

From the Vine

Milford Garden Club Newsletter

2022



**Mark your
Calendar**



Program: **Hummingbirds Nature's Jewels**

Speaker: **Laurel Zoet
from Nature on the Go**

Date: **Thursday, April 14**

Time: **6:30 PM Social
7:00 PM Meeting**

Where: **Milford Senior Center**

April 14	Thurs	MGC General Membership Meeting and Program. Greeter: Martha Larsh & Kathy Barker
April 18	Mon	Board Meeting Zoom — 5 PM
April 28	Thurs	Tea Time - Noon Contact Mary McFarland
April 28	Thurs	Newsletter Deadline - Martha Klemmer
May 5	Thurs	Waterford Gsrden Club Spring Mich Div Council Meeting at Deer Lake Banquet Center in Clarkston
May 7	Sat	MGC Plant Sale at Milford YMCA Pavilions (see pg 10 for more info)
June 1-4	W-Sat	WNF&GA Annual National Meeting
June 17-18	Fri-Sat	Garden Walk—See more information on page 9

**Milford Garden Club
Est. 1948**

**A Member of the Michigan Division
Woman's National Farm and Garden Association**

APRIL

President Report

Linda Smith

A lot of exciting things are happening for the Milford Garden Club. It is great that we are going to hold both of our major fundraisers this year. In addition, we have been approached by two community organizations to partner with them on projects this year.

Susan Absher is chairing our Plant Sale on May 7th at the Carl's Family YMCA pavilions. I will have pots, picks, and envelopes for collected seeds available on my porch starting April 1st. The porch door will be unlocked so you may come in and help yourself. I live at 637 Union Street in Milford.

Martha Larsh and **Kathy Barker** are chairing the Garden Walk on June 17th and 18th. They are looking for hosts and hostesses for Friday and Saturday. Please contact them if you are able to assist. They have 6 shifts available on Friday and 12 shifts on Saturday.

At our April General Membership Meeting, we will continue to accept memorial donations for **Emily Kirchner**, **Dolores Donnellon**, and **Barbara Donahue**. The high school scholarships awarded this year will be named for **Emily Kirchner** and **Dolores Donnellon**. A scholarship next year will be named for **Barbara Donohue**. The club has budgeted \$1,500 for each scholarship. The donations received will be added to the \$1,500. **Linda Sturgeon** is chairing scholarships. She will notify the schools of the winners by April 14th.

Thank you to **Barb Amey**, **Janet Kinney**, and **Linda Sturgeon** for making arrangements for Daffodil Day. Thank you to **Diane DeVincenzo** for getting the arrangements to the event.

Milford High School has reached out to our club regarding assisting a student garden club that is being formed at the school. They are looking for support and guidance from our members. They have approached school administration about resurrecting a garden that was on school property. They are interested in growing flowers and vegetables. I spoke with one of the organizing moms and asked her to convey to the group that we could utilize their help with our plant digs and other projects. We have four members that have expressed an interest in assisting. They are **Sue Grifor**, **Susan Absher**, **Lisa Willard**, and **Bonnie Lynch**. We will vote on adopting this project at our meeting in April.

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President's Report Continued from previous page

Community Sharing is looking for assistance in planning the landscape at their new building. Mary Krebs from Community Sharing said they are looking for an easy to maintain and a simple design that utilizes native plants. We will vote on this project at our April meeting. **Sandy Riss** has expressed an interest in assisting with this design project.

The board is recommending that we form a Daffodil Committee to plant bulbs at the Milford Senior Center. It will be up to the committee to decide if they will ask for a budget from the club or if they will ask members to donate a bag of bulbs. The committee will be responsible for setting a planting date and planting the bulbs. We will vote on this project at our April meeting.

You can see from all the exciting news above that Milford Garden Club has a lot of great things we are involved in. It is so important that we have a leadership team to help us accomplish all of these things. Please carefully consider if you can help the club move forward by serving as an officer or chairperson in our new year starting in September.

Warm regards,

Linda Smith



Remembering Barb Donahue

Back around 25 years ago, a fellow garden club friend called me and said "I met this really neat lady. She loves gardening and herbs like we do. You have to meet her". So, I met Barb that same day and the rest is history. It was like I knew her for years. And our friendship was born.

Barb joined Milford Garden Club in the spring of 1998 and the volunteering began. She would be one of the co-chairs for quite a few years of the 'May Plant and Bake Sale'. She would help organize "digs" of plants, potting, labeling, and

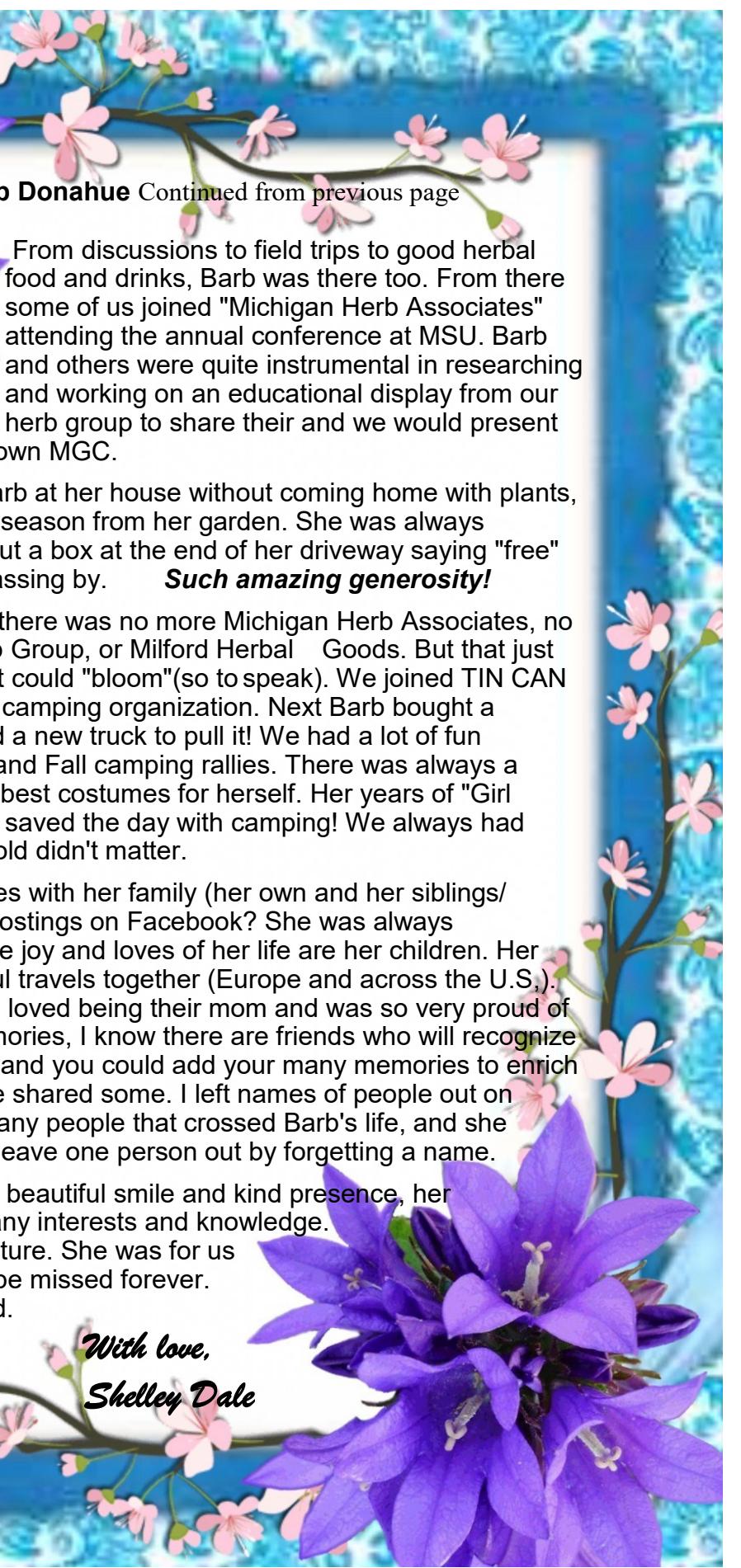
wintering them. You could drive by her house and see pots in the ground with their white labels sticking up. Then come spring, she and others would dig them up again, transport and set up the sale and she would be back the next year to do it again. Many hours and she loved it.

