



Taylor Garden Club



"Caring and Sharing"

Volume 28 Issue 4

taylorgardenclub.com

December 2017

From Your President

Upcoming Events



Spread happiness, joy, and peace on this special occasion. Wishing you and your family a blessed Christmas and happy holiday season. Keep faith, peace, and love in your heart!

Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year to celebrate and share a zest for life with our near and dear ones and people we don't even know. This is the time to free yourself from the complications of life and enjoy the season.

It's Christmas and everyone is singing, sending well wishes, and sharing love and compassion. Let's extend a helping hand to the poor and needy! Giving of yourself is the true meaning of Christmas!

May your Christmas be special and wonderful.

Happy holidays!

Sandra Thompson

Thanks to all who brought food for the high schools food bank. It will really help.

December 1st. Friday, Garden Therapy 1 pm at MediLodge Nursing Home Northline Rd. Taylor. Linda Newsom leads this new TGC activity.

Dec. 2nd, Saturday Field Trip to Concordia University in Ann Arbor to visit the Earhart Manor decorated for Christmas. Meet at senior center at 11 am.

Dec. 4th, Monday, 9 am- 1 pm. Grosse Ile Garden Club Annual Charity Auction at the Centennial Farm on Grosse Ile. Admission is 2 canned goods. The event includes a continental breakfast, entertaining auction, theme baskets drawings, bagged lunch and all proceeds are given to the Salvation Army and Goodfellows.

Dec. 7th, Thursday 7 pm. Greens Workshop Wayne County Community College District Northline Rd. Cost \$6 Contact Barb Kotarsky for details.

Dec. 14th, Thursday, 6:00 pm. TGC. Annual Christmas Dinner. Ford Senior Center, 6750 Troy, Taylor. Pot Luck Dinner Bring a guest and enjoy this start to the holidays. (see pg. 2)

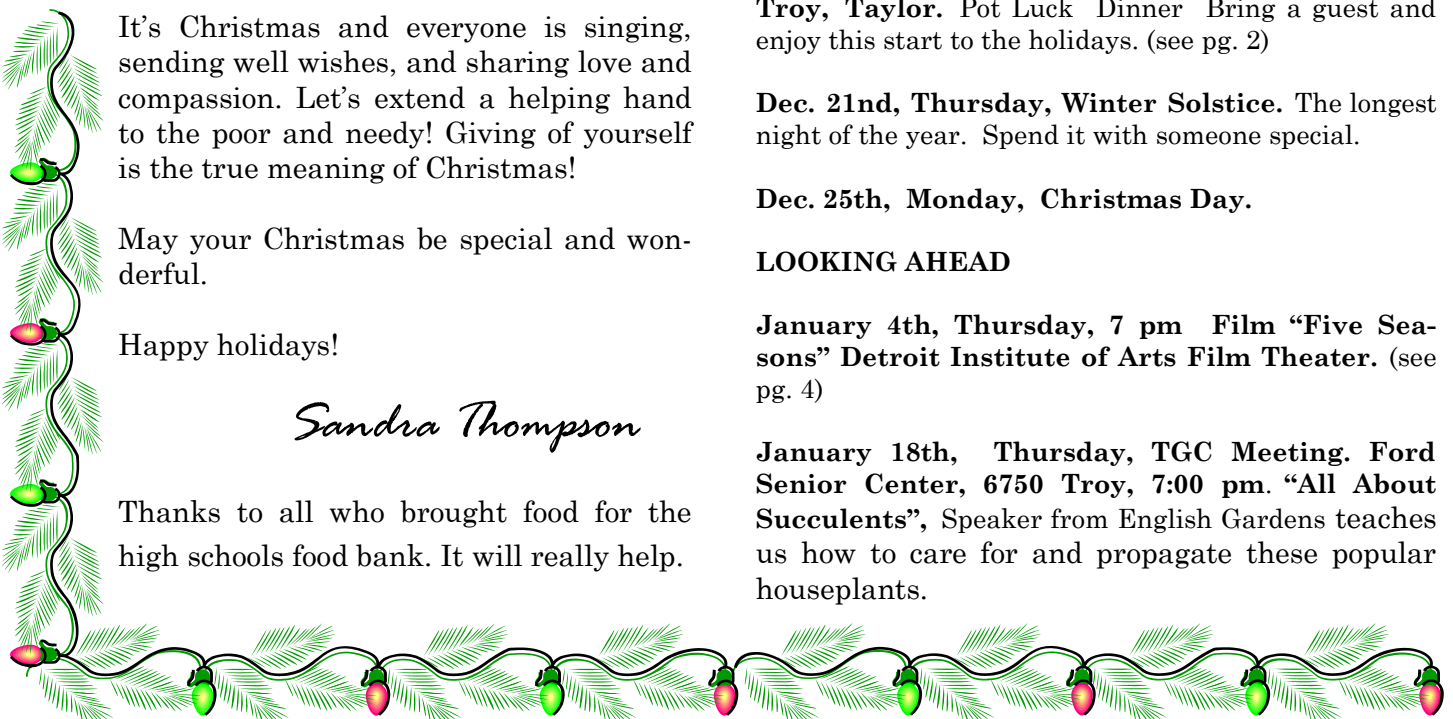
Dec. 21nd, Thursday, Winter Solstice. The longest night of the year. Spend it with someone special.

