



## April 2018 Newsletter

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### GARDENING IN APRIL

Hopefully it will start feeling like spring soon. When that happens we can continue to cut back any perennials still standing and reinstall the support structures if needed. Avoid significant pruning on any spring- or early-summer-blooming trees or shrubs as you will be removing the developing flower buds. However, you can cut out damaged or diseased wood now or nearly any time of year. If you use a preemergent weed killer, such as Preen, wait until the forsythia bushes are blooming to apply to your flowerbeds and borders. This prevents seeds from germinating and dramatically cuts down on weeding chores later in the season. Prepare soil when it is dry enough. Take a handful of soil and squeeze. If the soil crumbles when you open your hand, it is ready for planting. Fertilize based on soil test recommendations. Plant cool season crops; onion, beets, lettuce, spinach, carrots and radishes.

## April Events

### Arbor Day Project - Volunteers Needed !

This project is known as one of our more fun club events. You can volunteer for one or both activities. The first volunteer opportunity is helping bag up the tree seedlings on April 18th. We gather at the Bailey Museum and set up around the large table and have a fun time preparing the seedling gifts. Only takes about an hour if we have enough volunteers. Then there is the delivery of the seedlings to the area 3rd graders. Again very fun activity, but also so rewarding to see the excitement of the children! They are thrilled with the story of Arbor Day and the gift of their very own tree to plant at home. We have heard stories of the seedlings carefully taken home on the school bus and about the trees growing at the children's homes and how much this has meant to them. Please join us for this fun event!



Our club provides sapling spruce trees for all the local 3rd grade elementary school children and educates them on the wonder of trees and history of Arbor Day.



**April 18th Prep**  
 @ Bailey Museum  
 'tie a bag on a tree'  
 RSVP / Contact Albert Gibson

Info / RSVP



**April 20th Delivery**  
 Due to the ½ day school on the 27<sup>th</sup>, the delivery is now on the 20<sup>th</sup>.  
 RSVP / Contact Nancy Brown

Info/RSVP

## April Meeting and Field Trip



### ***Club Meeting Presentation***

**April 9, 2018-12:30 pm**

**Program: "Water Gardens"**

**Location:** 1st Congregational Church

**Hostesses:** Mary Pat Carollo & Rosemary Fitzer

**Presenter :** Lynn & Greg Morris



### ***Club Field Trip***

#### **"Visit a Daffodil Farm in Bloom"**

Oakwood Daffodils

2330 W. Bertrand Road, Niles MI

**When??** on or around April 21.....i t's all dependent on weather and Daffodil bloom time. An email will go out confirming date and time asap.

**Cost :** Free

**Coordinator :** Meme Williamson

We will be visiting Dr. John Reeds' Daffodil Farm with the largest collection of Narcissus hybrids in diversity, quality, and quantity in the US. He has been growing daffodils since 1971 and has bred them on a regular basis since 1976. We have the rare opportunity to see such

Master Gardeners, 30 yrs pond experience, and various Science Degrees. Our presenters have owned and have been designing ponds for about 30 years. This technical presentation will use examples of their own ponds as well as some public and private ponds, to explain how to incorporate ponds in our landscapes. They will also talk about the flowering plants which grow in and around ponds.

Container Water Gardens

a wide selection of Narcissus in full bloom. We can order bulbs that will then be dug to order in late May or June, and then shipped in late September or October. For more information you can see last year's March 2017 via link below.

RSVP

Catalog / 2017

## April Educational Opportunities

**April 6:** [Kent Pruning Workshop \(Grand Rapids\)](#)

Sponsored by Kent/MSU Extension 8:30am-12:30pm

**April 7:** [Spring Gathering \(Kalamazoo\)](#)

Sponsored by MSU Extension 8:30am-12pm

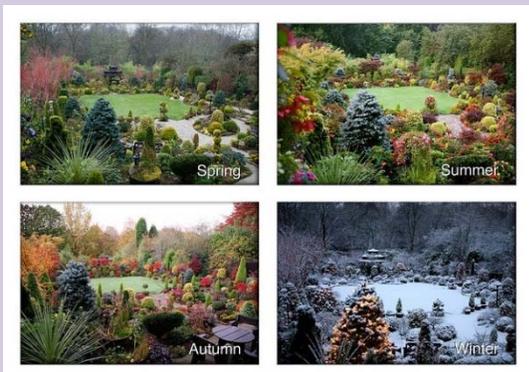
**April 10:** [Garden Talk Healthy Soils \(Kalamazoo\)](#)

**April 22: 3pm** [SW Michigan Hosta Society](#)

SWMHS Meeting, Romence Gardens, 9660 Shaver Rd, Portage, MI 49024

Come out to Romence Gardens in Portage to hear Don Rawson discuss root competition in your hosta gardens. He will let us know some wonderful shade trees and shrubs to plant to add variety and shade for our hostas.

