



# Taylor Garden Club



*"Growing Together"*

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March 2019

## From Your President

Welcome March!!!

Soon winter will be gone and mother nature will wake up! This is when I start listening for birds to chirp and buds to pop on the tree.

I don't plant spring bulbs, but I do enjoy them in other yards. We start getting busy in our yards whether we think about plantings or just cleaning the porch off to set a comfortable chair.

We might be able to open a window for a little while and let the fresh air in and stale air out. It's really a good time for new beginnings!

We might all learn something new during our biggest fundraiser, "**Growing Great Gardens.**" This is always a wonderful event and a few of the members work really hard to make this a success. Thank you to them!

So mark your calendars and help pitch in on March 16th. If you come for the speakers or stop in for the vendors it all helps make our event a continued success!

Don't forget to wear your "green!"



*Bev Brown*

## Upcoming Events

**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?

**March 20th, Wednesday, Vernal Equinox**  
First of Spring also Full Worm Moon ( see pg. 4)

**March 21st, Thursday, TGC Meeting. Ford Senior Center, 6750 Troy, 7:00 pm. "The Ins and Outs of putting on a Horticultural Flower Show"** State President Carol Brodbeck explains how a flower show is organized and how much fun exhibiting horticulture can be.

**Hostesses: Barb Kotarsky, Cheryl Smith, Stella Blair, Linda Newsome, Betty G..., Dorothy Walkusky, and Jack Budziak**

### LOOKING AHEAD:

**June 5 - 6th 2019, Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. 88th Annual State Conference Theme: "Beauty and Balance, Earth and Water"** Great Wolf Lodge, Traverse City, Michigan. See michigangardenclubs.org for information and registration.

**September 10, Tuesday, Grosse Ile Garden Club Table Scape V Anything Goes.** Grecian Gardens, Southgate. Only six months away! Tickets \$40/person.





## 11th Annual Growing Great Gardens

Saturday  
March 16<sup>th</sup>

Wayne County  
Community College District  
21000 Northline Rd

8 am till 4 pm

\$65 for 4 presentations, lunch,  
GardenMarket open to the public

For complete info and to  
register:  
[www.taylorconservatory.org](http://www.taylorconservatory.org)

Don't miss this great event.  
Invite your friends too.

## Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. 88th Annual State Conference June 5 – 6th 2019



Great Wolf Lodge, Traverse City

Wednesday,

Lunch keynote speaker is **Justin Rashid** gives the history of American Spoon Foods. Founded in 1982, American Spoon Foods has worked diligently to realize the dream of a sustainable business that doesn't sacrifice quality to success.

The evening keynote speaker is **William Santos** of Monarch Garden and Floral Design in Petoskey. A Northern Michigan favorite, the company specialize in gorgeous florals, event design, exclusive rentals and exquisite linens.

Thursday,

Lunch keynote speaker is **Rebecca Lessard** from Wings of Wonder. She will have some raptors for us to see and it is quite amazing to see these birds up close.

The evening keynote speaker will be the **National Garden Club President, Gay Austin**.

There are also workshops and tours.

Visit [michigangardenclubs.org](http://michigangardenclubs.org)  
for more information and registration.

The "shamrock" that St. Patrick actually plucked was most likely white clover (*Trifolium repens*) and is difficult to grow indoors. Because of this, the shamrock plants that are seen in grocery stores and floral shops this time of year are species of oxalis or wood sorrel.

March is time to clean out all of your birdhouses so that they will be ready when the birds return. Also get your hummingbird feeder cleaned out and ready for a mid April set up.

## Happy Birthday ! March Birthday Greetings to:

Stella Blair



Also, Lady Gaga, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Fred Rodgers, Joel Roberts Poinsett, the American Ambassador to Mexico who brought Poinsettias to America in the 1800's and four US Presidents: James Madison, Andrew Jackson, John Tyler and Grover Cleveland.

## A lovely vegetable garden with beautifully aligned rows and large ripened produce puts the "zing" in my heart!



Several years ago, while living "way out west" in Montana, the learn-by-doing lessons of early gardening were not wasted on me. My husband and I had moved to one of the colder areas of the states. We rotor-tilled a small square plot in our new backyard and by late April of the next year, I was sowing seeds in the cold, hard earth with little success. Mel, my next door neighbor, was rumored to be a splendid vegetable gardener, so I kept watch over the fence to see what I could learn from him. What was eerily noticeable to me was that his garden, along with our other neighbors' gardens, was completely barren. Unbeknownst to me, Mel was also watching "my gardening antics" - and laughing!