Barb was an Advanced Master Gardener. She shared her knowledge with us by writing articles for our MGC newsletter. She could identify any plant, flower or herb by sight or picture and chances were great that she grew it in her garden. Barb was involved at meetings. Always volunteering, she would look at me and say, "do you want to do this too"? We would hostess a garden at our annual Garden Walk, she would weed, plant, and clean up the gardens as needed in preparation for the Walk.

One year we even signed up to decorate a tabletop at our MGC December "Holiday Dinner". Before we left that meeting, we had our ideas, then our plan laid out. Come December we did it. That was so much fun. Anytime volunteering with Barb, I was guaranteed a good time.

Where Barb really shined was her love of herbs. She made her own health and beauty products. This led her to start an herb business with a friend called "Milford Herbal Goods" with her famous dragonfly logo. Other friends started "Morning Thyme Herb Group" as a subgroup of MGC. I don't think in all the years we met we ever repeated a topic.

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Barb Donahue Continued from previous page

From discussions to field trips to good herbal food and drinks, Barb was there too. From there some of us joined "Michigan Herb Associates" attending the annual conference at MSU. Barb and others were quite instrumental in researching and working on an educational display from our herb group to share their and we would present again to our own MGC.

You couldn't visit Barb at her house without coming home with plants, seeds or fresh produce in season from her garden. She was always sharing. She would even put a box at the end of her driveway saying "free" for neighbors or anyone passing by. ***Such amazing generosity!***

Through the years there was no more Michigan Herb Associates, no more Morning Thyme Herb Group, or Milford Herbal Goods. But that just meant Barb's other interest could "bloom"(so to speak). We joined TIN CAN TOURIST (TCT) a vintage camping organization. Next Barb bought a vintage camping trailer and a new truck to pull it! We had a lot of fun participating in the Spring and Fall camping rallies. There was always a theme and Barb made the best costumes for herself. Her years of "Girl Scout leader" skills always saved the day with camping! We always had fresh flowers displayed...cold didn't matter.

Barb treasured times with her family (her own and her siblings/families). Remember her postings on Facebook? She was always smiling and happy. The true joy and loves of her life are her children. Her legacy. They had wonderful travels together (Europe and across the U.S.). Such incredible times. She loved being their mom and was so very proud of them. As I write these memories, I know there are friends who will recognize being there with Barb also and you could add your many memories to enrich Barb's stories. Recently we shared some. I left names of people out on purpose. There were so many people that crossed Barb's life, and she theirs, that I didn't want to leave one person out by forgetting a name.

I will never forget her beautiful smile and kind presence, her caring and sharing, her many interests and knowledge.

She was for us Mother Nature. She was for us Mother Earth and she will be missed forever.
Rest well my dearest friend.

*With love,
Shelley Dale*

The 25th Milford Garden Walk is on!

It will take place on
Friday, June 17th, 4:00 – 8:00 pm and on
Saturday, June 18th, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm.

We have six beautiful gardens this year and are very excited for everyone to get outdoors and enjoy them!

Three of the gardens belong to fellow MGC members!

This event will require “all hands on deck” to help as hostesses. Nancy Kay will be organizing the hostess schedule again this year. Please send her an email to confirm your attendance and availability We are also in need of a few raffle baskets with a value of at least \$50 for the Garden Walk. Please call Kathy Barker if you wish to contribute one.

In May we will contact all participants with details on the Preview Walk. Additionally, Milford United Methodist Church (where Garden Walk booklets and wristbands will be available) is hosting a salad luncheon on **Saturday, June 18th from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.**

We hope you will join us to make this fundraiser successful
AND we hope the weather will cooperate!

Garden Walk Co-Chairs—

Martha Larsh
Kathy Barker





MILFORD GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALE 2022

Our plant sale will be held on
**Saturday, May 7,
from 10 until noon**
at the outside pavilions of the
Milford YMCA.

Logistics

The set-up for the sale will be from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Saturday. All plant donations need to arrive at the pavilions no later than 8:15 a.m. for pricing and placement. If this does not work for you, there is another option. Members **Linda Smith** and **Susan Absher** are willing to accept your donations at their homes on Friday, May 6 any time before 7 p.m.

Plant Identification

It will be your responsibility to place a pick in each of your donated plants with identification: plant name, color, size, light and other significant information.

Seeds

Small envelopes have been purchased to hold seeds for the sale. Again, provide identification: plant name, color, etc. If possible, indicate the number of seeds in the packet.

Supplies

Linda Smith will have picks for identification, pots for plants, and envelopes for seeds on her front porch. She will have envelopes for seeds at the April meeting.

Digs

At the time of this newsletter, no digs have been scheduled. It is too early to tell. In time, if you or you know of someone who needs assistance in removing plants to donate for our Plant Sale, please let me know. This service does not include pruning or weeding. It looks promising that we will have some assistance from high schoolers for these digs. However, at this time, **Janet Kinney** is the only member who has volunteered to work on these digs. If you are willing to participate on these digs, please let me know by phone or email.

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Plant Sale: Continued from previous page

Garden Boutique

The garden market is being reinstated this year. We are accepting old and new items. Items for the market need to arrive at the pavilions no later than 8:30 Saturday morning. They will have to be examined and priced. Members making donations to the market may be asked to suggest a price to ensure a fair and quick sale. Any item that does not sell is asked to be picked up by the donor. If you are unable to transport the donation that morning, please let me know and I will arrange to get it to the pavilions. **Sue Grifor** has volunteered to help with the boutique.

