

THE BUZZ

GARDEN CLUB OF INVERNESS NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 9

March 2021

BUZZY LINKS

More Birding

Our link is from Marilyn Harder. Her timing is perfect coming on the wings of last month's program *Soaring With the Birds*. In March, we begin to see movement and mating from some local and migrating populations. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology website is an excellent one to bring your bird skills and knowledge up to standard. www.birds.cornell.edu is a destination filled with gorgeous avian photography and advice for getting birds into your yards and your photos. Would you like to get up close and personal? The Lab features bird cams for your viewing enjoyment. Take a short cut to the highlights by going to YouTube and typing **Bird Cams Best of 2020** into the search bar. You can also find the previous years' most adorable birds right there. Marilyn says, "It is good to watch birds, and calming." Thanks for the tip Marilyn!

UPCOMING

- March 11, 7 pm Zoom Wine 101
- March 14 Spring Ahead
- March 18 General Meeting/
Program Veronica Porter "Ask Aunt V"
- April 1 MLB Opening Day for
All Teams!
- April 1 Zoom Board Meeting 9:30

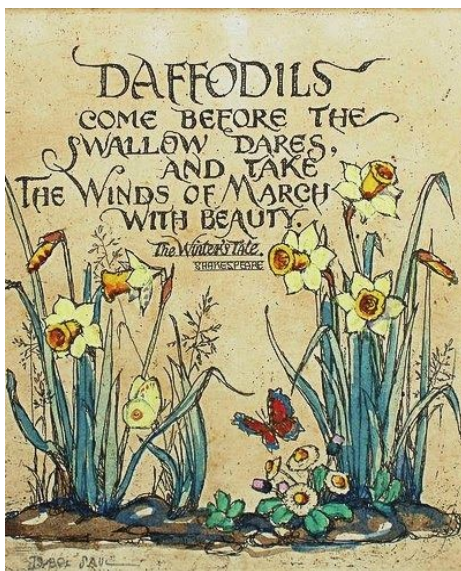
GCI in the Home Stretch

by Nancy Kaye

Dear Friends, picking a theme for this issue was like trying to pick a color off a rainbow. So much happens during this month with the harsh name, how can one focus? March metamorphizes into one of my four favorite seasons. This year, the Vernal Equinox falls on March 20. (Thanks, short February!) But Easter, the moveable feast, hippity-hops up to April 4 giving us almost no time to recover from Jewish, Druid, Irish, and Italian Feasts and Festivals. Throw in daylight savings time, the Ides, the Hare, the baseball, and it's

chaos! So here to make a little sense of it all is The BUZZ, a hodgepodge of tips, tricks, and teasers for the good stuff to come.

As we near the end of our GCI 2020-21 season, we look forward to the opportunity for in-person gatherings. We have planned our April meeting and a re-imagined Spring Luncheon for outdoors, and are confident they will comprise a strong and happy finish to a weird year. We have one more Special Event and the Garden Party to look forward to as well. So hang in there with us, and don't forget to renew your membership!



GCI Giving

Let us congregate in the All Saints lot on March 25 at 11:00am for our next pickup/drop-off day. We will collect food pantry donations and Easter Buddies baskets. Mary R will disperse kits for those of you wishing to make a Spring decoration for St. Joe's. Come over. Let's chat! (Call Nancy K, Myra, Mary, or Pam G if you would like to arrange for a pick up from your home instead.)

Thank you for your kindness and generosity. "Connecting" and "reaching out" may sound cliché, but please believe that your efforts have positively impacted people's lives.

March Special Event Tonight! - Wine 101 With Ambrosia

Pour a glass of your favorite Cabernet or Pinot Grigio and join us for GCI's first-ever wine seminar tonight at 7pm via Zoom. Wine, whiskey, and cider expert Ambrosia Borowski will share her enthusiasm and knowledge as we sit back and learn the ABC's of wine. We emailed you Ambrosia's excellent handout you might want to peruse before the class and keep as a useful reference. She will also be happy to answer your questions about particular pairings or vintages during the seminar. There is no fee for our membership and their guests. The Zoom invitation has been sent.



Going Green

Getting Creative With Transitions

Janet Sweno shared a mantle transition that will take her from winter until Easter using a “quasi-garden theme.”



Editor's note: Janet Sweno has a true green thumb. She can propagate from a shriveled clipping and bring any green thing back from the dead.

Eileen Kohne transformed her Punxatawney Phil/Valentine tree to Irish. “I’ve been having fun with it and my four granddaughters love it.”

