

# EDELWEISS NEWS



Bluffton Area Gardeners

May 4, 2020

## Harvesting & Using Herbs From Your Garden :

Our July 7th meeting will be out at the community garden at 6:30 p.m. and will be; Harvesting & Using the Herbs from your Garden presented by Marge LaFollette who is quite knowledgeable on this subject.

If you grow herbs and use them regularly in your cooking you know that this is one of the highlights of cooking and eating. But are you sure you are properly harvesting the herbs so as to get the best flavor or to enhance the growth? And what time of year should you harvest a specific herb for drying and what is the best way to do it? I have grown herbs for quite a few years now and I still have questions that need answers.

So please come to the community garden and join us, all you will need to bring is a chair for you to sit in and a facial covering that is what the governor wants us to wear. We will be spacing ourselves out appropriately so as to be in compliance with the suggestions of the state health department.

## Joyce Fuerst:

We lost a member and a true friend who will be truly missed by our club and anyone who knew her. This is the first paragraph in her obituary: Joyce A. Fuerst, 79, died Wednesday, June 17, 2020, at Lima Memorial Health System. She was born June 22, 1940, in Lima to Kenneth and Lucille (Weaver) Irwin. They both preceded her in death. She was married to Tom for 59 years.

She was a creative lady when it came to arranging flowers and competing in horticulture shows. She would teach you how to do something and then be happy if you happened to place ahead of her in a competition because she knew that her help had made it possible. She did wedding flowers for family



Harvesting and using herbs that you grow yourself are the goal of the true kitchen gardener and anyone who likes to use a little or a lot of flavor in their cooking or culinary artistry.

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and friends. She also did some funeral flowers for a few members that passed while she was in the club.

I first met Joyce when she showed in the clubs horticultural show and asked about the club she had known a former officer that had died quite awhile ago and had not shown in our show for many years because of his overbearing rules that made the show not as enjoyable as it could have been. Those of you who knew Kermit Herr knows exactly why this was true for several people that had stopped showing at the show.

She truly loved our club and tried to help as much as she could we will miss her.

## Tomato Growing:

Well I hope everyone was able to get to our event (not a meeting) and get a tomato or two that we had out at the community garden. I had four varieties available for those who came out to get one per passenger of the vehicle which you came in. we tried to answer any questions that you had. I hope that all your tomato plants are doing well.

## Calendar for the Year:

June 2, How to grow tomatoes : Patrick Flinn Adjusted

July 7, Herbs, at the Community Garden: Marge Lafollette Presenter

August 4, Sunflowers, at the Community Garden: Presenter TBD

September 1, Aquaculture tour

October 6, Sweet Potatoes: Mary Hoffstetter Presenter

November 3, Potluck, Brag & Complain

## Officers:

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Message from our president, Victoria Zeits

Hey Folks - If you haven't been out to our Community Garden (9900 S. Main St. - Bluffton), its time to take a walk/cycle/drive out there, or take a virtual tour on our Facebook Page ( <https://www.facebook.com/GardenersoftheBlufftonPandoraArea/> ). Due to some dry weather in early April, we were able to get the entire garden tilled earlier than normal, and open it to our local gardeners for Cold Crop planting. We've invested in pressure treated wood for our 4'x8' raised beds in our Discovery Area.

The response from Blufftonites to get outside and play in the dirt has been great. All except 1 of our large plots (a 25'x50') plot, and 7 out of 26 of our Discovery Plots are taken, and we haven't gotten to our May 15th frost free date yet! Most of the folks in both the large and small plots have put in cold weather crops like: pea's, potato, celery, cabbage, kale, kohlrabi, radishes, onions, garlic and more. There is a Cold Crop demo plot at the front of the Discovery area, which will shortly have a description grid. Later there will also be demo plots for hot crops and flowers, all using the Square Foot Gardening method.

The perennial flowers in the Monarch Waystation are all coming out of hibernation with the exception of the Milkweeds (7 types), which are holding out for some warmer weather.



Betty and Pat helping with the assembly of the Discovery Plot frames at the Community Gardens.