



# Taylor Garden Club



*“Growing Together”*

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February 2019

## From Your President

February is here and for me, that's one month closer to spring!

I look out into my backyard, hoping to see some birds enjoying each other's company but all I have is squirrels!

I thought I'd do my part in celebrating National Bird Feeding Month. I scrummaged thru my garage where I had a couple new feeders, and added some seed and hung one on my arbor. I'm going to really like this!

A few hours later I look out and see that dang squirrel hanging in every direction trying to get some food. After about 20 minutes, he won! Knocked the feeder to the ground and unfortunately he broke it. It was glass and so I had to go back out and clean the mess. So much for doing my part! I know squirrels get hungry too, but he ruined the zen moment I planned on having.



How about you? Have you seen any birds or wildlife enjoying this weather?

I hope you enjoy the end of winter while awaiting a beautiful spring!

*Bev Brown*

## Upcoming Events

**February 21st, Thursday, TGC Meeting. Ford Senior Center, 6750 Troy, 7:00 pm. “Harvesting and Propagation of Milkweed”** Advanced Master Gardener Bob Bransky will have us do a hands on practice of separating seeds from silk and teach us about these important plants for Monarch butterflies.

**Hostesses: Mary FitzPatrick, Lois Adams, Carolyn Archibald, Ken and Tina Hughes**

### LOOKING AHEAD:

**March 16th, Saturday, Growing Great Gardens. 8 am - 4 pm, Wayne County Community College, Northline Rd.** Be sure to tell all your friends about this wonderful event. Have you registered yet?

**April 13th, Saturday, The Master Gardener Society of Oakland County, Inc. 7th Annual Educational Garden Conference "Gardening and All That Jazz – Creating Your Garden Palette"** At the Oakland Schools Conference Center, 2111 Pontiac Lake Road, in Waterford. This is an all-day seminar. Early bird tickets are \$80; after Feb. 14th, the price increases to \$90. For more info and to register: [www.mgsoc.org](http://www.mgsoc.org)

### February is National Bird Feeding Month

Millions of wild bird enthusiasts now traditionally make special efforts in February to feed, watch and protect wild birds. Over 50 million people regularly feed wild birds in the USA.



## TIME TO VOLUNTEER!

### Like to Read? Want to Read to Kids?



Last year a number of TGC members donated time to read to children at Kinyon Elementary School for March is Reading Month. The principal of Kinyon has asked if we could provide readers to read to classes again this year. The schedule will be set later, but if you are interested in being part of this group call **Mary Krzeczowski**.



### Growing Great Gardens

Get your “garden fix” even though the weather outside is saying, “too soon”.

Be among passionate gardeners from the tri-county area in a warm place and you don't even get dirty. Register for Growing Great Gardens.

Even if registered to attend, you can volunteer to help set up on Friday at Wayne County Community College covering all the vendor tables with plastic tablecloths and filling folders with literature.

Call **Nancy Smith** and let her know you can help.

### Heritage Park Gardens



**Jan Foltin** is organizing a group to work on revitalizing the gardens at Heritage Park.

If you can offer suggestions for landscaping making the gardens more maintenance free or have any thoughts about improving these gardens in the most visited park of the city please contact Jan.

### Circles

*In the morning the blue heron is busy  
stepping, slowly, around the edge of the  
pond. He is tall and shining. His wings, folded  
against his body, fit so neatly they  
make of him, when he lifts his shoulders and begins to rise  
into the air, a great surprise. Also  
he carries so light the terrible sword-beak. Then  
he is gone over the trees.*

*I am so happy to be alive in this world  
I would like to live forever, but I am  
content not to. Seeing what I have seen  
has filled me; believing what I believe  
has filled me.*

*The first words of this page are  
hardly thought of when the bird  
circles back over the trees; it floats down  
like an armful of blue flowers, a bundle of light  
coming to refresh itself again in the black water, and I think:  
maybe it is or it isn't the same bird-maybe it's  
the first one's child, or the child of its child.  
What I mean is, our deliverance from Time  
and the continuance, if we only steward them well,  
of earthly things. So maybe it's myself still standing here, or  
someone else, like myself hot with the joy of this world, and  
filled with praise.*

Mary Oliver  
(1935- died Jan 18, 2019)

### FYI - (For your information):

Get Well Wishes to members with recent health issues.

Maria Burt            Verna Paul-Brown  
Mary Sobran        Hazel Woodruff  
Carolyn Archibald

Congratulations to Julie Sebest (now Porreca) on her recent marriage.

