LICKING COUNTY MASTER GARDENER NEWSLETTER

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"“All that is gold does not glitter. Not all those who wander are lost: the old that is strong does not wither, deep roots are not reached by the frost.”

— J.R.R Tolkien

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Monarch Watch Turns 30 Years Old

Kaye Alban

Starting in 1974, Chip Taylor established research sites and directed students studying Neotropical African honeybees (killer bees) in French Guiana, Venezuela, an Mexico. In 1992, Taylor founded *Monarch Watch*, an outreach program focused on education, research, and conservation relative to monarch butterflies.

Monarch Watch is a nonprofit education and research program based at the University of Kansas that focuses on the monarch butterfly, its habitat, and its spectacular fall migration.

Mission Statement: *Monarch Watch* strives to provide the public with information about the biology of monarch butterflies, their fall migration, and how to use monarchs to further science education in primary and secondary schools. We engage in research on monarch migration biology and monarch population dynamics to better understand how to conserve the monarch migration. We also promote protection of monarch habitats throughout North America.

Vision Statement: In recognition of the rapid loss of habitats and resources needed by monarch butterflies in the USA, Canada, and Mexico, it is clear that the preservation of the monarch migration will require stewardship by the governments and private citizens of all three countries. We all must work together to create, conserve, and protect monarch habitats. Sustaining monarch habitats will have the effect of protecting vital pollinators and other wildlife.

MONARCH WATCH:

Founder: Chip Taylor
Type: volunteer-based citizen science organization
Purpose: track the fall migration of the monarch butterfly
Headquarters: University of Kansas

ANNOUNCEMENT…October 2022 - The future of Monarch Watch?

Chip Taylor is stepping down as the Director of Monarch Watch, but Monarch Watch will continue. A new director/scientist/professor will be hired to fill my position and I will step aside in August 2023, assuming I remain in good health and a director/scientist is hired. While I have never been paid to direct Monarch Watch, to hire a replacement will require funding. The solution has been to create a **Monarch Watch Endowed Directorship & Professorship**. A public fundraising campaign will be announced soon.

To learn more about Monarch Watch, check out their *Wikipedia* page: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monarch_Watch

Coordinator's Column — Lori Swihart

"You are the boat; I am just the rudder."

How can it be the last newsletter of 2022 already?

Looking back at 2022, I am pleased with the total number of contacts. We had over 6,000 contacts this year. That is 6,000+ individuals that know we exist here as a horticulture resource in Licking County. This is very important as more and more people are turning to gardening for food, mental health, environmental stewardship or exercise during and after the pandemic. For a look at our impact for 2022 and the previous years, as well as how the state is doing, visit this link on our county web-site: https://licking.osu.edu/program-areas/master-gardener-volunteers/impact-report

But what can we do even better? How do we reach more first-time gardeners and impact seasoned gardeners?

How do we get kids outside to enjoy the wonders that nature has to offer? How can the gardens inspire more gardeners? These are the questions we will be bringing to **the November 19th Retreat**. The meeting begins at 9 am at the Extension Office. Park in the back as the front door will not be open. Bring a side dish so we can break bread afterwards. LCMGV's are all invited to attend. Bring your ideas, and your concerns. We have over 60 members and I truly hope to see a large number of our members show up because this is your organization. What direction do you want to see it go? You are the boat; I am just the rudder.

While on the website, check out our updated Learning Gardens page. Thank you to those that have contributed to the current content. I would like to populate this page with more information about the plots, and interesting tidbits.

On the subject of websites, go to our Four Seasons website and view the great line-up of speakers, our chairs and for all this coming March. Go to: https://fourseasonsofgardening.org/2023-spring-conference

I want to express my appreciation to Lizz Stearns for her time, talent and craft in creating this newsletter. This will be her last newsletter. She has also teamed up with Julie Strohmeyer to update our Four Seasons website to the fresh and robust site it is today. Thank you, Lizz and Julie, for sharing your gifts.

This leaves open the position of Newsletter editor and our Virtual Communications committee needs a chair. Interested? Contact me via email.

President's Column — Kathryn Bierley

"I look forward to seeing all of you on November 19th!"

As my term as president of LCMGV comes to a close, it would be easy to simply sit back and reflect on our accomplishments over the past two years…there have certainly been a lot of them. It has been heartwarming to see how engaged the members of our Licking County group can be. The hard work you put in is so very rewarding to watch. It has also been a genuine pleasure to work with such enthusiastic and creative members on the board.