Dec. 25th, Monday, Christmas Day.

LOOKING AHEAD

January 4th, Thursday, 7 pm Film "Five Seasons" Detroit Institute of Arts Film Theater. (see pg. 4)

January 18th, Thursday, TGC Meeting. Ford Senior Center, 6750 Troy, 7:00 pm. "All About Succulents", Speaker from English Gardens teaches us how to care for and propagate these popular houseplants.



Gifts from the Garden for Teen & Tweens

December 9th from 2pm – 3pm at the Taylor Community Library, TGC Youth Director Maria Burt, will help youth ages 11—17 create festive mug centerpieces as personalized holiday gifts for loved ones.

This is the first in a series of “Gifts from the Garden for Tweens and Teens” monthly events held at the library.



How many lessons of faith and beauty we should lose, if there were no winter in our year!

Thomas Wentworth Higginson 1823-1911



Happy Birthday !

December Birthday Greetings to:

- Sheila Birmingham
- Mary FitzPatrick
- Michelle Hightower



TGC Members Support FOT



A big **Thank You** to all those who decorated a tree for the Festival of Trees (FOT). After they were displayed at our November meeting, the trees were delivered to the Festival of Trees, a fundraiser for the benefit of Children’s Hospital of Michigan.



Another **Thank you** goes out to TGC members who helped clean out the hoop house at Blair Moody school so it may be used for activities for youth and garden club.



FYI - (For your information):

New member for your yearbook:
Debbie Houston

Note:

Christmas Dinner has been changed from Candlelight Tea to a Pot Luck Dinner. Time is still 6 pm but please bring a dish to share. TGC is providing chicken.

Editors Comment: Saw this is the Lacrosse Tribune Newspaper and wanted to share. Wouldn't it be great if Michigan could do some similar grant project.

Wisconsin DNR to restore 700 acres of monarch habitat along Mississippi River

CHRIS HUBBUCH chubbuch@lacrossetribune.com Nov 9, 2017

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will restore or enhance more than 700 acres of goat prairie and oak savannas along the Mississippi River in an effort to improve habitat for the monarch butterfly.

A \$69,800 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, combined with nearly \$107,000 in state, county and private sector donations, will fund the restorations on public lands between Trempealeau and Crawford counties.

Over the next two years, the DNR and its partners will use prescribed burns and other invasive-species control to restore the native prairie plants on steep slopes along the river. According to the DNR, the work will also benefit other pollinators, rare plants, reptiles and birds.

The DNR plans to target remnant prairies in state natural areas, including Perrot State Park, the Coulee Experimental Forest and Hogback Prairie State Natural Area.

"Dry remnant prairies are some of the rarest habitat we have," said Pete Duerkop, conservation biologist with the Wisconsin DNR. "Extremely rare and extremely diverse."

East of the Rocky Mountains, the colorful butterflies journey up to 3,000 miles each fall to one of about a dozen mountain areas in Mexico. In the spring, they begin the return trip, laying eggs in southern states. Their offspring continue moving north into breeding grounds. The butterflies that make the southern migration are typically the third or fourth generation and have never been to the wintering grounds

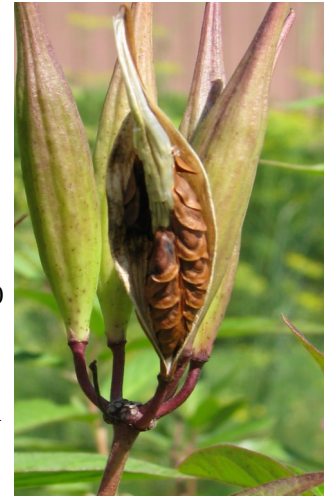
Duerkop said the Mississippi River is a major migratory corridor as well as a breeding ground for monarchs.

