



# Digging It!



All the Dirt from the Allen County Master Gardeners

SEPTEMBER 2019

---

## *Tidbits from Teresa*

There is still time to plant lettuce – my green beans planted in August are now loaded with blooms just as the earlier planting is ready to go on the compost pile. The fall lettuce is always my favorite maybe because I feel like I am tricking nature to enjoy it. Late fall is a good time to use a balanced fertilizer. But timing is the key. The ground needs to be cold so the plant has stopped growing, usually when the plant has lost its leaves. In cold conditions the nutrients hold in the soil working down deeper. That way they are in the root zone come spring. The best time to feed cool-season lawn grasses is late summer and early fall, when nighttime temps are in the 50 degree range. This will give it a head start come spring. Most sod experts suggest cutting down to two fertilizer applications per year and to make sure to make one of them in the fall. Over fertilization and runoff eventually reach our waterways and affect algae levels.

Fall is the best time to spread compost. Freezing, thawing, rain and snow help work the amendments into the soil. Keep in mind that wet soil can become compacted, so try to stay off it until conditions are drier. Since pesky insects are not feeding on leaves, flowers, or twigs in late fall, a systemic won't do any good. Horticultural oils however work well on scale, mites and other insects when applied in late fall or winter. When shrubs are leafless it is easier to apply to all areas of the plant. Be sure to check the label for pests controlled and application rates. Every season has its joys and pains and in fall it's sad to

see the downside of our summer blooms. Fall does have its own glory in oranges, yellows and rusts. Living in Ohio is enjoying nature in many facets.

Weigelia, Weigelia (formerly Diervilla) Caprifoliaceae has had a name change. They were once thought to be related to the Diervilla lonicera, or bush honeysuckle. The original “diervilla” was brought from Canada to France by a French surgeon, M. Dierville, who sent plant specimens home from French Acadia (Nova Scotia). Robert Fortune found what was known as the Dievilla florida in China in 1845 and sent it to England. It was established in British gardens and hybridized with plants from Japan and Korea. The Asiatic diervillas were thought to be a new species and were named Weigela after a German professor and author. The weigela and the bush honey suckle, which is undisputedly diervilla, are members of the caprifolia family, named from the Latin caper (a goat) and folium (a leaf).

Teresa Diehl

September 2019



**SEPTEMBER MEETING**

Several years ago I overheard Elizabeth Eley talking about her interest in and collection of native plants. She also mentioned the woods on her property. My ears really perked up when she said she lived in the City, just blocks from the Children’s Garden.

Not being able to contain myself, I asked her where she lives. She told me her address and I promptly drove by at the first chance I got. Was I ever intrigued by the glimpses of a “secret garden”, complete with a beautiful deep colored shed matching the house! Elizabeth has invited me to stop by but I’ve never gotten around to doing that. Here is our chance to all get to see and hear about the native plants, butterfly garden, and working rain garden that Elizabeth and her husband have established in their yard. Bring a chair. Guests welcome!

Elizabeth and Glenn Eley: 1733 Oakland Parkway (corner of Pears Ave. and Oakland Parkway)

Wednesday, September 18 ~~ 6:30 p.m.

Sandy Bindel





Come be a part of this wonderful event!

### BUTTERFLY MIGRATION CELEBRATION

This SUNDAY, Sept 8!

Set up begins at 1 p.m. and the event starts at 2 p.m.

PLEASE HELP IF YOU CAN!

It takes nearly 40 adults to work this event so your participation MATTERS!

### LOTS OF GARDENING SEASON LEFT

Even though the nights have gotten cooler and the humidity dropped, there is still 1/3 of the garden season left! And this is a great time to be outside working for those who struggle with the heat. At the Children's Garden and at the Fairgrounds project, there is still plenty of work that needs accomplished and a need for loving care.

Now that the Brown Bag series is completed for the year, I plan to be at the Children's Garden on **Tuesday's beginning at around 1 p.m. until dusk**. I do have a few lunch meeting commitments so if I am running a bit late occasionally, just find some weeds to pull and I will be there soon.

### NEW AG AND NATURAL RESOURCES EDUCATOR

Those who were able to attend the picnic last month had the opportunity to meet our new AGNR Educator , Clint Schroeder.

We are grateful that the county has restored funding to the AGNR educator position with Allen County Extension and look forward to Clint's help and leadership. Clint's background is in production agriculture so he admittedly has a big learning curve ahead regarding backyard horticulture and the MGV program.

We look forward to having a closer tie to the Extension Office and a new Educator to lead our educational programming in the future. WELCOME, CLINT!

### PUTNAM COUNTY MGV TRAINING

If you have a friend, family member or acquaintance who has expressed interest in the MGV training program, there is an opportunity this fall for them to take the training.

Putnam County is holding classes during the day beginning Tuesday, October 1 and continuing into November. These classes last all day with 2 sessions per day.

Allen County residents may take the training portion in Ottawa and then complete their volunteer commitment in Allen County next year and be certified as an Allen County MGV. More information is available at [putnam.osu.edu](http://putnam.osu.edu)

~ Gretchen