



Taylor Garden Club



"Growing Together"

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January 2019

From Your President

Happy and Healthy New Year!

We are about half way thru our 2018/2019 garden club year. We have a lot going on in the next half.

We have some interesting programs coming up at our meetings. If you know of anyone who would like to share related information or stories, please let the board know and we'll contact them. Or if any members would like to share!

We have Growing Great Gardens which is a lot of fun and requires teamwork. We always need extra help. It can be for as short or long of a time as you can spare.

We hope to have a "Horticulture Show." This is a good time to showcase the beauty of your indoor or outdoor plants.

More info on that to come!

We hope to redesign our Heritage Park gardens to make them a little more maintenance free.

As always, the board welcomes your input and help since this is OUR garden club and we'd like everyone to have a voice and help when you can so we can keep Taylor Garden Club, a club that every member enjoys!

Bev Brown



Upcoming Events

January 13th, Sunday, The Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy presents "Winter Birding at the Bay" Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, Gibraltar Bay Unit, 28820 East River Rd., Grosse Ile. 1:00 pm. A bird walk through the Gibraltar Bay Area! Discover the birds that stay during the winter season and learn about how they handle this harsh time of the year! All experience levels welcome. Bring binoculars if you have them.

January 17th, Thursday, TGC Meeting. Ford Senior Center, 6750 Troy, 7:00 pm. History of the Detroit International Wildlife Refuge. Speaker Jennifer Braatz interpretative park ranger shows slides and explains the importance of this unique wildlife area on the river.

Hostesses: Nancy Smith, Stephanie Keenoy, Julie Sebest, Julie Winchel, Pattie Kehr, Mary Sobran



Promenade Candlelight Home Tour

On December 8th about a dozen TGC members headed to Tecumseh for the annual Promenade Candlelight Home Tour! Four of our members went early to enjoy some tea and delicious food. We all shopped the town before meeting at our first stop to start our tour.

It was the Historical Museum, housed in the "Old Stone Church", a 1913 gothic style stone structure. The museum contains many artifacts from the town's rich history.



The tour then took us to two homes, beautifully decorated for the holidays. The last stop was a barn with a cozy fireplace and hot chocolate bar. Docents were at each stop to share stories about the places. It was a nice start to the holiday season.

Beverly Brown

The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge

It is the only international wildlife refuge in North America. Established in 2001 as a result of binational efforts from politicians, conservation leaders, and local communities to build a sustainable future for the Detroit River and western Lake Erie ecosystems, it is managed jointly by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Canadian Wildlife Service.



The refuge consists of nearly 6,000 acres of unique habitat, including islands, coastal wetlands, marshes, shoals, and waterfront lands within an authorized boundary extending along 48 miles of shoreline. In 2004, the Detroit River Refuge acquired Humbug Marsh, a 410 – acre unit situated in Trenton and Gibraltar, Michigan. The parcel represents the last mile of undeveloped shoreline along the U.S. mainland of the Detroit River and contains critical habitat for many rare fish and wildlife species. —————>



2019 State Convention June 5-6, 2019

The location for the 88th MGC State Convention is the Great Wolfe Lodge Conference Center, in Traverse City, Michigan it is hosted by District V.

The Convention Theme is
Beauty and Balance, Earth and Water.

Hotel guest room rates are only \$99.00 and each room will sleep up to 6 people, making the rate per person extremely reasonable.

District V members are working very hard to bring all Michigan Garden Club members an outstanding, one of kind convention.

It is an installation year and the 2019-2021 **NGC President Gay Austin** will be doing the installation.

Happy Birthday ! January Birthday Greetings to:

Stan Price
Barbara Kotarsky
Sandra Haines
Tina Hughes
Stephanie Keenoy



Located adjacent to the Humbug Marsh unit of the refuge is the Refuge Gateway property, a former industrial manufacturing site that is being remediated and restored as an ecological buffer for the Marsh. The Gateway will also be the future home of the Refuge Visitor Center.

Perennial Plant Association 2019 Perennial Plant of the Year®

Stachys 'Hummelo' - bee friendly!

This colorful and compact winner makes an excellent addition to the full sun perennial border. Terrific in combination with ornamental grasses, Echinacea purpurea, and Asclepias tuberosa. Wiry stems make for a great cut flower as well. Stunning in massed plantings, and popular with designers, this late June-July bloomer is as trouble-free and dependable as it is eye-catching.

A cousin to the familiar Lamb's-Ears, but not at all similar. Hummelo' features basal rosettes of ovate, glossy, bright green leaves. Tiny, two-lipped, rose-lavender flowers appear in dense spikes atop mostly leafless flowering stems, rising well above the foliage to 1 ½ to 2 feet tall in summer. Clumps will spread over time to form a dense ground cover. It is valued for its crinkled foliage and long display of prolific flowering spikes.

This is a clump-forming perennial, forming a low mound of crisp green foliage. In early summer the upright spikes of bright-purple flowers appear, which attract bees and other pollinators to the nectar. Removing faded flowers will encourage more buds to form for weeks on end. It is an interesting and unusual perennial for near a front of the border, or in containers. Plants may be clipped back hard immediately after blooming, to tidy up the clumps for the rest of the season. Easily divided in early spring, it prefers a sunny location with well-drained soil and is hardy to zone 4.

'Hummelo' was the highest rated Stachys in the Chicago Botanic Garden Evaluation Trials for its strong flower production, vigor, habit, quality and winter hardiness. Spreads slowly by creeping rhizomes it may benefit from division every few years. Strong stems and seed heads add to winter interest. Considered deer-resistant!