Come late May early June, Mel's gardens were coming up with amazing abundance, they had skipped over very important growing times! As if aliens had come during the cold spring nights and pulled an E.T. nanosecond movement that filled the surrounding gardens with beautiful flowers, vegetables and foliage around the trees! Mel's garden was filled with upright vines of red tomatoes, tall corn stalks and fat purple kohlrabi! What kind of faerie magic was this? My hardscrabble little garden looked as if it had taken a WWII bombing hit - No Fair!

Then I heard it, from the corner of the backyard next door. I heard Mel laughing. He was not only giggling at my poor little garden, but also at my open-mouthed, wide-eyed expression while I stared in disbelief at his suddenly lush garden.

"The way we do it around here", he beamed in mocked arrogance, "is to start the seeds on shelves near the patio windows by mid-January. Didn't you see my little plants inside? We have a saying around these parts: knee-high by July. You really are a Michigan farmer, aren't you?", and smiled as he walked away.

Oh, geeze, I guess I had only baby corn and mini carrots for the wok this year. The pumpkins were so small I knew the September frost (yes, September brought first frost) would weaken and break the vines. Gee, pumpkins so little I could carve them into votive cups to put into the big Halloween pumpkins I'd be buying from the IGA.

Well, I may not have been a "way-out-west" farmer yet, but I had a few ideas up my faerie sleeves. When the seed catalogues came in the mail that October, I had some down-to-business ordering to do.

Taking heed of my newly acquired cold-weather gardening lessons, I bought a metal shelving unit with trays of natural seed cups and parked the whole system between two easy chairs in front of the living room windows. As Mel shoveled the driveway in front of his garage, he'd wave and take a peek at my little indoor garden. Every time he cleared his snow-piled driveway, it was the same routine: shovel, wave, smile and check the garden. Yeah, go ahead, Mel; laugh. I've got a surprise coming for you this spring!

Finally, the high snow drifts began to melt slowly into the earth. The rows that had been furrowed into our gardens at the end of last year's fall harvest began to peek through the last of the white mounds. Still weeks before

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## Full Worm Moon

Native Americans have a unique name for every single full moon of the year. In ancient times, people didn't track seasonal changes through the 365-day Gregorian calendar and instead, they relied on the lunar cycle to understand what time of year it is. Each full moon has a name that reveals imagery of the current season.



The Worm Moon happens every March and it is always the last full moon before the first day of spring.

Around this time of year, the ice that has been clinging to our world begins to thaw as winter comes to an end. The earth is wet, raw, and nutrient enough for the greenery of spring to finally grow. This is when earthworms reappear, wriggling their bodies through the soil and exposing themselves to hungry robins, eager to eat after such a long and barren winter.

The return of these worms is usually the first sign of spring, a sacred period of renewal, rebirth, and new beginnings. And so, the "Worm Moon" came to be.

This moon is also known as the "Sap Moon". Because of the sap oozing from maple trees this time of year.

Some Northern Native American tribes knew this moon as the "Crow Moon," which alludes to the constant cawing crows that tends to foreshadow the beginning of spring. Actually, there are many different names for the March full moon as there are signs in the natural world that indicate the seasonal change.

<https://www.elitedaily.com/>

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the ground was ready to welcome the indoor plants, I tiptoed outside after dark one night to "load" my small garden. Then, I waited.

I was awake and waiting outside before Mel's early constitution that morning, sitting on our back porch, wrapped in a heavy blanket. He was a very early riser, and I didn't want to miss this antic. Mel walked out of his patio wearing his heavy jacket so he could check the readiness of the soil in his massive garden. I watched his expression as he tested the dirt. Nope, not enough "give" to plant yet. Then, he stood up and walked over to glance at my garden. The utter surprise! The open-mouthed eye-popping expression was well worth the wait! I jumped from my porch still huddled in my blanket, ran toward the edge of my garden taunting Mel. "I got you! I did it! You fell for it! Just for half a minute, you believed it!" And as the surprise fell from his face, a wide grin replaced it. He knew it was true, even if only for a few seconds, he believed. He nodded a bit abashed, admitting, "Ya got me".

Late the night before, I had "planted" my garden with rows of large, fully ripened Vidalia Onions from a mail order business in Georgia and hot-house African violets from flower shops in the surrounding towns. They caused an almost apoplectic shocked expression on good neighbor Mel's stunned face. "And THAT", I smiled, "is how we Michigan farmers pull rank on you Western show-offs!" We sure had some good laughs over that stunt.

