



# Taylor Garden Club



*"Growing Together"*

Volume 29 Issue 4

taylorgardenclub.org

December 2018

## From Your President

## Upcoming Events

December has come and so has the end of 2018!

However, that doesn't mean it's time to rest. December can be a very trying month. It can be chaotic and stressful for many people. The holidays are joyful for some but not for others. You may be tripping over family and friends or you may feel isolated. The days get shorter and the sun may hide for awhile. Keep in mind, this too shall pass.

Use this time to reach out to people. Look for new things to do and new places to explore. For instance.... you can take some class for free at WCCCD if you are over 60. Check out what's happening at the local library. Stay in contact with people you love because time goes by quicker than you think!

We have a few things planned for this month and I hope you can join us for all the festivities!

*Bev Brown*

### Fun Facts about Mistletoe

Mistletoe is a parasitic plant usually found on fruit trees, maples and oaks. It is evergreen with yellow flowers and white berries.

Birds eat the berries and spread the seeds while sitting on a tree branch. The seed sticks to the branch and germinates. Tiny roots penetrate the branch and take hold. The mistletoe makes most of it's own food but gets some nutrients from the tree. It can kill a tree.

### December 2nd - 10th, Festival of Hanukkah

**December 3rd, Monday, Grosse Ile Christmas Auction 9:30 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. Don't forget your ugly sweater. (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)

**Dec 21st, Friday, Winter Solstice** Shortest daylight of the year in the Northern Hemisphere.

**Dec 25th, Christmas Day**

In Greek mythology, "Amaryllis" was a very attractive shepherdess. The word means "splendid beauty".



## “Annual Christmas Dinner ”

Taylor Senior Center  
**Thursday, December 6th**  
**6:00 pm**

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

Cost \$15

- Christmas Ornament exchange, bring one you are tired of and trade for something new to you.
- Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest.



Chairperson:  
 Lois Adams

## Grosse Ile Garden Club Annual Christmas Auction

Monday, December 3rd

The live auction is held at Centennial Farm 25797 Third St, Grosse Ile. The day begins at **9:30 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 nonperishable items to be given to local food pantries.

Come and enjoy yourself, start your holiday shopping here and help local charities as well!"

## Promenade Candlelight Home Tour

**Saturday December 8, 2018**  
 Tecumseh, MI 5:30– 8:00 pm  
 Tickets \$5



Car Pool from Ford Senior Center  
 leave at 4 pm and return 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

## Top 3 Herbs to Combat Cold and Flu:

**Tumeric** is said to be a "healing superstar." The active ingredient is curcumin. It has anti-oxidant and anti-inflammatory properties. Add this to scrambled eggs or rice, soup, stews or smoothies.

**Ginger** is said to have anti-nausea, anti-oxidant, anti-viral and anti-inflammatory properties. Add fresh slices to hot water along with lemon and honey, if you'd like. Ginger can be added to baked goods and soups. To grow, take about 2" piece of fresh ginger and plant it in sandy soil. Keeping it slightly moist, it should root in 4-5 weeks.

**Thyme** is an anti-septic oil and anti-microbial herb. It kills germs and fights infection.

Submitted by Beverly Brown

## December 21st, the Winter Solstice

The December Solstice occurs when the Sun reaches its most southerly declination of -23.4 degrees. In other words, when the North Pole is tilted furthest away from the Sun. Earth's tilted axis and orbit around the sun is the driving force behind a solstice.

For us on the northern part of Earth, the shortest day comes at the solstice. In Detroit on December 21, the sunrise is 7:57 am, and sunset is 5:22 pm. In terms of daylight, this day is 6 hours, 12 minutes shorter than on June Solstice. After the winter solstice, the days get longer, and the nights shorter. It's a seasonal shift that nearly everyone notices. We gain a few seconds more daylight per day then it expands to about 2 minutes of daylight each day as we move toward spring. Guess we had better get some good books or stream some good movies or series to binge watch. It will be a long dark winter.



### Happy Birthday !

December Birthday Greetings to:

Elsie Belanger  
Sheila Birmingham  
Mary FitzPatrick  
Michele Hightower



## Remember Don't Overwater Houseplants

There are no hard and fast rules to watering, because every situation is different, due to temperature variations, humidity and soil types etc. It is better to keep an indoor plant on a slightly dry side than over watered. More houseplants die from over watering than any other cause! Never allow your house plant to stand in a saucer of water for more than an hour or two!

Tap water is treated with chemicals for your safety, however most house plants don't like chlorine or fluoride, so it's a very good idea to allow the water to sit in an open container for at least 24 hours prior to using it for watering. This is enough time for the chemicals to dissipate and evaporate from the water and bring the water up to room temperature.



