



Digging It!



All the Dirt from the Allen County Master Gardeners

OCTOBER 2020

Notes from Joanne

The summer has flown by very fast! I hope that everyone is enjoying the fall weather. We are having an end of the year business meeting on **October 7th at 6:00 pm at the Children's Garden**. Please sign up on the VMS for the meeting if you can come. Bring a lawn chair and a face mask. I still have not had the pleasure to meet several of you and I am hoping to meet more of you. If you are unable to come, I will send out an email with a summary on what was covered. If we are having bad weather, please check your email for an update on the meeting.

We will be holding an election for President and Vice-President this year. Teresa Diehl is the committee chair for the nominating committee, she will not be running for office this election. If you know of someone you would like to nominate or wish to throw your name in the hat, please contact Teresa at 419-204-7199. We would like to have all the nominations in at the meeting on October 7th. We will then prepare and mail the ballots to make sure all active members can vote. I am very blessed to have such a good group of officers. I try to keep in weekly contact with the officers as we work together to improve our program, and I plan to continue this practice with the new officers.

We have several things to be thankful for this month! We have several improvements to the garden in the works due to some potential contributions by Lowe's. This is very exciting, and I will keep you updated as things get finalized. Our new bridge being built by Dave Webb is part of the Lowe's contribution. On another good note, we have received a \$5,000 memorial donation from the family of Margie Bush.

I just want to take this time to let everyone know how my hours with OSU Extension work. My position is normally three days a week and up to 5 days (or more) during fair season. Our county commissioners are still only marginally contributing to OSU Extension in Allen County. The salary is covered partial by Master Gardeners, Ag and Natural Resources, 4-H, and Allen Co Fair. My time is split between these areas of extension and seasonal hours for the fair. If you find me assisting in any of these areas, this is the reason. This position requires me to work jointly in the different areas. I have been spending Tuesday mornings at the garden and hopefully next year things will be back to normal.

For the time being Ohio State has all employees on a hybrid work model, which means some of my time is spent working from home. This is temporary and I can still be reached by phone or email. The extension office schedule is flexible and allows me to help and assist you throughout the entire week making the most of the hours. I have updated my cell phone number in the VMS, and the office number as well as my email is also listed. If I am busy, please leave a message and I will get back with you. I have appreciated everything that everyone has contributed this year to Master Gardeners. The help and assistance that everyone has shown me has been very much appreciated.

Joanne Rex ~ Allen Co. OSU Master Gardener Coordinator



Tidbits from Teresa

By now our gorgeous summer annuals are in danger of being hit by frost and losing their former glory. We are looking to fall survivors and fall stunners to fill the void. Some of the showiest fall plants are shrubs and here are two of my favorites.

Beautyberry: *Callicarpa*'s berries can be golden, white or a spectacular fuschia (my favorite). Beautyberry is a native understory shrub that is usually 4 x 5 feet but can be pruned to 18" to produce a dense plant with more berries. This shrub can take some shade but has more berries in sun. *Callicarpa* means *callos*, "beauty" and *Carpas* "fruit." The roots, leaves and branches were used by Native American tribes to treat malaria, fevers and rheumatism. The roots treated dizziness, stomachache, dysentery and were boiled and used as a liquid for colic in babies. Early farmers would crush the leaves and use them to repel mosquitoes as it contains two compounds that are repellants. The fruit is a food source for over 40 songbirds and other wildlife. Prune it in fall or winter as the berries are present on new growth.

