



February 2018 Newsletter

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GARDENING IN FEBRUARY?

Okay, it's time to get busy. Your planning for this coming growing season should be well underway. Plan should include problem resolutions, [soil testing](#) and any new projects. For fun take a look at [2018 perennial of the year](#) - also highly rated by Blue Horizon Nursery. [Get tools and supplies ready](#), In the rush to put everything away for winter things commonly get overlooked. Now it the time to sharpen, clean and repair your tools. Also do an inventory of regular supplies. [Take advantage of milder days](#) to prune. This is an especially good time to prune trees that don't produce sap in late winter and shrubs that don't flower in spring,

February Events



Club Workshop

Club Monthly Meeting
Feb 12, 2018 -12:30 to ~3 pm

Program: “Where Food Comes From & Why You Should Care”
Location: First Congregational Church
Hosts: Julie Soderquist & Barb Raudonis
Presenter: Anneliese Abbott
Sustainable Farmer of Abbott Farms
Education: BS in Agriculture / OSU
Anneliese is a club favorite having presented “Bee Keeping” last year. Today she will talk about food supply, GMO, organic certifications, and sustainability. She will help us understand the different sides of agriculture issues and the importance of good food choices for our health and the environment.

SALAD LUNCHEON

Please contact Diane Wilberding (Hospitality Chair) if you can bring a Salad. Call © 989-424-0121 or click button below to email her. Thank you!

[Donate a Salad](#)

Saturday Feb 10, 2018 2-5 pm

“Paint a Botanical - an Artistic Journey”

Cost: \$35 per project, pay at event
Location: Tipsy Brush Studio
515 Williams Street, South Haven, MI
Hosts: Social Committee Anita Upson and Albert Gibson.

Find the artist within you and get your paint on! Guided by the instruction of an expert and inspired by sips of fine wine, you'll create your own masterpiece. Our special class will feature a horticultural oriented painting subject that you will replicate under the tutelage of a resident artist instructor in a relaxed social group setting. It's SO much easier than you think!! By the end of the class you will have created a unique piece of artwork to take home!

[RSVP](#)

[Tipsy Brush Studio](#)

February Educational Opportunitites



Sustainable Gardening Class

- **Sunday, February 11, 2018**
- 1:30 PM 3:30 PM
- Location : Kalamazoo Valley Museum, 230 North Rose Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007

Join the Kalamazoo River Watershed Council and Common Ground Kalamazoo on Sunday, February 11, at 1:30 p.m. to learn about a variety of gardening options, from community gardening to DIY home projects that make our neighborhoods and lawns more sustainable. Participants will be eligible to enter a drawing for plants and supplies.

We'll cover the basics about rain barrels and rain gardens and how they can save time on watering, fix common drainage problems, and provide much-needed habitat for pollinators. Then you'll have a chance to get your questions answered to decide if this sustainable, DIY solution is right for your property. Not familiar with the term “rain

garden?" Rain gardens are typically small- to medium-sized landscape beds or gardens planted in a small depression that receives rainwater from a gutter, driveway, or other source on your property. Using specialized plants with deep root systems, they help soak rainwater into the ground quickly. These plants are well suited to both wet and dry periods like we have in Michigan.

Common Ground Kalamazoo, a local network of community gardeners, will share more about their program and the benefits of gardening together with your neighbors. The organization offers support to residents interested in starting and sustaining community gardens, from free plant starts to tool lending and mentorship. You'll hear from a seasoned community gardening mentor and get tips on how to sustain a garden. Find a community garden near you or ask questions about how to start one in your neighborhood.

[More Info on this class](#)



Master Rain Gardener Training

- 5 wk course Feb 27-March 27
- **Starts Tuesday, Feb 27, 2018**
- 6:15 PM 8:15 PM
- Cost: \$45.00
- Location : KVCC Food Innovation Center, 224 E Crosstown Pk, Kalamazoo

A 5-week in-person class that will teach you everything needed to create a living rain garden at your home or place of work. The class will lead you through all phases, from locating and designing to planting and maintaining a beautiful and functional rain garden.

Is "rain garden" a new term for you? Not to worry, it's a simple landscape feature designed to capture rain runoff from your roof, driveway, or sidewalk and help soak water into the ground with specialized hearty plants. Rain gardens are so popular because they're a DIY solution to common drainage problems around the home. They've been used to stop flooding in yards after rain storms and can even fix icy driveways, slippery sidewalks, and damp basements.

