

The Gardeners of Lima

May 2023

Sprigs N Sprouts

Upcoming Meeting

Our next meeting will be on May 9th, 7:00 p.m. at the Faurot Park clubhouse. Dan Hodges from the Johnny Appleseed Metro Park District will present a program on spring wild flowers. Dan always gives a delightful and informational presentation so you'll definitely want to attend!



To get you warmed up for Dan's talk, take a look at the pictures above. These are some of the wildflowers growing in Tom & Patty Iszory's yard. Can you name them?

Answer, from left to right: Spring Beauty (*claytonia virginica*), Mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*), Toadshade or Trillium (*trillium sessile*), and Common periwinkle (*vinca minor*)



Here are a few more plants found in the woods at Marianist Environmental Center in Dayton during a recent nature hike.

From left to right: Bluebells, Shooting Star, and Skunk Cabbage (what a stinker)

President's Message

Our Spring 2023 regional meeting of the Central Great Lakes Gardeners was held on Saturday, April 22nd at the Kingwood Center in Mansfield. Those attending the meeting from Lima: Diane Halpern, Jeanne Ogle, David Rowe, Sheila Rowe and me. The meeting began with lunch. After lunch we had our business meeting then heard from Cori McCarthy, the head gardener at Kingwood's herb-rose garden, who provided a presentation on pollinator gardening. Elsewhere in the newsletter will be my notes on Cori's presentation. After the meeting we walked through and admired the various gardens at Kingwood. There were hundreds of couples in their prom formals getting their pictures taken in the gardens.

During the business meeting of the regional meeting we:

1. Approved the minutes, as revised, from the 9/23/22 regional meeting.
2. Approved the 4/20/23 treasurer's report.
3. Received a few gardening hacks (tips) on growing tomatoes. One of the things recommended is to consider a Dark Star tomato. This tomato has late season blight resistance.
4. Received an update on the 2023 National Convention.
5. Discussion of the organizational structure of The Gardeners of America. Decision on the existence of the regional structure is tabled for now. An Ad Hoc committee was formed to present ideas at a future meeting.



Left to right: David, Sheila, Diane, Jeanne, Steve

National Convention Update:

1. Held on July 26 – 28, 2023 (Wednesday through Friday).
2. Location will be at the Springhill Suites by Marriott in Dayton, Ohio. Grand Rapids, Michigan was eliminated due to the costs.
3. The hotel is currently being remodeled and will be completed prior to our convention.

4. The convention will start at 1 pm on Wednesday and conclude after a late lunch on Friday.

5. In a few weeks the schedule will be finalized and a page will be added to the national website.

6. So far six speakers have been confirmed. Pursuing two more speakers.

7. We will be touring various locations.

8. The horticultural show will be held on Wednesday with judging in the evening.

9. There will be a silent auction. Club members are asked to bring items for the silent auction. The auction will close at the end of breakfast on Friday.

10. If you decide to stay at the hotel the room rate will be \$99 plus tax. The hotel will also provide this rate if you want to come earlier and stay later to explore the area.

11. It is anticipated that the convention registration fee will be approximately the same as last year.

Mark your calendars for May activities at the clubhouse:

1. May 9, 2023, 7:00 pm Members Meeting. Dan Hodges will be giving a presentation on Wildflowers

2. May 13, 2023, 10:00 am prepare the flower beds for planting

3. May 20, 2023, 9:30 am plant flowers

Invite a fellow gardener to our members' meetings. Share with them the reasons why you are a member of The Gardeners of Lima.

Take care and treasure your blessings. Every day is a gift.

Steve



Gardening for Pollinators

Notes from Cori McCarthy's Presentation

Bees pollinate one third of the world's food supply. Historically we have been experiencing a 15% loss of bee population. The use of agricultural pesticides has caused a 30% decline in the bee population.

Some things to help: In the fall leave your leaf litter which may contain eggs. Do your garden cleanup in May. Queen bees will be emerging from the ground. For your ornamental grasses leave at least twelve inches of stubble. The pollinators overwinter in the canes. Plant native plants. It is best to have a number of adjacent residential yards that have pollinator attracting plants. Plant clumps of the same flower together (three to five plants). Have a variety of plants that bloom throughout the year so that the pollinators have a long term source of food.