Rather than reflecting on our past accomplishments, however, I want to talk instead about what's to come. In the last board meeting, we established guidelines for the upcoming Planning Session. Over the last two years, we've become accustomed to strategically setting parameters for each meeting or event. As our meeting progressed, however, the mood changed. We've come to appreciate the enthusiasm and hard work put in by new members of LCMGV. They bring with them fresh ideas and new perspectives. With that in mind, we have set a new structure for the upcoming planning session.

Rather than simply laying out a specific structure for the meeting, we've established a group of exercises and small group discussions designed to have you set future goals. We're hoping these more open-ended discussions will spawn creativity and fresh ideas for future events. There was a sense of excitement among the board members as we anticipate letting go of the reins to see where new ideas take our wonderful organization.

I look forward to seeing all of you on November 19th. Let's move forward together!

Pollinator Habitat Series — Kate Barrett

I attended the first session of the Pollinator Habitat series and it was excellent! I highly recommend it to all of us, as well as family and friends. Doug Tallamy explains how our suburban landscapes can go from a virtual desert for wildlife to a welcoming habitat for birds, butterflies and caterpillars to just name a few! It starts right in our own yards. I felt his presentation went beyond gardening - which interests all of us I know - and expands into how we as home and property owners can and should create wildlife welcoming areas - as Homegrown National Parks.

The recording of Doug Tallamy's session for our Pollinator Habitat 101 webinar series is now available, along with the other presenters:

https://u.osu.edu/pollinators101/recordings/

Remaining session (register at: https://go.osu.edu/registerPH101)

11/11: **Shana Byrd, The Dawes Arboretum**
Getting Started with Wildflower Patches, Flower Strips, and Meadows

In Memorium—Marsha Long

A member of our MGV family has passed. Marsha Long, a beautiful, easy going soul, enjoyed working in the Learning Garden. She was also a treasurer and was key in helping us receive our grant for the building where we store our supplies. Always a smile and a laugh. Rest in peace Marsha. Job well done.

Link to obituary: https://www.newarkadvocate.com/obituaries/mnj247828

Marsha at front of picture

Marsha helping Nancy McClary at the conference

RED-dington by Design or Good Fortune — Joe "Grizz" Smith

This year's fall foliage colors were indeed "walk stopping", breathtaking, spectacular. Whether walker or rider, this annual gift could not have been over looked.

Being the inquisitive outdoorsman I am, the need to know if this dazzling spectrum of red was a planned design or an oversighted gift. In speaking with Stone Works Partners, Reddington Village builder, I found that this warm color of red, one of the most visible colors in our color spectrum, was actually an omission of our village design. Studies support the theory that the color red increases physical attractiveness capable of stimulating our senses to a point of faster heartbeats. As we and our guests journey through RED-dington Village, be thankfully aware of our undesigned gift.

See you in the gardens.
"Grizz"

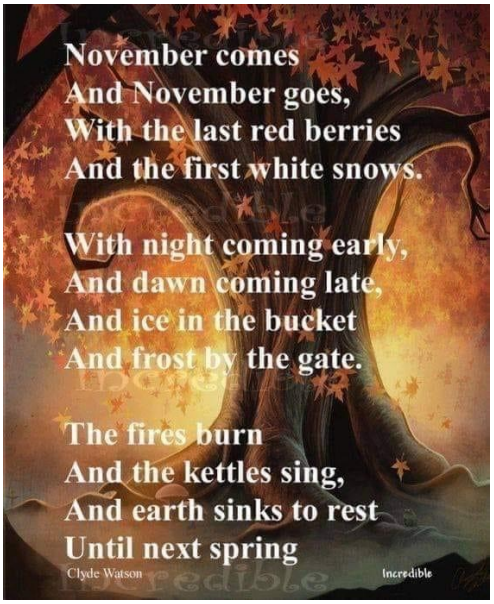
Garden Cleanup Thank You — Lori Swihart

Thank you, thank you to all that were able to attend the Garden Clean up on October 15. I counted 21 members (and a spouse) that braved the windy and chilly day to put the garden to bed.

It took two hours to complete, and I want to give Brad Gamble, Steven Cohen and Don Grube a HUGE HIGH FIVE, for running that chipper into the compost bin for the solid 2 hours we were there. We had wheelbarrows lined up and they just kept feeding the chipper. I don't think they were ever able to start on the compost bin because of the wheelbarrows lining up constantly.