On a side note: I will not be attending the April meeting. I will be in Wisconsin for the Easter holiday. I will be back home Tuesday, April 19, to resume work on the Plant Sale.

Susan Absher



Our speaker for April 14

will be

Laurel Zoet,

who will present a power point slide program on



“Hummingbirds- Nature’s Jewels”. She is a Naturalist/Educator

who speaks to all age groups and organizations for the purpose of
promoting appreciation of nature and
wildlife in our region.



Some of the things she will share with us
are:

the hummingbird family as a whole,
the species we find in Michigan and how
to attract them to
our yards.





Spring clean up and planting for Arthur Park and the Senior Center

Clean up
Wednesday, May 11 at 9 am
rain date is May 12 at 9 am

Planting of annuals
is Wednesday, May 25 at 9 am
rain date May 26 at 9 am

Thank you to the volunteers who have already signed up
at the March meeting.



We still need more help to get the gardens
in good shape for the season.

To volunteer
please contact Kathy Blackburn



Dues
Are
Due



Dear Members,

Just a reminder that our 2022 garden club dues are due by May 31. The dues this year are \$30 per person and \$40 for couples. You can send your dues & enrollment form (see next page) anytime to:

Terri Hardick

Form on next page



Milford Garden Club

Branch of the Woman's National Farm & Garden Association

MEMBERSHIP FORM

New member _____
Renewal _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Date _____
Month/Day/Year _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Cell
Phone _____

E-mail (please print clearly) _____

Please check your areas of interest. Participation is a great way to be active, meet other members, and have fun. Select committees from the list below. The committee chairperson will contact you at the appropriate time.

Check two or more:

- Garden Maintenance** – Weeding of garden areas
- Garden Walk** – Committee, work as host/s, shift work, bake, etc. (large club fundraiser)
- Greeter** – Welcome members and assist guests for one general membership meeting
- Hospitality** – Provide treat or hors d'oeuvre for one general meeting; help set-up/clean-up at same
- May Plant Sale** – Committee and/or work a shift at the sale; help set up, or pot plants for sale (large club fundraiser)
- Mentor** – Help new members become acquainted with the activities and workings of our club
- Scholarships** – Selection committee one day in April; evaluate applicants (many local scholarships given)

(Note: Additional groups/committees exist within the club and are listed in the MGC Yearbook under "Committee-Chairpersons". You are encouraged to contact those chairpersons regarding participation.)

Our website: www.themilfordgardenclub.org **Our email address:** milfordgardenclub@outlook.com

\$30 single
\$40 couple
\$2.50 per month 1/1 through 4/30

Make check payable to: **Milford Garden Club**

Return to our Membership Chair:

Terri Hardick

How did you find out about the Milford Garden Club? Check one: a friend another MGC member

MGC Facebook page local online sites (e.g., Milford Matters, Highland Matters,

Next Door Neighbor) MGC Website a notice in the newspaper the Garden Walk

other (please specify) _____

Lichens: You Help Me, I'll Help You

Article by Diane Pearson

Lichens (pronounced LIE-kins) are two different organisms, fungi and algae. Both occur together and form a symbiotic (mutually beneficial) relationship. Lichens are not one life form, but two, both living compatibly. Various forms of fungi and algae combine to create the different kinds of lichens.

Fungi provide protection and a place for algae to live. The fungus is the one that produces the fruiting bodies, which produce spores. Fungus may provide shelter for different species of algae at the same time. A specialized fungus can shelter either a species of green algae or blue-green bacteria—or both!

Algae provide energy through photosynthesis for the fungi. Algae or bacteria grow within the fungal filaments.

People often confuse many common lichens as mosses or harmful fungi.

How Lichens Are Classified

Lichens are considered “pioneer” life forms because they are the first living beings in places that don’t support much life.

Lichens are a weird classification of living things and are often partially defined by what they are not:

They are not plants.

They do not have roots, leaves, or flowers.

Lichens are not parasites on trees or plants.

Lichen taxonomy is primarily based on the fungus. They are classified by the shape and size of the non-reproductive structures, the thallus.

Identification to the species level may require the application of certain chemicals to see how the lichen color reacts. Identification of lichens is often difficult because their descriptions are not permanent.

Where Lichens Grow

Lichens exist on non-living surfaces or material and may live in some of the most inhospitable places, but they prefer areas with clean air. Lichens don't use any nutrients from the hard surface on which they grow. Most often we see them on trees, but they also exist on wooden benches, concrete sidewalks, and tombstones.



Photo Courtesy of vintagegarden.com

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Lichens: Continued from previous page

Alive or Dead?

Lichens grow when the weather is mild and there is sufficient humidity--spring and fall. In many places they are dormant in winter and summer. Lichens are long-lived and slow-growing. They come alive and go dormant depending on moisture. Lichens are very susceptible to dry conditions because they can't control water loss. Lichens with pliable thalli that are dark brown or dark green suggest that they are actively growing. Pale, brittle lichen usually means dormancy. Leafier lichens often indicate good air quality. Lichens decline or die when air becomes polluted with sulfur or ozone.

In Michigan, there are three kinds of lichens. The more common Great Lakes area lichens are grouped by "fruticose" (fruity), "foliose" (foliage) and "crustose" (crusty) appearances.

Fruticose lichens are gray-green and have upward growing branches or tubes, and resemble mosses. Some have brightly colored ends. Their name means "shrubby." A common **fruticose** is "British soldiers," which looks similar to a tiny, blooming flower. You'll see these on dead wood-like fence posts.



Photo Courtesy of BlogSpot.com

Foliose lichens are found on trees or shrub bark. Their name means leaf-like. They can have ruffled edges that are raised and grow in the spring and fall but in the summer and winter, they are flat. They grow best on dry, hard surfaces and are common on older, coarser, dry bark. If you see them on young trees or shrubs with thin, moist bark, it may mean the host plants are not growing well.

Photos courtesy of Diane Pearson

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Lichens: Continued from previous page



Crustose is the third type. They look flakey or crusty and often are the most brightly colored of the three types. Their colors are often rusty, reddish, yellow/mustard, brown, gray and pale green or brownish-green. They grow as rounded, flat areas on stone walls, old cemetery headstones, rocks and old buildings. Some crustose lichens actually grow better in polluted air. The “green fungus” on a tree is usually foliose or crustose lichen, often the genus *Flavoparmelia*.

Photo courtesy of Diane Pearson

This article is based on information from:

“What’s That Growing on My Tree?” (Article #282), Bill Cook, November 2018
Michigan Forest Association and Michigan State University Extension

Submitted by Diane Pearson

One Pitchfork at a Time

By Danny Heitman

As spring approaches, I've started a list of garden chores, which includes turning the compost pile a short walk from the kitchen door. Into this waist-high hill—a small, brown mound fenced by chicken wire—go the leavings of our life: the grounds from yesterday's coffee, the eggshells from a hundred omelets, rinds from last Thursday's cantaloupe, my wife's Valentine roses, now shriveled to scarlet husks.