Hummingbirds are great pollinators. Start using your sugar water feeders in the spring and sometime in the summer remove the sugar water feeders if you have a lot of pollinator attracting plants.

Have a source of water available close to the plants. Recommend having a bubbler for moving water and change the water often.

If you use chemicals please read and follow the directions.

The hummingbird moth caterpillar looks similar to the tomato horn caterpillar. Investigate before you kill it.

Instead of using the black material as a weed barrier use cardboard. It is a good weed barrier.

Doug Tallamy is an amazing author on gardening, especially on the native plants. Xercesociety.com is an excellent website for Great Lakes area native plants.

A good source on bees: <https://u.osu.edu/beelab>

If you would like a copy of her presentation her email address is cmccarthy@kingwoodcenter.org.

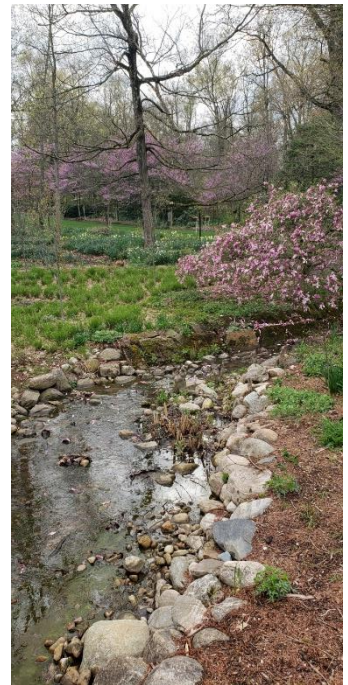


Around Kingwood Center



Kingwood Center in Mansfield is a beautiful place to visit. Although our walk was cut short due to rain, we enjoyed the time we spent in these beautiful gardens.

There are a number of things to see including a greenhouse, ponds and some pretty verbal peacocks! The gift shop even has plants for sale.



Around the yard – at Steve's house



From left to right:
Purple lilac starting to bloom,
Double fern leaf peony (one of Donna's favorites),
White lilac in full bloom



Japanese Maple tree,
Apple blossoms,
Braeburn apple blossoms



Choke Apple tree,
Phlox,
Purple Plum Hedge



Magnolia Tree,
Daffodils,
Land Crab (ouch!)

Photos courtesy of Steve Maki

Looking back at April's Meeting



Master Gardener, Rex Maurer, presented us with information and tips from his vast knowledge and experiences with gardening. Rex has been a club member since 1994. When he became a Master Gardener, he took a 50 hour course with a final exam. He was required to put in 10 hours of volunteer work his first year and this requirement continues each year. Most of his volunteering is done at the Children's Garden in Lima. Over the years Rex has been a volunteer at Memorial Hospital where he wrote a column called "All the Dirt". During our April meeting, Rex shared highlights. Examples include:

"Beer is good slug bait - as long as it's a fresh one".

Onions, lettuce and radishes can be started now. Tomatoes should wait until after the May 15th freeze date.

"Location, location, location" is the most important thing in real estate. For gardening, it's "Soil, soil, soil".

Gardening provides great exercise, especially after sitting all winter. It reduces stress, gets your joints moving and helps your sleep. Weeding burns calories!

Rex recommends a garden kneeler that converts into a seat. This type of kneeler can help the gardener get up and down as well as provide a place to sit to work or rest.

Follow the "Thriller, Filler, Spiller" formula when planting in containers.

Be sure to include drainage holes in your planters.

Don't fertilize after September 1st.

Honey bees are great pollinators. "If the bee disappeared off the face of the Earth, man would only have four years left to live." - Albert Einstein

Thank you, Rex!

In Memory



Photo courtesy of Joe Brown



Trees planted in Faurot Park outside The Gardeners of Lima clubhouse in memory of Donna Maki and Dave Williams.

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2nd VP: (Open)
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