It's estimated that the population of eastern monarchs is just a tenth of what it was in the mid-1990s, according to a recent study that found it could be at risk of extinction. One of the biggest threats is loss of breeding habitat across the Midwest, where urban development and herbicide-tolerant row crops have displaced the milkweed monarchs rely on, according to the Monarch Joint Venture, a public-private partnership based at the University of Minnesota.

Monsanto, the maker of the weed killer Roundup, helps fund the NFWF.

The money is part of \$3.8 million in monarch habitat grants from the nonprofit NFWF, which combines federal and private funding sources.

This year's grants include \$222,000 for the University of Minnesota to help set up a national monitoring strategy and \$165,000 to the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation for restoration projects in central Iowa. Pheasants Forever was awarded \$80,000 to assist landowners in eight states, including Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin, with enrolling land in conservation programs.



Documentary

Five Seasons

At the DIA
Detroit Film Theater



January 4th at 7 pm, the Garden Club of Michigan and Friends of Detroit Film Theatre will cohost a special screening of *Five Seasons*, a new documentary about the internationally renowned Dutch master garden designer and plantsman Piet Oudolf.

Oudolf's projects include No. 5 Culture Chanel, Paris, France; The High Line, New York NY; Lurie Garden, Millennium Park, Chicago IL; Serpentine Gallery, London, England, and Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy.

At the invitation of the Garden Club of Michigan, Oudolf has committed to design a garden in Detroit and proposed a site on Belle Isle. Piet Oudolf and filmmaker Thomas Piper will be present at the screening to discuss the Belle Isle proposal with audience members.

"For me, garden design isn't just about plants, it is about emotion, atmosphere, a sense of contemplation. You try to move people with what you do. You look at this, and it goes deeper than what you see. It reminds you of something in the genes — nature, or the longing for nature."

Piet Oudolf

"Bringing the art of Piet Oudolf to the Detroit landscape is undeniably exciting for Detroit as a place of cultural and ecological resilience. This new public garden will add to the growing list of reasons to experience the city more fully, as a resident or a visitor."

MaryCarol Hunter, Associate Professor, School of Natural Resources & Environment, U of M

"Piet Oudolf, perennial plant designer of the iconic Lurie Garden, is the premier garden designer for public landscapes today. His designs are both artistic and ecological, connecting the history of the site with aspirations for the future of the community in which he is designing." Scott Stewart, PH.D., Executive Director, Millennium Park Foundation, Chicago.

Date **Thu, Jan 4 7:00 PM**

Cost \$10 general admission;

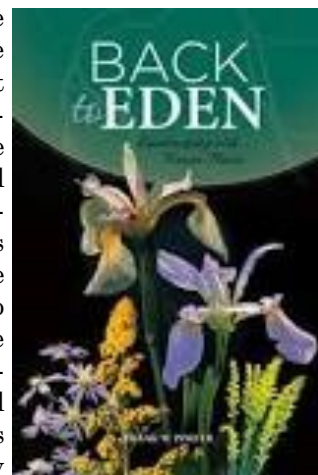
\$8 seniors, students, DIA members

Location **DFT Auditorium** 5200 Woodward, Detroit, MI

Frank Porter Encourages Native Plant Gardens

November 17th I was fortunate enough to attend the workshop offered by the Grosse Pointe Garden Center. The speaker was Frank Porter landscaper designer and author of *Back to Eden, Landscaping with Native Plants*.

He presented a thoughtful presentation and sought comments from those present on the importance of native plants and their impact on our ecosystems, wildlife and ourselves. He feels nurserymen should be educating the public about the need and benefits of using native plants in the landscape, but are instead responsible for the introductions of hundreds of species from other parts of the world to our area, often to the detriment of our native species. These imports frequently become bullies and outgrow native plants. This impacts wildlife, especially pollinators.