I cover each day's deposits with a fresh layer of leaves to keep them tidy, and we stir the pile every few months with an old pitchfork to speed its decay. Keeping compost, as many gardeners do, is a daily reminder of the fleetingness of things—how one day's bright blossom or sweet fruit becomes, in short order, food for the worms.

While pandemic headlines bring frequent tidings of gloom, I feel something else as I trot out each

evening to empty a pail of refuse into our moldering heap. What I often sense is a comforting circularity. I know that the routine ruins of my humble existence—the spoiled tomato, the wilted lettuce, the old casserole nobody wants—are being transformed, through the alchemy of time, into nourishment for something grand.

I find renewal and rebirth in the promise of my garden's compost pile.

This month, as in every spring, our family will spread wheelbarrow loads of the oldest compost, rendered into a rich mixture gardeners call black gold, atop our flower beds. That's how the ugliest odds and ends of a household—the rotted banana, the soured yogurt, the discarded jack-o'-lantern—end up within a pink petunia, a red begonia,

a purple coneflower angling for the sky.

Around the world right now, Christians are threading their way through Lent, a liturgical season that brings reflection on both the presence of mortality and the promise of renewal. Those themes have special resonance in a global pandemic, and they've always found their secular parallels in the life of every garden.

Saving bits of this and that throughout the year to sustain abundance not yet planted, I'm reminded that even life's bitter and broken parts help shape a world that includes its measure of beauty, too.

That's news I'll treasure in these first days of March as I turn my compost—turning, too, a page in a troubled year.

Mr. Heitman, editor of Phi Kappa Phi's Forum magazine, is the author of "A Summer of Birds: John James Audubon at Oakley House."



Article & cartoon submitted by Sandralyn

Outdoor Sowing Guide

Botanical INTERESTS.



VEGETABLES & HERBS

8–12 weeks before
your average last frost date

- Strawberry
- 6–8 weeks before**
your average last frost date
- Bean (Fava)
- Cover Crop (Fava Bean, Soil Builder)
- 4–6 weeks before**
your average last frost date
- Baby Greens (Pea Shoots, Spinach)
- Broccoli
- Broccoli Raab
- Cabbage (Head)
- Chamomile
- Chervil
- Chives
- Endive
- Kohlrabi
- Mâche
- Mustard
- Mustard Spinach
- Onion (Bulb—except in mild climates)
- Onion (Bunching)
- Onion (Shallot)
- Parsley
- Pea
- Radish (Summer)
- Rutabaga
- Spinach (except New Zealand)

2–4 weeks before
your average last frost date

- Arugula
- Baby Greens (Swiss Chard, Arugula, Lettuce Mesclun, Mustard, Kale, Smoothie, Snappy, Superfoods)
- Beet
- Bok Choy (Baby Choi, 'Toy Choi')
- Carrot
- Catnip
- Collards
- Cover Crop (Crimson Clover)
- Leek
- Lettuce
- Swiss Chard
- Turnip
- Watercress
- Wild Bergamot
- 1–2 weeks before**
your average last frost date
- Borage
- Broccoli (Romanesco)
- Cauliflower
- Celery (Mild climates only)
- Chinese Broccoli | Kailaan
- Cilantro
- Dill
- Kale
- Marjoram
- Sorrel

1–2 weeks after
your average last frost date

- Amaranth
- Basil
- Bean
- Bitter Melon
- Bok Choy (Tatsoi)
- Cabbage (Napa)
- Corn
- Cucumber
- Edamame
- Fennel
- Lemon Balm
- Mint
- Melon
- Okra
- Quinoa
- Rosemary
- Sage
- Savory
- Shiso
- Spinach (New Zealand)
- Squash (Summer, Winter)
- Tarragon
- Thyme
- Tomato (Mild climates only)
- Watermelon
- 2–4 weeks after**
your average last frost date
- Cover Crop (Common Buckwheat)
- Eggplant
- Ground Cherry
- Oregano

Pepper (Mild climates only)
Pumpkin
Tomatillo

3–4 months before
your average first fall frost date

- Brussels Sprouts
- Cauliflower
- Celery
- Collards
- Endive
- Kale
- Parsnip
- Pea
- Rutabaga

1–2 months before
your average first fall frost date

- Cover Crop (Crimson Clover, Soil Builder, Fava Bean, Hairy Vetch)
- Radicchio
- Radish (Winter)

Late Summer-Early Fall

- Artichoke (Mild climates only)
- Chinese Broccoli | Kailaan
- Onion (Short-day bulbs—Mild climates only)
- Sorrel
- Wild Bergamot

FLOWERS & ORNAMENTALS

6–8 weeks before
your average last frost date

- Gazania
- Penstemon

4–6 weeks before
your average last frost date or as soon as the soil can be worked

- Bluebonnet
- Columbine
- Feverfew
- Flax (Blue and Breezy)
- Gaillardia
- Larkspur
- Lavender
- Lupine (Pixie Delight)
- Pansy
- Poppy
- Snapdragon
- Sweet Pea
- Viola

2–4 weeks before
your average last frost date

- Bee Balm
- Bells of Ireland
- Black-Eyed Susan
- Bluebells (California)
- Calendula
- Cleome
- Echinacea
- Flower Mix
- Grass (Blue Grama)

Love-In-A-Mist

- Milkweed
- Phlox
- Shasta Daisy
- Verbascum
- Verbena
- Wheat

1–2 weeks before
your average last frost date

- African Daisy
- Alyssum
- Armi
- Bachelor's Button
- Carnation
- Chinese Lantern
- Chocolate Flower
- Coreopsis
- Flax ('Scarlet')
- Forget-Me-Not
- Iceplant
- Linaria
- Painted Daisy
- Salpiglossis

1–2 weeks after
your average last frost date

- Amaranth
- Aster
- Balsam
- Black-Eyed Susan Vine
- Broom Corn
- Cape Daisy
- Cardinal Climber

Castor Bean

- Celosia
- Coleus
- Corn (Ornamental)
- Cosmos
- Cottage Pinks
- Cup and Saucer Vine
- Cypress Vine
- Delphinium
- Dusty Miller
- Four O'Clock
- Foxglove
- Hollyhock
- Hyacinth Bean
- Hyssop ('Apache Sunset', Anise)
- Impatiens
- Lobelia
- Lupine (Russell Blend)
- Marigold
- Mexican Sunflower
- Money Plant
- Moonflower
- Morning Glory
- Nasturtium
- Nicotiana
- Orlaya
- Portulaca
- Salvia
- Scabiosa
- Stock
- Sunflower
- Sweet Annie

Sweet William
Zinnia

2–4 weeks after
your average last frost date

- Ageratum (Mild climates only)
- Canterbury Bells
- Craspedia
- Dahlia
- Eucalyptus
- Gazania
- Gomphrena
- Gourd
- Grass ('Bunny Tails', 'Frosted Explosion')
- Honeywort
- Hyssop (True)
- Ornamental Millet
- Pumpkin on a Stick
- Statice
- Strawflower
- Wheat
- Yarrow

Late Fall - Early Winter

- Forget-Me-Not
- Hyssop ('Apache Sunset')
- Lupine (Pixie Delight)

Can also be sown in late summer to early fall or winter in mild climates. See packet for specific information.

