LICKING COUNTY MASTER GARDENER NEWSLETTER

Volume XII, Issue 2 March-April 2022

"If people did not love one another, I really don't see what use there would be in having any Spring."

- Victor Hugo

Inside this issue:

2, Coordinator's Column
3, President's Column.
4, Meet Us in 'R' Garden is Back
5, Postcards from Ohio
6, Bench Honoring Maribeth Stover
7, Narcissus—Daffodil
8, Gardening Education Page Refresh
8, Birthdays of the Month
8, Thank you to our sponsors

Potting Up Perennials for Plant Sale — Mary Beth Mathews

Using potting soil donated by Newark Home Depot, on April 12th and 13th two teams of LCMGVs potted up perennials our members had wintered over in the Learning Garden. Although our original planting schedule was disrupted by rain and soggy garden conditions, we were able to finish our work in record time. A shout-out of appreciation to Kathryn Bierley, Elaine Boaz, Brad Gamble, Victoria Kahn, Kathy Kern, Diana Rowlee, Jo Walters and Rory Utt for helping; to Kitty Guinsler and Steven Cohen for planning to help but their 'shifts' were 'rained out'; and Lydia McCue who did general weeding as we didn't need her for potting up. Once the plants were potted up, we set them in soil ditches so their soil temperatures can be maintained.

Some of the plants we could identify and label; others will have to grow a bit more before we can get an accurate ID and make a stake label. The week of May 2nd, we'll get all plants identified and labeled; the week of May 9th we'll make final decisions about whether to sell or to toss (sometimes the plant just doesn't cooperate, and scrawny plants just don't sell!). Thanks, Cheryl Beaty, for the orange tongue depressors for use as plant labels, as that color is not used for pricing plants for the sale. All of the plants will be moved from the Learning Garden to our Hudson Ave/Elizabeth Ave sale location on Friday May 13th.

Friends, our potted-up plants will need a drink a couple of times a week if we don't get rain, so please help out by doing that when you are at the Garden.

Please pot up YOUR perennials for our Plant Sale soon so they can develop new roots in the pots – hostas, ferns, hellebores, pollinator plants such as monarda, echinacea, rudbechia, etc. You can bring them to the Learning Garden, and "plant them," as we have, in dirt trenches surrounded by straw. Or, just wait and bring them to our Hudson Avenue sale location on Friday May 13th.

POTTING UP PARTY - FRIDAY, APRIL 29
10 AM - NOON at C-TEC POLYHOUSE

Help get our tomatoes ready for the Plant Sale! They need your help moving into their big pots. Gloves and trowels suggested. Pots, plants and soil provided!
Call Kathryn Bierley (614-439-4488) or Todd Deavers (614-747-1065) for information

---

HELP NEEDED!

There are lots of weeds throughout the Learning Garden that need pulling, so please consider giving an hour or two during the week of April 18 and 25. Regular work days in the Learning Garden are Monday and Thursday mornings 8 am – 12 pm. We actually hope the public will drop in and visit with us while we are working!

Coordinator's Column — Lori Swihart

"...we really want to see you and your smile!"

Happy Spring! Or is it? The weather seems so bi-polar.

Thank you to all the members that were able to help with the seed stuffing and labeling.

We managed over 6,000 packs of seed. Glad we labeled during our member meeting. It really allowed us to focus on just putting seed in the packs. Great job. And the time spent with all was wonderful. We really were able to talk and get to know our members better. Sometimes the meetings only allow for small talk. It was great to really converse with you!

I am looking forward to our May Meeting. I asked for the time off so I can attend that evening. We feel it needs to be a celebration! So let's get together! Let's celebrate our program, our good works, our friendships made. I realize most of us can get comfortable just staying at home since the pandemic. But we really want to see you and your smile! Will you consider attending our May Meeting?

Lori

What to Do if the Plants Trip You

STEP ONE: Remain still. This was just a warning. If the plants willed it so, you'd be dead already.

STEP TWO: Think, "What have I done to offend the plants?"

STEP THREE: Make a list; for each item, write what you could do to make things better.

STEP FOUR: Show the list to the plants.

