



Digging It!



All the Dirt from the Allen County Master Gardeners

FEBRUARY 2021

Notes from Joanne

~ Allen Co. OSU Master Gardener Coordinator

February Master Gardener Newsletter

I hope that everyone is having a wonderful new year and staying warm and healthy. I am not a cold weather person, so I cannot wait for spring to get here. Just a few things I wanted to share with everyone:

1. There will be a plant sale this year. We will need everyone's support to make this a success. This will be our only fundraiser this year, so we would like to see a lot of contributions. We will be advertising on social media and hope to see a big turnout. The date is Saturday, May 15th.
2. We will be having Master Gardener training for new members this year. The state has put together a hybrid program for new members. They will watch the training online at their own leisure, but all labs will be in-person. We hope to have some volunteers help with the in-person labs and becoming mentors to our new members. We will send out more information as it released to us. If you know of anyone who would like to receive information on becoming a MG let me know!
3. We are planning on having in-person education for children and volunteers this summer. We will probably have to jump through some hoops and comply with regulations from the Governor's office, but our plan is to try. Let us hope our state numbers continue to drop and things will return to normal.
4. I would like to expand our use of Facebook by offering simple articles to help the beginner or amateur gardeners in our community. Gardening is becoming more popular and we need to help gardeners in our area become successful. I will be needing some simple, helpful gardening tips and articles for adults and children from our volunteers. If you have ideas that would be helpful to gardeners specifically for this spring, please let me know. When we get this up and running, I will send out more information.
5. We have several Children's Garden projects that we hope to complete this year. Our money is tight, so we will be looking for grants and major donors to help keep us going. We hope to tackle several areas that need some TLC and will make the garden a more beautiful place.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. Please stay safe. Happy Valentine's Day! I will see you in the spring!

Joanne



Tidbits from Teresa

What is a spring ephemeral? An ephemeral is a plant that emerges in spring and will go dormant once summer's heat kicks in. They will be back and shining the following spring. They are our classic spring bulbs, tulips, daffodils, crocuses and hyacinths. They are usually bulbs or corms. They are also the bulk of our wildflowers.

The bleeding heart (*Dicentra spectabilis*), with its arching stems and heart shaped rose-pink blossoms is also one. It thrives in light shade and rich, moist soil, regular fertilization and can take a little sun with enough soil moisture. A newer variety *Lamprocapnos spectabilis* 'Gold Heart' has buttery yellow leaves in spring that mature to chartreuse-green. It has rich pink flowers and mahogany stems. The bleeding heart with a white bloom is the cultivar 'Alba'.

The native *Dicentras* include the fringed bleeding heart, turkey or squirrel corn and my favorite *Dicentra cucullaria*, Dutchman's Breeches. You can tell the difference between Dutchman's Breeches and squirrel corn by digging in the soil and the squirrel corn's corms look like little corn kernels. Some outstanding ephemerals are among the early spring wildflowers such as trilliums, spring beauties, bloodroot and more.

Jack-in-the-pulpit, (*Arisaema triphyllum*) is one of the more unusual ephemerals. The pitcher like flower gives way to a cluster of red berries, male and female flowers are on separate plants. Only the "Jills" produce berries. Jacks can turn into Jills and vice versa depending on the dynamics of their own population.

Mayapple, (*Podophyllum peltatum*), is a rhizomatous woodland ephemeral. It can form large colonies. The "juveniles" have a single stem and the "adults" have a Y shaped stem with the flower in the crux of the Y. We have several large colonies in our woods and interestingly the juveniles seem to inhabit one colony and the adults another. Guess they can't stand those teenagers!

Every spring is a renewal of excitement for what is to come and the ephemerals are the perfect introduction to a new gardening season. I'm ready!!!

Teresa Diehl

February 2021

(Photo on page 4)



February Notes from Sandy B -

Trying to get off to a good start is not easy in these days of a pandemic! We don't have a lot of concrete information yet from OSU Extension, Columbus. We do know two things so far. One: No conference, and Two: Plant sale is on!