Another favorite of mine is *Sweetspire*, *Itea virginica*. The variety *Little Henry*, a dwarf *Itea*, is suited to most gardens since it is shorter and more compact than the wild types. It is 2 – 3 feet tall and wide. The negative is that it can form colonies by root suckering if left unchecked. (I have not experienced this.) *Itea* is at its finest in fall. The fall leaf shades of red orange and gold often persist until early winter. It has no serious insect or disease problems and deer tend to avoid it. *Sweetspire* will grow in full sun to shade, wet areas, and is a very heat and drought resistant native shrub. An added bonus is its sweet-spicy fragrance.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at our first and only meeting of 2020. COV-19 has done a number on the ACMGV's as well as the rest of the world. The date is Wednesday, October 7th at 6:00 at the Children's Garden. Please bring a lawn chair and we will social distance. OSU extension has very much limited what we have been able to do but Joanne and Clint were able to get this meeting approved. We have much to cover and if you haven't been up to the garden you will be pleasantly surprised at how beautiful it looks.

We have elections for President and Vice President this year for the 2021-2022 term. Chris Fetzer and I are on the nominating committee (I'm hanging up my gavel after 15+ years) and we are looking for nominations. Too bad fall has to end, it is such an awesome season.

Teresa Diehl

October 2020

"Autumn shows us how beautiful it is to let things go."

Unknown



October Notes –

Last month I stated how well my garlic did this current growing season. I was feeling pretty accomplished in growing garlic until I visited Amanda Wischmeyer at Little Riley Creek Farm! She operates an organic farm near Bluffton. She has several varieties of garlic for seed or use in cooking that are absolutely fantastic. I have decided to try my hand at growing some soft neck garlic along with my hard neck varieties from this year. I have my cloves planted and, if the coming growing season is as good as the last, I should have 100 bulbs next July. All this in two 3' X 3' plots!

Looking forward to seeing everyone on October 7th!

Sandy Bindel

Happenings from Kay

MILLSTONE FOUNTAIN

Two large millstones -possibly brought from Pennsylvania about 1845. (One male stone, 1 female) These were probably first used at Tone's Mill on the Auglaize River between Lima and Spencerville and later at Section 3 Mill on the canal two miles north of Spencerville. They were later located on the W.W. Rider farm on Mulberry St. Spencerville. - information from the Allen County Museum

The story behind the millstone fountain at the Children's Garden started in the late 90's. The two millstones were lying in the grass near the log cabin at the museum. (One still remains there). We had seen pictures of millstones converted into fountains and inquired if one of the stones could be moved into the garden. The Northwest Garden Pond Society was contacted to see if they would assist in making a fountain from one of the stones. Five men and a backhoe arrived and we all held our breath as the stone dangled from straps, while it was being moved. It was gently placed on the foundation they had prepared and in a matter of hours, we had a fountain.

This year, it was discovered that the pump was no longer working. To replace the pump, the junction box had to be located. No one knew where it was. I thought my son, who is an electrical engineer in Arizona, would be able to tell by looking at the blueprints. Armed with blueprints, and holding them in front of the camera while on "FaceTime", ended up with us both laughing so hard, because it was impossible to see. He finally said "Call an electrician"! Gretchen put a call in to the men from IBEW who found the junction box, marked it on the blueprint and installed the donated pump. Many thanks, the millstone fountain flows again.

Scott's Company

Some of Ohio's biggest companies have thrived in the stay-at-home economy, posting record summers as their stock prices surge. Marysville based Scott's Miracle-Gro shares have soared 58% this year to record highs. The company's lawn and garden products have been in tremendous demand from homeowners stuck

at home. Scott's sold 28% more products in April, May and June than it did last summer. *The Columbus Dispatch*

Garden Receives Mini Grant

"A Walk Through the Seasons", is a 16 foot walkway composed of 64 colorful pavers. The pavers are painted with the symbols found in each season.

The project was designed to have 10 children from the Third Ward have four painting sessions at the Children's Garden. However, the restrictions from OSU prohibited the use of the garden and volunteers for any educational classes, due to the Covid 19 Virus. On to Plan B: pavers, paints and materials were delivered to the neighborhood association, and the children completed the paintings there. The walkway was installed on September 22 during Neighborhood Impact Week by Joanne, Roxanne, Teresa and Kay. Check it out on your next visit to the garden.

from Kay Studer ~ October 2020