Dr. Porter acknowledged that landscaping with native plants requires educating lots of people, gardeners, retailers, and growers. He hopes some of this can be done by Mater Gardeners and garden club members. He emphasized the misconceptions that native plants are difficult to grow and become aggressive or weedy are not true. While it may still be a little difficult to obtain native plants at garden centers it is possible and becoming easier to find suppliers. Once you have the right plants for your location you will find them easier to grow since they will be less dependent on watering, fertilizing and they will be disease resistant as well. This places less strain on our ecosystem (and on ourselves) and offers an environment more suitable to native wildlife.

I will soon begin a journey through his book. I hope it is as entertaining as his presentation.

Mary Krzeczowski



Plants in Holiday Traditions

Sandra Mason, Illinois State Master Gardener Coordinator



Evergreen trees, poinsettias, and mistletoe - plants are an important part of many winter traditions. However sometimes origins of the traditions are not always clear.

For many the winter holiday season would be incomplete without the bright red of poinsettias. Joseph Poinsett, U.S. ambassador to Mexico in the late 1800's, was responsible for sending the poinsettia to the United States. He admired the plant's beautiful red bracts appearing naturally during the Advent season in the hills of Mexico. What a coincidence he would find a plant with the same name as his. Actually, it was called the nativity plant by the missionaries in Mexico.

The Egyptians, Romans and Druids all used decorated trees in winter celebrations long before the beginnings of Christianity. Egyptians in celebrating the winter solstice brought green date palms into their homes as a symbol of "life triumphant over death." The winter solstice, December 21, has the shortest daylight of the year. After December 21 daylight increases. Sounds like something to celebrate.

But most historians agree that the use of an evergreen tree as part of the Christian Christmas celebrations started about 400 years ago in Germany. There is a legend that one Christmas Eve Martin Luther was journeying through the pine forest. He was inspired by the sight of thousands of stars twinkling through the branches of the trees. Hessian mercenaries brought the custom to the U.S. during the American Revolution.

Mistletoe is the common name of several semi-parasitic plants of Europe, North America and China. American mistletoe grows mainly through the southern states on a wide variety of trees. As a holiday decoration, mistletoe is one of the oldest in common use.

Mistletoe was widely used centuries before Christ as a religious symbol in pagan rituals. The ancient Druids of Britain regarded mistletoe as sacred and believed it had both magical powers and medicinal properties. They referred to it as the "heal all". Seems like an odd name for a plant with toxic berries. Mistletoe was so sacred to the Druids that if two enemies met beneath a tree on which mistletoe was growing, they would lay down their weapons, exchange greetings and observe a 24-hour truce.

Due to its widespread use in pagan rituals, mistletoe was not allowed in Christian churches during the early days of Christianity. Just how mistletoe entered the Christian holidays is unclear. Perhaps it was due to the long held belief that it was a "heal all" plant - symbolic of Christ the divine healer.

The present day custom of hanging mistletoe over doorways probably came from the Druids' tradition of laying down arms. However, it may also reflect a Scandinavian tradition. The Scandinavians tell that Balder, the god of Peace, was slain with an arrow made of mistletoe. The other gods and goddesses became quite saddened by this and asked that Balder's life be restored. When he did return to life, mistletoe was given to the goddess of love who decreed that anyone who passed under the plant receive a kiss to show that mistletoe was a symbol of love.

Until the 20th century the herb rosemary was a very popular Christmas plant, along with holly and mistletoe. Why rosemary fell out of favor as a Christmas plant is a mystery. But the plant is making a comeback in wreathes and topiaries. An offering of rosemary signifies love and remembrance. And a sprig in your stew is quite tasty too.



Next deadline is Dec 27th
Send news items to
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Please remember when wrapping presents

Reduce - Reuse - Recycle.

Be creative and be environmentally friendly.



Taylor Garden Club
Club 392 District 1
Member of Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.
and National Garden Clubs Inc.



Three Bean Salad with Celery

from Nancy Smith

Ingredients

1 can (15 oz) red kidney beans drained & rinsed
1 can (15 oz) garbanzo beans drained & rinsed
1 can (15 oz) cut green beans drained & rinsed
½ small red onion chopped
2 stalks celery, peeled & chopped
½ can black olives sliced in half (optional)

Dressing

¼ cup extra virgin olive oil
¼ cup white wine vinegar
¼ cup white sugar
½ tsp salt
½ tsp celery seed
¼ tsp black pepper

Combine ingredients in a bowl

Mix together dressing ingredients in a separate bowl and stir.

Pour dressing over bean mixture, gently stir to coat, cover and chill for 2 to 4 hours.