

Condolences to our long time treasurer, Donna Olsson, on the loss of her husband, Dexter. Many members joined the family for the beautiful service for him at the Chiltonville Church.

Horticulture notes: Autumn daze

It is finally comfortable to work in the garden again even at the midday. So we can begin addressing the ravages of this summer.. First do not stop watering your trees. We've had some rain but there is still a significant deficit. Ideally, a tree needs a soak twice a month. Drip irrigation setup within the "drip line" of the canopy is best. Be sure the water sinks into the soil. If your see run off, slow the rate, Once the leaves color and fall, cut the watering to once monthly until the soil freezes.

Evergreen trees are a another matter. Unlike deciduous trees, evergreens do not go dormant. They need water until the soil freezes. Use your own judgement. If we suddenly have storms that produce a total of 12 inches of rain, stop your watering.

Lawns pretty much look like a lost cause. Grass naturally goes dormant in heat and drought. If there hasn't been a lot of traffic on the dry turf, it could recover in the fall.. If the lawn does not recover, in the spring loosen the soil with a garden rake and dress the traumatized area.

Dealing with the shedding of deciduous leaves is a chore that has started early this year. Mow over the fallen leaves and add them to your compost. To protect the buds that form on blue Hydrangeas, build a "pen " of chicken wire or burlap. Fill the space with whole oak leaves. Oak leaves are ideal because they hold their "loft" and are acidic. Oak leaves don't mat when soaked.

Finally, now is the time to deal with "Godzilla vines" Most notoriously Chinese Wisteria and bittersweet. Employ the "clip and dip" technique. Cut the branches and stems then dip the end still attached to the root in RoundUp. In the fall sap moves down to the root. The sap will carry the herbicide to the root. This method is more environmentally sound than spraying the infected area.

I use a variation of the technique in which I use a paint sponge -stick dipped in Round Up and swabbed on the cut stock. The work is labor intensive to cut every stem, branch and stock and swab the remaining stubs. But digging out the living roots is no solution. Every tiny fragment remaining can regenerate a whole new Godzilla.

Treasurer's report will be available at a later date.