Instructors from the Kalamazoo Nature Center and Kalamazoo River Watershed Council will help you develop your own rain garden design for your home. Students who attend all 5 classes and plant their own rain garden will receive the Master *Rain* Gardener certificate and a sign for their garden, along with other fun swag.

[What is a Rain Garden?](#)

[Educational Article](#)



Forest Pests Class

- Tuesday, February 6, 2018
- 6:00 PM 7:00 PM
- Location: Cass Dist Library at 319 M 62 North Cassopolis, MI 49031

Join the [Van Buren Conservation District](#) and the [Cass County Conservation District](#) for a talk about forest pests. We will be discussing identification and how to manage these pesky invaders. This is a free event - RSVP is not required, but appreciated. Please call (269) 445-8641 ext. 5. The Cass County Conservation District's Tree Sale catalog will be available at this event.

March Events



Club Monthly Meeting

March 12, 2018 -12:30 to 3 pm

Program: "Rhododendrons & Azaleas in West MI"

Location: First Congregational Church

Hosts: Connie Schaffer & Sharon Vanderbrock

Presenter: Linda Chervat, Rosebay Nursery owner and hybridizer

Linda will share with us her long term experiences in establishing her wholesale nursery located in Saugatuck MI. She will give us her professional recommendations on growing both Rhododendrons and Azaleas, two species we all know and



Club Field Trip

Wed March 21, 2018 10 - noonish

Carpooling from Church at 9:15 am
Cost: Free (excludes any purchases)

"Succulent Grower Tour"

Dutch Touch Growers
4135 80th Ave, Zeeland, MI 49464

We tour the Dutch Touch Growers facility! They are commercial growers of many years, and have fallen in love with a few specialty crops, one of which being succulents. They grow 177 varieties of succulents and cactus via plant cutting propagation. We will learn about propagation, growing techniques, and see how

particularly love in our SW Michigan gardens. You can also visit Rosebay Nursery in early May for a tour and plant sale. Watch for dates on their web site. *This is a reschedule from last year's calendar.*

they ship thousands of succulent plants per month. We can purchase plants too.

[RSVP](#)

[Rosebay Website](#)

[DutchTouch Growers](#)

Early March Educational Opportunities



Fernwood Spring Garden Symposium 2018

- Saturday, March 3, 9am–4pm
- Register through February 25 | \$90 (Fernwood Members \$72)
- Register between February 26-March 2 | \$110 (Members \$88)
- Location: Fernwood Botanical Gardens at 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, MI 49120

Join Fernwood to explore diverse design approaches that enhance and evoke the unique features of exceptional garden settings. Lunch is included and prepared by Fernwood's Chef Tim Carrigan. Coffee, hot tea, and water will be available throughout the day for all to enjoy. Snacks are available for purchase at the front desk. Details coming at link below.

[More Info](#)

New Club Members at our Jan Meeting!



Linda Schubel
125 Van Buren Street
South Haven MI 49090
laschubel@gmail.com
c269-779-5184



Dorothy Benton
16 Columbine Drive
South Haven MI 49090
renton.dorothy@gmail.com
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Nancy Brown
8 Columbine Drive
South Haven MI , 49090
mrbehr07@gmail.com
c269-377-7827



Nancy K. Bland
7345 101st Avenue
South Haven MI 49090
blandnancy@comcast.net
c 678-200-7882

Other new member - but missing a picture:
Terri Ilg, 74190 15th AVE, South Haven MI 49090-9489
terriharbinilg@gmail.com
269-637-7345 c269-906-0188

Pictures from January Events!



Vice President Barb Raudonis (aka Rhododendron) enjoying our soup luncheon!



Becky Berry had a really good idea how to get a sample of all the soups!



President Dan Williamson leading the January club business meeting. See these meeting notes in the February Meeting Prep email or on the club website -link below. Your password is petunia.

[Meeting Mins Link](#)



From the Soft Cheese Making Class in January. Fun event! Thanks for the picture Sally Van Assche.

Submissions Requested! Please provide content for YOUR newsletter. Especially needed is information about club members, activities, pictures or anything educational. Submit by the 25th of the Month.