



Taylor Garden Club



"Caring and Sharing"

Volume 28 Issue 5

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January 2018

From Your President

Wishing You,
Beautiful moments,
Treasured memories,
And all the blessings
A heart can know!
Happy
New
Year



I've learned a lot this year...

I learned that things don't always turn out the way you planned, or the way you think they should.

And I've learned that there are things that go wrong that don't always get fixed or get put back together the way they were before.

I've learned that some broken things stay broken, and I've learned that you can get through the hard times and keep looking for better times, as long as there are friends like you.

Leave the sorrows, pain and sadness behind and **WELCOME** the brand **NEW YEAR** with a **SMILE.** 😊

Gardens grow with **TEAMWORK.**

Sandra Thompson

Upcoming Events

January 4th, Thursday, 7 pm Film "Five Seasons" Detroit Institute of Arts Film Theater. \$8 for Seniors. (Described in last newsletter.)

Jan 13th, Saturday, "Free Seminar: Fairy & Mini Gardens", English Gardens Ford Rd, Dearborn Hts. 1-2 pm. They will share expert tips on creating a magical fairy garden that's guaranteed to attract mystical beings.

Jan 15th, Monday, Martin Luther King Day
How will you be of service?

Jan 21st, Thursday, TGC Meeting, Ford Senior Center, 6750 Troy, 7:00 pm. "All About Succulents" Come learn about these popular houseplants from a representative from English Gardens. How to care for, propagate, and share with friends.

Hostesses: None signed up, so only table snacks and drinks at this meeting.

Jan 27th, Saturday, Free Seminar: Healthy Eating with Herbs at 1 pm English Gardens, Ford Rd Dearborn Hts. Culinary herbs have powerful health benefits. They share some favorite herbs to cook with and provide recipes.



Christmas Party

a great start to the holiday season.

It was a wonderful sharing of personal favorites and pot luck staples that filled our annual Christmas gathering.

Broasted chicken was a flavorful entrée, but the side dishes, salads and our out-of-this world desert selection really made the dinner outstanding.

It was a great time for enjoying good food and good company, and many members went home with the beautiful centerpieces made at our greens workshop.

Thanks to all those who donated their delicious dishes.



January Birthday Greetings !



Stan Price	Barbara Kotarsky
Tina Hughes	Stephanie Keenoy
Debbie Houston	Sandra Haines
Brecque Keith	Paul Rodman

Visit to Canterbury Village in Lake Orion



TGC Starts Garden Therapy at Medilodge of Taylor

December 1st, **Linda Newsome, Sheila Birmingham, Delores Chorkaluk, Mary Krzeczowski, Mary FitzPatrick, Priscilla Davis, and Sandra Thompson** met at Medilodge skilled nursing center on Northline Road to help residents make paper poinsettias to hang in their doors, in their rooms or on the communal Christmas tree.

Linda Newsome who organized the craft, led the group in folding, gluing and stringing the lovely red flowers. When finished cookies were enjoyed by all.



Festival of Trees

We plan on helping out again next year with "*Festival of Trees*." In addition to those who want to decorate a small tree, we will be having a "tree decorating workshop" during our October 2018 meeting.

The festival needs a lot of help to get small trees to raise money. If you have any tree decorations that you would like to donate, for a small tree, pack them aside this year and either bring them to our January meeting or hang on to them until October when we can use them to decorate together.

Any questions? Contact Bev Brown.



What a busy year it was! **"Thank You"** from the bottom of my heart! Your support has meant so much to me and I deeply appreciate it. To all those volunteers who have helped with the club's special events this last year we couldn't have done it without you. We still have lots more events and fun things to do this coming year. I hope you will all volunteer some time and/or join us in all the wonderful events planned for 2018. Looking forward to seeing all of you soon.

Sandra Thompson

Earhart Manor at Concordia University Ann Arbor



On December 2nd, 15 members and guests, boarded the senior bus for a trip to Concordia University! We had a beautiful day as we toured Earhart Manor, all decked out for Christmas! We learned about the family that built and lived in the mansion and the passion for gardening Mrs. Earhart had. Her greenhouse was filled with holiday plants and trees for sale. A few of us went straight to the German food under a heated tent, while some of us went to visit the vendors. Christmas carols were sung to get us in the holiday spirit!