Tear Here →

Outdoor Sowing Guide

Botanical INTERESTS.



VEGETABLES & HERBS

8–12 weeks before
your average last frost date

Strawberry

6–8 weeks before
your average last frost date

Bean (Fava)

Cover Crop (Fava Bean,
Soil Builder)

4–6 weeks before
your average last frost date

Baby Greens (Pea Shoots,
Spinach)

Broccoli

Broccoli Raab

Cabbage (Head)

Chamomile

Chervil

Chives

Endive

Kohlrabi

Mâche

Mustard

Mustard Spinach

Onion (Bulb—except in mild
climates)

Onion (Bunching)

Onion (Shallot)

Parsley

Pea

Radish (Summer)

Rutabaga

Spinach (except New Zealand)

2–4 weeks before
your average last frost date

Arugula

Baby Greens (Swiss Chard,
Arugula, Lettuce Mesclun,
Mustard, Kale, Smoothie,
Snappy, Superfoods)

Beet

Bok Choy (Baby Choi,
'Toy Choy')

Carrot

Catnip

Collards

Cover Crop (Crimson Clover)

Leek

Lettuce

Swiss Chard

Turnip

Watercress

Wild Bergamot

1–2 weeks before
your average last frost date

Borage

Broccoli (Romanesco)

Cauliflower

Celery (Mild climates only)

Chinese Broccoli | Kailaan

Cilantro

Dill

Kale

Marjoram

Sorrel

1–2 weeks after
your average last frost date

Amaranth

Basil

Bean

Bitter Melon

Bok Choy (Tatsoi)

Cabbage (Napa)

Corn

Cucumber

Edamame

Fennel

Lemon Balm

Mint

Melon

Okra

Quinoa

Rosemary

Sage

Savory

Shiso

Spinach (New Zealand)

Squash (Summer, Winter)

Tarragon

Thyme

Tomato (Mild climates only)

Watermelon

2–4 weeks after
your average last frost date

Cover Crop (Common Buckwheat)

Eggplant

Ground Cherry

Oregano

Pepper (Mild climates only)
Pumpkin

Tomatillo

3–4 months before
your average first fall frost date

Brussels Sprouts

Cauliflower

Celery

Collards

Endive

Kale

Parsnip

Pea

Rutabaga

1–2 months before
your average first fall frost date

Cover Crop (Crimson Clover,
Soil Builder, Fava Bean,
Hairy Vetch)

Radicchio

Radish (Winter)

Late Summer–Early Fall

Artichoke (Mild climates only)

Chinese Broccoli | Kailaan

Onion (Short-day bulbs—Mild
climates only)

Sorrel

Wild Bergamot

6–8 weeks before
your average last frost date

Gazania

Penstemon

4–6 weeks before
your average last frost date or as
soon as the soil can be worked

Bluebonnet

Columbine

Feverfew

Flax (Blue and Breezy)

Gaillardia

Larkspur

Lavender

Lupine (Pixie Delight)

Pansy

Poppy

Snapdragon

Sweet Pea

Viola

2–4 weeks before
your average last frost date

Bee Balm

Bells of Ireland

Black-Eyed Susan

Bluebells (California)

Calendula

Cleome

Echinacea

Flower Mix

Grass (Blue Grama)

Love-In-A-Mist

Milkweed

Phlox

Shasta Daisy

Verbascum

Verbenae

Wheat

1–2 weeks before
your average last frost date

African Daisy

Alyssum

Ammi

Bachelor's Button

Carnation

Chinese Lantern

Chocolate Flower

Coreopsis

Flax ('Scarlet')

Forget-Me-Not

Iceland

Linaria

Painted Daisy

Salpiglossis

1–2 weeks after
your average last frost date

Amaranth

Aster

Balsam

Black-Eyed Susan Vine

Broom Corn

Cape Daisy

Cardinal Climber

Castor Bean

Celosia

Coleus

Corn (Ornamental)

Cosmos

Cottage Pinks

Cup and Saucer Vine

Cypress Vine

Delphinium

Dusty Miller

Four O'Clock

Foxglove

Hollyhock

Hyacinth Bean

Hyssop ('Apache Sunset',
Anise)

Impatiens

Lobelia

Lupine (Russell Blend)

Marigold

Mexican Sunflower

Money Plant

Moonflower

Morning Glory

Nasturtium

Nicotiana

Orlaya

Portulaca

Salvia

Scabiosa

Stock

Sunflower

Sweet Annie

Can also be sown in late summer to early fall or winter
in mild climates. See packet for specific information.

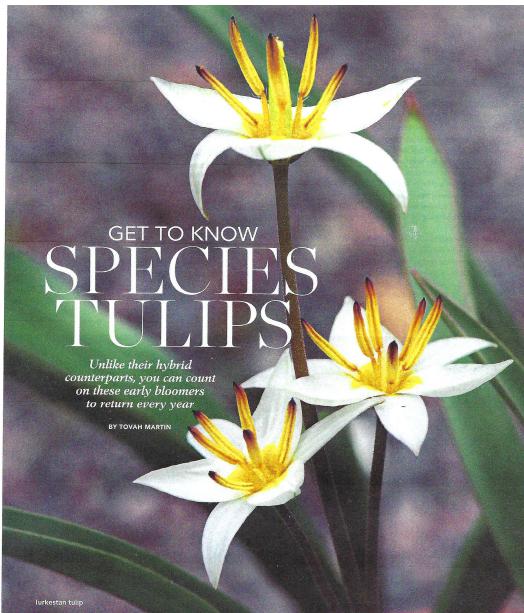
Tear Here →

Late Fall - Early Winter

Forget-Me-Not

Hyssop ('Apache Sunset')

Lupine (Pixie Delight)



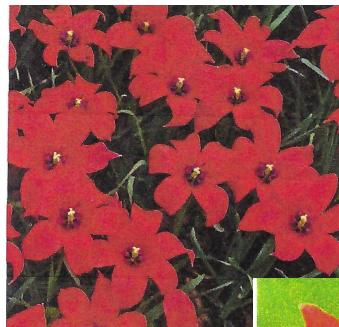
You are not alone—the yearning for spring is both universal and understandable. And for many of us, spring translates into bulbs. Even more specifically, we think of spring in terms of tulips. But maybe you are thinking twice about tulips. Perhaps an emphasis on naturalistic plantings has brought with it a leaning away from the cultivated lollipop look of the highly bred tulip hybrids. If that's where you find yourself, species tulips are the answer.

Although collectively called "species tulips," many of these bulbs have cultivars (like other plants), because selections capturing the best color or a color quirk have been made. Even so, these cultivars are still much closer to their wild counterparts than the typical hybrid tulips you find on the market. This naming convention is just a way to cement certain characteristics.

