



The “Show-Me” Gardener

March 2024

Webster Groves Garden Club

www.mgcwg.org

Email: Webster-Groves-Garden-Club@mgcwg.org

president@mgcwg.org

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Dick Lockard

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Steve Seele

Board of Directors

2024

Alice Sargent

2025

Chris Kunz
Dorothy Lockard
Carol Evans

2026

Lucia Oswald
Frank Peterson

President Ex-Officio
Mary Telker

Other

Plant Sale

Plant-Sale@mgcwg.org

Turn Around Garden

Turn-Around-Garden@mgcwg.org



March Meeting

Monday, March 11, 2024 - 7:15 p.m.

Speaker: Cheryl Rafert



Topic: Organic Gardening

Cheryl achieved the title of Master Gardener in 2000 and has since progressed to an Advanced Master Gardener through further education and training. She shares her expertise by delivering talks on organic vegetable gardening and heirloom gardening to various community groups via the Speaker's Bureau. Additionally, she teaches classes at the Missouri Botanical Garden as part of its Adult Education Program. Cheryl's passion for growing plants dates back to her childhood, when she assisted her grandmother tend a sizable vegetable garden. Her gardening interests span a wide range, encompassing vegetable, herb, heirloom, and native plants. In her own yard, she proudly nurtures over 100 native Missouri plant species.

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BUSINESS NOTES

Membership

2024 membership dues are \$15 per person or \$20 per family. If you have not yet renewed for 2024, please make your check payable to "Webster Groves Garden Club." and send to Steve Seele, 223 Rosemont Ave, St. Louis, MO 63119.

As part of the business portion of the March 11th General Meeting, an election will be held to add four new Board Members to the Board of Directors. They are Tim Arnold, Doug Mager, Inga Mockapetris, and Rob Telker. A separate letter has been sent to all Members explaining the circumstances surrounding this action. Members should refer to this letter.

WGGC Plant Sale

Mark Your Calendars, April 25-27, 2024!



To begin, let us invite you (especially those of you whose schedules are not flexible on weekdays) to our **First Ever Plant Marker Assembly Party!**

Yes, never heard of such an event, right? Well, it will have all the signature features of the Plant Sale.... sense of accomplishment, learning experience and camaraderie... on **Saturday, March 23, 2-4 pm** when we assemble about 80% (about 1600-2000) plant markers we'll need for this year's sale.

Assembly is easy, place a sticker on a plastic stick.

As with all other Plant Sale volunteers, you will earn the privilege to shop before the public on Thursday 4/25 after Set-Up of the room is mostly complete (around 1 pm).

If you would like to be a part of this fun, please contact Kathy Johnson at kaj1951@gmail.com so she will have a good count, know who is coming and can answer any questions.

Yard Signs

If you are willing to put a plant sale sign in your yard or ask a neighbor if they would, please contact Dick Lockard at ralockard2@gmail.com (He will answer after March 17) to arrange to pick up a sign to be placed in April. And if you have any extra clean plastic pots 4-5 inches wide, please contact Frank Peterson at fpeters@swbell.net.

Many Hands Make Light Work

The month of April is when we dig, pot, label, price and foster all the plants sold for the WGGC plant sale, over 2000 last year. As a guideline we keep the amount of time for a single task to 2 hours, so our treasured volunteers feel able to give multiple times during the month.

The sale itself is at Webster Groves Recreation Center, Thursday April 25, Set-up Day (8:30 am-3ish), April 26 the Full Day sale (8 am-6 pm), and April 27 a Half Day starting at 8 am and ending when we sell out or noon, whichever occurs sooner. We work in shifts for many tasks. If you can help with digging, potting, labeling, or working at the sale, please email Dorothy Lockard at dglockard2@gmail.com (She will answer after March 17).

Splendid Survey Results!

We want to thank everyone who participated in the survey. We learned a lot and felt encouraged by the suggestions and feedback. Most of you love our plant sale and programs – thank you for participating!



Kathy Johnson
Secretary

Gardener's Corner – March 2024 (aka Carol's corner)

These last few days of February have brought us summer-like weather. Hellebores (aka, Lenten Rose) and daffodils are blooming; tulips are up and budding. It's hard to believe we're still in winter. It is a good time to take advantage of the break from the cold during these nice days and start preparing our gardens for the spring and summer.

Some tips and tasks from the **Missouri Botanical Garden (MBG)** indicate that as soon as trees, shrubs, and perennials are available at your local garden center and the ground can be worked, you can begin to plant them. They suggest we prune trees before the new growth appears. Oaks need to be pruned before mid-March to avoid transmitting oak wilt.

Now is a good time to remove weeds and dead foliage from your gardens and mulch the beds to help suppress weeds. You can also divide summer and fall blooming perennials such as black-eyed Susans as they emerge. Cut ornamental grasses to the ground and divide large clumps as new growth begins to show. Some annuals that can handle cooler weather such as pansies violas, snapdragons, sweet alyssum dianthus and annual primrose can be planted outside at this time.

The unusually warm weather and how it affects our gardens has been the subject of much discussion. The February *Yard and Garden News* from the **University of Minnesota Extension** has a good article about *How this Warm Weather Will Affect My Plants*. While their Hardiness zones are clearly lower than ours (3a to 5a), there are some helpful tips about how warmer weather will affect your plants. You can find it at: <https://extension.umn.edu/yard-and-garden-news/how-will-warm-winter-affect-my-plants>. There is also some specific Missouri warmer-than-normal weather information (and more) in the **University of Missouri Extension's Garden Spade**. You can find the February issue at: https://i.emlfiles4.com/cmpdoc/9/4/0/0/9/1/files/23083_february-2024-garden-spade-newsletter.pdf

Some virtual programs of interest in March are the following:

March 5, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m. *Dormant Fruit Tree Pruning*. Presented by **Seed St. Louis** through the **St. Louis County Public Library**. Register here: <https://slcl.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=362268>

March 5, 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. *Rain Garden Essentials: Design, Build, Plant*, presented by the **University of Illinois Extension** Register at: <https://registration.extension.illinois.edu/start/four-seasons-gardening-webinar-rain-garden-essentials-design-build-plant-3-5-24>

March 6, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m. *Native Plant Food Gardening Panel*, moderated by Jean Ponzi, the panel includes several distinguished experts. It is part of the **Partners for Native Landscaping** webinar series through the **St. Louis County Public Library**. You can register here: <https://slcl.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=357363>

March 7, 11 a.m. -12 noon. *Reconnect to Nature*. Join Mignon Hemsley and Danuelle Doswell at the **Smithsonian Gardens** for an enlightening exploration of ancestral ties to houseplants, and a compelling case for embracing indoor greenery as a means to enhance mental and physical wellbeing. Register at: https://smithsonian.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8IWGXhPKT-iy3qK-w8zGXA#/registration.

March 12, 7 p.m. – 8 p.m. *Kill Your Lawn for the Birds*. Presented by Emily Connor, **Audubon Riverlands** & Dan Pearson, **St. Louis Audubon Society** through the **St. Louis County Library**. Register at: <https://slcl.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=357359>