



THE WEEDERS DIGEST

ROLLING MEADOWS GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2019

GARDEN CLUB MEETING - MARCH 13
SOCIAL TIME 6:00 – MEETING 6:30

ROLLING MEADOWS GARDEN CLUB WEB SITE
www.rollingmeadowsgardenclub.org.



OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT – Carol Ohrn
VICE-PRESIDENT – Marie Soyka
SECRETARY – Katie Schroeder
TREASURER – Ron Willer



ROLLING MEADOWS GARDEN CLUB

Our mission is to encourage the knowledge and love of gardening through educational meetings and field trips, and to contribute to the community through civic beautification, awards and annual events.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Bonnie Meyer 3/10
Mel Tatara 3/29



LIFE BEGINS THE DAY YOU START A GARDEN – CHINESE PROVERB

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Have you ever been HACKED? Well my email address was on 2/23 and you may have been the recipient of a bogus email from me. It said I sent you a document through ONEDRIVE and asked you to open it. I did not send this email. Most people who tried to open it couldn't, which was a good thing. Always be cautious about opening emails, especially the attachments. If they don't look right – they probably aren't!!

Wednesday, 3/13, is our next meeting. It is also the Community Events Foundation fundraiser at Rep's restaurant. Rep's is donating 15% of their profits to the RM CEF. You must present them with the flyer. I will be there for lunch, probably around 12:30 and I will have extra flyers should you chose to dine there.

I can smell Spring! I know it's out there somewhere!!!

Carol O.

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**COMMITTEES:**

**COMMUNITY SERVICE –**

Includes but not limited to:  
Farmers Market, Welcome Planters,  
Mary's Garden, 4th of July Parade

**EVENTS –**

Outings, dinners & any other social event  
other than regular meetings.

**GARDEN WALK**

**COMMITTEES CONT:**

**HOSPITALITY**

Refreshments & greeting cards

**MEMBERSHIP**

**NOMINATING**

**PLANT & CRAFT SALE**

**PROGRAMS –**

Monthly speakers or activities

**PUBLICITY / MARKETING**

**JANUARY SPEAKER**

Our January speaker was Tim Joyce from Wild Birds Unlimited. He brought a display of different bird feeders and told us the good and bad features about each one. He was very knowledgeable about the different birds in our area but the most interesting subject was about bird seed. He passed out information about what each bird liked to eat and explained that they are very choosy and throw out the seed they don't want. Thistle/nyjer seed also dries out and should be replaced after a month in the feeder. He suggest buying small amounts from suppliers that carry fresh seed. He also said that buying seed that the birds will eat may cost more but none is wasted and you will save in the long run. You also won't find a lot of unwanted growth below the feeder.

I went out the very next day and bought nyjer seed, shelled sunflower seed, white millet and safflower seed from a place where they have open containers and you can take any amount you want. The goldfinch never went near my feeder and now I know it was because the seed was dry but it will take time for the birds to find the refilled thistle feeder again. I made my own mix with the rest of the seeds and filled my regular feeder. I watched a sparrow eat and there wasn't any sorting or throwing the seed out. I will never buy bagged seed again.

### **WANTED: PLANT SALE VOLUNTEERS**

During these cold, snowy days, it's time to think about our big fundraiser of the year. Without this event we could not have the speakers we have or donate and participate in the good things that we do.

The committee is starting to recruit members to go to Woldhuis Greenhouse on Thursday, May 9th. If you have gone before, you know this is a lot of work, but fun and well worth it. If you have never gone, it's really a place to see. Here is what to expect:

The drive there is about an hour and a half. We car pool, so you don't have to drive unless you choose to. We work in pairs to pick the best plants according to your assigned list. This place is so big they have a food truck there for lunch. So the day is long, maybe 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you help on this day, you can pick out plants for yourself and pay our cost and no tax! This is the perk for helping.

Our physically capable members are getting fewer & fewer. Anyone that feels they can participate would be greatly appreciated. We really need 8 – 10 people to go to Woldhuis.

Of course, we will need volunteers both Friday for set-up and Saturday for the event, but we will sign up for that later. If you feel you may be interested in the trip to Woldhuis, please let me know. Even if it's a "maybe".

Carol O.

### **MEMBERS NEWS**

Debbie Danek thought she was going to be at the Feb. meeting but didn't want to take a chance of falling with the snow and ice. She said the physical therapy is painful and hard but know that it is a process and it will take some time. She hopes to be at the next meeting.