Dian Eddy, thank you for the weed eater work. Nice to have all those weeds down behind the berries.

One of our newest members, Julie Scott, came too!



Reddington Village Gardens Plant of the Month: Hibiscus (*Hibiscus syriacus*)

Joe "Grizz" Smith

Recently while walking our gardens, a village resident shared with me that they had always believed hibiscus grow only in tropical climates. Ornamental hibiscus are of two types: Tropical and Hardy. Both types are perennials but the tropical is grown as an annual in temperate climates. Hardy or temperate hibiscus are those that cycle through all four seasons. Reddington Village houses four species of hibiscus: two herbaceous (non-woody plant that dies back to the ground) and two non-herbaceous (woody stems). Holly hocks and Hardy hibiscus die back to the ground while Rose-of-Sharon and Summer Ruffle produce hard wood.

The term hibiscus is Greek meaning mallow. To fully appreciate this enchanting plant calls for an understanding of the marsh-mallow. Mallow root (*Athaea officinalis*), replaced today by gelatin, was the ingredient used to make marshmallows. The name marsh-mallows was derived both from the wet environment where the plant grows and the name of the plant itself. Who doesn't love the flower of the oldest ingredient of the beloved s'more?

Hibiscus, the state flower of Hawaii, produces a rainbow of colorful blooms - white, yellow, red, purple, violet, true blue or a combination of color. These late summer to fall flowers can have single, double or semi-double blooms. They prefer full sun but will grow in filtered sun or partial shade. If bud dropping starts, it may indicate that the plant is not receiving enough light or under/over watering is occurring. Prune your non-woody hibiscus to the ground after leaves have turned brown. Woody producing hibiscus should be pruned so to create air circulation and sun infiltration throughout the plant. Hibiscus respond well to aggressive cut backs. Deadheading isn't necessary. Common pests are Red spiders and aphids.

The allurement of the beauty of our hibiscus merits a leisurely fall stroll into our gardens.

See you in the gardens.
"Grizz"

Don't forget to mark your calendar for **November 19** for the retreat at the Extension Office

-and-

December 7 for the Member Meeting/Recognition Breakfast at Tami Cecil's home.

Got Bulbs to Plant? Try This Tool!

Lizz Stearns

I decided to plant my first round of spring ephemerals this fall. So, I ordered 300 crocus bulbs...without thinking very hard about how I was going to install them!

The prospect of hand-digging 300 holes filled me with despair, and I wondered if there was another solution. I had heard of the existence of "bulb planting tools," and, after a quick search, I found one that I wanted to try: the Pro Plugger.

My mother-in-law generously volunteered to help me plant my bulbs, and we got them all in the lawn in about an hour and a half. That's 300 bulbs...planted in a grass lawn...without having to dig anything by hand...in under 2 hours. I'd call that a garden miracle.

This tool can also be used to make holes for larger plants. As my gardens expand, I think it will be great for helping me sneak in new perennials. I got mine on Amazon, but Lowes has it too.

LCMGV Officers

Coordinator: Lori Swihart
President: Kathryn Bierley
Vice President: Collette Peugeot
Secretary: Karen Jackson
Treasurer: Mary Beth Mathews

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www.licking.osu.edu

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Plant Identification Tip from Kate Barrett

A new way to look up plants on an iPhone or iPad: support.apple.com/en-us/HT213088

Welcome!

Please welcome September's and October's interviewees and newest interns:

Heather Kessler
Shelley Nauer
Julie Scott
Marni Grevenow

Birthdays of the Month

September

John Kauffman 4th
Dianne Hoffman 6th
Dave Proctor 7th
Pam Satterfield 13th
Lina Robinson 23rd
Steve Cohen 23rd
Nancy McClary 30th
Michelle Pennington

October

Erin Allen 5th
Linda Bishop 7th
Kaye Alban13th
Grace Winter 20th
Peggy Geyer 21st
Rory Utt 30th

November

Collette Peugeot 5th
Tami Cecil 19th
Monica Parsons 22nd
Amy Vohsing 26th

December

Ann Linn 4th
Carol Remley 14th
Leona Vrbanac 17th
Bruce Kern 19th
Sheila Geiling 20th
Marni Grevenow 26th

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wish to thank the following
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B·R·O·W·N Distributing Newark, Ohio
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Cedar's Lawn and Garden Center
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Lucinda Prince
Hope Timber Garden & Vintage
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Steve and Michele Layman