



# Digging It!

All the Dirt from the Allen County Master Gardeners

**DECEMBER 2019**

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## Tidbits from Teresa

*After ten plus years of coming up for a topic for tidbits I hit a mental roadblock. I decided to search some old tidbits for a "redo" and found this one. This article lists the 10 ingredients of a beautiful winter garden & thought I would share it with you again. Many of you will already have these elements in place but this will give you a chance to make sure you appreciate them. 1) Hardscape: walls, paths 2) Structural evergreens: pruned boxwood & yews act like hardscaping 3) Grasses: look beautiful snow covered and provide movement in the winter garden 4) Sculpture: more noticeable in winter when our perennials have disappeared 5) Fencing and furniture: snow covered they add structure 6) Rocks: complement a winter garden 7) Trees: deciduous as well as evergreen add to the landscape 8) Bushes: provide a framework that remains in winter 9) Bark: red twig dogwood, river birch or sycamore add color & texture in a white world 10) Blooms: like snow drops & hellebores...all provide opportunities to enjoy winter's different vistas.*

*I also attended the bulb forcing class that Victoria's garden club sponsored. Here are some things I learned there. Bulbs can be forced into bloom through cold treatment (simulating winter by placing them in 35 to 48 degrees F for 12 to 13 weeks) then placing them in a cool sunny window in your house. The pots should be 6 - 8 inches deep and have good drainage. Roots will be forming during the cooling period. Place the bulbs close together in new commercial potting soil, cover with a couple inches of potting soil and dampen the mix. Keep the mix damp, and after 90 or more days of cold temps bring them in your home. Plan on them taking 3-4 weeks to bloom. I was surprised to learn that only Triumph tulips force well. Some other options to force are hyacinths, narcissus, crocus as well as iris reticulata. Paperwhites adapt well to forcing but are "one and done", once they bloom they will not bloom again.*

*I am looking forward to bringing in sprigs of spruce and boxwood to decorate this season, the real thing out shines our manmade décor. Have a Merry Christmas and many blessings in the New Year.*

**Teresa Diehl**

**December 2019**

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**From Sandy Bindel's desk:** (Sandy will be back in our next edition)

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"Winter is the time for comfort,  
for good food and warmth,  
for the touch of a friendly hand  
and for a talk beside the fire:  
it is the time for home."  
— Edith Sitwell

## **WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

On behalf of the Board and I, we hope that this Christmas season finds you all with good health, surrounded by your favorite people and things and filled with contentment and peace!

Amid the busyness of the season I hope you find time for yourself and for the things that matter most to you!

## **THANK YOU FOR A WONDERFUL YEAR**

Thanks to Sandy Kennedy and her team for making the year end banquet a wonderful time of fellowship and feasting! The banquet is a time to tell you all how much you matter to the Allen County Master Gardener Volunteer program and to the community. If you were unable to attend, please accept my thanks to each of you for your dedication and for the contribution of your talents and strengths! We are a better organization because you are a part of it!

### **LAST CHANCE TO UPDATE THE VMS**

There are a handful of you who have not added your hours and CEU's to the VMS for 2019. There are a few more who may have additional hours to add. Please provide Clint Schroeder with the most accurate data you can so that he can get a clear picture of our organization, our projects and your investment in the ACMGV program. The data will be pulled and submitted to the state mid month – so please take a few moments to make your efforts count by accounting for your investment of time and talent.

### **PLAN AHEAD FOR RECERTIFICATION**

The recertification process on the VMS is usually opened in mid to late December. That process will be initiated by Clint Schroeder this year so watch for an email from him when the process starts. For your recollection, the process is as simple as answering some yes/no questions on the VMS in order to update and sustain your status as a Master Gardener Volunteer. Even if you have been inactive for a year or two, please complete the Recertification when it arrives in your email box. Thanks for your attention to this matter. Your cooperation will help Clint get a good start to the 2020 season!

### **SAVE THE DATE AND PLAN TO HELP, PLEASE**

The Art of Gardening seminar will be held on Saturday, March 14, 2020! We have made the decision to go back to the original format and will be opening the seminar to only 160 guests, all in the big theater, again this year. Please keep an eye on your emails in January and be prepared to register immediately as we will sell out quickly – as we had in the past.

Also, please plan to step up and help with one of the committees to make the seminar run smoothly again this year! Please watch your emails throughout the coming months for help that is needed to keep the seminar the top in the region!

~ Gretchen