Species tulips boast a lot of beneficial qualities that make them sterling harbingers of spring. First of all, their performance kicks off even earlier than that of most early hybrid tulips. Generally, species tulips intersect with midseason and later daffodils (*Narcissus* spp. and cvs., Zones 3–9), so you get fulfillment early—right out of the starting gate.

And then there's the more naturalistic look that the species tulips deliver. Compared to their hybrid brethren, they are downscaled in flower size and overall stature, often with gracefully arched stems. If the weather doesn't hand out an early season heat wave, these naturalistic-looking gems will linger for several weeks to weave a colorful carpet—especially if you plant several varieties for a succession of the stampede.

Perhaps best of all, species tulips tend to be perennial if you treat them right (providing good drainage and good light, and letting the foliage mature and die back naturally). That attribute is highly welcome given that it's best to treat most other tulips like annuals. And as far as color range is concerned, there is no compromise. Species tulips exist in vibrant or subtle pinks, reds, buttery oranges, and purples, just like the big guys. This is definitely an option you want to explore.



AT A GLANCE

NAME: *Tulipa* spp. and cvs.

ZONES: 3–8

CONDITIONS: At least six hours of full sun; well-drained (ideally sandy loam) soil

NATIVE RANGE: Europe, Asia, Middle East

PLANTING: Sink your bulbs in the ground in fall when the soil temperature has consistently dropped to around 55°F (this encourages desired root growth, not top growth) and at a depth three times the diameter of the bulb.

CHILLING NEEDS: Tulip bulbs require a minimum of 10 weeks of soil temperatures consistently between 35° and 45°F in fall/winter. This can be achieved artificially in refrigeration—a great strategy, especially for forcing in containers.

Turkestan tulip is an early bloomer that pairs well with daffodils

Although the flowers of this species from Turkestan and thereabouts are very similar to those of late tulip (p. 34), albeit with reduced yellow in the center, the overall appearance is quite different. Each dark bronze flower stem holds a wand of many creamy buds—usually four to eight—and they open as a swooping cluster. One of the earliest bloomers in the tulip realm, Turkestan tulip can synchronize with miniature daffodils, making their yellow pistils pop.

NAME: *T. turkestanica*

HEIGHT: 6 to 8 inches

BLOOM TIME: Early to midspring





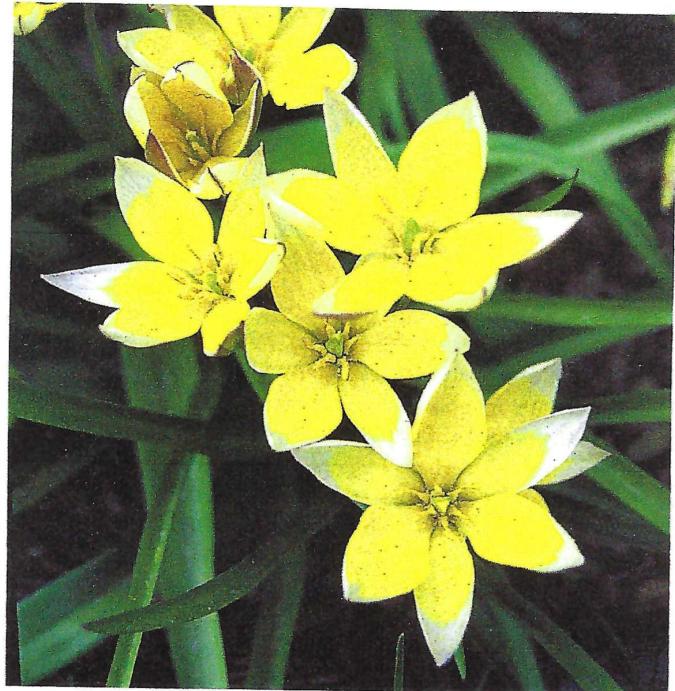
Flax-leaved tulip is a standout with dramatic red flowers and slender leaves

If bright red tulips define spring for you, plant this scaled-down version of the big red brethren. Flax-leaved tulip is a show-stopper that delivers the same color punch but not the stiff growth habit. This petite tulip dazzles with shiny lipstick-red petals that are contrasted with a black eye, making the message more dramatic. The foliage is another plus of this Iran, Afghanistan, and Central Asia native that is often chosen as a rock garden plant. The pencil-thin leaves are so slender that they do not read as an eyesore needing to be hidden beneath fellow bedmates during the plant's dying-back process. Instead, they are hardly noticeable.

NAME: *T. linifolia*

HEIGHT: 4 to 6 inches

BLOOM TIME: Mid to late spring



Late tulip brightens the garden with star-shaped blossoms

A great performer year after year when given a sunny location and good drainage, late tulip swells its sparkling white, star-shaped blossoms to reveal an ultrabright buttercup-yellow heart. Each bulb produces several upward-facing flowers. The pencil-thin foliage is hardly noticeable while it is feeding the bulb for the following year's performance, and the lax flower stems make this little species look like a wildling. Native to rocky subalpine locations in Central Asia, late tulip is said to tolerate humusy garden soil better than most tulips. As far as timing (the name says it all), this is one of the last species to bloom in spring.

NAME: *T. tarda*

HEIGHT: 4 to 6 inches

BLOOM TIME: Mid to late spring



'Shogun' Praestan's tulip

Praestan's tulip provides taller options for beds and borders

Larger and taller than their fellow species tulips and with broad foliage that looks like the hybrids', Praestan's tulips lead the pack to bloom earlier than most species tulips in the season.

'Shogun' opens a rich shade somewhere between melon and pumpkin. 'Bloemenlust' is fire engine red. Both are super easy to grow in the ground or as forced bulbs and are very noticeable from a distance. In fact, they read like a bridge between wild and cultivated tulips. Mix them with grape hyacinths (*Muscari* spp. and cvs., Zones 2–9) for a stunning combo.

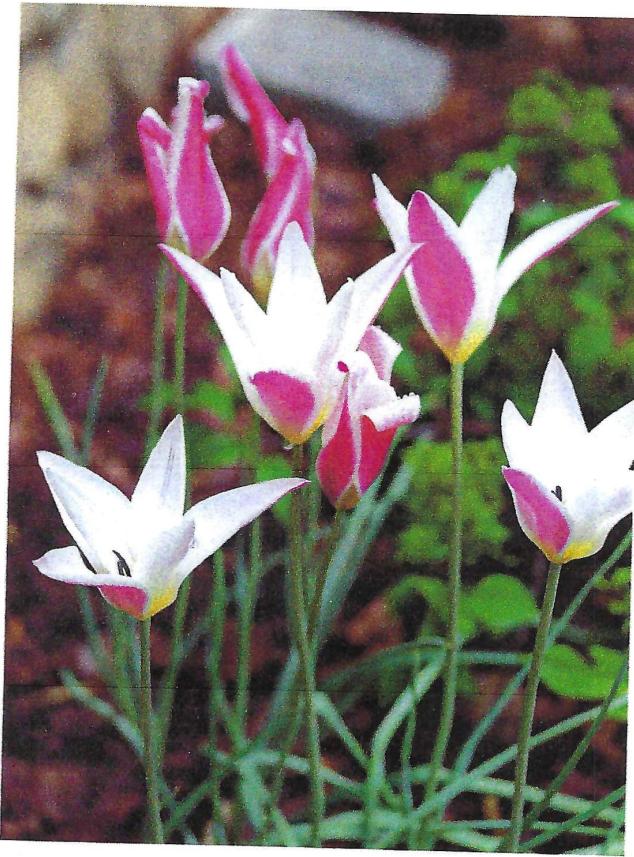
NAME: *T. praestans* and cvs.

