



May Newsletter

May 2021

May BFCG Newsletter

There is a lot of excitement in the air as we get closer to the garden opening date. Remember the garden is open for the season when the US flag is raised. Those that have joined Remind will be the first to know when we are open for the season. If you have not joined yet [CLICK HERE](#) to learn how.

This month's newsletter is filled with a lot of information from garden events, garden education, greenhouse plant discounts, plus more.

Please note:

This month's Committee meeting will be held 5/19 6:30pm at the garden. All are welcome. Visitors are given 5 mins at the end to speak.

NEW This Season



Ask a Gardener

Have a question about gardening in general or your plants? We will have cards at the corkboard at the shed that you can write your question and pin it up. Seasoned gardeners if you know the answer help your fellow gardeners out and answer it on the card.

On-Demand Mentoring Program

Cuyahoga County Master Gardeners are available on-demand for your gardening questions.

Call or text: [216-245-5305](tel:216-245-5305)

Email: communitygardensccmg@gmail.com

Click [HERE](#) for more information

Garden Events

[View Calendar](#)

Be sure to check out our calendar throughout the season for more garden events



Tree Planting & Bluegrass Band

On May 23rd at 1pm we will be planting a Ben Franklin tree to commemorate our 40th year. Then at 2pm grab your lawn chairs and enjoy music by Small Craft Advisory a bluegrass band with an enthusiastic mixture of banjo, guitar, mandolin, harp, and bass.



Build a Terrarium at Ben Franklin Community Garden

Join us to make your own terrarium. During the event, your artist and terrarium enthusiast, Cory, will guide you on how to assemble and design your own living landscape trapped inside a unique enclosed glass jar! Since these terrariums will be enclosed, they will water themselves after the initial watering!

Registration is required and there is a fee of \$40. Register [HERE](#)

BFCG How to Tips on YouTube

Have you taken a look at our YouTube channel recently? Gardener and committee member Jim Kasper has been busy creating "How To" and gardening tip videos.

Current videos include transplanting plants from winter sowing, starting your lettuce and beet seeds at home, transplanting your seedlings and/or store bought plants, and more.

Click [HERE](#) to access our channel. Be sure to follow as there will be more videos to come.



Zoom With Gretchen Mettler

Come join Master Gardener Gretchen Mettler on Thursday May 20th at 7:30pm.

Gretchen will be discussing soil amendments and pest control.

RSVP [HERE](#) and a link will be sent to you before the meeting.

If you do not receive a email with the link the day of please contact communications@benfranklincommunitygarden.org.



Masters Gardeners of Cuyahoga County Webinars

The Master Gardeners of Cuyahoga County are offering a webinar May 22nd from 10a-11a. Registration is required and there is a \$5 fee.

For more information or to register click [HERE](#)

What's New

Haul Help

Volunteers needed that have access to a truck and be willing to take items to the city dump. Contact Jennifer: jennifer_m_terry@hotmail.com

Composting

Garden Map

Did you miss the Kick-off Meeting? Be sure to check our YouTube as the replay is there. The Garden map was revealed at the Kick-Off. You can find it [HERE](#)

Firewood

We offer composting. Bring your fruit and veggie scrapes to be turned into compost. Compost bin is located outside the garden gates when the garden is closed.

Looking for firewood? Next to the shed we have a large pile. Firewood is free and first come first serve.

Main Pathways

Please note: We **will not** be getting wood chips this season. Pathways are your responsibility. They **MUST** be maintained and clear of objects and weeds. You may purchase **dye-free** mulch and place it down. You may **not** place fabric under the mulch in the pathways.

Greenhouse Discounts

Old Brooklyn Greenhouse (W 11th) and Charlie's Plant Place (E. Schaaf Rd) are both offering BFCG gardeners discounts on plants.

Old Brooklyn Greenhouse will be offering flats of marigolds and VEGETABLE plants for \$9. Does NOT include herbs.

Charlie's Plant Place is offering 10% off your total purchase.

Mention you are a BFCG gardener for your discount at both greenhouses. Please make sure to thank them as this is a courtesy to our gardeners.

Raised Beds

Looking for a raised bed? A waitlist is currently being taken for the Oct 21 - Oct 22 season. [Click HERE](#) for more information and the waitlist form.

Note: being on the waitlist does not guarantee of a raised bed.

Team Leads

We are looking for volunteers who can be team leads in various jobs/tasks throughout the garden. Team Leads would coordinate with a group of gardeners on different tasks that are required to maintain the garden throughout the season.

If you are interested email benfranklincommunitygarden@gmail.com with the subject line "Team Lead"

Garden Mentorship

Would you like to be a mentor to a new gardener. We are looking for gardeners who would like to take on this job.

Email benfranklincommunitygarden@gmail.com with subject line "Mentor".

If you are looking to be mentored email the above email with the subject line "Mentorship".

Education, Events, Survey



Tomatoes

Ohio State University Extension has a great article on tomatoes. Worth a read if you plan to plant tomatoes this season. [ARTICLE](#)



Disease

Identification Apps

Now is a great time to learn about diseases that can harm your plants. The Mama Pirate compiled a great resource in ten of the best Disease Identification Apps. Click [HERE](#).



Application Survey

This was our first year offering the application via online. We would love your feedback, good or bad on how your experience went so we can improve the process next year. The survey takes 2-3 mins of your time. Click [HERE](#) to access.



Garden Walk

Mark your calendar. Ben Franklin Community Garden will participate in this year's Garden Walk. Garden Walk Cleveland will be July 10th and 11th. There are 7 Cleveland neighborhoods participating.

[CLICK HERE](#) to register for event updates or to add your home garden to the list.

Garden Reminders



Straw

If you plan to order straw orders must be placed and paid for by 5/23. Click [HERE](#) for more information.



Tomato Monster Sale

Tomato Monster orders close 5/19. Pick-up date is 5/22 10a-3p. A portion of sales benefit BFCG. Details [HERE](#)



Garden Store

Our 40th Anniversary Garden Store is open



Gazebo

Crowdfunding

We have a long way to go

until 5/23. Make sure to get your orders in. Portion of the sales benefit the BFCG. Click [HERE](#) for the store.

to reach our goal in building the community gazebo/pavilion. Help us reach our goal.

Even if you can not monetarily donate share with family and friends. Click [HERE](#)



Rhubarb

Have you ever had rhubarb? It is packed full of nutrients especially calcium. Very Well Fit breaks down the benefits [HERE](#).

If you can get your hands on some stalks Martha Stewart has some great recipes for rhubarb. Wonder what it looks like growing. The Master Gardeners have a few plants growing in their demonstration gardens.

[Martha Stewart Recipes](#)



Benjamin Franklin Community Garden

1905 Spring Rd, Cleveland
Ohio 44109 United States

216-446-5155

communications@benfranklincommunitygarden.org

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