Bev Brown

Greens Workshop at Wayne County Community College District

On December 14th, 20 members and guests attended **Barb Kotarsky's** "Greens Centerpiece Workshop." We had some mixed greens we purchased and others that garden members shared from their yard. The workshop was held at WCCCD in a huge room that easily accommodated everyone. Thank you Barb and other experienced arrangers for helping the inexperienced to make lovely holiday decorations.

After members created arrangements for themselves we pitched in and made some arrangements for our Christmas Dinner. After the dinner we drew names and lucky winners took home one of the centerpieces!



Give the Gift of Gardening

A few ideas for kid gardening:

Involve the child in planning. Go through garden catalogs together selecting plants from the colorful pictures. Make a collage of the virtual garden. Popular vegetables are golf ball sized 'Thumbelina' carrots, sugar snap peas, 'Sweet Baby Girl' cherry tomatoes or lettuce mixes. Flower possibilities include hollyhocks, lamb's ear, sensitive plant, bells of Ireland, snapdragons, money plant, nasturtium, pansy and zinnia. For kids with little hands try large seeded plants like sunflowers or beans.

Try weird and wonderful such as spilanthus (the eyeball plant), wishbone flower with its tiny wishbone inside the flower, dinosaur kale, blue potatoes, purple beans or the brightly colored stems of 'Neon Lights' Swiss chard.

Design a round pizza garden with one slice cut out for easy access. In the pizza wedges grow oregano, basil, tomatoes, peppers, wheat and onions. Plant yellow marigolds around the pizza to represent the cheese. At harvest have a pizza party.

Kids love extremes from very tiny to very large. Try 'Little Finger' carrots, large gourds and giant sunflowers. Plant a circular maze or fortress of giant sunflowers. Or a pole bean teepee for Jack and the bean stalk.

Butterfly garden could be shaped like a butterfly with butterfly nectar plants such as verbena and lantana planted in the outstretched wings. The body could be the path. Don't forget the antennae made of bamboo poles and tennis balls.

Sense of ownership is important to all of us, including kids. Gardens should be more than forced weeding labor camps. Personalize the garden by having the child paint a sign with their name on it. Make a unique stepping stone. Let the child write their name alongside their handprint in the wet concrete. Treat the garden as a petting zoo of plants. Encourage kids to touch and smell. Include plants with fragrant leaves such as lemon verbena, basil, lemon balm and lavender.

Make a tunnel from garden netting and PVC pipe. Let beans or sweet potato vine ramble over the top to make a "secret" place in the garden.

Be sure to include pint sized chairs, tools, fences, trellises or watering cans.

Let kids get wet and dirty. Enjoy the process when the rows are crooked, the weeds are growing and the flowers don't match. No "no" signs allowed in a children's garden. Maybe we should think more about "gardening like a kid".

This is part of an article by:

Sandra Mason Illinois Master Gardener Coordinator
<http://web.extension.illinois.edu/cfv/homeowners/161219.html>



Editor's comment: We are reprinting Betty's Jan 2010 message to club members. It is as timely now as then.

What, Me Worry?

It arrives about three am, just a thought about some family or a business situation. You lay awake tossing and turning and by four am you have hashed and re-hashed the situation---always dwelling on the worst scenario. Then, exhausted you fall to sleep. A new year is starting; here are a few suggestions for you worriers.

Well, here's the first one. Just tell yourself, "If it hasn't happened yet, why worry?" It may not actually happen. Many, many situations are resolved by other people involved. Next, if it has happened, think of a plan to deal with it. Don't worry, take action.

Here's another suggestion just perfect for the habitual worrier. Set aside some particular time in your daily schedule each day for worrying. Maybe you could do it from seven thirty to eight, where it wouldn't interfere with your favorite TV program. Or maybe you could fit it in after supper during kitchen clean-up. That way you can take care of two jobs at once and be done for the day.

Here's a third plan that worked wonders for my mom at an extremely difficult time in her life. She prayed as hard as she could, then finally said, "I have done my best to help this situation and it's not enough. So I'm turning it over to you, Lord, and I trust you to solve it." Two days later the problem was solved, by the actions of other people.

On all United States currency, from the lowly penny up to a ten thousand dollar bill, are the words "In God We Trust." Can you do better than to follow that advice? At the same time remember "God helps those who help themselves."

Wishing you the best of life, health and a stupendous tomato crop this year. Watch out for those butterflies!

