



Taylor Garden Club



"Growing Together to Enrich Our Community"

Volume 26 Issue 8

taylorgardenclub.com

April 2016

From Your President

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant." -Anne Bradstreet



This is the time of year when I find myself eager to grow something. I set up a table in my back bedroom with grow lights and heating pads thinking I would plant a few seeds to get my growing fix on. Now I find myself with two flats of Butterfly Weed in the kitchen window, two additional flats of Swamp Milkweed in the dining room window and several more newly planted flats of Mexican Sunflower seeds beginning to sprout in the bedroom.

But thanks to many of you for gathering Milkweed seeds and giving them to **Mary Krzeczowski**. I got my growing fix and then some. Mary is growing many flats of milkweed plants as well and we will donate all of them to our Public Plant Sale Saturday, May 14. If you have the urge to grow from seed or dig and divide in your garden please put some of your perennials in pots for our plant sale. **Beth Ann Nowak** is plant sale chairman and would love all the help she can get for our annual sale.

Spring will be very busy and everyone's help is needed. Please remember to check your yearbook and mark your calendar for all the events that are planned for TGC members. The first is Clean Up Day at Heritage Park April 16th. Plan to come and clean up the flower beds and get them ready for planting in May. Bring your garden tools and help get the ground ready or bring a lawn chair and be our cheering section. It is the big Heritage Park Clean Up event so there may be other volunteers to help us if we just give them some direction. Many hands make light work and we are "growing together to enrich our community."

Nancy Smith



Upcoming Events

April 9th, Saturday, Ray Hunter, 16153 Eureka Rd. Southgate, "Pollinator Paradise" 11 am—1 pm Free. TGC will have a table at this event. To volunteer to help call Nancy Smith.

April 16th, Saturday, Heritage Park Clean Up. 10 am Join the 3rd Annual Heritage Park Clean Up by revitalizing our flower beds in preparation for May's plantings. Bring your tools and a young volunteer if you can.

April 19th, Tuesday, Detroit Institute of Arts Field Trip. Leaves Senior Center at Noon. (see pg. 2 for details)

April 21st, Thursday, TGC Meeting. Ford Senior Center, 6750 Troy, 7:00 pm. "Easy and Fun Sustainable Garden Tips". **Jan Bills**, is owner of Two Women and a Hoe, an Advanced Master Gardener and contributing writer for *Michigan Gardening*. She will entertain us while teaching about simple low maintenance gardening practices to use in response to environmental issues.

Hostesses: Dorothy Walkusky, Mary DeHerin, Nancy Smith, Vera Paul-Brown, Beverly Brown

LOOKING AHEAD

May 2-6, 2016, Wednesday-Friday, NGC Convention, Grand Rapids MI. Thursday keynote speaker Douglas Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home*. Friday keynote speaker Theresa Pierno President and CEO of National Parks Conservation Association. Full info: michigangardenclubs.org.

May 14th, Saturday, TGC Public Plant Sale. St. John's Lutheran Church parking lot.



8th Annual Growing Great Gardens

Thank you to all the great volunteers who helped set up on Friday and those who worked the event on Saturday. Without your efforts this huge fundraiser and community service project would not be successful.

The over 420 people who attended and 30 some vendors who sold products had a good day and although we don't know our total profit just yet our club and the conservatory definitely contributed to their treasuries.

Thanks Again!!

DIA FIELD TRIP

Taylor Garden Club **FREE** trip to the DIA is Tuesday April 19th.



The DIA bus will leave the Senior Center promptly at **noon** and return at **4 pm**.

There will be a coffee/tea/cookie reception for us at the DIA, a guided tour of selected art works and time on your own to visit any other area you wish or relax in the cafeteria.

FREE wheelchairs are available for anyone who feels they cannot walk through the museum.

Contact **Nancy Smith** quickly to sign up for the trip. 734-287-6851 smithnan88@yahoo.com We need a count for the bus and guides.

PLEASE BRING \$2 (proper change please) as a tip to the driver. Oh yes, wear your TGC name tag to show you're part of the group.

