



# Digging It!



All the Dirt from the Allen County Master Gardeners

APRIL 2021

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## *Notes from Joanne*

~ Allen Co. OSU Master Gardener Coordinator

I hope that everyone is well and able to get outside on the days that are warm and beautiful. Warm weather and sunshine cannot get here soon enough for me. I hope that everyone is getting in some online continuing education hours. I have been emailing opportunities that I come across, please keep an eye on email. If you are on Facebook please check out this page: [OSU Extension Master Gardener Volunteers](#). This has great information and sometimes you will find added educational opportunities here also. Another resource for you is [mastergardeners.osu.edu](http://mastergardeners.osu.edu) click on the "Resources" tab across the top. You will find this year and last year's Lunch and Learn and Happy Hour series.

You will need to keep all of your continuing education hours and possibly your garden hours on paper, until the new Hands on Connect system is ready. This will take place of the old VMS system. DO NOT add any hours to the old VMS system. It is still available to look at, but any hours added after the end of January did not transfer to the old system and will be lost. If you have still been adding hours to the VMS you will want to take a look at these and write them down. The new system is very close to being done, and I will be letting everyone know when it is ready.

You will notice that the Allen County Extension page [Allen.osu.edu](http://Allen.osu.edu) has more information for Master Gardeners. The newsletters are now found under the Master Gardener tab on the left-hand side of the page. I have only added the past couple of years on the website, but every newsletter that was on the old VMS since 2012 has been saved. We will also be adding information for the new training class in the future.

Earlier this year the Fairgrounds Bloomers reached out and through conversations with the members and the ACMG board, the very hard decision to close the Fairgrounds Bloomers location was made. This was due to the dwindling number of volunteers and health issues of the members. These volunteers have done a fantastic job over the past years and closing this location was a very tough decision for them. Their long hours and hard work are very much appreciated. We hope that in the future as our numbers grow, we will be able to take on additional locations like the fairgrounds again. So, if you see these dedicated Fairgrounds Bloomers helping out at the Children's Garden this summer, thank them for all that have done and welcome them back to the garden. Again, Fairgrounds Bloomers, thank you for all your hard work.

Watch for my emails with new educational opportunities and updates. It will not be long before we are back in the garden again. I hope to see you there.

**Joanne**

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## Tidbits from Teresa

I seem to have somewhat of a love/hate relationship with spring. I love that it seems to arrive in a single day, I hate that so much is going on that I miss taking time to enjoy each facet of it. I saw the first harbinger-of-spring yesterday and today I found the leaves of dogtooth violet and spring beauty. No flowers yet but I need to get out in the woods daily so I can “catch” it all.

The wonderful warm weather, that will probably change, has gotten me in a flurry to get outside and expose all my beds from their leaf cover. I am looking forward to Tuesdays at the garden starting this month and getting to see our MGVs again.

Solomon’s Seal is a wildflower that has been widely grown in our garden beds. It has alternate leaves along a slender stem and the flowers hang in clusters of two (rarely three) below each leaf. The position of the flowers protects from wind and weather and keeps the pollen from being uselessly scattered. They are cross fertilized by larger bees. It prefers a shaded location besides woods.

False Solomon Seal also has alternate leaves along a stem but its flowers are in a white cluster at the tip of the stem. The few berries are spotted at first then turn ruby red. It is 8-16 inches high. Three leaved False Solomon Seal looks like False Solomon Seal but only has three leaves and is a diminutive 2-6 inches tall.

Another woodland plant that resembles Solomon Seal is the False Spikenard. This plant is tall, 1-3 feet, and has a spirea-like cluster of fine white flowers at the tip of the stem. Its size is the distinguishing factor between it and False Solomon Seal. Now that you have the skinny on Solomon Seal and its look-alikes you can identify them in the woods!

Don’t forget to keep an eye out for plants you can divide and pot up for our May plant sale. See you soon!