HEIGHT: 10 to 14 inches

BLOOM TIME: Early spring



'Bloemenlust' Praestan's tulip



'Lady Jane' lady tulip

Lady tulip is a showy performer, even in the South

Not only do the many varieties of *T. clusiana* boast all the aforementioned species tulip benefits, but they also feature another strong suit: They can stage their show in the South. That's right—they don't require a long chilling period to perform. Among lady tulips (also called "candlestick tulips"), 'Lady Jane' leads the popularity poll, while 'Cynthia', 'Tinka', and the earlier-flowering 'Tubergen's Gem' (*T. clusiana* var. *chrysanthia* 'Tubergen's Gem') are worthy of acquiring via mail order as well. These selections are particularly showy members of the species realm, with white or pale-yellow petals surrounded by brighter pink to red outer petals to achieve a striking candy-stripe effect.

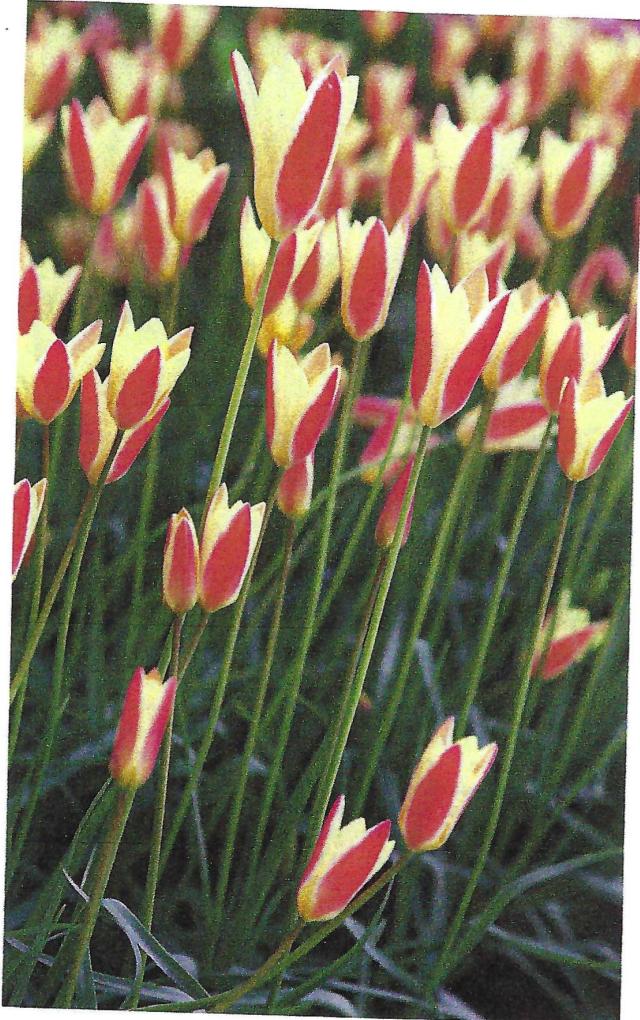
Although the blossoms are not quite the size of a hybrid tulip's, they are certainly showy. Native to Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, and the western Himalayas, this stoic little species has broken loose to naturalize in France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Tunisia, Greece, and Turkey. And because it does not require a lengthy chilling sequence, it is a prime candidate for forcing, beginning to perform after only 6 weeks or so in refrigeration.

NAME: *T. clusiana* and cvs.

(syn. *T. aitchisonii* and cvs.)

HEIGHT: 6 to 10 inches

BLOOM TIME: Mid to late spring



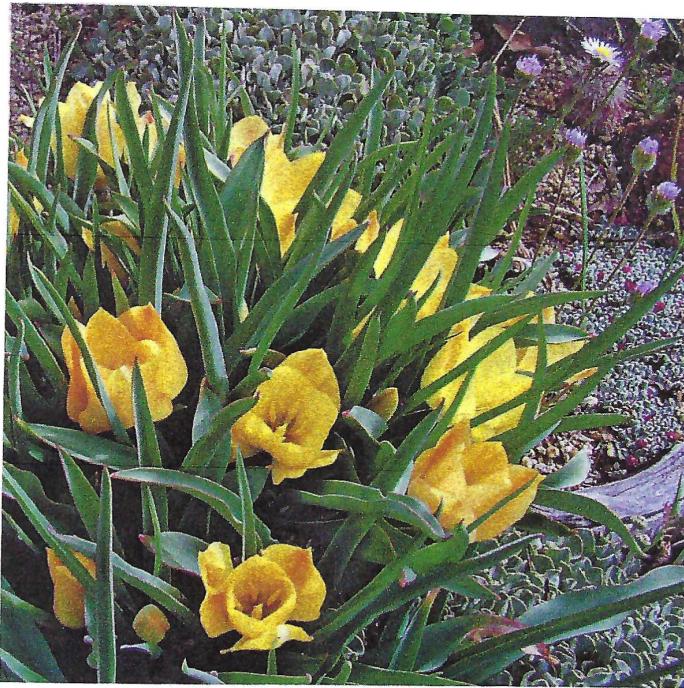
'Tinka' lady tulip



'Cynthia' lady tulip



'Tubergen's Gem' lady tulip



Batalinii tulip adds a pop of color to rock gardens and arid locations

Native to rocky hillsides of Central Asia, this species varies between butter yellow and salmon and has wavy petals that flare slightly at their tips, creating a nice spin on the usual goblet-like tulip presentation. Considering this tulip's chosen habitat of origin, it is often successfully plugged into rock gardens, where its diminutive stature can be admired easily. However, batalinii tulip isn't one of the more readily available species, even from mail-order sources, so definitely consider adding it to your spring lineup if you come across it. Also, although references say the species name is a synonym of *T. linifolia*, there is an obvious naming discrepancy regarding this very different-looking tulip.

