



# Taylor Garden Club



*"Caring and Sharing"*

Volume 29 Issue 9

taylorgardenclub.com

May 2019

## From Your President

This garden club year has flown by! We have only one meeting until our June dinner.

I hope everyone enjoyed the time we spent together during our meetings and the trips we shared. But, we still have plenty to do! I'm really looking forward to our flower show. Allen Park is interested in competing with us!

We have our annual plant sale coming up and the park beds to plant.

According to The Farmer's Almanac, Mother Nature is going to be helping us a lot with our watering needs! That's one way for us to work less and enjoy more.

I'm putting in a new flower bed this year and I am really being conscience about our pollinators. That being said, I plan to tour the state hitting out of the way nurseries with my sister.

I hope you take the time to enjoy what you like!

*Beverly Brown*

### Fun Fact

When planting your tomatoes this year remember this:

There are 2 types of tomatoes.

Determinate tomatoes are smaller plants or bush type, suitable for containers. They fruit early and all at once which makes them a good choice for canning or freezing.

Indeterminate tomatoes are larger plants more suitable for growing in the ground. These grow and produce fruit until killed by frost.

## Upcoming Events

**May 4th. Saturday, 9 am Clean Up Day at Heritage Park.** 9 am till noon. Come help get our flower beds ready for a new growing season. Volunteers will be helping to clean the park too.

**May 11th. Saturday, 8 am - 2 pm, Hazardous Waste Disposal,** Henry Ford College, Greenfield Rd, Dearborn.

**May 16th. Thursday, TGC Meeting.** Ford Senior Center, 6750 Troy, 7:00 pm. Program TBA.

**Hostesses: Anna Nowak, Shirley Williams, Lucy Barringer, Brenda Garner, Mary Kohler**

**May 18th. Saturday, TGC Plant Sale** at St John's Church Telegraph and Northline Rd. Set Up 8 am. Sale 9-2 pm. Tell your friends.

### LOOKING AHEAD:

**June 1st. Saturday, Heritage Park Planting Day.** 10 am Heritage Park Greenwald House and Perennial Beds get planted for summer.

**June 20th. Thursday, Annual Dinner.** Ford Senior Center, 6750 Troy, 6:00 pm. Theme is "Patriotism on Display"


**June 22nd, Saturday, Trenton Garden Walk** 10 am - 4pm Tour begins and ends your tour at the Trenton Cultural Center, 2427 West Road. Presented by Moonglow Garden Club.



## It's May-

**Dues for the 2019-20 year are \$15** pay at the May meeting or mail to treasurer **Jan Foltin**. Make your check out to Taylor Garden Club. We mail our payment to MGC in June so please get your check in ASAP.

Sign up for hosting a meeting next year. Talk with your TGC friends and sign up for the same month if you'd like or make some new friends by just signing up alone.



### TGC Plant Sale

**Saturday**  
**May 18th 9 am - 2 pm**

St John's Church Parking Lot  
Telegraph Rd at Northline

Donations from your yard are needed. Take a good look around, decide what needs thinning, drive that shovel in and pot them up.

A name tag should be attached with a description of growing needs (sun, water, when it flowers, color of flower, etc.) This info helps the new owner get off to a good start.

If you cannot bring plants the day of the sale, bring them to our May meeting and we'll get them there.

**Set up at St John's is 8:00 am**

**For pots call Lois Adams 734-778-1771**

## Nominations for 2019-21 Officers

These nominations were made at our April meeting.

President	Nancy Smith
Vice President	Max Green
Treasurer	Julie (Siebest) Porreca
Recording Sec.	Cheryl Smith
Correspond Sec.	Mary Krzeczowski

## FYI - (For your information):

Taylor Conservatory Plant Sale May 11th Saturday 10 am - 3 pm

Taylor Conservatory "Healing Power of Herbs" May 25th, Saturday \$15 call 888-838-4108 to register

## Mother Nature's List of "Things to Do"-

Paint grass green, wake up daffodils,  
make flower beds, fluff clouds,  
adjust breezes to gentle setting.

Order new nests for robins, and  
wash everything with rain.

Ask sun for more light and add  
extra blue to the sky.