### **MARCH GARDENING**

- Anytime is a good time to plan your garden if you haven't already.
- Sharpen and clean your tools if you didn't do it in the fall.
- Avoid walking on wet soil as much as possible. It compacts the soil.
- There are some vegetables and flowers that can be planted as soon as the ground can be worked. Radishes, peas, lettuce, broccoli, cauliflower and pansies can survive the frosty weather.
- To get a head start tomatoes, eggplants and peppers can be started from seed indoors under florescent lights. Be sure to check the seed packets for information.
- Prune fruit trees, raspberries bushes, grape vines, roses, butterfly bush and Rose of Sharon. Do not prune spring blooming plants like forsythia and lilacs. Prune them right after they finish blooming.
- Late in the month divide perennials except spring blooming perennials.
- Remove mulch when the perennials start new growth. Add the mulch to the compost bin.
- Water and feed houseplants a little more as you see new growth.
- For those who do not feed the birds during the summer, stop feeding the birds as soon as the snow is gone. Clean and store the feeders.

## MARCH SPEAKER

### Tips for the Lazy Gardener

Any yard or garden requires a fair amount of work. Cindy Tyley shows useful ways to save time, energy and money while gardening. Her presentation demonstrates tips for outdoor and indoor gardening throughout the year.

### Plant Ideas by Debbie Danek

With spring around the corner we are craving for the first glimpse of flowers or anything green for that matter. Depending upon Mother Nature, she decides to tell us when spring arrives.

Here are some suggestions you may want to consider planting in the garden that are the earliest spring bloomers.

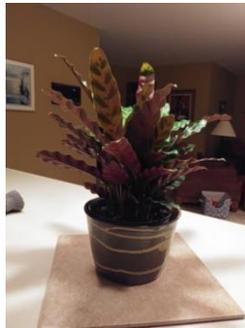
Helleborus or Lenten Rose. It is one of the earliest to flower. Blossom colors comes in all different colors and almost looks like a small shrub. The foliage is semi evergreen. It likes part shade, well-drained soil and makes an excellent cut flower.

Daffodils, Crocus, Tulips, Hyacinths. All of these bulbs need to be planted in the fall for them to blossom in the spring of the following year. Once established, some tend to naturalize or continue to produce more bulbs underground. Tulips may be a challenge, as the squirrels like to dig them up and deer like to eat them.

## HOUSEPLANTS

### Carol Flemming

If you're looking for an unusual houseplant check out the Calathea Lancifolia (Rattlesnake Plant). It likes mid to low light making it one of the easier plants to grow indoors. The top of the leaves are an ornately patterned light and dark green and the underside a deep purple. The markings on each leaf resemble the markings found on some rattlesnakes, hence the common name for this plant. What makes this plant unusual is that it closes up at night. And if you watch it closely you can see the leaves move. I purchased this one at Heinz Brothers Greenhouse & Garden Center in St. Charles.



**Know anything about houseplants that you would like to share? Write it up and send it to me for the newsletter or call me. Shirley**

## MEMBERS STORIES

### Carol Flemming

#### The Frog Surprise

Early in December, Carol O., Heidi, Marie, and I went to Heinz Brothers nursery to check out Christmas decorations. This place is huge and had a lot of nice things. I ended up buying a Pothos hanging basket and another houseplant for my kitchen table. When I got home I unwrapped the plants and hung the hanging basket where it stayed for two months watering it weekly. One day I noticed that there were quite a few brown leaves on the Pothos so I took it down and put it on the counter top by the sink and proceeded to cut out the dead leaves. I was doing this for a few minutes when a frog jumped out of the pot onto the counter. It almost hit me in the face. I screamed and Maggie got all excited wanting to see what was on the counter. Luckily I had a catch pot handy and quickly put it over the frog before it started jumping all over the kitchen. Now what to do with it. It was too cold to put it outside, and I didn't have anything to keep it in. So Carol O. to the rescue. She just happened to have a tall terrarium jar. Armed with our garden gloves in case we had to touch it, we got it into the jar, and she took it home and transferred it to a small aquarium. Then we were trying to figure out if it was a frog or toad. We think it's a frog and named it Kermit. Kermit seems to be in semi hibernation. It had nothing to eat or drink the two months it was in the pot. And it mostly just sits still in one spot and doesn't eat. When spring comes Carol O. will release Kermit into Salt Creek.



**Anyone have any personal experiences old or new about gardening or wildlife? Write it up and send it to me for the newsletter or call me. Shirley**

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

March 2 – Saturday - TASTE THE TOWN – 6:00 – 9:00 pm – Community center, 3705 Pheasant Drive

### ROLLING MEADOWS ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Meeting every first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm on the second floor in City Hall Room 230. You do not have to be a member to attend and all ideas are welcome. You can also visit them on Facebook.

