



Digging It!

All the Dirt from the Allen County Master Gardeners

MAY 2020

Welcome Clint Schroeder and Joanne Rex!

Announcement from Clint Schroeder:

The OSU Extension office is excited to announce we have hired our new Master Gardener coordinator. Her name is Joanne Rex and she is from the Harrod area. She has been married for almost 27 years, and has two children. Her daughter is currently attending graduate school and her son is a sophomore at Allen East High School. You may have seen her around our office in the past as she previously worked closely with the OSU Extension office for the past four years as an employee of the Allen County Fair, and has been very active in the 4-H program. Her new position will allow her to continue her work on the 4-H side, and she is very excited to begin working with the Master Gardeners.

She is a hobby gardener and states that she is eager to learn from the best that Allen County has to offer. Currently her flower beds are filled with annuals, perennials, and bulbs. Her family also grows a large vegetable garden and tons of black raspberries (although those are mainly taken care of by her husband). Her family also loves animals and has 3 dogs, various cats, rabbits, chickens and ducks on their small family farm.

I know Joanne is looking forward to getting to know all of you when the stay at home order is lifted. At this time the University has cancelled all face to face programs until July 6th, but we are hopeful that we will be able to return to our office in the coming month. If you haven't participated yet be sure to check out the Lunch and Learn webinars that Pam Bennet has been hosting. Go to <http://go.osu.edu/MGVlearn> to learn more and register for future sessions.

Tidbits from Teresa

Here we are in May and our world has surely changed. We are unsure of the MGV schedule of meetings, brown bag and other events because of COV19. OSU is officially closed until July and we are not sure how that affects us. A new coordinator has been hired, Joanne Rex, Clint will introduce her, and we will help her get to know us and our mission on a one to one...6 feet basis. OSU MGV webinars (<http://go.osu.edu/MGVlearn>) have been very good and they allow us to get our educational hours in online. Since I seem to miss the initial airing I am happy to be able to watch the taped sessions.

Our Children's Garden is in need of many hands and we can social distance there, enjoy the garden and work in an area apart from others. Please stop by and do what you can. Take time to pot up your own bonus plants for the plant sale. We will find a way to sell them and stay safe. Extra pots are in the shed if you need them.

I am always a little confused about the types and needs of lilies so I am delving into that topic this month. Lilies are ideal if you want to add more color into already full beds, as they take up a small footprint and the foliage is neat and attractive. Asiatic lilies bloom first and Orientals follow when they are finished blooming. Asiatic lilies bloom earlier, are not fussy, have no fragrance and multiply rapidly. They have the greatest range of colors and shapes. Oriental hybrids were developed from only a few species native to Japan. They are heavily scented with much larger flowers and bloom later than the Asiatics. They tend to have raised papillae in the petal nectarines giving the bloom a "starfish" look. The bulbs tend to increase in size with taller stems and more blooms each year. New varieties called Orienpet lilies or OT hybrid lilies are the result of crossing Oriental lilies with Trumpet/Aurelian lilies. The mix adds colors, robustness and heat tolerance to the Oriental lily.

All lilies have these growing conditions in common:

Soil: well drained but not dry

Light: sun except for the Martagon which likes part shade

Fertilization: Lilies benefit from a balanced fertilizer before and after bloom. Wait until the stalks are completely brown before cutting them back.

Planting time: Fall is preferred allowing them to establish roots before winter. Potted lilies can be planted anytime except in the hottest summer weeks.

Teresa Diehl May 2020



From Sandy Bindel:

No May MG meeting

With the current crises front and center still, we will not be permitted to hold a MGV meeting this month. I hope you are all well and able to get into your own garden and get it rolling in preparation for summer enjoyment. Please try to work into your schedule some time to get together with some of your fellow master gardeners to keep our wonderful project, The Children's Garden, running. There will be plenty of planting and weeding to do. We will endeavor to label and specify what needs to be done. Be well all!



QUESTION: If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring?

ANSWER: Pilgrims!!!





“How strange that Nature does not knock, and yet does not intrude.”

~ Emily Dickinson

May 1st Update below

A BLESSING THROUGH AND THROUGH

Our Margie. When she gave her heart, she gave it fully. And she gave her whole heart to the Master Gardener Volunteer program and the Children’s Garden! We are so grateful to have received confirmation from Margie’s estate that she had pre-planned a designated gift of \$5,000 for the use and benefit of the Children’s Garden. In accordance with her wishes, the board will be setting that gift aside for the use for some larger projects that have been long overdue and on the “wish list” for some time.

I was able to get the mailing address for Margie’s only brother, Bud and his wife, Bonnie. Their sons, Patrick and Colin. If you would like to send your own condolence card and thank you, it can be mailed to: Bud and Bonnie Bush; 501 Hillpine Drive, Simpsonville, SC 29681.

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY AND COVID 19

While we understand that the world has changed dramatically in the last 8 weeks and that the university is required to take an abundance of caution for their students and employees, Extension programs which are designed to serve local communities and are volunteer driven are under the umbrella and direction. What this means to us for the time being is that 1) our newly hired coordinator is not allowed to have contact with the volunteers, lead in person meetings (even with social distancing), or programming. Currently those guidelines are in place until early July. It is our understanding that there is an effort afoot by some Extension educators to try to get some exemptions so that more contact and leadership can be made between the Extension staff and volunteers. For now it’s a wait and see.