## Bird Your World: 9 Simple Actions that make Life Better for Birds

Edited from: [birdlife.org/worldwide/news/bird-your-world-12-simple-actions-make-life-better-birds](http://birdlife.org/worldwide/news/bird-your-world-12-simple-actions-make-life-better-birds) by Jessica Law

### 1. Fill your garden (or balcony) with native plants

By planting flowers and shrubs that are native to your country, you're catering for native birds, while avoiding any problems with invasive species. Variety is key. Not only will birds feed on the plants themselves, but the more kinds of plant you introduce, the more species of insect they will attract – and the more birds you will see feasting on this deliciously varied buffet. Insecticides will kill off birds' natural prey and poison the food chain, so instead, let the birds act as natural pest control.

### 2. Know what to do with a chick on the ground

It's hard not to help a small, helpless bird outside of its nest. But you may be doing more harm than good. If the bird is hopping about, it's likely to be a fledgling, being fed and watched over by nearby parents until it has learned to fly. If it's definitely too young for that, try to put it back in its nest, if you can find it (and you can do so without damaging the nest). The parents won't abandon the chick if it smells of humans – that's just a myth.

### 3. Stop your cat from catching birds

People love their cuddly, purring companions – but the truth is that they are instinctive predators, who could be killing up to 3.7 billion birds a year in the USA alone. Solutions range from putting a bell on your cat's collar, to enclosing an area of garden for your cat to roam, to keeping your cat indoors altogether. These actions could save birds' lives – and keep your cat safer, too.

### 4. Install a bird box

With few dead trees standing in our cities, birds lack convenient nesting holes. Nest boxes are the perfect solution, and come in all shapes and sizes depending on the species you want to attract. They're pretty simple to construct – but never paint the insides. If you do, they are too slippery for young birds to clamber out when it's time to fledge – and it may be toxic, too. If you must paint the outside, keep it a light colour to reflect the sun's heat – nobody wants to live in an oven.

### 5. Don't feed birds bread

Sorry to ruin the age-old tradition of feeding bread to the ducks – but baked goods are no good for birds. Bread goes mouldy quickly, which can make birds ill. It's also the ultimate "junk food", filling their stomachs without giving them the nutrients they require. And if thrown into water, it can feed algae blooms that suffocate other wildlife. Seeds, dried oats and chopped fruit and nuts all make excellent alternatives.

### 6. Provide water

Ponds attract a great variety of wildlife, which in turn attract a wealth of fascinating bird species for you to enjoy from your window. But even a bird bath will work wonders, while providing photo opportunities for the bird photographer. It only needs to be a few inches deep for the birds to drink and bathe – just make sure to clean it out once a week with a stiff brush, and if cats are lurking, put it on a pedestal.



### 7. Put up a bird feeder

You don't need a garden or even a balcony for this – you can get bird feeders that stick to windows. They'll certainly make birds' lives better – but they'll make your life far more exciting, too. Watch as epic scandals, feuds and romances worthy of a soap opera play out before your eyes. It needn't cost anything – you can make a feeder from an empty plastic bottle (remember to clean it regularly).

At our January meeting Beverly Brown talked about a letter from MGC President about the new 2 acre garden being developed on Belle Isle. Here is an excerpt from her letter to MGC Members.

## January 11, 2019 from MGC president **Carol Brodbeck**

In the past, MGC has donated to the establishment of public gardens, such as Meijer Garden and Sculpture Park in Grand Rapids, the Historic Barnes Park in Traverse City, and Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary in White Cloud. It is my pleasure to announce that MGC has donated to the establishment of the Oudolf Garden Detroit. It was designed by today's foremost public garden designer **Piet Oudolf** of The Netherlands who is also renowned as a leader of the "Dutch wave" style of plant-centric, naturalistic perennial gardening. He has designed three other US gardens: the High Line in New York City (one of today's most-visited gardens in the world) and Lurie Garden in the Millennium Park in Chicago (attracts 10 million visitors annually) and the most recently-planted garden in the new Delaware Botanic Gardens.



Oudolf follows the practice of "right plant, right place" and having been inspired by North American prairies, incorporates native plants and grasses with other durable, non-invasive plant selections. His plantings are all about harmony, spontaneity, sustainability and durability year after year. Each of his gardens is unique and well-suited for the specific site.

*The Garden Club of Michigan*, one of MGC's member clubs, spearheaded the effort to encourage him to create his next garden in Detroit. After looking at potential locations, he chose approximately a two acre site in front of the Nancy Brown Peace Carillon on Belle Isle. The 985-acre public park is located in the Detroit River, one of the world's busiest international waterways, known as a significant migratory bird route and home to the one and only international wildlife refuge in North America. The park is operated by the Michigan DNR and the Belle Isle Conservancy is preserving and enhancing the historic structures and the natural environment of this public park.

Both DNR and Detroit enthusiastically approved of having this garden and it has many supporters in and around Detroit. The park attracts locals, residents of Southeast Michigan and visitors already and the number of visitors is expected to increase once this garden, designed by one of the world foremost public garden designers today, is completed.