Eileen got these lucky charms on sale for \$1!



Brighten Your Easter Table With a Centerpiece of Freshly Grown Grass *from Mary Rubino*



You may already have what you need for this project. First choose a container fit for an Easter centerpiece. I usually use my soup tureen, (this tureen has seen more potting soil and seed than homemade soup in its lifetime) or choose your favorite container. It can be anything, as long as it fits into your tablescape plan.

Fill the container with moistened potting soil. Scatter a generous amount of fast growing Rye Grass seed, scratch the seed in a bit, and cover the top of the container with plastic wrap to retain the moisture.

In about 5-ish days you will have what I call “Fairy Grass”. We have all seen that grass when we tried to start a new lawn from seed. A little more patience and in one more day you will have some serious grass growing. On day 6 or 7 remove the plastic wrap and watch the grass get fuller and taller.

If you want a perfect centerpiece, start your grass seed about a week or two before Easter!

This is when you can embellish the grass with decorated Easter Eggs, Easter picks or bunny decorations. Your choice, your vision.

(A tip from our President Nancy Kaye: Grow the grass in antique tea cups to use as place card holders for each of your guests.)

Have fun!

Easter Flowering Plants

by *Kathy Zweidinger*

Easter is indeed around the corner, and many of us will be receiving or purchasing the flowering plants associated with this holiday. The popular Easter Lily, *Lilium longiflorum*, originated from Japan and was brought to the US after 1941.



The Easter Lily flower blooms only in the spring, and when the flower dies, many of us toss the plant. However, the plant can be transplanted in your garden once the spring season is over. Before that, you must take proper care of the plant to encourage reblooming.

Make sure you place your Easter Lily where it can receive bright but indirect sunlight. If you have cats in your home, take extra care to keep the lily away from them as it is very toxic to cats. Protect the plant from heavy drafts and heat sources such as electronic appliances, fireplaces, and heaters. Either remove the foil cover or make sure it does not sit in standing water by poking holes in the foil. Overwatering causes more harm to the lily than under-watering. Only water the plant when the soil becomes dry to the touch. The ideal daytime temperature is 60-65F and nighttime 55-60F (my house is not that cold, and I was able to keep it alive successfully, transplant it, and it actually rebloomed! I was so excited as I had forgotten all about it).

Remember to remove the yellow anthers (pollens) from the flower as this will increase the lifespan of the blooming flowers. It will also prevent pollen from falling on and staining leaves, flowers, hands, clothes, and any other thing with which it comes into contact.

To successfully transplant outdoors, wait for all flowers to dry completely. Remove these withered flowers before you take the plant outside. Until then, keep it in indirect light and water when needed.

Only transplant once the chance of frost is over. Choose a sunny, well-drained, and nutrient-rich area in your garden. You can enrich the soil with organic matter with a pH of 6.5 - 7. Plant the flowering bulb deeper than it was in the pot or container - it should be around 6" deep. Cover the area around the bulb with soil and mulch. During the winter season, add more mulch - using leaves, wood chips, pine needles, and thick layers of straw. Remember to remove this mulch once the winter season is over. The reblooming of Easter lilies from transplantation will take time as the plant needs to build resources before it can set flower bud growth. It may take 1 or 2 years before you see results.



Besides lilies, azaleas and hyacinths are common Easter plants. They both can be transplanted outdoors and will thrive from summer to summer. Place them in a sunny location, and be sure to allow any excess water to drain. Water until the soil feels moist but not flooded. Plant similar to the Easter Lily. After planting the flowers, cut back the stems to the ground. Thoroughly water the soil surrounding the plants. Cover the soil with mulch. Nourish the soil monthly with a fertilizer containing 10% of nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium. Avoid spraying weed killer near the plants.



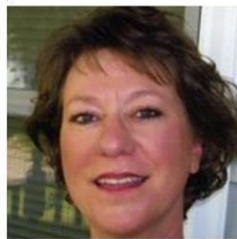
Wishing you much success with your beautiful reblooming Easter plants!

March Program:

Veronica Porter *Ask Aunt V*

Veronica Porter was born and raised in Naperville when it was still considered a small farm town. She caught the end of an era when you grew, gathered, and prepared your own food. It was a time that you learned from your elders, explored with your friends, and followed in the footsteps of time worn traditions.

