



# Taylor Garden Club



*"Growing Together"*

Volume 29 Issue 3

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November 2018

## From Your President

Here we are, November already!

Thanksgiving is around the corner and I can't wait! My favorite root vegetables, pumpkin pie and all the family over.

As we sit around the table, I have everyone say what they are thankful for this year. They usually roll their eyes but everyone has something to add.

I think of November as the beginning of fall and as the leaves change color and fall to the ground, the plants go dormant or die because their time has come to an end. I feel a short moment of time to exhale before winter hits.

It's a time to reflect on what we have to be thankful for. Although things don't always go as planned or how we would like, I think there is always something to be thankful for.

I hope you spend time relaxing and enjoying the view out the window and reflect on what you are thankful for.

One thing I can think of is no more 90 degree, humid days!

*Bev Brown*

### FUN FACT

The sweet potato is a member of the morning glory family while the yam is closely related to the lily and grasses.....who knew?

## Upcoming Events

**November 15th, Thursday, TGC Meeting. Ford Senior Center, 6750 Troy, 7:00 pm.** Make and Take. **Beverly Brown** leads us in taking a bottle and creating a decorative vase. The trees members did for the Festival of Trees will be on display before they are taken to Dearborn.

EARLY NEXT MONTH:

**December 3rd, Monday, Grosse Ile Christmas Auction 9:00 am.** Help charity, mingle with fellow gardeners and get some nice items (pg. 5)

**Dec 6th, Thursday, Christmas Dinner Ford Senior Center 6:00 pm** Start off the holiday season with good food and gardening friends. (pg. 2)

**Dec 8th, Saturday, Field Trip to Tecumseh Promenade Candlelight Home Tour. Ford Senior Center 4 pm.** (pg. 2)



**Dec 12th, Wednesday, Greens Workshop, Ford Senior Center 6 pm.** Barbara Kotarsky guides us as we make a beautiful greens centerpiece. (pg. 4)



Members having fun at the apple orchard.

### ***“Annual Christmas Dinner ”***

Taylor Senior Center  
Thursday, December 6, 2018 6:00 pm

Catered by *Halina's*  
Members will bring deserts to share.

Cost \$15

- Invite a guest to share the food and fun.
- Christmas Ornament exchange, bring one you are tired of and trade for something new to you.
- Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest.



Chairperson: Lois Adams



Friday October 12th a small dedicated group of TGC members cleaned up the flower beds at the Greenwald House. Thanks so much to those who worked to make those gardens look so much better. Thanks also to those who

worked at the perennial bed this summer. Your efforts made our park more beautiful.

## **Happy Birthday !**

November Birthday Greetings to:

Mary D'Herin  
Janice Foltin  
Phyllis Green  
Zak Keenoy  
Jill Parrish  
Cheryl Smith



## **Promenade Candlelight Home Tour**

**Saturday December 8, 2018**

Tecumseh, MI 5:30- 8:00 pm

Tickets \$5



Car Pool from Ford Senior Center  
leaves at 4 pm and returns about 9 pm

The Promenade Candlelight Home Tour will transport you to another era. Historic Tecumseh homes, dressed to the hilt for the holidays, are open for your enjoyment.

Docents act as your guides as you take in the holiday atmosphere. Room after room is brimming with decorations. Fresh greens scenting the air, familiar holiday carols playing, and soft lights adding just the right ambiance.

Contact: Beverly Brown



At the District I Fall Conference **Ashlee Decker** of *The Nature Conservancy* gave a presentation on The Oak Openings. For those of you who could not attend here is some information on this unique ecosystem in which many of us live.

“We call it **The Oak Openings** or, simply, the Oaks. Biologists call it oak savanna. *The Nature Conservancy* has anointed it as “One of America’s Last Great Places,” putting it on par with Florida’s Everglades and the temperate rain forests of the Northwest as one of earth’s rarest habitats. This long and relatively narrow band of sandy soil just west of Toledo, Monroe, and Detroit that so many people call home is also home to dozens of rare species.

To be sure, the Oak Openings is not a land of mountaintop vistas and vast canyons. Its beauty is in the details, the incredible richness of species teeming in a rich variety of habitats.

The Oak Openings must have been a welcome sight to the early pioneers of northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan. After wallowing and hacking their way through the dense woods and mire of the Great Black Swamp—it could take nearly a week to traverse the 25 or so miles between Fremont and Perrysburg—the Oak Openings would have been like a dream come true to those early travelers. There, on the high sandy dunes, tall prairie grasses grew under an open canopy of widely spaced oak trees. They could easily zigzag their wagons through the dry open woodland without even having to cut a path.

