

# OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

April 2020

## Events

- **July 6**—First date available for Master Gardener events

## BUGS AND BLOOMS

A biennial and a member of the wild carrot family, **poison hemlock** looks very similar to Queen Anne's lace and typically grows in the same conditions, so being able to tell the difference is very important. Both have hollow stems, but poison hemlock's stem is hairless and has purple blotches. Even a very young poison hemlock will display the purple blotching. On the other hand, the stem of Queen Anne's lace doesn't have purple blotches and is hairy. Later in the season, you can use the flowers to tell the difference between the two--the flowers of Queen Anne's lace have a single purplish/red flower in the center of the umbel (legend has it that Queen Anne pricked her finger while sewing the lace and a droplet of blood fell to the center of the flowers). Also, the umbrella shape of Queen Anne's lace is flat-topped, while the poison hemlock umbel is more rounded .



Spring carries on with the first apple blossoms

## What's Is and Is Not Happening

**April 27 – Monthly Meeting** will be held on Zoom, a very brief business meeting followed a presentation on Hydrangeas, also via Zoom.

**Plant Sale**, May 9 is **cancelled**. Ed has emailed to you about a drive-by Plant Exchange for all interested members.

**Children's Garden** – Scheduled work days are **cancelled**, vegetable beds will be used to grow produce for Community Food Initiatives donations. Interested Master Gardener Volunteers can coordinate with Terrie Perez. Please continue to work on your perennial beds to show off your talents.

**Children's Program** for children involved in the Community Center Summer Camp is **being planned**. Please contact Betsy Brijju if you are potentially interested.

**Farmers Market MG Booth** is **cancelled** for **April and May**.

**Intern Mentoring Project** – online/via phone, contact Betsy Brijju.

**Newsletter Project** – Is ongoing - please send articles or ideas to Ceil Weldon

**Intern Training Classes** – will resume in part and on-line this Wednesday, April 22. The fifty hours of class time has been reduced to forty hours, some presentations will be done via Zoom and some classes may be postponed until late summer or early fall. Ed is consulting with the State on options.



## APRIL GARDEN

### Garden Planting

- Asparagus
- Beets
- Cabbage
- Carrots
- Swiss Chard
- Collards
- Leeks
- Lettuce
- Mustard
- Onions (sets)
- Peas
- Potato
- Radish
- Spinach
- Turnips

### After April 15

- Broccoli
- Brussel Sprouts
- Cauliflower

## Plant of the Month



Wild Plum, *Prunus americana*

Submit a plant for Plant of the Month to [brown.6000@osu.edu](mailto:brown.6000@osu.edu)

Wild Plum or native plum is a small tree/thicket shrub that is native to the eastern US.

It's large upright clusters of white flowers are very showy, fragrant and important to early spring pollinators and even hummingbirds.

The fruit is more sparse than the flowers and edible, but is hard to beat the wildlife when it comes to harvest. Wild/native plum is fast growing and adaptable to a variety of sites as long as it's not too shady.

## Annual Dues

We are still trying to collect annual dues from members. Please send your \$20 check to our new treasurer, Nan Needs, 13070 Dutch Creek Rd Athens 45701. Make checks payable to: **Athens County Master Gardeners**. If you have any questions or are not sure if you have already paid, you can contact Nan at [nanspath@aol.com](mailto:nanspath@aol.com)

## Digging Deeper— *Marcia Burchby*

Fifteen Master Gardeners and friends visited the **Franklin Park Conservatory** in Columbus on March 10 to tour the botanical gardens and courtyards and marvel at the *Chihuly: Celebrating Nature* exhibit.

The collaboration between the Conservatory and the glass artist Dale Chihuly began in 2004, when the Friends of the Conservatory purchased nearly the entire collection of his artwork, valued at \$7 million. While Chihuly's creations can be found in collections of more than 200 museums worldwide, Franklin Park has the largest of any botanical garden in the world. And while select pieces of this collection are always on display, this is the first time since 2009 that the entire collection (over 3,000 pieces) has been exhibited.

Chihuly, 'a missionary for the art of glass', wants his artwork to be re-configured periodically. This is done by his team arranging a mock-up of the pieces to be used at the Chihuly Center in Seattle, then directing the placement of each piece as well as the plants used in each installation.

Our guide, Josh White, explained the exhibit as "an art museum with some pieces that are alive". It was truly a unique and beautiful site, and caused Nancy Walker to muse "I may have to give up native plants."