Veronica shares her experiences by educating and strategizing for healthy, organic gardening, farm-to-table food integrity, cooking, preservation and living life in a responsible, sustainable and regenerative manner. She is a third-generation organic farmer, chef, and food educator for home and garden. She hosts classes on all aspects of organic gardening from planning to composting. Veronica also works with developmentally challenged individuals and children. She is featured in print, social media, radio, and television. Please check out her mouthwatering website: www.askauntv.com and her Facebook page.



March Trivia

- *The Druid spring equinox festival is known as Alban Eilir, which means "The Light of the Earth."*
- *Happy New Year! March was the first month of the ancient Roman calendar.*
- *March is named after Mars, the Roman god of war, the month in which the military campaigning season got underway after winter.*
- *Beware the Ides of March. On the Roman calendar March 15 was an annual deadline for settling debts. Julius Caesar was assassinated on this date in 44 BC, making it a turning point in Roman history.*
- *The vernal equinox is said to be the festival of Eostre, the Germanic goddess of spring and fertility.*
- *The basketball term **March Madness** was first coined by Henry V. Porter, a teacher and coach who led Athens High School to a second-place finish in their tournament. Noting how fans looked forward to the annual statewide high school basketball tournament, he wrote that a "little March madness may complement and contribute to sanity and help keep society on an even keel."*
- *March is National Celery Month and, in 1995, the birth month of Yahoo.*
- *Studies claim that antioxidant-rich Guinness may be beneficial to the heart. **Happy Saint Patrick's Day!***

Raptor Rapture

Some of our readers have visited the Ontario Parks site featured in February's BUZZY LINKS to learn more about owls. www.ontarioparks.com/parksblog. Beth Woldman kindly shared a fantastic photo that her husband took of a Great Horned Owl mama and baby. While we often hear these nocturnal birds in their mating season, it is harder to see them or distinguish their nests. The Great Horned Owl uses tree nests of other creatures such as hawks, crows, squirrels, and Great Blue Herons, but will also use tree cavities, wood platforms, and occasionally a building or barn. The most commonly used nest is that of the Red-tailed Hawk. (Ironically, the Red-tailed Hawk is the primary predator of the young owls. They account for 50% of juvenile mortality.) The Great Horned Owl males usually find a territory by December, and a nesting site by January. Despite the cold, eggs are laid at the end of January through February. This gives the large bird's chicks enough time to develop before spring arrives. The eggs need 33 days of incubation so you may well see hatchlings by mid- to late March. Owlets take their first flights at 6 - 7 weeks but will depend on the folks for another several months. By late October and November, young owls urged by the tired adults leave their natal territory and venture off to start their own lives! (The Old Almanac and Cornell Lab)



Spectacular Photo by Rich Woldman. Well done!

Lamb Cake

from Anita Flanagan

This is a Depression/ Wartime recipe according to my mother. We made them every year at Easter for family and neighbors. I continue the tradition to this day.



From Grandma Pressy

1 cup butter

1 cup sugar

4 eggs

2 cups flour

1/2 cup milk (preferably evaporated)

1 teaspoon vanilla

1 teaspoon baking powder

Cream butter, add sugar, and "cream" until fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Add one cup flour, vanilla, and milk. Beat well, pour in remaining flour and baking powder.

Batter is sufficient for one large lamb cake. Use leftover batter for 2 -3 cupcakes. Can also be baked in long loaf pan.

Coat lamb generously with "pan-coat." Pour batter into face-side of mold, filling it completely. Pour a spoonful of batter into deep portions of the back of lamb and flip on top of filled mold. Bake on a cookie sheet in 325 degree oven for 70 minutes. Let mold stand for 3-5 minutes before removing cake from mold to cool. When cold, cover with frosting or sprinkle with powdered sugar.

Frosting

1/2 pound butter (1 stick butter and 1 stick margarine)

2-3 cups of confectioner's sugar (1 lb powdered sugar)

A little cream: 1 teaspoon sour cream, 1 tablespoon half and half, 1/2 teaspoon vanilla

Cream butter well, then mix sugar and cream and mix well to spreading consistency (real creamy!)

THE BUZZ

PLEASE SEND IDEAS, PHOTOS, POETRY, AND MATERIAL TO
NCKAYEDA@YAHOO.COM

YOU CAN ALSO SEND PHOTOS BY TEXT TO:
612-382-0898

PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME WITH ANY TEXTS

FAVORITE THINGS

EMAIL YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS TO MYRA
MYRABUETTNER@OUTLOOK.COM

HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

PLEASE EMAIL YOUR TIPS, QUESTIONS, OR SUGGESTED TOPICS
TO KATHY ZWEIDINGER
KZWEIDINGER@AOL.COM