Betty Trombetta



Allium 'Millenium' 2018 Perennial Plant of the Year®

This relative to the common onion, is a workhorse of the late summer garden. Bred by Mark McDonough, from Massachusetts, it has proven itself. It flowers late with masses of rose-purple blooms, has a uniform habit with neat shiny green foliage that remains attractive season long, and is drought resistant.

The genus *Allium* contains more than 900 species in the northern hemisphere, but is best known for a dozen or so species of culinary vegetables and herbs: onion, garlic, leeks, shallots, scallions, and chives. The genus is also known for a few dozen ornamentals that grow from bulbs and sport tall stems with big globe-shaped blooms in spring.



Allium 'Millenium' has many virtues for the landscape setting. Growing best in full sun, each plant typically produces an upright grass-like foliage clump and glossy deep green leaves reaching 10-15" tall in spring.

In midsummer, two to three flower scapes rise above the foliage with each scape producing two or three showy two-inch spherical umbels of rose-purple florets lasting as long as four weeks. The flower umbels are completely round. They dry to a light tan often holding a blush of their former rose-purple color. While other alliums can look scraggly in the heat of the summer, 'Millenium' does not let the heat bother it! Easily grown in zones 4-9 it is a great perennial in many areas of the country.

No serious pest problems have been reported. Leaf spot may occur in overcrowded growing conditions. Deer and rabbits leave it alone. 'Millenium' exhibits 50% reduced seed production, raising less concern for self-sown seedlings.

Its fibrous root structure forming an ornamental herbaceous clump makes it easily propagated by division. Once in the garden, 'Millenium' can easily be lifted and divided in either spring or fall. Cut back foliage in late fall. Pollinators flock to Allium 'Millenium'! Butterflies and bees will thank you for adding 'Millenium' to your garden. Pair with shorter goldenrods (*Solidago* sp.) such as 'Little Lemon' that reaches one and a half feet tall. Goldenrods are late summer pollinator magnets that will offer beautiful contrasting golden yellow blooms. Another late summer re-blooming companion perennial to consider is *Oenothera fremontii* 'Shimmer' with its low-growing silvery foliage adorned daily with large yellow flowers that open late afternoon and fade to an apricot color by morning. Being tap-rooted this evening primrose is well behaved, not creeping through the garden, for which, rhizomatous spreading evening primroses are famously known.

Allium 'Millenium' looks great backed with the silver foliage of *Perovskia atriplicifolia*, Russian sage, or the native *Scutellaria incana*, downy skullcap, with its numerous spikes of blue flowers above trim green foliage. Or simply plant 'Millenium' en masse and enjoy the rose-purple display!

This low-maintenance dependable perennial will not disappoint! Blooming at a time when most of our garden begins to decline in the tired excess of the season, 'Millenium' offers much needed color. It is truly an all-season plant that offers attractive shiny foliage spring through summer and caps off the season with its crown of perfectly round rose-purple flower umbels!

Edited version of article by: Martha A. Smith, U of Illinois Extension and Mark McDonough



Taylor Library and TGC working together for kids

On December 9 **Maria Burt** did a youth program called "Gifts from the Garden for Teens and Tweens".

Thanks to the volunteers, Friends of the Library, the Taylor Library staff, and parents for helping the kids to make a holiday greens arrangement to take home.



Next deadline is Jan 25th
Send news items to
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Get the newsletter in color.
Send your email address.
Krz80@provide.net



Taylor Garden Club
Club 392 District 1
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and National Garden Clubs Inc.



PROTEIN EGG MUFFIN

Makes Approx. 3 dozen

Submitted by Nancy Smith

This warm muffin has the texture of quiche

Ingredients:

1 dozen eggs whisked
12 ounces cooked bacon or ham diced
2 cups sharp cheddar shredded
½ cup finely diced red peppers
Dried basil, oregano, salt & paper to taste
1/2 cup Parmesan cheese

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees, Spray muffin pans with Pam or use paper cupcake liners- **Do not** use foil liners
Mix all ingredients except Parmesan
Ladle into muffin pan cups.
Sprinkle tops with saved ½ cup Parmesan cheese
Bake for 25 min. or until puffy and tops slightly browned.
Remove from oven and let cool for 15 minutes.
Loosen paper cups and lift out of muffin pans.
Serve while warm or let cool completely and store in an airtight container in refrigerator.