Teresa Diehl

April 2021

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## April Notes from Sandy B -

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Finally, we are getting back to a more normal world! We will be having a meeting in April. It will be organizational and administrative in nature. At least for now, our meetings will need to be held outside. Therefore; our first three meetings will be conducted at the garden. Please note that we will now be having our meetings on the third Tuesday of each month.

Our first meeting for 2021 will be TUESDAY, APRIL 20th at 6:30. This will be a perfect opportunity to look around the garden and see what was done by the team from Lowe's last fall and to offer any suggestions for future projects, both this season and beyond. Please plan to attend! It will surely be great to be together again!

Sandy Bindel



### *Greetings from Gretchen*

#### SPRING BRINGS RENEWAL

Isn't it heartening to spend these first warm spring days exploring our gardens and seeing life renew! I hope that you have been able to spend the early days of spring enjoying the sun on your face and soil in your hands.

As we reflect on the last 12 months we look forward to the slow but sure return to our favorite activities and spending time with friends. We look forward to seeing you again and to sharing our mutual love of gardening, community and service with each other.

#### LOOKING BACK

I took a minute to review the April 2020 newsletter and reflect on all the challenges we have all faced. So many changes, limitations and disappointments. Last April the hiring process for the new coordinator was still in progress. Last year we were trying to determine if we would be able to hold the plant sale or even tend The Children's Garden. Last year we were confused, afraid and unsure what the future would bring for each of us. Now we are:

#### LOOKING AHEAD

April begins the preparations to start the garden season at The Children's Garden.

As we noted in last month's newsletter, the Executive Committee (i.e. Clint; Joanne and the Board) met to plan, as best as possible, for the 2021 season. While we are still at the mercy of the policies of the Governor and OSU, we are hopeful that we will be able to reinstitute educational programming and meetings this year. Please note that Clint and Joanne are doing their best to advocate for increased activities. When they know changes, we will know. Things are looking up!

As noted last month, it was necessary to change our monthly meeting day from the third Wednesday of the month to the third Tuesday of the month because both Clint and Joanne have other work conflicts on the third Wednesday. Clearly we need our leaders to be available to attend our meetings. For the time being our meetings will be held at The Children's Garden. Please bring a lawn chair to help maintain some distancing during the meetings.

We are planning to hold the GARDEN OPENING WORK DAY on Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, weather permitting. The rain date will be May 1. We will work from 9 am until noon. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us.

We are planning the Plant Sale for Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. Please plan to participate by donating at least 10 plants or by making a cash donation. Helpers will be needed. Watch for worker sign-up sheets at the April meeting and in early May.

#### **DUES DUE**

Treasurer Lynn Ellerbrock will be accepting membership dues at the April Meeting and by mail. You can send your \$20 dues check to: ACMGV, PO Box 521, Lima, OH 45802 if you are unable to attend the meeting on April 20! Thanks!

#### **STIMULATING**

While many people are reliant on the stimulus checks from the federal government to maintain their standard of living and pay bills, many of us are in the position to use those funds as a way to "stimulate" the economies of our local businesses, churches and non-profits. If you are one of the fortunate who have the ability to spend those funds on others, please consider making a donation to the Allen County Master Gardeners. We have had an unprecedented year, having to cancel our biggest fundraiser not once, but twice. Thanks for all you do and for your continued support, in all the many ways you give!

~ Gretchen Staley, President



## *Happenings from Kay*

### **GREETINGS FROM THE SOUTHWEST**

Spring has always been my favorite season, and probably this year more than ever. Spring brings the renewal of growth, warmer temperatures, longer days, more sunshine, the return of migrating birds, flowering bulbs, the smell of the soil warming up, and so much more. And this year, after a sixteen month period, the opportunity to visit family and see their growth, and what a joy it is!

While I am missing the blooms of daffodils, tulips, muscari (aka grape hyacinth), and all the other spring beauties, I thought I'd share a few pictures of what is blooming here. The cacti are beautiful, but they will never replace the sight and smell of an Ohio spring!

**Submitted by Kay Studer**

