



# Digging It!



Dirt from the Allen County Master Gardeners

**OCTOBER 2019**

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## ~ Tidbits from Teresa

While you are enjoying these beautiful fall days take some time to survey your 2019 garden. Think about what did well for you, this can vary a lot from year to year, and what did not. What was too much trouble to maintain and what was pretty self-sufficient. Some perennials are by nature short lived and others are either self-seeding or long term survivors. I love my daylilies but some varieties have become invasive and need to head to the compost pile. Since I am a plant addict my beds tend to be chockfull and do need some editing and fall is a good time to do that. Come spring I tend to forget about their overreaching. Early fall is a great time to move or divide perennials that have finished blooming. Simply cut back the top growth by  $\frac{1}{2}$  before dividing, water well and they will be in fine shape come spring. Hold off on fertilization except for lawns. For lawns fall fertilization is the most important one. Universities turf experts are now recommending you cut fertilization on lawns to two applications per year.

Three of my fall favorites are:

*Amsonia*: 2 to 3 foot plant, great texture plant, pale blue flowers in spring and outstanding yellow fall color.

*Japanese anemone*: Neat foliage and beautiful pink or white flowers in the fall. It is a great combination with the spring anemone.

*Sedum*: The butterflies congregate around them, they are carefree and they look good all season long. The seed heads are attractive into winter.

The plant name for October is *Larkspur* and *Delphinium*: *Consolida*, *Delphinium* *Ranunculaceae*. Both are named for the shape of their flowers. The larkspur looks a bit like the claw of a bird and the early delphiniums looked like the bottle-like nose of the dolphin, *delphis* being the Greek for dolphin. The larkspurs, *Delphinium consolida*, from the Latin *consolida*, made whole, referring to the medicinal properties of the plant. It was thought to be efficacious against poisonous stings, not imbibed, as all *Ranunculaceae* are poisonous. They were dried and powdered and used as very effective insecticides. The American larkspur, *Delphinium nuttallianum*, was found by and named after Thomas Nuttall. He explored and botanized in Oregon and northern California. It was used by the West Coast Indians to make blue dye and by European settlers to make ink.

***Teresa Diehl ~ October 2019***



## ~ From Sandy Bindel:

I'm sure you've heard of hydroponics, but have you ever heard of AQUAPONICS? I hadn't and assumed they are the same thing. Wrong!

Several people gave me the name of a man on Poling Road in Elida who has an aquaponic operation at his home. I only had an email address and was delighted late last winter when he answered my request for him to explain and show off his system at one of our meetings. I had most dates filled so we agreed on the October meeting. Unfortunately, he has had a tough summer and there is little to see at his home for a large group. And parking is a bit of a challenge. We decided to go with a different location where he can explain things using slides.

Therefore, our October meeting will be at the OSU Lima Campus on Wednesday, October 16th at 6:30. We will be in room 170 of the Sciences Building (this is the room we use for food prep for the seminar). Jeff Givans, owner of Kismet Gardens will deliver what should be a very interesting presentation!

Guests welcome. No need to bring a chair this time!



## ~ SEASON WINDING DOWN

It seems impossible to me that we are to October! With the late onset of spring... and for that matter, summer, I am just now feeling like we are getting into the groove!

I have such fond memories of standing in the shade of the shed with Mel in about June discussing all the projects that needed accomplished and him saying with his wry smile, "we'll have it ready for company by October". Welp, almost. Almost.



### TUESDAY WORK DAYS

Four Tuesday workdays remain, including October 1.

On the 1st I have other commitments so Teresa, Sandy and Roxanne will be there from noon until around 3 to work the project list I left them. They would love your help!

On the 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> I plan to be at the garden from noon until dusk. There is still plenty to accomplish. Please help!

### WORK FOR FOOD – GARDEN CLEAN UP

The final work day of the season will be on Saturday, October 26 from 9 a.m. until noon. Coffee and Panera Bagels will be available in the morning and pizza will be served at noon. As you know, this is a big task that requires many hands to be accomplished. Please mark your calendars and dress for the weather. The rain date will be Saturday, November 2. SAVE THE DATE.

### CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR ACMGV DEB LYLE

The family of Master Gardener Volunteer Deb Lyle has extended an invitation to any interested Allen County Master Gardener Volunteers or other friends of Deb to attend a celebration of life event at The Children's Garden on Sunday, October 13 at 1:00 p.m.

I will be arriving at the garden at noon to make sure it is clean and tidy for the event. We will be putting up signage closing the garden for the private event during the time of the service.

You are welcome to participate if you wish.

### TIME TO WORK ON RECORDING YOUR HOURS FOR THE VMS

Please begin to compile your volunteer and education hours for the VMS. I know that it can sometimes feel unimportant, but the hours we volunteer and the contacts we make with others are really the "currency" that shows our

value to the county and state stakeholders. Your time and knowledge are valuable and the only way that they get counted is by recording them. Please take this seriously and do your best to accurately record your contributions to the ACMGV's. Clint has already asked me to begin compiling data for him to submit his report to the commissioners. As always, if you are VMS challenged, please email me or mail your hours to me so that I can get them in the system. Thanks for your attention to this important matter!

*Gretchen*



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amsonia\\_hubrichtii](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amsonia_hubrichtii)

You are Invited!

# Allen County Master Gardener Volunteer Recognition Banquet

**Saturday, November 9 at 6:30 p.m.**

Bath Township House, 2880 Ada Rd., Lima, OH



Please bring a covered dish, salad or dessert to share.

Main course, beverage and table service will be provided.

Guests welcome!

Please RSVP by November 2nd to Sandy Kennedy at  
419-733-6334 or by emailing : [tkennedy@watchtv.net](mailto:tkennedy@watchtv.net)

If you'd like to volunteer to help set up the event please contact Sandy at the contact information above.