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Chippewa Garden Club Newsletter

Plant America: Sowing and Growing for a Greener Future

Member of
Garden Club of Ohio, Inc.
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May/June 2020

Phenology: Nature's Calendar

The pandemic has exposed all of us to changes! I find myself barred from doing the face-to-face volunteering that used to take up a lot of my time, especially as the growing season gets underway. As part of my requirements for the OSU Master Gardening effort, I give presentations on a variety of horticultural topics. Kathy Habib and I have for a number of years used Chippewa as our venue for practicing new presentations as we create them.

HEADS UP!! I'm now spending time, when the weather won't let me out into the garden, researching a new topic, Phenology, and you'll probably see the full power point presentation next year, or whenever we get going again.

Phenology is the study of the timing of biological events in plants and animals. The organisms that live in our yards take cues from the changing seasons based on a number of factors like temperature and sunlight. Did you observe the wonderful budding process that began in trees last month and will continue through May and even into June? My silver maple is the first to bud in my yard and my Northern Catalpa is the last. And that sequence has been the same for all twenty or so years I've been watching.

Phenology is literally "the science of appearance". Biologists who study phenology are interested in the timing of specific events like flowering, migration, insect emergence. OSU has gathered a lot of information for our geographical area and published some of these events on their phenology calendar that tracks Growing Degree Days (GDD). Check it out at:

<https://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/gdd>

The basis for growth in plants and insects is temperature. The GDD calculations track temperature as it accumulates through spring toward summer. As I write this in early May the GDD is around 100, which means the blooms of my silver maple are long gone (happens at a GDD of 34) and it's going to be at least another month before I see my catalpa bloom (happens at a GDD 675). The calendar also tells me it's been a really cool spring. At this date in spring for the past six years, the GDD has usually been much higher.

The presentation I hope to eventually finish will include the history, the science, and the uses for phenology. As garden club members this might just be a fun thing for us to learn!

Jo Ann Bartsch

2020 Herb of The Year



Northern Catalpa Tree with Spring Blossom

Photo by Jo Ann Bartsch

All Chippewa Garden Club May and June meetings and events are on hold until further notice due to COVID-19. We hope everyone is able to indulge in our mutual love of gardening.



Daffodils in Noreen Butano's Front Yard

Each year, the International Herb Association chooses the herb of the year. For 2020, those herbs are *Rubus* sp., commonly called brambles. These perennials include many species of blackberries and raspberries. Most brambles have woody stems with prickles. There are about 700 species of blackberries, many native to North America. Raspberries are native to Europe. There are also many hybrids and cultivars. Some species can be invasive.

Brambles are an important food source for butterfly larvae. Birds and mammals eat the fruit and the flowers are a nectar source for pollinators.

Brambles have been important in human diets for centuries. Blackberries were found in the stomach contents of a bog body over 2500 years old. The aggregate fruits are not true berries. Brambles are rich in Vitamin C, fiber, and antioxidants. In folk medicine, the leaves, roots and fruits were used as remedies to treat colds, coughs, flu, ulcers and kidney problems.

Blackberries and raspberries can be eaten raw, or used in syrups, cordials, jams, jellies, desserts, salads and wine.

Plants need moist, well-drained soil in full sun (at least 6 hours each day). More sun equates to a greater fruit production. Give plants plenty of space and amend soil with compost. Plants will live about 10 years. Pruning and training depends on what species you are growing.

Pests include raspberry cane borers (cut away affected area and destroy), Japanese beetles (handpick) and birds eating the fruit (cover with netting).

For additional information, Google “Ohioline Raspberries for Home Fruit Planting” and “Ohioline Pruning Erect Blackberries in the Home Garden”

Kathy Habib



Blackberry Fruit

Garden Gloves

One thing we can safely do these days is garden. Now that the weather is warming, Chippewa Garden Club's Finance Committee is once again selling garden gloves for our spring and summer garden and yard cleanup. Not only are these gloves durable and washable, they're comfortable and give the gardener protection and dexterity for many gardening jobs.



To purchase, email Lynne Evans at lavenderlme@cox.net with your

- Name
- Phone number
- Number of pairs you would like
- Glove size (small, medium, large or extra-large as available)
- Color (green, pink, lavender, blue or black as available)
- Date and time when you can pick up your order at my home
- Each pair is \$7.00.

I will place your order on my front porch at 9455 Woodchip Lane Broadview Hts., Ohio, with a receptacle for your cash or check payment. Please make checks out to Chippewa Garden Club.

Happy Spring and thank you for supporting Chippewa Garden Club!

Lynne Evans

Ohio Garden Club Awards 2019

Congratulations to Chippewa Garden Club for the awards the club won from the Garden Club of Ohio and to all Chippewa members who wrote briefs. The following is a list of these awards, but as yet we don't know how the awards were ranked.

Tree Award—Seedlings

Holiday Project Award

Garden Therapy Award

Garden Club Youth Award

Garden Club Youth Service Award

Publicity Press Books Award

Publication Flyer Award

Publicity Membership Brochure Award

Publication—Any Other Brochure Award

Club Newsletter Award

Club Website Award

Club Yearbook Award

Schedule-Standard Flower Show Award

Horticulture Specialty Flower Show Award

Youth Section of an Adult Standard Flower Show Award

Outstanding Garden Club award

Member News

In spite of the showers, the mostly chilly days, and the snow this month, I've been able to get some raking and weeding done. The purple hyacinths lining the front walk were a cheerful sight, as were the rhododendrons in front of the living room window. Forsythia made its appearance a few weeks ago, and our magnolias are still blooming. As I write, a viburnum shrub is perfuming the kitchen and dining room.

Noreen Butano's email describes some of her gardening activities. "Since we are currently in a Stay-at-Home trying to stay busy mode, I cleaned all my flower beds in early March. My daffodils are beautiful this year!

Then I went on to some crafting and gathered 5 long tree branches which I picked up in the yard, zip tied to create a 4' star, and wrapped them with solar lights purchased online from Walmart. The lights have a timer which automatically goes on at 9 pm for 6 hours each day. I am so glad that I planted daffodils and tulips last fall at my Greene Acres community garden plot where they are blooming. I also have a plot with rhubarb, garlic, peas and lettuce which I sowed this spring. I wish for all of you to stay safe and healthy as we get back to 'normal'.

Noreen" Yum...

Kathy Habib is also working on maintaining her gardens and greenhouse plus she started basil seeds under lights in the basement as she does every year. She mail ordered ferns and a new elephant ear and bought a lot of caladiums from Home Depot in March which she planted in pots in her greenhouse. Kathy joined two sites on Facebook: cactus/succulent identification and Ohio wildlife. She is planning to order curbside pick-up from Maria Gardens Center.

Paula Kramer has been planting violas and pansies in containers which the chipmunks and/or deer have been nibbling. She sprays the plants with Invisible Fence to repel the wildlife. Paula has a yard helper who is resetting some of the walking path stepping stones, as they have settled and need readjustment.

Pat Gabriel



Noreen's Star



Noreen's Greene Acres
Community Garden Plots