### Caring for Christmas Cactus or Poinsettias

Water till it drips from the bottom, when dripping stops put it on a saucer, do not water again till it feels light or tops two inches are dry. Keep them out of drafts and while they need sun do not put them too close to the window as it will be considerable cooler there.

## November Meeting Filled with Activity

After a short business meeting members enjoyed viewing the display of trees to be donated to the Festival of Trees and using their own creative juices to change everyday bottles or jars into lovely vases by using a festive napkin and decoupage.

Members also used their creativity, holiday spirit and sense of service to decorate the senior center for the holidays.



**Beverly Brown** gives **Anna Nowak** and **Shirley Williams** some suggestions for applying decoupage.

## Holiday Greens Centerpiece Workshop

Ford Senior Center  
Wednesday December 12th 6:00 pm

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

Call Barb now so she will know how many are attending and how many greens are needed. If you have greens in your yard to donate please let her know.

Supplies to bring if you can:  
Wire, scissors or wire cutters, picks, ornaments, glue gun, needle nosed pliers, gems and of course a lovely container ( mug, cookie tin ).

The workshop is free for members and \$10 for others.



## Festival of Trees Donations

The 2 and 3 foot trees that TGC members decorated to sell at the FOT fundraiser in Dearborn were on display at the November meeting. A wonderful collection of creativity and generosity. Thank you to all the members who contributed of their time, talent and community thoughtfulness.



**Patti Kehr** checks out part of the collection.



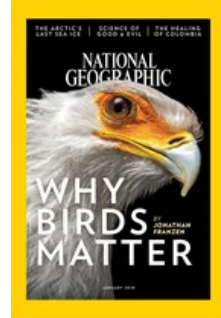
**Barb Kotarsky, Stephanie Keenoy** and **Pat Gergel**, work on the big tree

## 2018 Year of the Bird

Remember back in February we acknowledged that many organizations had declared 2018 the Year of the Bird?

“Year of the Bird”, is an initiative by National Geographic, the National Audubon Society, BirdLife International and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology to mark the centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. It was the most powerful and important bird-protection law ever passed, protecting birds from wanton killing.

In honor of this milestone, nature lovers around the world are joining forces to celebrate the “Year of the Bird” and commit to protecting birds today and for the next hundred years.



Well, it is December and a year has once again passed by swiftly. Here is a little something to take us out of 2018 with birds in mind.

### Suet recipe from *Audubon Society*.

“With this vegetarian version of suet (traditionally it's made from rendered animal fat) you can provide the perfect winter substitute for birds that normally feast on insects. This lipid-rich treat can help prepare year-round residents for the long winter and is quite the draw for birds such as woodpeckers, wrens, chickadees, nuthatches, and titmice.”

- 1 1/2 cups shortening (look for palm oil free options)
- 3/4 cups nut butter (any kind)
- 3 1/2 cups wild bird seed
- 1 cup quick oats
- 1/2 cup corn meal
- Ice cube tray

1. Mix the dry ingredients of bird seed, oats, and corn meal together and set aside.
2. Combine the shortening and nut butter in a separate bowl and melt. Stir until completely combined.
3. Pour the melted mixture into the dry ingredients and stir until combined.
4. Spoon mixture into the ice cube tray.
5. Freeze for one to two hours and place in your suet feeder!

*Note: Not recommended for outdoor temperatures above 50 degrees .*

### Think About It —

Everyone likes birds. What wild creature is more accessible to our eyes and ears, as close to us and everyone in the world, as universal as a bird? David Attenborough

Birds are the most popular group in the animal kingdom. We feed them, tame them and think we know them. And yet they inhabit a world which is really rather mysterious. David Attenborough

There is nothing in which birds differ more from man than the way in which they can build and yet leave a landscape as it was before. Robert Wilson Lynd



Next deadline Dec. 22nd send items to  
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# *Taylor Garden Club*

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



## **Cranberry Nut Pie**

from Toni Hall (Grosse Ile Garden Club)

### Ingredients:

1/4 cup brown sugar  
1/4 cup chopped nuts (walnuts or pecans)  
1 full bag fresh cranberries  
  
2 eggs  
1 cup sugar  
1 cup flour  
2/3 cup butter melted (not margarine)

### Directions:

- Butter pie plate
- Sprinkle sugar, chopped nuts and berries into pie plate
- In a bowl mix next 4 ingredients, then pour over berry mixture.
- Bake at 375<sup>0</sup> for 45 minutes
- Use toothpick to test for doneness
- Serve in the pie plate  
or serve inverted like pineapple upside down cake