STEP FIVE: If the plants don't come at you with their lethal leaves, flowers, and fronds, this means they have accepted your action plan.

STEP SIX: Follow the list to the letter.

STEP SEVEN: The plants are watching.

President's Column

Kathryn Bierley

"...there are many opportunities to be involved."

What a wonderful time to be a Master Gardener Volunteer

Spring has always been my favorite season. This spring is better than ever. There's so much going on with Licking County Master Gardener Volunteers it's hard to keep up with it all but here are some of the highlights:

Another fabulous conference is in the books. Thanks to Linda Bishop, Kaye Alban and Diana RowLee the event was a success. A final report will be ready for the May meeting.

The polyhouse is growing leaps and bounds. The second planting of tomatoes and peppers are growing well and potting up will take place on Friday, April 29th from 10 to noon.

Our annual plant sale is shaping up. Preparing the sale site will be on Wednesday, May 11. Set up for the sale will be Friday, May 13 and the sale is on Saturday, May 14. There's lots to do so be sure to pick a time to help.

The Learning Garden is slowly coming back to life. We will welcome visitors to tour the garden on Saturday, April 23 during Soil and Water's Backyard Conservation Day. The May membership meeting will conclude with updates and trainings for the learning garden. And we have two coordinators for the overall learning garden: Jo Walters and Gloria Popovich. Stay tuned!

"Let's Talk Gardening" and "2022 Vegetable & Flower Gardening Classes" are ongoing programs that already have several sessions completed with more to run this spring and summer. "Newark Grows" will be running again starting in May. So there are many opportunities to be involved.

Plus we all have our own gardens and projects. I know I'm busy moving plants, redesigning my water garden, building and installing new raised beds. The continuing growth and change in the landscape, the renewal of green grasses and trees are a constant testament to the wonder of our planet. We are so fortunate to share in this wonder again in 2022.

Meet Us in 'R' Garden is Back — Nancy McClary

Now that things are re-opening, we are restarting "Meet Us in 'R' Garden" tours. This tour is open to all LCMGV's and friends of LCMGV's. In the past we have visited Master Gardener gardens and businesses focusing on growing. How does your garden grow, Master Gardeners? Other than the wonderful Learning Garden, would you like to tour others' gardens?

We can visit not only Master Gardener's gardens, but we have also been invited by former Master Gardener Jeff Cromwell to tour Acorn Farms – a production nursery for Oakland Nursery located in Zanesville where he works. The tour is scheduled for **Saturday June 18 at 10 a.m.** Jeff said the tour would run about 40 minutes. Afterwards we are welcome to have a picnic by the lake (bring your own lawn chair.) We will see turtles, beavers, mallards, a blue heron Jeff calls George, and a pair of kingfishers Jeff named Laurel and Hardy. Then after our tour Lori has suggested that possibly we could visit Mission Oaks Gardens (free admission) in Zanesville. If you would like to be included in this tour, please meet at the Extension Office to carpool to Acorn Farms. If you would like to be part of this tour, *please let me know (nmcclary@columbus.rr.com) so we can plan accordingly*. If you would like to travel on your own that day we would like to know if you will be there, so again please let me know so we can watch for you. Google Maps suggest 45 minutes travel time from the Extension Office, so plan on one hour, leaving at 9:00 a.m. You can find more about this facility online at www.acornfarms.com

Cheryl Beaty will open her gardens for us to tour in July. Cheryl once told me that she dislikes grass as it is so invasive, so she has transformed both her front and back yards to nothing but gardens! Her tour is scheduled for **Sunday July 17 from 2-4 p.m.** and her address is 267 N. 11th Street, Newark. She says also that if you want to view her gardens before the actual date and are curious, you can drive by and see the progress of her front yard transformation.

