



Digging It!



All the Dirt from the Allen County Master Gardeners

SEPTEMBER 2020

Notes from Joanne

I hope that you are all well and are having a pleasant summer. It is sure going fast. I am currently working on Tuesday mornings in the garden and have gotten to meet several of our dedicated volunteers. The garden is looking very good and several projects are getting done.

I want to send a huge "Thank You" out to Jenny Webb and her husband for taking over the work of the bridge project. This was something that we were hoping we could put off until spring, but due to extremely rotten wood it became a safety hazard. The bridge is favorite of all the visiting children, so we are glad to have it replaced. We will still have to pay for the cost of materials, but we are hopeful that Lowe's will give us a discount. We truly appreciate all the work that the Webb's will be putting in on the project. If you see Jenny or her husband, please say thank you.

Clint and I are working on the several steps involved in getting permission to have monthly business meetings. OSU is allowing permission for Master Gardener's to have necessary business meetings when all the paperwork has been approved. These meetings will have some restrictions that we will have to follow. The best meeting space would be preferably outside due to the space requirements for an indoor space. At this time, it will just be a business meeting. We are not permitted to have educational meetings yet, but this is a step in the right direction. Everything is a process and permission seems to be given in small steps. The OSU Master Gardener staff in Columbus is working hard to get things back to "normal". When we get all the steps approved, I will be letting the officers know so that a meeting can be planned. Thank you for your patience.

As you know the butterfly release has been cancelled, but we are getting several things prepared for the bag handout. This will be a drive through event with no face to face contact with the public. The bags are filled with games, prizes, crafts, and educational butterfly items. We are preparing 100 bags for the event.

Please remember to sign up for your workdays using the VMS! I will continue to send out email when we have extra projects, need additional help, or have important MGCV information. I am hoping to be able to meet more of you in the upcoming weeks.

Joanne Rex

Allen Co. OSU Master Gardener Coordinator



Tidbits from Teresa

Can you do that? They say nay, but you can! If you inadvertently plant a bulb or corm upside down, it will right itself and the stem will grow upward. Not the best planting practice but it works.

You can move a perennial in full bloom if you need to - it just takes extra TLC. Try to move it on a cool or cloudy day and dig the new hole first. Try to move with as much of the root system undisturbed as much as possible. Make the new hole the right size so you don't have to move it in and out to get the right depth. Once in the new hole, add soil ½ way up, fill with water and let it drain. Now, add more soil and soak again. If the plant is in bright sun try to position a screen to shade it for a few days and keep the soil moist but not wet for a week or two. It will take a season but it will be back to its former glory.

Perennials with taproots can be divided but they will take more time to recover, and early spring or fall works best. Here you need to wash off the roots so you can see where you need to cut. Each division must have at least one bud or stem at the top. Try to leave an equal amount of the smaller side roots on each piece. Lay on a hard surface and carefully cut from top to bottom, a utility knife works best. Immediately replant with the top at the same depth or a little higher as before. Soak the divisions in. This can be done on baby's breath, balloon flower, bug bane and cushion spurge. Patience, it will take a couple years for them to become reestablished.

You can cut back asters and garden mums in late summer after they have set flower buds. You do this to keep them tidy and more compact. They will tend to bloom later but well before a freeze in our area. Gretchen says she gives her Autumn Joy sedum a haircut around Memorial Day and this keeps the plant compact so it doesn't get too leggy and fall over when it blooms. See, you can break the rules and succeed!

Take some time to visit the Childrens Garden. It is looking beautiful. A big thank you goes out to the dedicated "skeleton" crew that is giving her TLC. We may not have been able to meet this year but there are still many ways to social distance and converse over the Childrens Garden gate. Every time I'm at the garden I learn something new and my fellow MGV's lift my spirits

PS ~ Over the past few months we have been blessed by some "garden angels". These include friends of Kay Studer who paid for and helped establish a pizza garden and Allen Tree Service who chipped and ground for us. Tina Decker, a former ACMGV, and her husband Steven created Minoins out of tires that are awesome and a big hit with kids. Roxanna Shofstall recieved a donation of "musically named" daylilies from Perennial Plant Peddler. Kay also worked for and recieved a grant to expand our walkway pavers. Glad to be the bearer of GOOD NEWS for a change!

Teresa Diehl

September 2020



September Notes –

Well it appears we might be able to have a couple of meetings before the end of the year! Joanne is working on that so stay tuned.

This summer I have been concentrating on my vegetable garden. I actually grew some AWESOME garlic! Thank you Jenny and Victoria! Because of not being able to see my go-to experts, I've been on YouTube often to search for answers to questions and tips for growing specific veggie plants. We have many resources available to us through OSU Extension, and I have found a YouTube site that I really like. It is done by a young, enthusiastic man named Luke. The site is MIgardener. One of the most interesting things I have learned is that pollen often is rendered sterile at temperatures above 90 degrees! News to me. The site is worth a look-see.

Hope to see you soon!

Sandy Bindel



Happenings from Kay

QUILT GARDENS - ROAD TRIP

If you want a fun “day trip,” jump in your car and head to Indiana to see the beautiful quilt garden displays.

In mid-August, I traveled with a “flower friend” to Middlebury, where we visited Krider World’s Fair Garden, a very interesting garden established in 1934 after the Krider Nursery had an exhibit at the World’s Fair in Chicago. The trees are labeled with date planted, and provide a shady canopy for the display gardens below. Next, we headed to Elkhart to see the quilt gardens and the Wellfield Botanical Garden. You can eat at the famous Das Dutchman Essenhaus in Middlebury, but we found an excellent restaurant, The Vine in downtown Elkhart with patio seating. After a fantastic lunch, the next stop was Goshen to see more quilt gardens. There, we discovered our favorite garden, the “Purdue Extension Elkhart County Star.” Located at the Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds, this huge 800 square foot garden featured 3,618 flowering plants.



This is the 13th year the Master Gardeners have organized the Quilt Garden Tours in the heart of Northeast Indiana's Amish settlements. It's amazing! - Kay Studer

Go to: <https://www.visitelkhartcounty.com> to find a map to all the quilt gardens, the 2020 Master Gardener guidebook (which includes details of all the quilt patterns and flowers used), and other places of interest.

from Kay Studer ~ September 2020