



Digging It!



All the Dirt from the Allen County Master Gardeners

JULY 2021

Notes from Joanne

~ Allen Co. OSU Master Gardener Coordinator

Master Gardener Volunteers –

I can't believe we are already in July! This summer is going so fast. I hope that everyone is enjoying the warm weather. We will be starting our new Master Gardener Volunteer classes this month. If you know anyone who might be interested in joining the classes, please let me know. The class cost \$150.00 and includes self-paced learning and hands on labs. Our first informational meeting will be July 20th for new potential members. I will be sending out an email in the next couple of weeks looking for volunteers to help us with labs for the new members. Be on the look out for the email.

Brown Bag Lunch Series will continue in July. Our visitors have been great this summer. We have had several regulars that come each week and some very good discussion. Try to fit this in your schedule if possible and bring a lawn chair. We usually fill all the benches and picnic tables. The schedule for July is July 6 – Butterflies with Sand Kennedy, July 13 – Soil with Clint Schroeder, July 20 – TBD, and July 27 – Gardening for Wildlife with Amy Amspoker. We start at 11:45 a.m. and are usually done around 12:30 p.m.

I hope to see you at the garden soon!

Joanne Rex



Tidbits from Teresa

A little peony primer for this month's tidbits: There are 5 major types of peonies. 1) Species: undomesticated types which are found in nature and are rare.

2) Lactiflora: They are derived from the Chinese herbaceous species (*Paeonia lactiflora*) or bred among its many cultivars.

3) Hybrids: Herbaceous peonies from one or more "H" parents outside #2 group.

4) Itoh: Hybrids between tree peonies and herbaceous peonies. Technically only includes the 1st 4 introduced (Yellow Crown, Y. Dream, Y. Emperor, and Y. Heaven). The rest are intersectional but common practice is to call these hybrids Itoh peonies.

5) Tree species: These are derived from related woody species originally from China.

Aside from the 5 types of peonies there are 4 floral groups: single, Japanese and Anemome (1 or 2 rows of petals, usually not pollen bearing), bomb (dense petal ball sitting on a plate of outer petals), double (like a bomb but all petals are the same size, there is no outer plate and all stamens and anthers are transformed into petals) and lastly, semi-double with many rows of petals and the stamens and anthers are present.

Growing tips:

- ❖ Plant for the long term looking for future shade growth as they do not bloom well in the shade.
- ❖ Be in a winter cold climate, well drained site, 6+ hours of sun, good air circulation and removal of competing plants.
- ❖ Herbaceous peonies are planted shallowly, buds 1-2 inches below the surface while grafted tree peonies are planted with the graft buried deeply.
- ❖ Fall is the best time to plant or separate. Plant eyes up, 2 inches deep, deeper may reduce blooms and wait 3 seasons for full growth.
- ❖ Fertilize in the spring or late fall, use a fertilizer with less nitrogen, if you use compost take care it doesn't build up too high around the crown.
- ❖ Deadhead to direct energy to the plant.
- ❖ In fall cut herbaceous varieties clear to the ground and place foliage in trash, not compost to reduce botrytis spores (grey mold).
- ❖ Bush peonies are divided in fall by division, they should be the length and size of a large carrot and have 3 eyes. If the root mass is too small the food supply is diminished and it takes longer to establish. If the root mass is too large it will not grow much since it has not been given a signal it needs to grow. Stem count usually doubles or triples each year until the plant is 3 feet wide.

Enjoy, enjoy, enjoy.....with all that weeding don't forget to take time to reflect on the beauty and peace your garden can afford you.

Teresa Diehl

July 2021



July Notes from Sandy B –

July Meeting of ACMGV

July is “National Blueberry Month”, with July 8 being “National Blueberry Day”. To celebrate, our July meeting will be held at “Blue Moon Blueberries”. This is a U-pick farm near Pandora.

Jeff Lugibuhl is proprietor of this business and will give us a history of his business as well as a lesson in all things blueberry.

The meeting is Tuesday, July 20th at 6:30. He has a barn and we can go under shelter if it rains. Bring a chair. If the birds don't beat us to the berries, we may get to do some picking of our own berries to purchase.

Blue Moon Blueberries is on Facebook and you can check the website for dates and times that the U-pick will be open to the public. They usually open soon after the Fourth of July. Address is: 14848 Road 3, Pandora, OH 45877.

Sandy Bindel



Greetings from Gretchen



I am not sure why the 4th of July feels like the start of summer to me, since we've been sweltering and dodging mosquito's for weeks. Perhaps it is when the busyness of preparing our gardens and yards begins to slow and we have a chance to enjoy more of the fruits of our labors. Maybe the heat of the afternoons slows the clocks to a crawl. Whatever the reason, I hope that you are enjoying the beginning of summer and that you are enjoying the fruits of your labors.

We are regaining our equilibrium and gathering momentum now that we have resumed our meetings and educational programming. It's been great to be able to gather and share with each other!

We hope that you are able to join us again by attending meetings and Brown Bag, and by volunteering both at the garden and by helping with educational programs. We need your help to get back to full steam! Hope to see you soon!

WHAT'S HAPPENING

- Brown Bag is in full swing! Come for 30 minutes of education!
- Kids Education Program on Thursday, July 8 at the Lima Y. Volunteers needed.
- We are in the process of scraping and painting the Oil Derrick. Volunteers needed.
- We are beginning the planning for the Butterfly Migration Celebration on Sunday, Sept. 12., please save the date, we WILL need EVERYONE's help!

~ Gretchen Staley, President



Happenings from Kay

Kay will have an interesting article of Michigan peonies next month--- stand by...