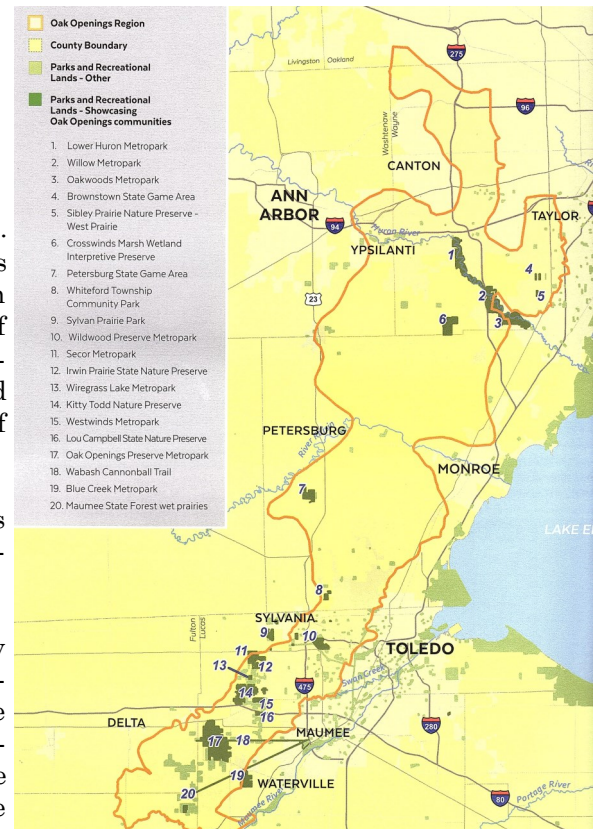
Some of these early pioneers eyed the open woods and drooled at the prospect of easily cleared farmland. Their excitement was brief. The land was easy to clear, all right, and the sandy soil turned easily to the plow. But the soil was poor and unproductive, and farming was unprofitable.

The Oak Openings Region is a sandy five-mile-wide swath that stretches southwestward over 80 miles through Wayne and Monroe counties in Michigan and Lucas, Henry, Fulton and Wood counties in Ohio. As the last of the great mile-thick glacier—the Wisconsinan—receded from our region some 15,000 years ago, it left in its wake Lake Warren, one of the many stages of ancestral Lake Erie. Lake Warren built up sand bars and beaches in what is now the Oak Openings. They were left high and dry as the waters progressively dropped to today’s lake levels.

Wind whipped these sandy lake deposits into ridges and dunes. Underneath is a nearly impervious layer of clay, cradling the water year round. In places the sand can be 50 feet thick, and in other places the underlining clay is nearly exposed. On the dunes where the sand is deep the conditions are arid and harsh, but ideal for the plants of the tallgrass prairie and the large spreading oaks.

In between the sparsely wooded dunes and ridges are swales where the sand layer is thin, and water can stand year-round and suppress the growth of woody plants. Wet prairies formed there, dominated by sedges and grasses. These wet prairies and occasional small lakes were extensive enough that Native American hunters and gatherers could canoe uninterrupted for miles.

Wildflowers grew in such profusion in those early days that there are stories of farmers taking wagonloads of orchids to market with their produce. Only the trained eye of a naturalist would now recognize much of the Oak Openings. Many of the wetlands have been drained and most of the towering oaks cut down. Dense, stunted second-growth forests now fill many of the “openings” that gave the area its name.



(Continued on page 5)



## Festival of Trees Workshop

At our October meeting **Denise McDonald** the chairman of Tabletop Trees for the FOT brought trees for our members to decorate for the annual fundraiser for Children's Hospital of Michigan.

Some still took a tree to decorate personally at home with their own personal theme and touch.

Thanks to all the members who helped at the workshop or at home.



## Make A Holiday Greens Centerpiece

Ford Senior Center  
Wednesday December 12th 6:00 pm

**Barbara Kotarsky** will guide us in taking winter evergreens and creating a lovely centerpiece.

Cost and materials list will be published in the December newsletter.

Sign up with Barb at Nov meeting so she knows amount of supplies needed. If you have greens in your yard to donate please contact Barbara.

## November Is Time To:

### # 1

Now that the frost has come dig up your dahlias, cannas and other tender bulbs clean them off and store them away for the winter. Be sure to check on them once and a while to be sure they are not too moist and rotting or too dry and shriveling up.

### # 2

Store leftover garden chemicals where they will stay dry, unfrozen and out of the reach of children, pets and unsuspecting adults.

### # 3

Once plants are completely dormant and temperatures are consistently below freezing, apply winter mulch to protect tender perennials. In most cases, 2 to 4 inches of organic material such as straw, pine needles, hay or bark chips will provide adequate protection.

### # 4

Look in the stores now for deals on holiday plants such as amaryllis, Christmas cactus, Norfolk pines, poinsettias, even orchids are often at good prices at this time. Be watchful however, getting a poinsettia that has been set up in a drafty location at the store will not be a good deal when you get it home and all the leaves fall off.