Information adapted from perennials.com and Perennial Plant Association websites



Photo credit: Janet Draper
Perennial Plant Association website

Growing Great Gardens



March 16, 8-4 pm Registration is now open.

It's our 11th year, and it's all about the GREEN—as in learning the latest horticulture tips and tricks from nationally known experts, wearing it, and saving it!

This amazing information-packed symposium is just \$50 (if you register by February 23) \$60 if you want the bonus lunchtime class.

Have an energizing day, filled with fun, jam-packed sessions, a huge Garden Marketplace with great local artisans, and St. Paddy's Day surprises.

Listen, learn and if a Master Gardener accrue 5 or 6 education hours, too!

Learn About -

- Epic Tomatoes for Midwest Gardens
- Attracting Beneficial Bugs to Your Garden
- Neglected Annuals
- 12 Secrets to Happiness in Your Garden
- Gardening Tools, Beyond the Hoe





Holiday Greens Centerpiece Workshop

On Wednesday December 12th members of TGC met at the Ford Senior Center to make centerpieces for themselves and for the Senior Center.

Barbara Kotarsky and Jan Foltin helped guide us in taking winter evergreens turning them into lovely centerpieces. Twenty were made for the center and members took one or more home for themselves.

Fun and creativity were the theme of the night.



Herb Society of America selects Anise-Hyssop *Agastache* as 2019 Herb of the Year

While commonly called anise hyssop, the odor is more similar to French tarragon, though sweeter, with a hint of basil. The foliage and flowers taste similar to the aroma-sweet, with the licorice of tarragon and basil-and just a bit floral.

All of the thirty or so *Agastache* species are good for honey production and make great ornamental perennials. The flowering plants go well with the silver-leaved species of mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum*), which flower about the same time in the July garden and also provide good bee forage. The young, broad, dark green leaves of *A. foeniculum*, tinged purple in cool weather, are attractive with spring bulbs such as yellow daffodils.



Agastache species have been used for centuries as a substitute for French tarragon, infused in syrups and cordials, or brewed into tea, and the flowers have been used with fruit, in desserts and confections, and mixed in salads. Both the leaves and flowers make good additions to potpourri.

Agastache foeniculum is most often grown, though *A. mexicana*, *A. rugosa*, and *A. scrophulariifolia* provide similar flavors to French tarragon and basil, though may include plants scented of peppermint or pennyroyal.

Growing basics

It is a hardy short-lived perennial, 3 to 5 feet high; takes hardiness to zone 4, preferring cool summers. Enjoys full sun to part shade must be kept moist but not wet. Best in soil rich in organic matter, pH 7.0

Cultivation and propagation

Agastache species need little more than partly shaded to sunny, well-drained, acid- to near-neutral soil. The seeds (actually tiny nuts, or nutlets) are most easily started by broadcasting; established clumps readily reseed themselves, often in tiny nooks and crannies or the middle of the garden path. Seeds may also be sown in the greenhouse, with transplants in six to eight weeks. Clumps generally last two to three years, becoming very woody at the base and eventually dying. Since reseeding is not a problem, anise hyssop will persist in your garden yet never really become weedy; it is easy to move about. The soil should be evenly moist, well drained, slightly acid, and high in organic matter.

Harvesting and preserving

For tea, harvest leaves early in the day during a sunny, rain-free spell close to when the plants will be flowering. Then dry the leaves and store them in glass jars. Anise hyssop makes an unusual vinegar for salads and a tasty cordial if you like sweet licorice. Our friend puts anise hyssop in his vodka, which he keeps in the freezer, for a preferred libation. Leaves are sometimes candied as a confection for desserts. Blossoms are often harvested fresh as edible flowers for salads, beverages, syrups, and desserts.

By Susan Belsinger, from www.vegetablegardener.com/item/129068/anise-hyssop

Think About It —

Don't think the garden loses its ecstasy in winter. It's quiet, but the roots are down there riotous. *Rumi*

Every gardener knows under the cloak of winter lies a miracle... a seed waiting to sprout a bulb opening to light, a bud straining to unfurl. And the anticipation nurtures our dreams. *Barbara Winkler*

Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle. *Luther Burbank*



Next deadline Jan. 25nd send items to
Editor Mary Krzeczowski
10701 Holland
Taylor, MI 48180-3051
krz80@provide.net

Stamp



Taylor Garden Club

Club 392 District 1

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and National Garden Clubs Inc.*



Black Eyed Pea Dip

Skinnytaste.com

15 oz can no salt black eye peas
2 cloves garlic, crushed or minced
3 Tbsp fresh lime juice (from about 1 1/2 limes)
1 Tbsp extra virgin olive
1 tsp cumin
pinch crushed red pepper flakes
1/2 tsp kosher salt
1 cup cooked corn, fresh or frozen, thawed
1 cup cherry tomatoes, quartered
1/4 cup minced red onion, finely diced
1/4 cup cilantro, chopped
1 jalapeño, seeded and diced (optional)
1 medium avocado, diced

Rinse and drain the black eyed peas in a colander.

In a large bowl, combine the garlic, lime juice, oil, cumin, crushed red pepper, and salt and mix well.

Add the black-eyed peas, corn, tomato, red onion, jalapeño if using and cilantro; mix well and refrigerate at least 20 minutes.

When ready to eat, gently mix in the avocado and serve right away.