Test rainbows often, polish silver dew drops, and  
make sure birdsongs are in tune.

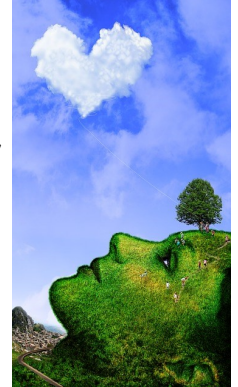
Attend grand opening of trees leaves.

Lift spirits and invite everyone outside.

P.S. Don't forget to turn off the snow.

Taken from *Mother Nature Celebrates Spring* by Linda Staten

Submitted by Jill Parrish



## Happy Birthday !

May Birthday Greetings to:

Delores Chorkaluk	Fanny Felton
Louise Doute	Marge Jones
Mary Krz...	Debbie Stellini
Nancy Smith	
Sandra Thompson	
Julienne Winchel	



# Heritage Park Gardens

Taylor Garden Club members came to the park to help prepare our gardens for the coming growing season. **Mary Fitzpatrick and Bev Brown** worked at the Log Cabin perennial bed cleaning up and removing leaves, weeds and grass. There is more preparation to be done before we can begin putting in new flowers.



**Max Green, Sheila Birmingham (and her grandsons) Jill Parrish, Jeanine Fennessey, and Mary Krzeczowski** worked at the Greenwald house getting grass out, edge reestablished and fall clutter removed.

Everyone is invited to join us and help make our gardens more beautiful than ever. The next work day is **Saturday, May 4, at 9 am** when we will plant flowers in pots at the library and do additional work at the flower beds.



**Sheila** is down and dirty with the daffodils.



**Max** up close and personal with dried stems.



While TGC members worked on flower bed clean up, an eagle scout had his family with him resetting the memorial markers and spreading mulch around the trees by Coan Lake.



## MSU Student Studies Who's Eating Monarch Eggs at Night

March 6, 2019 MSU

**Andrew Myers** a doctoral student in the Department of Entomology in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Michigan State University.

“There’s a maxim that nothing good happens after midnight. Like most things in life, it depends on your perspective. If you’re a tasty monarch butterfly egg, it probably holds true. However, if you happen to be a hungry earwig or tree cricket, the party is just getting started. And if you’re an entomology graduate student studying monarch predators, sometimes good research results only happen when you stay up with the nighttime bugs.

The topic of my doctoral dissertation research in Professor Doug Landis’ lab is determining how we can improve breeding habitat for declining monarch butterfly populations. Monarchs have been disappearing across their range for the past 20 years, prompting great concern among those who love this beautiful, interesting insect. One suspected reason for the monarch decline is the elimination of their primary food as caterpillars — common milkweed — from croplands through modern weed management practices.

An everyday observer may notice that milkweed is still a common sight along roadsides, in gardens and in other grassy areas. But compared to 20 years ago, milkweed is now limited to a significantly smaller area. If we want to increase monarch numbers, we have to increase their breeding productivity in these remaining habitats, which is a major challenge for conservationists.

One way that we can potentially produce more monarchs from smaller areas is by increasing their survival during their egg and young caterpillar life stages. Only about 5 percent of the hundreds of eggs laid by each female monarch survive to become butterflies. Most are eaten by other insects and spiders. This brings me back to late night research.

As a first step to my project, I wanted to determine monarch predation rates in grasslands and other types of habitats in agricultural regions. To accomplish my goal, I placed potted milkweed plants with monarch eggs in the field and monitored their survival rates. And because monarch eggs are eaten so rapidly, this work required staying up all night to monitor eggs lost every two hours.

Admittedly, at first, checking eggs all night seemed a bit unnecessary. However, the three nights I camped out at my field site were well worth the exhaustion. I found monarch eggs can disappear rapidly during nighttime hours, pointing to nocturnal predators as one of the main limits on monarch production. But a question remained: Which predator species was responsible?

Last summer, I was able to at least partially solve this mystery. By placing security cameras in grasslands to monitor over 100 monarch eggs, I determined that not only are 70 percent of monarch egg predation events at night, but I could identify the actual predators. The nighttime culprits were earwigs, harvestmen, ants, tree crickets and spiders, while the daytime predators included stinkbugs, plant bugs, mites, jumping spiders and milkweed bugs.

