



# Digging It!



All the Dirt from the Allen County Master Gardeners

**JUNE 2019**

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Tidbits from Teresa

## *Tidbits from Teresa*

*Going into June with the constant and significant rainfall, we have experienced the good, the bad, and the ugly. The good is the fact that I have not had to water my pots once so far this year. The good is how beautiful my hostas are and how lush my beds look. The water table has certainly been replenished and the pond is full to the brim. The grass is thick and healthy looking and when a beautiful day comes along (without rain and clouds) I fully appreciate it.*

*The bad side is seeing the worry and alarm on my farming friends faces wondering if they will ever get in the fields to plant. My bad is parts of the lawn I can't mow (minor compared to a farmers' woes), my raised vegetable bed loaded with weeds and it is too wet to get in there with a hoe. The weeds are having a heyday and surpassing my ability to get in there and pull them. The bad is itching to get out and garden and needing a raincoat to do it!*

*The ugly, from my perspective anyway, is coming up upon a 4 ½ foot king snake with a reared head hissing at me. The snake was the biggest one I have ever seen around here. The body was 2 inches in diameter. Then I saw a smaller king snake (3 feet) near my herb garden. I even had a snake in a bird house right next to my back door. He was sunning himself out the hole....probably after a meal of bird eggs.*

*Every season is different from the last one so we need to appreciate the good parts and deal with the bad and ugly parts. Here's praying for a beautiful June!*

*Gardenia Rubiaceae is the plant for June. John Ellis, a botanist, insisted that Linnaeus call the gardenia after his friend, Dr. Alexander Garden. Linnaeus objected saying that an American plant discovered by Garden would be more suitable and that he was being criticized for naming plants after his friends. Ellis persisted and was successful. The gardenia came from South Africa and was discovered in 1754 by Captain Hutcheson en route home to England from India. He had gone for a walk and became aware of a heavenly scented beautiful white flowered shrub. He dug it up and took it back to London. It survived and was propagated. Gardenias are known to be tricky to grow. They are fussy about temperature and attract insects in the greenhouse. Although they are demanding belladonnas, you are rewarded with a beautiful, wonderfully scented plant.*

*Teresa Diehl June 2019*



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## June Meeting

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We are very fortunate here in Allen County to have such nice fairgrounds. Not to mention one of, if not **THE**, best county fair in the state! A group of hard-working individuals of our membership tends the west pedestrian entrance to the fairgrounds and they do a stellar job of representing us!

Our June meeting will feature their work. Sue Lyon will be spokesperson for these "Fairground Bloomers". In addition, a representative of the Fair Board, Pam Place, will give us information on how to enter the horticulture contests during the fair. She's also trying to get one of the flower judges to give us some tips!

Please bring your chair and any guests to our June meeting on the 19th at 7 pm. It promises to be an interesting and informative meeting! See you there!

*Sandy Bindel*



### TOUGH SPRING FOR GARDENERS

I am sure you are behind at home, too, but we are frightfully behind at the Children's Garden due to all this rain.

Please watch your email and try to get to the garden to help out if you can this week. I will be there as often as the weather allows Tuesday through Friday, so watch your email for updates. YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

### HANDS ON HABITATS

Sandy Bindel will be leading this public education class for children ages 4 – 10 on Saturday, June 8 at 10:00 a.m. The cost is \$5.00 per child. The class is now sold out! If you'd like to help with the class there is room for one or two more volunteers. If you'd like to get some work hours in at the garden on Saturday morning, there is plenty of work to be done away from the action of the event.

### BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES



I am working on phone calls now to line up Brown Bag for this season. We have not had a leader step forward to work on this project. I hope this isn't the last year for this popular and successful event.

This week I will be talking about "Gardening When the Weather Won't Cooperate". Next week Teresa Diehl will be sharing how to "Plan a Beautiful Garden".

### PLANT SALE SUCCESS

Treasurer Mark Simmons reports that the Plant Sale was very successful with income of \$1580 dollars (approximately, making sure no other expenses need recorded). Thanks to those who contributed plants. Our selection was smaller than last year but we had a lot of enthusiastic buyers!

### WHAT'S RIGHT NOW

Tuesday, June 4 – Work Day at the Children's Garden will start at approximately 10:30 a.m. and last until dusk, weather permitting.

Tuesday, June 4 – Brown Bag Lunch Series – 12:15 p.m.

Saturday, June 8 – Hands on Habitats – 10:00 a.m. with set-up at 9 a.m.

Wednesday, June 19 – ACMGV Monthly Meeting – Allen County Fairgrounds at 7 p.m.

Saturday, June 22 – Wedding at the Children's Garden – 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

### WHAT'S AHEAD

Friday, July 12 – Board of DD Family Picnic at the Garden – 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, July 13 – Frontier Day's Allen County Museum 1 – 4 p.m.

*Gretchen*