That's one of those memories that will stay with me always. Miss you, Mel

Lynn Blosser the Michigan gardener  
and TGC member

## Forcing Branches Indoors

A tall vase of blooming forsythia branches can chase away the winter blahs. Bring a bit of spring indoors by gathering branches of flowering shrubs and trees and forcing them to bloom or leaf out early in your home. Select and cut branches now, those that have many plump buds. Cut a few more branches than you expect to use because some may not absorb water well. Use a sharp blade and take care not to disfigure the shrub or tree.

With pruning shears or a sharp knife, carefully split the cut end, one to four inches. Place cut branches in a container of warm water and recut one inch from the base of the stem. This will help prevent air from entering the stem through the cut end, blocking water uptake. Remove any buds and twigs that will be under water. Place containers in a warm room (65 -70 degrees) and change the water every few days. You may add a floral preservative to the container water to help control bacteria.

It will take weeks for the blossoms to open. The closer to their natural bloom time that you cut the branches, the sooner they will open. A great way to welcome spring into your home.



## Become a Pollinators Champion with new online course from MSU



June 27, 2018 - Author: Emily Noordyke and Meghan Milbrath, MSU, Department of Entomology and the Michigan Pollinator Initiative

Did you know that over 90 crops in the U.S. are dependent on pollinators? Or that around 80 percent of all flowering plants need pollinators? Without pollinators, we would lose many of the fruits and vegetables we like to eat as well as the amazing diversity we enjoy out in nature. You may have heard about the dire situation some pollinators face, such as the endangered rusty patched bumble bee or the severe declines in migrating monarch butterfly populations. Now there is a free way to learn more about the important role pollinators play in our lives and what we can do to help them.

You can become a champion for pollinators by taking a new online course offered by Michigan State University called Pollinator Champions. The Michigan Pollinator Initiative team created Pollinator Champions because they saw growing public interest in gaining research-based information about pollinators and pollinator decline. Pollinator Champions will guide you through the amazing world of pollinators and pollination.

Pollinator Champions covers four major subjects offering a broad range of pollinator information:

1. Why do we care about pollinators?  
Teaches how pollination works and the important role pollinators play in agriculture and nature.
2. Who are our pollinators?  
Provides an overview of the huge diversity of pollinators in our world and some of their life histories.
3. What is happening to pollinators? Explains pollinator decline and the factors that drive it.
4. What can we do for pollinators? Shows ways we can all help pollinators thrive in a changing world.

Each subject is packed full of engaging reading materials, videos and interactive games. Pollinator Champions is self-paced, allowing you to tailor the class to your own schedule. Anyone with an internet connection can enroll. You do not have to be an MSU student or faculty to participate.

Everyone is welcome to learn about pollinators for free, but for a small fee you can also become an official Pollinator Champion. As an official Pollinator Champion, you get a certificate and materials to help you give presentations about pollinators to local organizations. Help us spread the word as an MSU Certified Pollinator Champion!

This article was published by Michigan State University Extension.

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Check out the program. Just google: **MSU Pollinator Champions** to see if it interests you.

**Nancy Smith** TGC member has completed this program and is a certified *Pollinator Champion*. If you want to know more about this interesting and informative program before signing up give her a call.



Next deadline is March 25th send items to  
Editor Mary Krzeczowski

10701 Holland  
Taylor, MI 48180-3051  
krz80@provide.net



# Taylor Garden Club

Club 392 District 1

Member of Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.  
and National Garden Clubs Inc.



## Crispy Baked Sweet Potato Fries

1 Serving: 1 medium potato

Calories: 162 kcal

### Ingredients

- \* 2 large sweet potatoes
- \* 2 Tbsp cornstarch
- \* 2-3 Tbsp olive oil
- \* paprika powder
- \* sea salt
- \* garlic powder (optional)

### Instructions

1. Peel potatoes and cut them into sticks of equal size.
2. Preheat oven to 400° circulating heat.
3. Dry sweet potatoes with paper towel.
4. Lightly dredge fries in cornstarch (to dry and for crispiness) next in bowl with oil and finally dust with paprika.
5. Spread them on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper and bake for about 20-25 minutes, or until crispy. (flip the fries after 10 minutes).
6. Season with sea salt to taste, serve as is or with dips.