## May Events



## ***Club Monthly Meeting***

**May 14, 2018 -12:30 pm**

**Presentation:**

**“Four Seasons of Color Gardens”**

**Location:** 1st Congregational Church

**Hosts:** Judy Stackpole &  
Judy Jungman

**Presenter:** Lorraine Fedorchak- Kraker.  
Lorraine is an advanced Master Gardener,  
Ornamental Horticulturalist and Certified Green  
Industry Professional.

As northern gardeners it would be nice to enjoy our landscapes all year long. Year-round color and interest for the garden cannot be achieved in a single visit to the garden center - you need careful planning and research (or experience by trial and error) . Achieving year-round color in the garden requires learning about plants' habits and growth. Lorraine will help us to understand what goes into making a successful four-season garden.

**Designing Ideas**



## ***Recommended Event***

**May 2018 / Date Unknown**

***On Your Own***

**Rosebay Nursery Plant Sale**  
Rhododendron & Azaleas

## ***Club Social Event***

**May 11, 2018 - 5-8 pm**

**Spring Renewal & Walk**

Location: To be Announced

**Presentation:** Membership Benefits

**Hosts:** Social and Membership Committee

Yes, you've read this right! The Social Committee has put together our very own special Garden Walk featuring at multiple spring gardens within the same secluded small neighborhood. This “members only” event is to encourage spending an evening socializing with your fellow club members while enjoying the fresh air, and beautiful gardens without worry about fundraising!

Come join your garden club friends for an evening of socializing in the beautiful gardens. Bring an appetizer to share and any alcoholic beverage you wish to enjoy and/or share. Club will soft beverages.

**Cost :** This event is free if you join or renew your Garden Club membership for the coming year. \$10 for guests of members. What a great way to renew your membership!

**RSVP**



## ***Are you Interested Event?***

**May 19 and 20, 11 am - 5 pm**

**Grand Rapids Heritage House Tour**

6394 Old Allegan Rd,  
Saugatuck, MI  
**Cost** : Free

Rosebay Nurseries holds an open house and public sale only once per year. It's the only time you can get a look at the best plants on the market. And if we are lucky, the weather will co-operate and there will be fields of flowering shrubs to enjoy and purchase. The sale is usually Mother's Day weekend but you should check Rosebay's website for the actual date(s) and times of the open house sale at <http://rosebaynursery.com>

[Visit Rosebay website](#)

**A number of Club members are interested in attending. Please RSVP if you would like to join us .**

Discover great architecture, amazing interiors, eclectic décor and spring gardens. The Heritage Hill Historic District dates from 1843 and our 1300 homes represent Michigan's finest collection of 19th and 20th century American architecture. Tour welcomes you inside 7 restored private houses and three historic buildings.

**Cost** : Pre sale tickets are \$18.00 and includes a shuttle bus between homes. Tickets purchased on that weekend are \$25.00.

Need more information?  
Phone: 616-459-8950  
E-mail: [heritage@heritagehillweb.org](mailto:heritage@heritagehillweb.org)

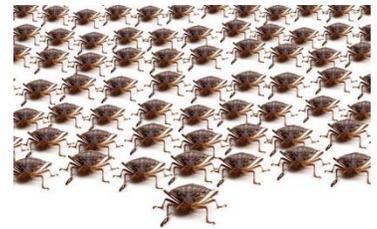
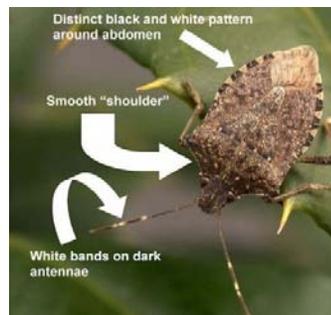
[Heritage Hill Tour Details](#)

[Yes I'm Interested](#)

## Question of the Month .... Stink Bugs?



**Brown Marmorated Stink Bug**



Oh noooooo.....

They say the truth hurts -- but in this case, it stinks: The brown marmorated stink bug, an insect that's relatively new to Michigan, might be poised to cause some serious problems for our state's agricultural industry. That's on top of the nuisance these slow brown buggers are creating for homes this time of year, when the bugs seek out warmer environments as the weather cools. The brown marmorated stink bug was first reported in Michigan in 2010. According to Michigan State University Extension, the species was accidentally brought to North America from Asia at some point before 1996, and it has been slowly making its way around the country ever since. You'll know 'em when you see 'em: These slow-moving bugs are oval shaped, with a body often compared to a shield. They are a little less than half an inch long. Their name comes from the foul odor they release when disturbed (or when smashed). Come autumn, they congregate

on south- and west-facing exterior walls of buildings and homes, and then seek to squeeze into our cozy indoor spaces so they can overwinter in comfort. Read more about it from the folks at MSU.

[More Bug Info](#)

[Best Ways to Get Rid of Stink Bugs](#)

## Pictures from March Events!

Pictures from our **Club Field Trip to Dutch Touch Growers** on March 21, 2018.  
This is a wholesale Succulent Grower located in Zeeland MI.



**Miles and Miles of Succulents**



**This is how they propagate the cuttings.  
No soil!**



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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.

[Newsletter Submissions](#)

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[Visit our website](#)