Also on **Sunday July 17 from 2-4 p.m.** Sheila Geiling has invited us to tour the Webb House Museum, located at 303 Granville Street in Newark (close to Cheryl's). The house was built in 1909, and Frank and Shirley Pitser lived in the house all their married lives. Mrs. Webb was an avid gardener and loved her flowers. When she passed away at the age of 97 in 1976, she left her estate to the Licking County Historical Society. The house will also have a historical artist exhibit, "In Pursuit of Art Amid Difficulties." The house also has displays of historical sewing/fashion, and historical games. Sheila is in her seventh year as a volunteer gardener of the Webb House (third year as a tour guide) and she will be our guide. She is sure you will discover something beautiful as you see the cottage-type gardens and tour the home. Note: the home is generally closed on Sunday, but Sheila will open it for us that day!

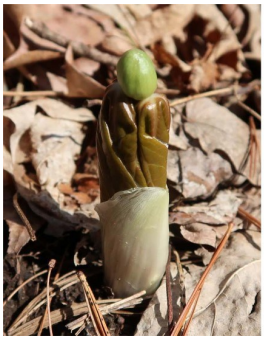
Do you have a garden that you would be willing for us to tour? Other places I have in mind is the former Lazarus Department store rooftop in Columbus, and Bevard Farms (Steve Brevard was a vendor at our recent Conference) who grows watermelon. I'm sure within our Master Gardener Volunteer group that there are others who would like to give us a tour of their garden. Would you be willing? If so, please contact me nmcclary@columbus.rr.com and I will put you on the tour schedule.

Postcards from Ohio

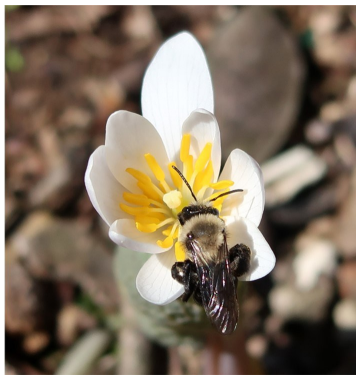
Sent by Mary Beth Mathews, with permission from Marita King

(These images are from Wolf Run Park in Mt. Vernon.)

"Have you ever looked closely at emerging Mayapple plants? Those that burst forth with a single leaf will not flower. Those that will flower have at least two leaves, and above them this cute button emerges (see below) that will end up as a nodding flower underneath the two open umbrella like leaves…"



Among the native plants that I found in bloom today were several **Yellow Violets**. The black lines mark this one as a **Common Yellow Violet** (***V. pubescens***). I also loved taking pictures of **Bloodroot** in bloom. This native plant is used for a number of medicinal purposes but it seems that there is no scientific evidence to support these uses...



What I also find noteworthy about the **Bloodroot** is the manner in which it wraps the leaf around the stem (above middle), like wanting to keep it protected or warm. I love capturing pollinators in my pictures of flowers and in the photo to the right you might see two different ones visiting this flowering **Purple Cress**, another native wildflower we have at Wolf Run Park.

Bench Honoring Maribeth Stover **Mary Beth Mathews**

A bench honoring our late LCMGV member Maribeth Stover has been ordered from Treetop Products, Inc. in Batavia, Illinois. Its purchase and engraving has been made possible by the over $1,100 in donations in her honor from friends, Stover family members, and fellow LCMGV members.

Maribeth completed her MGV training in 2016 and quickly got involved in many ways in our organization – in the Learning Garden, Open House, and our Plant Sale. Her passion was the pollinator garden at Dawes. As a member of our MGV team at The Dawes Arboretum, Maribeth not only contributed her love of gardening and knowledge of plants but also her skills as an artist during our redesign of the award-winning Pollinator Garden behind the Dawes Visitors' Center.

This bench will be a tangible way of honoring her and reminding us of her warmth, friendship and many contributions to the LCMGV.

REDDINGTON VILLAGE GARDENS—PLANT OF THE MONTH
Narcissus (Daffodil)

Joe "Grizz" Smith

Lore has it that Narcissus, the son of the Greek river god Cephissus, was so vain that he fell in love with his own reflection and when he died, staring at himself, the daffodil bloomed on that spot. Hence the word narcissism. Daffodils are known by their Latin name, Narcissus. The term, "daffodil" is the official common name for all the plants in the genus Narcissus. Daffodils were introduced into gardens about 300 BC and today it is estimated that there are over 32,000 registered cultivars. Native to the meadows and woods of Northern Africa and Southern Europe, daffodils can be grown in most of North America, except for the hottest and wettest areas.