For complete text of this letter, or more information, photos, designs, and donating to the Oudolf Garden Detroit, please visit [oudolfgardendetroit.org](http://oudolfgardendetroit.org) or you may refer to information on the **MGC website under News**.

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## 8. Make your windows bird-safe

Nothing is more heartbreaking than hearing that familiar resonant boom, and running to find a dusty, bird-shaped imprint on your window. Sometimes the bird will survive – but often, it won't. Windows appear invisible to birds, or reflect an inviting vista of trees. Some particularly belligerent birds will even fight their own reflection. Disaster can be averted by putting stickers or decorations (or bird feeders!) on your windows.

## 9. Clean up litter / Say no to one-use plastics

Birds become tangled in string, plastic bags and other refuse, which can either kill them outright, or make them easy pickings for predators. Some even build litter into the fabric of their nests, which can be deadly to nestlings. They will also eat small pieces of plastic, mistaking them for food – and feed them to their chicks, sometimes with devastating consequences. Which leads us to the next point - A recent BirdLife expedition to the remote Mid-Atlantic Ridge discovered seabirds with stomachs stuffed full of this manmade polymer. Plastic litter gets washed down drains, or blown off landfill sites – the only solution is to use less of it.

## Oh No There's A Fatberg in the Drain -

As I cleaned a greasy pot the other day I was reminded of the issue of what happens to household (and restaurant) grease. Last fall the issue was highlighted in Macomb County as a huge **"Fatberg"** was located and removed from a large county drain. Here's the info.

Sept. 12 (UPI) -- Officials in Macomb County said they are hoping a massive "fatberg" found in a suburban Detroit sewer will help change people's behavior.

The Macomb County Public Works Office said a sewer pipe known as the Lakeshore Inspector was found this week to be clogged by a 100-foot-long "fatberg," a collection of fats, oils and grease that forms a mass with objects flushed down the sewer. (That's the size of a Blue Whale!)

The office said the fatberg, the largest such object found in the county's sewers, is a result of grease and similar materials being poured into the sewers, as well as objects such as baby wipes.

"To put it simply, this fatberg is gross," Public Works Commission Candice Miller said in a statement. "It provides an opportunity, however, to talk with people about the importance of restricting what goes down our sewers. This restriction was caused by people and restaurants pouring grease and similar materials down their drains. We want to change that behavior," she said. She and other officials are hoping getting a look at the fatberg, which cost about \$100,000 to remove, will help local residents think twice before they flush.

Earlier last year a similar but smaller fatberg caused 300,000 gallons to back up at the University of Michigan.

Wow -

Just because we can doesn't mean we should put things down the drain. Out of sight not of mind can really come back to hurt us when drains block with fatbergs and backup or overflow when big storm waters flood the existing system. And what about those "wet wipes". The package says flushable, but that does not mean good for the drain as they easily bind with the grease and oils and help make these globs that then cling to the drains and slow down the flow of materials we really need to get to the waste water plant. (*Consumer Reports* magazine recommends you do not flush them since many they tested did not biodegrade as advertised.)

Here are a few suggestions for us all:

Do not pour fat, oil or grease (FOG) down drains or garbage disposals!

*Follow these tips:*

Pour or scrape greasy or oily food waste into a container or jar.

Allow grease to cool or freeze in the container before throwing it in the trash.

Mix liquid vegetable oil with an absorbent material such as cat litter or coffee grounds in a sealable container before throwing it in the trash.

Keep drains clean by pouring 1/2 cup baking soda down the drain followed by 1/2 cup vinegar.

Wait 10-15 minutes and then rinse with hot water.



Happy Birthday ! February Birthday Greetings to:

Maria Burt      Ken Hughes      Max Green      Julie Victoria





Next deadline is Feb 25th 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.



## Chili Cornbread Pie

2 cans (15 oz each) chili beans  
1 can (16 oz) corn  
1/2 med onion, chopped (opt)  
1/4 cup cilantro, chopped (opt)  
1 tsp cumin  
1 tsp chili powder  
1 can (15 oz) diced tomatoes with chilies  
.....  
1 cup yellow cornmeal  
1 cup all-purpose flour  
1 T baking powder  
2 T sugar  
.....  
1 cup skim milk or soy milk  
2 T canola oil

## Lickety-Split Meals by Zonya Foco

Preheat oven to 375°  
Combine first seven ingredients in a 9" x 13" baking dish.  
Combine next four in a medium bowl using a fork to ensure baking powder is evenly distributed.  
Add wet ingredients (last two) to dry ingredients in bowl and stir just until blended.  
Spoon 9 even spoonfuls of the batter in a 3 x 3 pattern onto the bean mixture.  
Place in 375° oven to bake for 30 minutes.  
Remove and allow to set 10 minutes before serving.