Minutes from May Meeting
The Defiance County Master Gardeners met at the Strait Gate Nursery in Hicksville on May 21, 2019 with 12 members in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by President Elect Marge Wilson, as Jamie Walters was in the hospital.

Secretary’s Report: The April 2019 Minutes were accepted as written.

Treasurer’s Report: Gwen Anderson was not in attendance, but gave her report to the secretary prior to the meeting. She reported the amount we made on the plant sale and the amount available for the community garden. She asked that any expenses be mailed to her home for reimbursement.

Historian’s Report: None
Communications: None

Committee Reports:

   Defiance: There was a lot of discussion about how we are organized (or disorganized). It was decided that we need to make committees so that we are sure things get done. The projects we do like the YMCA Kids day, Community Garden, Plant Sale, Riverfest, and County Fair all need committees. Maybe a program committee is needed also.

   Sherwood: The Spring Fling was a big success and supported the Sherwood Public Library.

   Hicksville: Their plant sale was good. It was mentioned that they potted up plants in pots that people brought to the sale. They also raised money by having a Silent Auction with donated items.

   Community Garden: Jean Bremer reported that only 1 plot is still available. The mulch was delivered. Jean and her husband fixed a few boards.

   Plant Sale: The plant sale was not too bad considering, crummy weather and the Clinton Bridge was closed. There was a lot of discussion about how we might improve it. One idea is to see if we can get a day permit to have it with the Farmer’s Market. Another was to sell other things besides plants, like the yard art that Linda Maag made. A Silent Auction was another idea. Making up planters and hanging plants was also mentioned, even if we purchased them and resold them.

   County Fair: The fair this year is August 17th to 23rd. Set-up will be on Friday August 16, time TBD, and tear-down will be August 23rd at 3:00pm. We will form the committee at our next meeting.

   Riverfest: It is on July 20 that Pontiac Park. We will form a committee at the next meeting. We will probably do the same display as last year.

The love of gardening is a seed once sown that never dies. ~ Gertrude Jekyll
Old Business: Marge Wilson reported on the progress of the 5th and Jefferson Park. She continues to meet with Jen English, Rob Cereghin, Bruce Clevenger and Jamie Walters. The City Engineers have made a detailed map of the park. She is working on fertilizing and pruning.

New Business: Sheets were handed out for program ideas for next year. Please bring your ideas to our next meeting. Marge Wilson suggested inviting Janet Markovich to do an Education Day. Her idea is that the Parks Department would pay her speaking fee (around $600) and Master Gardeners as well as park employees would attend. Just a reminder that last month Jean Bremer shared that the Henry County Historical Society is having a Home and Garden tour on Saturday July 13th from 10:00am to 4:00pm and Sunday July 14th from 12:00pm to 4:00pm. Buy tickets at the Dr. John Bloomfield House (the tour starts there) on the corner of Webster and Clinton in Napoleon. Tickets are $12 or $10 for members. They are looking for volunteers to help.

The meeting was adjourned, moved by Jean and seconded by Mary Kasuga.

Respectfully submitted, Laurel Brehler

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 11th at Kircher’s Flowers, 1119 Jefferson Ave, Defiance. Please come early 5:00 for refreshments and shopping. The meeting will start at 6:00. Program speaker will present “Growing a Living Wall - Create Vertical Gardens with Propose”.

June 22nd, garden jaunt: Schedel Gardens, Elmore, OH. Please RSVP to hostess Diane Clark, 419-670-2739. Carpool from Extension Office 8:30am. Schedel Arboretum & Gardens is to offer life enhancing experiences - for the benefit of current and future generations. The facility does have golf carts for those needing assistance getting around. Tickets are $12 adult / $11 seniors.

Tick season is well underway. Here are a few tips once you come inside. Check your clothing for ticks. Ticks may be carried into the house on clothing. Any ticks that are found should be removed. Tumble dry clothes in a dryer on high heat for 10 minutes to kill ticks on dry clothing after you come indoors. If the clothes are damp, additional time may be needed. If the clothes require washing first, hot water is recommended. Cold and medium temperature water will not kill ticks. Examine gear and pets. Ticks can ride into the home on clothing and pets, then attach to a person later, so carefully examine pets, coats, and daypacks. Shower soon after being outdoors. Showering within two hours of coming indoors has been shown to reduce your risk of getting Lyme disease and may be effective in reducing the risk of other tickborne diseases. Showering may help wash off unattached ticks and it is a good opportunity to do a tick check. Check your body for ticks after being outdoors. Conduct a full body check upon return from potentially tick-infested areas, including your own backyard. Use a hand-held or full-length mirror to view all parts of your body.

The July meeting will be on Tuesday, July 16 at the Community Garden Building, (behind the old Defiance Clinic, 6:30pm, Program presenter will be Marge Wilson on her vision for 5th/Jefferson.