I’m currently publishing the results of these studies. My hope is that this information will be helpful to conservation practitioners in their efforts to create habitats that will help secure populations of this beloved insect for future generations to enjoy.”

<https://msutoday.msu.edu/360/2019/andrew-myers-working-the-night-shift/>



Monarch Egg compared to straight pin.

Close up of the egg



## Keep cut lilacs fresh longer with these tips

For many people, lilacs are a sentimental flower. My mother planted many lilacs on our farm in Kansas. The scent carried across the yard as I played. When my husband and I started our family, planting a lilac in our garden was a priority so our children will have the same heavenly memory of the fragrance and flower.

Over the years I have tried to bring the bounty of this flower into my home and have often failed. The flowers would droop within an hour of bringing them inside, even though I had them in a clean vase full of fresh water. Through trial and error I found the trick to help the blooms last as long as possible:



Fill a bucket half full of fresh, cool water, and have it at hand as you cut blooms. Pick flowers in the cool of the morning or evening. Lilacs open very little after harvest, so choose stems that have at least three-quarters of the flowers open. Next, remove all of the leaves so the plant isn't putting its effort into keeping the leaves hydrated. Place stems in the water. Leave the bucket in a cool, dark place and allow the flowers to take up water for at least an hour.

Pick flowers in the cool of morning or evening.

Remove all of the leaves from each stem.

Next, using heavy clippers, recut the stem ends, then slice vertically up the stem 1-2 inches. Grasp one side of the sliced stem and twist backward. Immediately place the cut stems back into the bucket of water. Allow the stems to take up more water in a cool, dark place for another one to two hours. The lilacs will then be ready for arranging, and will last three to four days.

Recut the stem ends, then slice vertically up the stem 1-2 inches.

Grasp one side of the sliced stem and twist backward. (Others say just hit the end with a hammer to expose lots of fibers for good wicking of water.)

<http://my.chicagobotanic.org/horticulture/how-to/keep-cut-lilacs-fresh-longer-with-these-tips/>

## Choosing a Member of the Year



Think about a fellow TGC member who has served on the Executive Board, as a committee chairperson or someone who serves quietly in the background and is always there to help out when needed. Before you nominate someone, open your yearbook to page 9 and see if s/he was already honored in this way. We only give it to a member once.

Nominations will be gathered at our May meeting and voted on by a committee of past members of the year. If you can't be there call **Max Green** (last year's MOY) to give him your nomination. Honoree is announced at the June dinner.

Selecting someone for this honor is not a popularity contest but a recognition of a body of work done for our club over the years.



Next deadline May 25th send items to  
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 krz80@provide.net

“As the leaves of the trees are said to absorb all noxious qualities of the air, and to breath forth a purer atmosphere, so it seems to me as if they drew from us all sordid and angry passions, and breathed forth peace and philanthropy. There is a severe and settled majesty in woodland scenery that enters into the soul, and dilates and elevates it, and fills it with noble inclinations.”

- Washington Irving



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



**Rhubarb Compote**

marthastewart.com

**Ingredients**

- 1 3/4 pounds rhubarb, ends trimmed, cut crosswise into 3/4-inch pieces (about 6 cups)
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 piece (1 inch) fresh peeled ginger, finely grated

**Directions**

1. Stir together rhubarb and sugar in a large saucepan (off heat); let stand until rhubarb releases some liquid, about 10 minutes.

2. Bring rhubarb mixture to a boil over medium-high heat, stirring occasionally. Reduce heat; simmer, stirring occasionally, until rhubarb has broken down but some whole pieces remain, about 5 minutes. Remove from heat.

3. Place ginger in a fine-mesh sieve set over a small bowl. Press down firmly with a spoon until juices are released (to yield about 1 teaspoon). Discard solids. Stir ginger juice into rhubarb mixture.

4. Let sauce cool completely before serving over ice cream, yogurt, pound cake, or use to make parfaits. Even as a substitute for strawberries on short cake.