The daffodil, one of our early spring perennial flowers, represents new life. It is the birth flower for March babies. My daughter, born in May, knew that when she saw daffodils in bloom, she would soon receive a gift. At a very young age the daffodil became her favorite flower. The gift of a single daffodil is thought to bring misfortune, but given as a bunch, it brings blessings. Classic daffodil flowers have six petals and a trumpet or bell-shaped crown that is frilled at its edges. Traditionally they are either yellow, white or a combination of the two. Newer varieties have introduced pink and orange.

Narcissus bulbs require a period of cold temperature to promote root development. Plant the bulbs, point end up, in the fall right before the first frost. For Licking County, the average first frost is October 6. Plant the bulbs 3 to 6 inches deep and 4 to 5 inches apart. A good rule-of-thumb for planting depth is to plant the bulb 2 to 3 times it's size.

Shallow planting encourages bulbs to divide, producing lots of bulbs too small to flower. Select a well-drained, full sun to partial shade site. The bulbs have a thick outer skin that protects them from harsh winter and early spring cold spells. In our area we can expect daffodil blooms in mid-March and lasting for approximately 3 weeks. After the flower dies or begins to fade remove the bloom, but let the green foliage remain to help rebuild the bulb for the following year.

As an "old-school" gardener and one who wants a tidy garden, I used to braid my daffodil leaves until I learned about daffodil "blindness". Daffodils that come up with foliage but no flowers are known as "blind". The condition can be caused by not allowing the green foliage full exposure to the sun. Instead of tidying up your daffodil foliage, leave it to die down naturally and then cut it to the ground. If you noticed rapid flower decline occurring, feed your bulbs as their growing points emerge with a high potassium liquid feed, such as tomato food. If your bulbs become overcrowded, in the fall lift the entire clump, divide them by hand, replant and apply a nice 2-inch layer of mulch.

As we walk the village and ride the bike trail be sure to keep an eye out for this sure sign of spring - the daffodil.

See you in the garden—Grizz

LCMGV Officers

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

Visit Our Website!

www.licking.osu.edu

OSU Extension embraces human diversity and is committed to ensuring that all educational programs conducted by Ohio State University Extension are available to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, age, gender, identity or expression, disability, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, or veteran status. Keith L. Smith, Associate Vice President of Agricultural Administration and Director, OSU Extension. TDD No. 800-589-8292 (Ohio only) or 614-292-1868

If you have questions concerning access or wish to request a sign language interpreter or accommodations for a disability, please contact OSU Extension - Licking County at 740-670-5315 or by email at: lick@postoffice.ag.ohio-state.edu. OSU Extension does not endorse any particular product, service or company. The mention

Gardening Education Webpage Refresh — Lizz Stearns

The Gardening Education page on our LCMGV website has a fresh look, just in time for Spring! Julie Strohmeyer and I worked together to create the new page. We're especially pleased with the scrolling carousel at the top, which will display special seasonal information. (You'll see this when you visit the page.) It is now easier to navigate the seasonal archives as well.

We hope this will be a useful resource for MGVs and the community. If you would like to find out more about the Virtual Communications Committee, please contact Julie Strohmeyer at julie@strohcreative.com.

CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THE NEW PAGE!

Birthdays of the Month

March
Kathryn Bierley 3rd
Lori Swihart 9th
Joe Smith 16th
Karen Jackson 21st
Don Grube 26th
Gloria Popovich 28th

April
Jim Williams 3rd
Barbara Boone 4th
Abi Morton 7th
Carol Svatora 23rd

Licking County Master Gardener Volunteers
wish to thank the following
2022 sponsors:

Bird's Haven Farms
elm recycling Lawn & Landscape Supply
Englefield Oil Co.
Oakland Nurseries
Brown Distributing Newark, Ohio
The Animal Care Center At Granville
Cedar's Lawn and Garden Center
State Farm
Lucinda Prince
Hope Timber Garden & Vintage
Flying J Farm Certified Organic
Steve and Michele Layman