

The LEAFLET

January 2021

Club News for the Members of the Martha Washington Garden Club



Spring ZOOM Class

For the month of March, the club is considering another ZOOM class presented by Deborah Moyer, this time with succulents. It will be similar to the birch box ZOOM workshop that was held this past December. In order to get an idea of how much material to buy, please **contact Donna Myers at myersdj@verizon.net** and let her know your interest in attending. Further details on date and costs to come.



For the February Leaflet, in a nod to Valentine's Day, please consider sending in a photo with caption of something that's dear to your heart. Perhaps a cherished piece of jewelry, or a family recipe. Maybe a treasured valentine decoration?

Submit by February 15 to
Lynn Holl at
lynnholl@verizon.net



Winter Interest



↑ From Betsy Jurey: "A charming photo of my neighborhood fox, who with his partner, are seen roaming around frequently."

Trips & Tours

Upcoming Spring 2021

Hi all, we are beginning to plan for spring! So for April, we are considering a walking tour to look for Bucks Beautiful daffodils, most likely along the canal. And for May, perhaps a return visit to the grounds of the Bryn Athyn Cathedral with or without a guided tour. The actual dates and details will follow. All events will be masked and social distanced of course. Fingers crossed.... Stay Healthy, Karen

← From Jeremy Perry: "Kindness is like snow — it beautifies everything it covers."
Kahlil Gibran



Upcoming Little Shows:

JANUARY: "Ice Palace"—A creative, monochromatic display using winter hues of whites and blues. Water or reflection may be incorporated. Entries must be emailed by **January 25**.

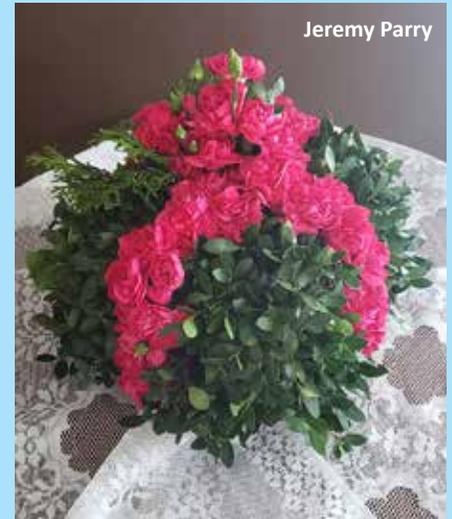
FEBRUARY: "Dinner on the Orient Express"—A functional table setting using a serving tray. Must include a floral design. Designer's choice of plant material. Entries must be emailed by **February 22**.

All Little Show digital entries get emailed to **Barbara Heisler, heisler@gmail.com**



December Little Show Entries "A Present"

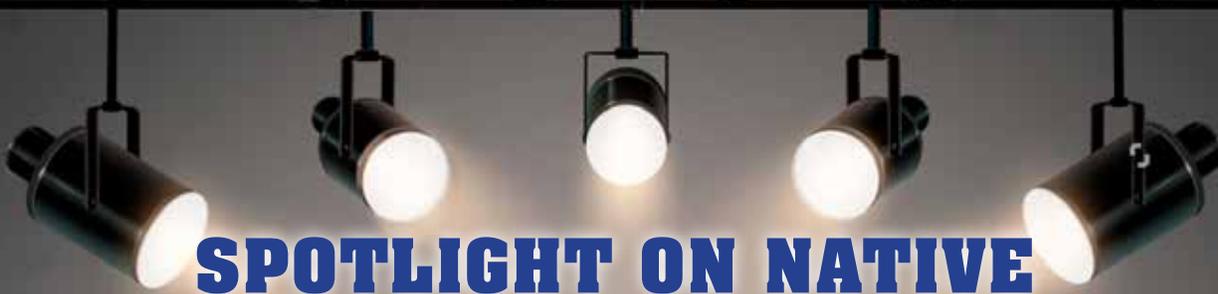
Thanks to all of the members who submitted entries in December's Little Show.



— FIND US —

On Facebook: [Martha Washington Garden Club Bucks County](#)

Website: www.marthawashingtongardenclub.org



SPOTLIGHT ON NATIVE

There is plenty of evidence to show that anyone can play a vital role in preserving bird habitats, says Doug Tallamy, who even goes as far as to call it a moral imperative. “Our success is up to each one of us individually,” he writes in *Bringing Nature Home*. “We can each make a measurable difference almost immediately by planting a native nearby. As gardeners and stewards of our land, we have never been so empowered—and the ecological stakes have never been so high.”

Shovel Ready: Transforming Your Yard



1. Take Audubon’s Healthy Yard Pledge to promote bird-friendly communities. Pledge to remove invasive exotic plants; plant native species; reduce pesticide use; conserve water; protect water quality; and support birds and other wildlife.

2. Begin small and have a plan. “Someone always comes up [after a talk] and says, ‘I’m going to run home and rip out all my lawn, ’ ” says Doug Tallamy, author of the renowned gardening book *Bringing Nature Home*. “That is not my recommendation. If you take something out, be ready to replace it.” He suggests an easier pace. “This can be

a hobby. You don’t have to do it all at once.” Or, for instant results, hire someone to do the work. If you already pay to have your lawn cut and cared for, you might consider putting at least part of that budget toward managing your yard in a way that’s more beneficial to birds.

3. Convert the salespeople at your nursery. If you go to one with the name of a native plant that you want to buy, they will likely take you to the closest thing in stock. “What you say to them is, ‘That’s not what I want. Can you get this for me?’ And if they can’t, you walk away,” says Tallamy. “If they hear that enough they’ll start carrying this stuff.” (Find resources that can help you locate plants native to your region at audubonmagazine.org.)

4. Try to avoid cultivars of the native plants you’re buying. When the horticultural industry tweaks a plant’s features (for instance, its color or petal size and shape), the plants may become less desirable or even incompatible with the insects that evolved to eat them.

5. Shun the misconception that gardens brimming with native plants look weedy. “If you go to the fine gardens of Europe, many of the plants they display are from North America,” says Tallamy. “So this notion that just because a plant grows down the street, it can’t be used formally is just an urban legend.” For some domestic inspiration, Tallamy points to a new 3.5-acre native plant exhibit at the New York Botanical Garden that is both beautiful and beneficial for wildlife in one of the world’s most crowded cities.

6. There’s power in numbers. Enlist your neighbors and wider community to help incorporate bird-friendly plantings in yards, parks, workplaces, schoolyards, and other public areas. Join a growing army of citizen scientists collecting data about how birds can coexist with us and become part of Audubon’s Hummingbirds at Home program. Visit www.hummingbirdsathome.org, where you can also download the mobile app.

7. This winter participate in the Christmas Bird Count (birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count) and the Great Backyard Bird Count, two ongoing citizen science programs that help track long-term bird population trends.

8. Register your plot of habitat at YardMap and document its value to birds as you make improvements.

9. Hang out at home. Half the nation’s lawn equals about 20 million acres—roughly the collective size of 15 national parks, including Denali, Yellowstone, Yosemite, Great Smoky Mountains, and The Badlands. “We have to get rid of the notion that nature is something you must drive to,” Tallamy insists. “That’s why people go to national parks, to connect with nature. You can do that right at home—every time we look out the window or go outside.”