At our Board meeting last week, we discussed what is likely for our meetings. I assure you, Clint and Joanne are well aware of the fact that coming together is a MAJOR component for our ACMGV program! We will probably be able to have some meetings. There will be regulations that we will need to follow such as being outside and limiting numbers in attendance. If you have ideas along these lines, I would love to hear from you!

We did also discuss and vote on a new night for our meetings. This is due to a conflict for on of our board members on our usual night. Starting this year, we will have our meeting on the third TUESDAY of the month. This will run from the months of April thru October.

Crossing my fingers that this virus is soon brought under control and we can get back to feeling more normal!

Sandy Bindel

Greetings from Gretchen

RENEW MEMBERSHIP



Just a reminder that with the new year comes time to renew your membership. If you haven't already updated the information on the VMS system reviewing and confirming the recertification documents, please do so. If you struggle with the VMS, you can call or email Joanne at the Extension office and have her email or snail mail the documents to you to review and sign. Her email address is: rex.87@osu.edu. Additionally, our dues of \$20.00 will need paid. You can either mail a check payable to ACMG to PO Box 521, Lima, OH 45802 or you can plan to pay in person at our first meeting in April.

We look forward to a better year of volunteering, creating, learning and growing together in 2021!

CHANGE TO MEETINGS

Please make a note in your calendars that our monthly meetings are changing to the THIRD TUESDAY of the month, April to October. This change was made because both Clint and Joanne have conflicts in their schedule on Wednesdays. We look forward to having them available to participate in our regular meeting schedule. Vice President Sandy Bindel is hard at work creating a new meeting schedule for this year.

WILLING TO SERVE

The Board and I would like to extend our appreciation to Lynn Ellerbrock for her willingness to complete the unexpired Treasurer term. Thanks, Lynn, for stepping up!

GOALS

At our Board Meeting this month we reviewed our list of goals and projects for 2021. While there are still a lot of questions about when Ohio State will allow us to resume our programming in the community we are determined to put the goal of resuming programming such as Brown Bag, Kids Classes and the Butterfly Migration Celebration as our primary goal. In order to do so, we will need your help and commitment. We need leaders and helpers. Please give some thought to how you can challenge yourself to help with our mission of sharing our knowledge with the community.

We also reviewed the never ending list of projects at the Children's Garden. While there will never be an end to keeping the garden growing and beautiful, we have the best success when we all pull in the same direction and work together toward our goals. The Board will be focusing our attention on major projects that focus first on the safety of the volunteers and the visitors to the garden. We have a couple large trees shedding large, dead limbs that create a potential hazard in the garden. We will continue to work to upgrade and update lighting in the garden to increase the safety of the area after dark. We will be working to replace broken shingles on the gazebo and repairing cracks in the Lincoln Highway. While projects like these don't spark joy, creativity or inspiration, they are necessary and require our attention. Our goal is to continue to work with local companies to receive grants of both cash and in kind labor to accomplish these big projects that are beyond our scope of expertise as volunteers.

Your role will be to help with the tasks that we can do on our own. Your help will be needed in restoring the Hosta Garden this year. We have also made a commitment to create a new area in the garden to honor Margie's memory – we have purchased an adorable garden bench and received a donation of a new carousel horse to incorporate into the area. We hope to move forward with introducing small fruits into the garden. We continue to renovate and refresh areas of the garden that have become overgrown in the last 20+ years, but that can only happen with your help, creativity, cooperation and inspiration.

Thanks in advance for all you will do in 2021 and in the future to make a difference in our world!

EDUCATION

Given the fact that major seminars like our "Art of Gardening" aren't able to be resumed yet, OSUE is already planning to add new educational videos available to Master Gardener Volunteers in 2021 so that we can continue to learn remotely as needed. Be sure to keep an eye on your emails and the VMS for new classes as they become available.

~ Gretchen Staley, President

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Happenings from Kay

Eagle

Last Thursday, an eagle was stuck and killed on the road near Rimer. There has been a pair nesting along the Ottawa River for many years. What is sad, eagles mate for life and also return to the same nest each year. Officials will be monitoring the nest site to see if this was one of the pair.



Submitted by Kay Studer