



# Digging It!



All the Dirt from the Allen County Master Gardeners

**JANUARY 2021**

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## *Notes from Joanne*

**Happy New Year!**

Joanne Rex ~ Allen Co. OSU Master Gardener Coordinator



## **Tidbits from Teresa**

Happy New Year! Glad we get to start all over in 2021. 2020 had more downs than ups but the Children's Garden was the beneficiary of some of the ups. Our new bridge is a symbol of good things to come. I am looking forward to a year of renewed friendships and more "normal" outings.

What is an Itoh peony? Itoh peonies are a newer class of peonies resulting from crossing (woody-stemmed) tree peonies with standard herbaceous (die to the ground every year) peonies. These hybrids exhibit the very best traits of both parents. The Itohs have large long lasting blooms and strong stems that do not require staking. They have dark green, lush, deeply lobed foliage that lasts until autumn. Blooms can be up to 7" across and a mature plant can produce up to 50 blooms each season. This prolific bloomer can get a second set of blooms, grow vigorously to 3 ft. tall and 4 ft. wide and are resistant to peony blight.

Plant them in full sun to part shade. The blooms last longer in part shade. They need well drained soil and are sensitive to high levels of nitrogen. Use a fertilizer like 4-10-12 and do not fertilize in late summer to fall. In autumn, cut them back to 4-6".

Dr. Toichi Itoh in 1948, after failing 20,000 times, succeeded in creating the first ever cross between P. x lemoinei, a hybrid tree peony with P. lactiflora "Kakoden", a white flowering herbaceous peony as the seed parent. In 1964 his first crosses came into bloom. Unfortunately, Dr. Itoh died 8 years prior

and never got to see the results of his many years of work. Of the 36 original plants 6 were considered outstanding. They became the first herbaceous peonies to have deep yellow, double yellow flowers. In the late 60's, Itoh's work was noticed by an American and 4 of the hybrids were patented as Yellow Crown, Yellow Dream, Yellow Heaven, and Yellow Emperor. I have a yellow Itoh peony and in 3 years it became an outstanding addition to my garden and my favorite peony.

Teresa Diehl

January 2021



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## January Notes from Sandy B –

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Almost lost track of the days! 2021 coming up quickly, and not a day too soon to say good-bye to 2020. I don't really have anything profound or entertaining for the January newsletter, so I'll send this to you and all members:

~~HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE~~

Sandy Bindel



### *Greetings from Gretchen*

#### **LOOKING AHEAD WITH HOPE IN 2021**

I hope this finds you healthy, safe and filled with renewed hope for the New Year!

The roll out of vaccinations brings the hope of a return to group gatherings, education projects and a renewed commitment to make an impact in our community.

The many challenges of this past year, most notably the isolation, gave us a new perspective on the value of being a part of something outside ourselves. We gained a greater appreciation of using our time, talent and treasure to make the world a little better place – not just for ourselves, but for others. We learned that living only for ourselves is a hollow use of God's gifts.

**Cheers to renewed HOPE in a WEARY world!**



## **MANY GOALS FOR THE NEW GROWING SEASON**

As the winter unfolds and we look forward to the new growing season, we will have many goals to reestablish and the opportunity to refresh/reboot/reimagine our goals, objectives and projects.

Job 1 will be getting us all back together and “singing off the same sheet”. We are optimistic about our ability to resume regular monthly meetings again in the Spring!

Job 2 will be to return to our MISSION of educating the community. We will do this through our educational programs at The Children’s Garden for both children and adults; our goal of offering a new training class for interns in the Spring; and through educational programs offered to other groups in the community.

UNFORTUNATELY, we will not be able to host the Art of Gardening Seminar in March again this year. We hope to return to hosting the seminar in the future but we are not able to count on reduced social distancing guidelines to be in place in time for a congregate setting of that size in March. Thankfully we will continue to receive opportunities for continuing education online and we look forward to working closely with Clint to offer in person continuing ed opportunities to our group as the restrictions are lifted.

Job 3 will be working together with Clint and Joanne to replace the lost revenue from the seminar. We are already discussing opportunities and potential partnerships for funding sources.

While we each have our personal motivations for being an Allen County Master Gardener Volunteer, our goals of education; friendship; sharing; personal growth and community investment are universal. We look forward to renewing all of those goals as we move forward.

## **SAVE THE DATE**

The Plant Sale is scheduled to be held at The Children’s Garden on Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>! Mark your calendars!

## **GENEROUS GIFT RECEIVED**

Thank you, Sandy and Randy Bindel for your generous contribution of \$300 in memory of ACMGV members family members departed in 2020: Husband of Candy Newland; Mother of Corky Boose; Father of Gretchen Staley; Father of Jenny Webb; Mother of Victoria Zeits; (and any other not mentioned here).

~ Gretchen Staley, President

# *Happenings from Kay*

## **TREES**

Many cities, from Chicago to Detroit to Phoenix, have managed their green canopies for decades. At first, strategies mostly focused on ensuring trees didn't damage sidewalks, pipes, and buildings. More recently, governments have realized that a healthy treescape can be the difference between a community ready to face the worst effects of climate change and one that is not. The right species in the right place can cut air conditioning costs in half, absorb stormwater, alleviate heat waves, and remove air pollutants, not to mention add value by improving people's mental health and create a habitat for urban wildlife. (*Mother Earth News*)

It's interesting to look at towns in Allen County and if they have a tree canopy along a Main Street or downtown. Here's just a few:

Beaverdam- none- all removed for sewage or water project

Cairo - none- all removed for sewage of water project

Elida - removed for water project, some have been replaced

Delphos-downtown- none

Gomer- many trees- soon to be removed for sewage project

Bluffton- downtown-none

Lima-downtown-many trees

Many years ago, I met with a city-planner about a revitalization plan for their downtown area. He said, "Absolutely NO trees,". His reason: trees are dirty, they drop leaves and create more work, trees draw birds, and birds make a mess of cars parked below. Well, true, not to mention, power outages from fallen branches.

But, given a choice, I would much rather have a tree. How about you?

Submitted by Kay Studer