Happy April Birthdays!

Raquel Knuth

Arlene Mohr

Beth Ann Nowak

Shirley Williams

Janice Woodford-Garn

Hazel Woodruff



Ray Hunter's April Events

Free - all are invited to attend

Pollinator Paradise Event

Saturday April 9th 11 am—1pm

Learn About birds, bees and butterflies.

TGC has an information table at this event.

Growing Heirloom Tomatoes

Saturday April 30th 11am

TGC member Paul Rodman is the presenter.

Learn more about these delicious old varieties.

18153 Eureka Rd. Southgate MI

734-284-2500

FYI - (For your information):

Dues of \$15 for 2016-7 year can now be paid to Jan Foltin. Our check to MGC must be made by May 31st.

Condolences to former members **Louise Chapo** and **Sylvia Winchel**, both of their husbands died recently.

Sandi Haines 313-204-3928 same phone
606 Curzon St. apt 103
Howell, Mi 48843

Shrubs have Big Payoff



The tree form of serviceberry lines a path. It has a graceful habit, early bloom, delicious edible berries that birds also love, and it's drought-tolerant and can thrive in a range of conditions.

For wildlife gardeners — including those who want to **support pollinators** — certain plants promise a bigger payoff.

Shrubs are one category of plant that often delivers more rewards for less effort. They are larger than a perennial and can produce many more blooms per plant. Since they are woody, they need not

be cut back every year like many perennials. (That is, if they are planted in a site where they are allowed to take their natural shape and size.)

Another category of plants with a bigger proportional payoff is the earliest bloomers. They provide much-needed nectar to the newly emerging insects, and much-needed protein (i.e. insects) to newly arrived migrant birds.

The real powerhouses, then, are the plants that merge both of these categories: the earliest-blooming shrubs. Depending on your location and the size of your garden, think of wild plum (*Prunus americana*), spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), winter hazel (*Corylopsis* varieties), bush cherry (*Prunus tomentosa*), cornelian cherry (*Cornus mas*), serviceberry (*Amelanchier* varieties), clove currant (*Ribes aureum*), willow-leaf spiraea (*Spiraea thunbergii* 'Ogon'), Chinese paperbush (*Edgeworthia chrysantha*), and pussy willow (*Salix* varieties), among others.

Early-flowering shrubs put on a show when little else is showing, so they get more than their share of attention and appreciation — not only from people, but from insects looking for nectar and birds looking for insects. There's a huge payoff in adding them to your garden.



Serviceberry in bloom.

From: gardenrant.com. Posted by Evelyn Hadden on March 16, 2016



TGC Plant Sale May 14th will be here before you know it.

Start planning now for donations to our plant sale. When taking that survey of your gardens decide which plants need dividing and get your pots from **Beth Ann Nowak**. Getting some compost from the city is a good idea if you don't want to give away all your good garden soil.

When you are ready and the soil is tillable, dig those beauties up and pot them, at least a week or two ahead, so they can settle into the pot and be healthy and presentable for the new owner. Be sure to label them and if you need help, ask for some. We are in this club to help each other learn and enjoy gardening.

10 Tips for Starting Seeds

Robin Sweetser

From Old Farmer's Almanac Garden Journal

Succeed with seeds!

Here are 10 tips for starting your seeds indoors.

1 Disinfect any recycled pots, flats, or trays. You can use just about any kind of container that is at least 2 inches deep to start your seeds in as long as it has holes for drainage.

2 Read your seed packets. They have a wealth of information - germination temperature, light requirements, depth to sow, and when to sow. Timing is everything. Count backwards from your frost-free date the required number of weeks stated on the package to have your plants ready at just the right time.

3 Use a soil mix designed for seed starting. To avoid soil-borne diseases and fungi look for a soil-less mix. We use a compost-based seedling mix with excellent results. Regular potting soil or plain garden soil are too heavy.

