening has always been our primary fund raising project for the ACMGV's so having to cancel it this year was certainly a blow to our budget. Your kindness and generosity in donating back your dues has not only pay our small amount of seminar expenses but also has helped us offset some of our losses.

Additionally, 21 guests of the seminar who are not ACMGV's donated either some or all of their registration fees, totaling \$950, to our group! These generous guests understand the value of our mission and each shared how much they appreciate the work that our organization does!

Our hearts are warmed and our spirits are buoyed by their kindness!

LOOK FOR THE HELPERS

I want to take a moment to thank everyone who reached out to help deal with the details of cancelling the Art of Gardening. Thank you to Teresa Diehl, Roxanne Shoffstall, Sandy Bindel, Mary Kay Koch and Nanci Mistovich who helped assure that every guest was contacted personally. Thanks to Sue Lyon for dealing with the breakfast and snack organization and subsequent cancellation. Thanks to Mark Simmons for handling the paperwork in getting the dues and donations processed and nearly 100 checks written and mailed! There is kindness all around. Remember to appreciate the helpers!

GARDENING ISN'T CANCELLED

In the past 3 weeks the world has seemingly been turned upside down. I trust that you are each doing your best to follow the guidelines and protect yourself and your family and friends from harm. I also know that the worry and isolation can really take a toll on even the brightest of spirits!

Thankfully, gardening is not cancelled. In fact, working outside is one of the best things we can do for ourselves during this difficult time. While we are unable to meet for organized events as a group yet, Spring is coming and the nice days are in the forecast. I encourage you to get into your own gardens, and while there, begin potting up your divisions for the Plant Sale in May. The sale will be more important than ever as a fund raiser so please make an effort to participate.

The Children's Garden is starting to wake up as well and there is a lot of spring clean up work that can be done! We prefer that you not work at the garden alone, so why not call an ACMGV friend or two and arrange a time to meet at the garden and while exercising appropriate social distance work for an hour or two raking, weeding and trimming together.... separately. A WIN/WIN for your mind and soul!

BIG CHANGES AHEAD

Clint and the Extension staff are working to get a new coordinator hired. Knowing how slowly the process works through OSU and now compounding issues with the isolation causing more disruption, the new hire will hopefully be on board before the crazy days of May hit, but there are no guarantees of that.

We will need everyone to pitch in to get the season planned and the garden open. Here are some things that are going to need people to step up to help with: 1) the annual garden opening Work for Food Day with the Kohl's team will not include the Kohl's crew as they have cancelled all their volunteer events for the time being. 2) Plant Sale: we need the plant sale to be a success more than ever and will need a leader for that event 3) We currently do not have a leader for the Brown Bag series. If we are going to host that event this year, one or more of you will need to step up to organize it. 4) there are a lot more projects that will need your help to sustain so please spend some time considering how you'd like to step up to support our organization and our mission this year.

CONTINUING EDUCATION INFO FROM PAM BENNETT

You should have received an email via the VMS with this information. Victoria Zeits has already taken one of the courses from the comfort of her living room. This looks like a great way to get some CEU's and while away these dreary days until the sun shines! You do need to do a quick download of the application ZOOM, which is pretty straight forward. Hope this helps!

Dear Master Gardener Volunteers;

Many of you are aware of the new webinar series for MGVs called Horticulture Lunch and Learn and Horticulture Happy Hour. This series started last week and will continue as long as we are sheltered in place! All of these sessions provide you with one hour of Continuing Education credit. Registration is now available on the state MGV website for the upcoming webinars:

<https://mastergardener.osu.edu/home>

Please go to this link to learn about the upcoming webinars and for the registration link. We will keep adding more to the list as we continue to develop the program.

Due to the volume of email that people have been receiving (OSUE staff) we have decided that we will NOT be sending reminders via email for these webinars. Be sure to check out the state page frequently. Go to the front

page and click on the first news item: MGVs Horticulture Lunch and Learn and Happy Hour Information and Registration.

You will, however, receive an email about these webinars on VMS periodically.

Thanks for your participation in these webinars! See you at the next one.

Pamela J. Bennett OSUE Associate Professor State MGV Program Director

~ Gretchen



Mid March 2020 in garden of Sandy Laus (still under construction...)