## *Heart Like Wildflower*

I hope you are blessed  
with a heart like a wildflower:

Strong enough to rise again  
after being trampled upon,  
tough enough to weather  
the worst of the summer storms,  
and able to grow and flourish  
even in the most broken places.

*Nikita Gill*



*(Continued from page 3)*

It's difficult to imagine the Oak Openings that existed as recently as the early 1900s. The labyrinth of ditches designed in the early 1900s changed the face of the Oak Openings forever. Water disappeared from the land and with it the waterfowl.

The suppression of fire, both natural and otherwise, also dealt a blow to the Oaks. Fire historically suppressed the growth of many shrub and tree species, maintaining expansive openings, the very essence of the region, on the landscape.

Removing water and fire, it turned out, was like a one-two punch to the Oak Openings. Without these two natural interventions, remnants of the Oak Openings that haven't already been altered by agriculture or suburban expansion have been largely overtaken by a denser oak forest, and the sun-loving species that characterized the Oak Openings have greatly declined. Though they are still hanging on, these sun-dependent rare plants and animals are being shaded out."

Our area has certainly changed, with development of subdivisions and commercial properties but there are some who are trying to save or restore parts of our special part of the world.



"At the heart of conservation in the Oak Openings is the collaboration embodied by The Green Ribbon Initiative. The Green Ribbon Initiative (GRI) is a partnership of governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, businesses, and individuals that accept the Initiative's conservation mission and agree to help achieve the stated goals. Its mission is to preserve, enhance and restore critical natural areas of the globally unique Oak Openings Region and to inform residents about why this region is so important."

Source: LIVING IN THE OAK OPENINGS: A GUIDE TO ONE OF THE WORLD'S LAST GREAT PLACES

October 1st 2018 was the opening day for the longest canopy walk in the US.



It is in the Whiting Forrest at Dow Gardens, Midland MI. The walkway is 1,400 feet long and rises to a height of 40 feet above the forest. It cost \$20 million and took 4 years to complete. The canopy overlooks 54 acres of forests, ponds, meadows and an apple orchard. Admission to the Dow Gardens also covers Whiting Forest as well. (Daily fee \$5)

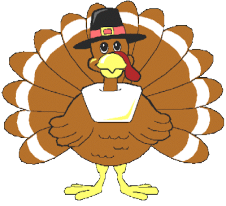
A presentation on this new addition to the already Michigan botanical gem Dow Gardens, was made at the Central Region Convention held in Frankenmuth October 23rd. The walkway is so popular that at this time reservations for the canopy walk are needed for weekend visitors. It must give a spectacular view during the color season.

## Grosse Ile Garden Club **Annual Christmas Auction** Monday, December 3, 2018

The live auction is held at Centennial Farm 25797 Third St, Grosse Ile. The day begins at 9:00 am with coffee, tea and breakfast items. The lively auction, starts at 10 am. A bag lunch ends the festive event. Proceeds donated equally to the Downriver Salvation Army and the Grosse Ile Goodfellows.

Admission is 2 (or more) nonperishable items to be given to local food pantries. Come and enjoy yourself, start your holiday shopping here and help local charities as well!"





Next deadline Nov. 25th send items to  
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Stamp



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



**How did plastic bags get to be such a big deal?** Well, it all started not really so long ago ...

In 1960 a company called Celloplast out of Sweden had an idea for tubing for packaging purposes. The tube, when laid flat, would be sealed on one end and left open on the other so it could be stuffed with product. A team member from Celloplast took it one step further in 1965, He thought if you sealed the bottom, and punched holes on the other end, you could stuff it with product, and have handles for carrying.

The grocery bag was born. It didn't catch on right away. Introduced to America in 1979, it wasn't till 1982 that Kroger Co. and Safeway, began using them. Still, few other retailers adopted them. In 1985, at a plastics conference in New Jersey, it was pointed out that plastic bags cost less than paper. A thousand plastic bags cost a retailer about \$24 while the paper bags ran close to \$30.

That was it. By 1986, more than 75% of US grocery stores began asking, "Paper or Plastic?" Fast forward ...Today the US uses 100 BILLION plastic bags each year. It takes an estimated 12 million barrels of oil to produce that many bags. In 2014 California became the first state to ban the plastic bag entirely. Following suit, over 150 US cities and counties now have either a ban or require a fee on all plastic bags. It's a start. But we can do better.

Remember most cities DO NOT accept plastic bags in curbside recycling. They can get tied up in the equipment at the recycle center and cause shut downs. To do your part, please take along a reusable tote or request a paper sack. Make it a habit! Without you it's just trash.

Submitted by Nancy Smith