4 Label everything! Many emerging seedlings look alike.

5 Light is key. Once your seedlings have emerged, place them where they will receive bright light for most of the day—greenhouse, sunporch, or south-facing windows. If you don't have such a spot try a grow light or an ordinary shoplight fixture with fluorescent bulbs.



Hang the lights so they can be adjusted to keep them 4 inches above the plants as they grow.



6 Transplant seedlings into individual pots when they get their “true” leaves.

7 Handle with care and replant them deeper—up to their seed leaves. Many plants will form new roots along the buried stem.



If your plant outgrow their pots before time to plant them outside, move them into larger containers to keep them growing.

8 Fertilize, especially if you are using a soil-less mix that has no nutrients added. Feed the plants weekly with a water-soluble, organic fertilizer.

9 Stroke your plants or set up a fan to gently blow on them. Studies show that plants grown in a still environment are weaker than those subjected to a gentle breeze.

10 Harden off your transplants by gradually exposing them to the great outdoors before planting them outside.

Give seed starting indoors a try!
It is a garden variety miracle.

If a tiny bud dares unfold to a wakening new world,
if a narrow blade of grass dares to poke its head up from an unlit earth,
then surely I can rise and stretch my winter weary bones,
surely I can set my face to the spring sun. Surely, I too can be reborn.

— Toni Sorenson

Looking Back on Winter Blooms

Have you ever wished for a blooming bevy of flowers out in your snow covered garden during a long winter?

I have the flower for you. The “**Snowdrop**” (Galanthus) a perennial with determination which will come up through the snow in January and last into February. Standing about seven to eight inches tall, it sprouts in clusters each stem sporting a white flower about four inches apart with one flower three to four inches across. If you look inside the cap of the flower a lovely small centered design of green hearts is seen.

These flowers last for three to four weeks and the green disappears in early spring leaving a no hint of them hiding beneath the soil until the following year. They were late blooming this year because we did not have a two or three inch snowfall until late February. Ours were planted in 1970 and continue to bloom. So you can see they last a long time.



The next plant is another bulb, the “**Hellebore**” (Helleborus). It is also a long lasting bloomer which starts in February. The blooms are six to eight inches wide on a sturdy ten inch stalk and remain for about three months with a schedule of change. Starting with white flowers which gradually turn to yellow, then pinkish rose, soon light lavender then in April a purple appears.



These plants are polite and stay in their place not spreading into another plant’s territory. Mine are in partial shade during the summer when the trees leaf out. The first group of bulbs was a gift from friends and planted about thirty years ago. The last bulbs were purchased from English Gardens two years ago. Once you have them in place, that’s it. Just leave them in place and they’ll give you pleasure for many years.

Both these are good under a ground cover which will they will happily come up through early in the year and by the time their foliage dies back the ground cover will hide what would have been a bare spot. One caution- don’t put them near the sidewalk or street where they might get salted. Mine are about three feet from the driveway.

Plan to add some of these determined plants next October so you can have early blooms in your yard next year.

Enjoy your patch of the Earth. It’s enjoyable to work with Mother Nature, but be ready for surprises.

Betty Trombetta



Next deadline is April 25th
Send news items to
Editor Mary Krzeczowski
10701 Holland
Taylor, MI 48180-3051

Dues of \$15 for 2026-17 year can be paid to Jan Foltin now. They are due to MGC by May 31st.



Taylor Garden Club

Club 392 District 1

Member of Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.
and National Garden Clubs Inc.



Sesame-Ginger Glazed Asparagus

Ingredients

1 lb. asparagus, trimmed
1 Tbsp. lower-sodium soy sauce
1 tsp. honey
1 tsp. lime juice
1 tsp. minced peeled fresh ginger
1/2 tsp. minced fresh garlic
2 tsp. toasted sesame seeds
Lime wedges

Preparation

Cook asparagus in boiling water 2 minutes or until crisp-tender. Drain.

Microwave soy sauce, honey, lime juice, ginger, and garlic on HIGH for 2 minutes. Arrange asparagus on a platter. Drizzle soy sauce mixture over asparagus; sprinkle with toasted sesame seeds. Serve with lime wedges.