



# A Garden Of Friends Is Always In Bloom

*Defiance County Master Gardeners*



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## **PLANT SALE**

We would like to invite you to our 13th annual plant sale on May 14th, 2016. It will be from 8am till sold out. It is at Eric's Ice Cream & Café (north side) We will have annuals, perennials, and hanging baskets, produced by the Defiance Master Gardeners.



## Planning Ahead

**Lilac Wrapping**  
May 11th @ 6:30pm  
Orville & Jane Clark

**MG Plant Sale**  
May 14th @ 8am  
Eric's Icecream

**MG Meeting**  
May 17th @ 6:30pm  
Stoney Ridge Winery

## April Meeting Minutes

Pres. Jamie Walters opened the meeting to 22 members at the home of Gwen and Richard Anderson. The treasurer's report and the minutes of the last meeting were approved as read.

**Old Business:** The group has tabled the issue of the 501-3C.

**Community Garden:** Norman Tadsen has reported there are 3 garden spaces available in the "community garden".

**Plant Sale:** Jane Clark reported that the Plant Sale will be held on May 14th, Sat., at 8am. Please have your plants labeled and priced. No Change, just even dollars. Let others know if you need help getting items to the sale. It will be held again at Eric's Ice Cream on the North side of town.

**Hicksville:** Bobbi Sinn reported that Hicksville will be having a Mother's Sale, May 6th and 7th at the Hicksville Township Bldg across from the High School. She is requesting "Ask the Expert" volunteers, text or e-mail Bobbi if you can help with this.

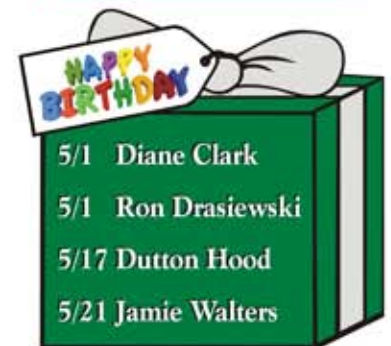
**Lilac Festival:** May 11th, Wed. we will be wrapping lilacs for the Lilac Festival at Jane and Orville Clarks at 6:30 pm. This will be a fun time.

**Other:** Tammy Bower stated that the TSC store in Bryan would love to have someone come over to Demo to the public about gardening.

Next meeting is scheduled at the Stoney Ridge Winery on May 17th at 6:30 pm. Bobbi Sinn made the motion to adjourn and 2nded by Mary Weisenburger.



The evening was then turned over to Gwen Anderson whom presented the lesson on Living With Succulents. Provided were hand-outs all about Succulents. The group then did a "hands-on" project of making a "succulent" orb for hanging or sitting in one's garden. It was an entertaining project and one can be as creative as you like. Hopefully these will go over for our Plant Sale. Thank you Gwen for the class and hosting, along with refreshments provided by Mary Weisberger..



**Gardening is how I relax. It's another form of creating and playing with colors.**



~Oscar de la Renta



# What can you be doing in the month of May?

- Thin out drifts of hardy annuals.
- Harden off half-hardy plants by leaving them outside during the day and bringing back under cover at night for 7 to 10 days before planting outdoors.
- Harden off dahlias and tender exotics such as Canna for planting as soon as the risk of frost has passed.
- You can still divide herbaceous perennials now to improve their vigour and create new plants.
- Divide Hostas as they come into growth.
- Trim back spreading plants such as aubrieta, alyssum and candytuft after they have flowered to encourage fresh new growth and more flowers.
- Don't be tempted to cut down or tie up the foliage of spring-flowering bulbs, let them die down naturally.
- To reduce the spread of forget-me-not, lift the plants now to prevent heavy self-seeding.
- Prune your Penstemons now - cut all the old shoots back to the base provided there is new growth at the bottom of the plant. If there are no new shoots at the base, cut just above the lowest set of leaves.
- Take cuttings of tender perennials such as Fuchsia, Argyranthemum and Pelargoniums (geraniums). The new shoots of hardy perennials can also be used for cuttings.
- Take softwood cuttings of shrubby herbs (such as sage and lemon verbena)
- Prune out overcrowded and dead stems of early-flowering clematis (*C. alpina*, *C. cirrhosa*, *C. macropetala*, *C. armandii* and their cultivars) after flowering.
- Tie in climbing and rambling roses. Laying the stems horizontally will help to produce more flowers.
- Tie in your sweet peas with plant support rings to encourage them to climb.
- Prune spring-flowering shrubs after flowering.
- Cut back flowered shoots of Choisya to promote a second flush of flowers in autumn.
- Trim lavender plants now, cutting off any old flower heads and about 2.5cm (1 inch) of the current year's growth.
- Feed and water container plants.
- Top-dress permanent pot plants to refresh the compost.
- Give your container plants a balanced liquid feed every two to four weeks to promote healthy growth.
- Plant up pots and baskets of summer bedding and harden off before placing in position. In cold areas wait until June.
- Start to closely inspect your plants for pests and diseases - early prevention is easier than curing an infestation.
- Look out for signs of blackspot on roses. If discovered, blackspot can be treated with a systemic fungicide.
- Continue to weed beds and borders to prevent competition for water and nutrients.

**Next Meeting**  
**May 17th @ 6:30pm**

