



Digging It!

All the Dirt from the Allen County Master Gardeners

JULY 2019

Tidbits from Teresa

Bearded iris' are becoming "stars" again. The beard refers to the row of hairs at the center of the flower. They come in a wider array of colors than the Japanese or Siberian irises and they are tough cookies. They are drought tolerant and come in a wide range of sizes from 6 to 24 inches tall. Many varieties also boast a wonderful fragrance. Irises bloom in May and June and are a zone 3 -10 plant and some varieties re-bloom in the fall. The best time to plant is generally late summer to fall. They need a well-drained soil and 6-8 hours of sunlight. Over watering is a common mistake. When planting irises dig two parallel troughs and lay the rhizomes on the crest and backfill the troughs keeping the top of the rhizome partially exposed. Keep moist until roots form. Irises tend to become crowded after 3-4 years and fewer flowers mean it is time to divide them. Re-blooming varieties grow faster than regular irises so they may need to be divided sooner. Don't mulch them and prune back the foliage in fall. Fertilize in March and July with 10-10-10 or 5-10-10. Iris borer is the most serious pest affecting them. The borer grubs are pinkish in color and cause the rhizomes to become mushy and foul smelling and many times covered with small holes. If you see those small holes it is a telltale sign that your plants need to be discarded.

We call it gladiolus, glad, corn-flag or corn iris and its botanical name is *Gladiolus Iridaceae*. Millions of glads are grown for their flowers but we never think to eat their corms. The corms are said to taste like chestnuts when roasted and they were eaten in Africa where many of them originated. Before the African gladioli were common in the West, the Mediterranean and rare British gladioli had been grown in gardens and used medicinally. They were known in ancient Greece and some scholars think they were the original hyacinth because the wild Greek glads have markings on their petals similar to those on the hyacinth. The name gladiolus comes from the Latin gladius (a sword) from the shape of the leaves. The largest number of our modern gladioli come from South Africa. One variety was found in the mist of Victoria Falls. It had adapted to the constant moisture by developing a hooded upper petal which kept its pollen bearing stamens dry. This variety introduced yellow and orange shades into the glad's color spectrum.

Teresa Diehl **July 2019**

July Meeting

If you were fortunate enough to have gotten to our October meeting last fall, you are happily anticipating our July ACMGV meeting at Sandy Kennedy's home! The wetlands that she and her late husband established should be in full bloom and even more spectacular to view! We originally scheduled to start at 6:30, but Sandy would like us to see it closer to sunset. We will start with our regular meeting at 7pm and then walk or ride out thru the area and around the ponds. Topping off the evening will be a bonfire at the log cabin, complete with S'mores. Cross your fingers for a beautiful sunset!

The meeting is Wednesday, July 17 at 7pm. Bring chairs, guests and bug spray.

Sandy Kennedy's: **10331 Mercer-Auglaize County Line Road.**

Sandy Bindel

Happy 4th of July!

Happy Independence Day!

It's hard to believe it is July when we are just beginning to have sunshine and warm weather! I hope you will spend a moment or two this holiday in gratitude to those who have and continue to protect our freedom!

Brown Bag Lunch Series



July 2 "Blue Ribbon Gardening" Pam Place, Allen County Fair Board

July 9 "Garden Art from Repurposed Objects" ACMGV Sandy Kennedy

July 16 "Square Foot Kitchen Gardening" ACMGV Amy Amspoker

July 23 "This is for the Birds" ACMGV Rex Maurer

July 30 Topic to be announced ACMGV Marge Lafollate

August 6 "Eat Your Weeds – Edible Plants" ACMGV Sandy Bindel

August 13 "Pollin-Nation: Mason Bee Houses" ACMGV Cathy Smith

August 20 Topic to be announced ACMGV Kay Studer

August 27 "A Walk around the Veggie Garden" ACMGV Jenny Webb

Volunteers Needed for "GREAT BIG itsy bitsy Spider Fun"

Our July Kids Class will be held on Saturday, July 13 at 10:00 a.m. at the Children's Garden. Sandy Kennedy will be leading this fun class all about Spiders! The class will be free and open to the public.

Reservations will be taken via email and advertised on Facebook. Registration will be limited to 20 children (parents will be present).

Volunteers will assist Sandy with demonstrations and assist children with games and songs. This is a fun and entertaining way to share our mission of education with children.

Sign up via the VMS or by emailing Gretchen.

Shop at Kohl's

We have received our \$1000 donation from Kohl's Department store for their Associates in Action Volunteer Day in April. Their support has been so wonderful these past 10 years! Please remember to support our Lima Kohl's store!

SAFY Kids Making a Difference

The group of young teens and their social workers from the SAFY Drop In Center have been a great group so far this season. If you have been on site on Tuesday afternoons, you have seen them working hard and making a big difference at the garden! If you haven't been there to see them, they have made quick work of spreading mulch and have planted the rainbow garden. We are grateful for their enthusiasm for the garden and the pride they take in their work.

How are your hours coming?

We are already 1/3 of the way through the gardening season. How are you coming with your volunteer commitment? Don't let fall sneak up on you. We have lots of projects that need accomplished in the next 16 weeks.

Welcome to the Allen County Ag and Natural Resources Ed

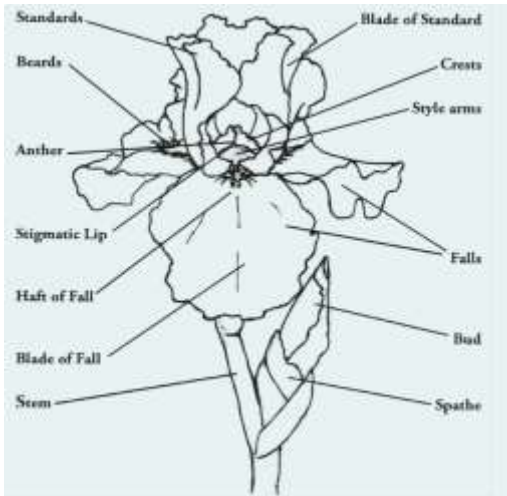
After a long 10 year wait, we are pleased to welcome Clint Schroeder, as the Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Educator for Allen County. Clint will become our new "boss" and will be evaluating our program, our projects and our community in order to make the best use of our skills and knowledge moving forward.

Clint is a graduate of The Ohio State University where he majored in Animal Sciences and minored in Agribusiness and Applied Economics. Here is some information from Clint about his background:

"While attending OSU I had several opportunities to develop some hands-on knowledge through work experiences in the dairy, swine, and meat packing industries. After graduation, I managed a large-scale hog farm that specialized in producing high indexing breeding stock that was sold to other operations in the United States, Canada, and even Russia. In 2012, I took on a new opportunity in agronomy/custom application that allowed me to move back to Northwest Ohio and the family farm. Our family raises primarily corn and soybeans on a small farm near Leipsic in Putnam County. The challenges presented by the current farm economy sparked my interest in further education on farm management. This led to a job working with OSU Extension for the past couple of years on their Farm Business Analysis Program. In this role, I had the pleasure of working directly with farmers on their record keeping systems and making sure, they have the best data available for when they have to make decisions for their operation."

Clint is just beginning his tenure and getting settled in to his position at OSUE. I hope to meet with him again soon and will be planning an opportunity to meet all of you, probably in August.

Gretchen



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iris_\(plant\)#Bearded_rhizomatous_irises](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iris_(plant)#Bearded_rhizomatous_irises)