Thankfully you have elected a dedicated, experienced and hard working board members to lead the organization. They have been thrown a lot of curves this year and have been working hard so that you can focus your attention on learning and volunteering and not the day to day issues of running this organization. Please make sure to thank Teresa, Sandy, Mark and Roxanne when you get a chance! The hours they spend making great decisions on behalf of our group are nothing short of amazing!

WORK DAYS

Since we are unable to hold monthly meetings at the current time, it is more important than ever for you to help step in to bridge the gap. Since our new coordinator can’t work with us we will not have set work times when she will be at the garden to lead projects for some time. I encourage you to reach out to your classmates and MGV friends and arrange times when you can meet at the garden and work at the same time, for companionship and safety, while practicing social distancing.

We had three different small crews get together a week or so ago and accomplish some tasks around the garden and by all accounts, it was especially rewarding to be working in the garden with our friends who we haven’t seen since fall!

I will not be able to set a weekly work schedule at the garden as in the past due to changes in my “day job” schedule (thanks, COVID). However, now that the weather is warming up, I do intend to put out a brief email each week to let you know when I

plan to be on site in case you have questions about what jobs are a priority or just want to know when someone else will be around. Check your email or shoot me a text if you have questions.

QUIET NEIGHBORHOOD

With the museum and library still closed, the foot traffic at the garden has been reduced but so is the joy of having access to a couple nearby bathrooms! If you are working at the garden, the closest public bathroom is on the ground floor of the 750 medical building across High Street. There is a public bathroom on the left hand side of the main hallway and the building is open each day except Sunday. It is a medical building so be respectful and wear a mask inside. Thanks!

RAFFLE PRIZES

Thank you to all of you who donated a portion of your seminar fee (or more) and paid your dues! We are excited to announce the winners of the door prize items from the seminar that are either alive and need a loving home, or expire before next year's seminar!

The gift cards will be mailed to you this week. The 6 plants will be brought to the Children's Garden shed on Saturday, May 2nd at 10 a.m. and be available for pick up there. I will hope that you can swing by and pick them up from the shed before Tuesday afternoon. If not, reach out to me and we will see what we can arrange for you to pick yours up.

Janie McBride	Hanging basket
Larry Brunk	Fern
Sandy Kennedy	Succulent planter
Roxanne Shoffstall	Succulent planter
Lynn Ellerbrock	Succulent planter
Vicki Jacobs	Galvanized Tin planter and plant
Cathy Smith	Gift Certificate – Cherry's Farm Market
Mary Kay Koch	Gift Certificate – Cherry's Farm Market
Mark Simmons	Gift Certificate – Readmore/Hallmark
Sharon Snyder	Gift Certificate – Indian Trail Garden Center
Sandy Laus	Gift Certificate – Olive Garden
Harriet Johnson	Gift Certificate – Olive Garden
Pam Joseph	6 cupcakes from Sarah's Sweets

Congratulations!

May 1st Update: COVID has delayed the start of the new MGV coordinator, I will be sending out intermittent emails to let you know when I will be at the garden working so that you can plan to join me or catch me if you need something.

I will be at the garden on Saturday, MAY 2 from 10 a.m. till noon to mow and do some other tasks, so feel free to join me if you can. I will also be bringing the live plants that were won by those of you who made donations of your seminar fee. These plants will stay in the Children's Garden shed for you to pick up from Saturday at 10 a.m. until Tuesday evening at 6. Then I will bring them home if you haven't picked them up to care for them.

~ Gretchen



Woodland Garden -The Children's Garden

Many things have changed over the years at the garden and one of the most noticeable is the woodland garden. Several large trees died and were removed which changed the environment from dense shade to partial shade. Last spring there was a very noticeable difference in the species of plants that emerged and that's when my battle began with Bishop's Weed, also known as goutweed (*Aegopodium podagraria*).

Bishop's weed wreaks havoc in moist, partly shaded woodland areas and forms a dense mat that prohibits other plants from establishing. This trait is especially harmful in natural wooded areas where it outcompetes native plants. Because of this, many native woodland plants are now endangered. Bishop's Weed, not only spreads by seeds, but also by underground runners.

First I tried digging an area out and carefully removed all the visible roots, only to come back a few days later to find it had popped back up. It was so time consuming, I had to painfully resort to herbicides. Now, many of you know being an organic grower, I am anti-herbicide. So, armed with a tank of that awful weed killer, the attack on the Bishop's Weed began. I sprayed, it returned. Sprayed again, it returned. After spraying about 5 or 6 times, losing the battle each time, I decided to bring out the "big guns". With a new weapon of herbicide in the tank, I finally succeeded in killing the Bishop's Weed, but, unfortunately, there were some casualties among other plants along the way.

Late last fall, after applying many bags of compost to replenish the soil, Sandy Bindel and I planted hundreds of bulbs. Luckily, the Virginia Bluebells, trillium, and bloodroot survived and added to the beauty of the new daffodils, muscari, and crocus. Teresa Diehl is bringing more trillium and jack-in-the-pulpit from her woods to add to the garden. The woodland garden blooms again! P.S. Don't ever, ever, plant this in your garden! - Kay Studer.

April Blooms at the Allen County Children's Garden by Kay Studer



Hellebores, Virginia Bluebells, Thalia daffodils, Trillium, Muscari, daffodils, snowbells, Bleeding heart, and crocus.