NAME: *T. batalinii*

HEIGHT: 4 to 10 inches

BLOOM TIME: Mid to late spring



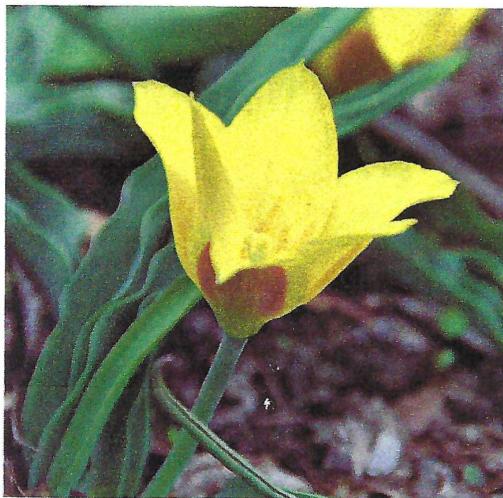
'Lilac Wonder' candia tulip delivers easygoing beauty with lilac-pink blooms

For an unexpected color combo, 'Lilac Wonder' candia tulip is one of the easiest species tulips to grow and is quite willing to perennialize when given optimal growing conditions. In fact, when tucked into the garden after being forced, this bulb still willingly returns for several springs. The flowers are lilac pink with bright sunny yellow centers (when the sun coaxes buds fully open), expanding the color spectrum beyond the reds and yellows displayed in most of the species. Native to Crete, candia tulips tend to have shorter stems than other tulip species. This selection is an absolute charmer near entryways and en masse along walkways.

NAME: *T. saxatilis* 'Lilac Wonder' (syn. *T. bakeri* 'Lilac Wonder')

HEIGHT: 6 to 10 inches

BLOOM TIME: Midspring



Kolpakowsky's tulip sports cheery blooms that are great for massing

Hailing from Central Asia and collected as early as 1877, this little heirloom tongue twister has acid yellow flowers that stand out in a spring garden. The blossoms have slender petals similar to those of the lady tulips, but the flower stems tend to be shorter. Plant the bulbs in masses to best ramp up their message.

NAME: *T. kolpakowskiana*

HEIGHT: 6 to 8 inches

BLOOM TIME: Early to midspring



Low-growing tulip offers striking twists on color and form

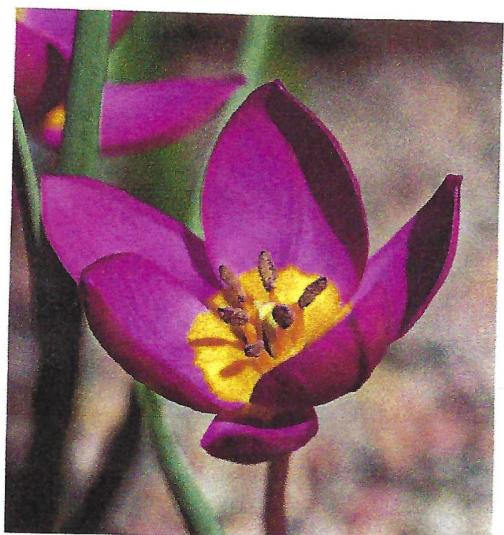
Definitely earning the diversity award, this species has spawned several color spins—from white-with-purple-centered 'Alba Coerulea Oculata' to magenta 'Persian Pearl' with its bright yellow eye. With more of a deep red color, 'Samantha' is a later-blooming double spin that hardly looks like a species tulip except for the thin leaves and short flower stems.

NAME: *T. humilis* and cvs. (syn. *T. pulchella* and cvs.)

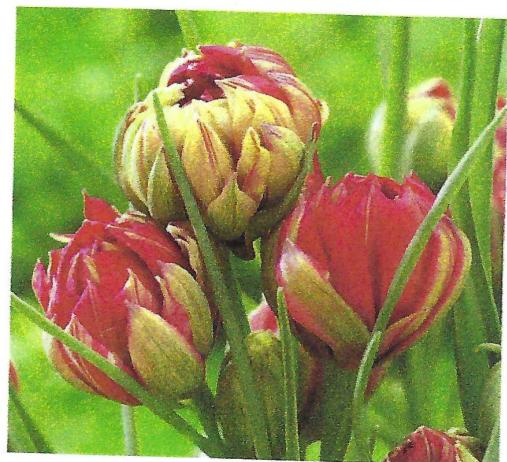
HEIGHT: 4 to 8 inches

BLOOM TIME: Mid to late spring

'Alba Coerulea Oculata' low-growing tulip



'Persian Pearl' low-growing tulip



'Samantha' low-growing tulip



| TECHNIQUE |

PROTECT YOUR ASSETS

Undoubtedly you are wondering about all the critters that carouse with the sole purpose of stealing your tulip thunder. Just like the big guys, species tulip bulbs and their growing parts are imperiled by nibbling creatures. One secret is to mix crushed oyster shells (aka chicken grit) into the soil around the bulbs when planting them in autumn. This will dissuade chipmunks, squirrels, and other digging demons. The moment the foliage breaks ground in spring, spray it with deer repellent and then keep the applications coming, especially when the repellent is washed off in spring showers.

SOURCES

- **Brent and Becky's Bulbs**
Gloucester, VA
877-661-2852
brentandbeckysbulbs.com
- **John Scheepers**
Bantam, CT
860-567-0838
johnscheepers.com
- **McClure & Zimmerman**
Randolph, WI
800-883-6998
mzbulb.com

Tovah Martin is a horticulturist, lecturer, and award-winning author in northwestern Connecticut.

General Membership Meeting Minutes

3/10/22 Milford Senior Center

The meeting was called to order at 7:01pm

Approval of Agenda

Thank you to **Brook Qualman** for being our greeter and secretary and **Cindy Bauman, Diane Pearson, and Shelley Dale** for room setup.

Approval of General Membership Meeting Minutes 11/11/21

Moved by Linda Becker Seconded by Beth Sciberras Motion Carried

Treasurer's Report – **Cindy Bauman**

Total in Bank Account is \$6098.61, \$220.00 was delivered to Lee House in December.

The Treasurer's Report will be filed for audit

Pennies for Friendship was passed around.

President's Report – Linda Smith

We are collecting donations in memory of **Dolores Donnellon** to add to our high school scholarship. You may give your gift to **Cindy Bauman** tonight or send it to her. All donations will be added to the \$1,500 the club has budgeted. One of the two scholarships awarded this spring will be named for her. Dolores was a member since February 1997. The club gave a donation to the scholarship fund in her memory.

We are collecting donations for **Barbara Donahue**. We will name one of the two scholarships for her next year. A floral arrangement from the club is being sent to Lynch & Sons for her memorial gathering on Saturday, March 12th from 10-12. There will be an open mike. Barb was a member since April of 1998. Barb was passionate about gardening and loved flowers. **Shelley Dale** requested that those attending the memorial gathering bring bulbs (daffodils were suggested) to do a mass planting in memory of Barb like we did for **Connie Heimann**

Garden Club Minutes continued on next page..



As everything is an easy drive for us, we won't need to reserve a hotel room. We can carpool from Milford each day to participate in the day's activities. This is a great opportunity to attend a National Convention without leaving home for a week or spending a lot of \$\$\$.

The Michigan Division Council meeting is May 5th in Clarkston. Several of our members will be recognized for their 25 years of service. We will also be receiving a certificate for our Plant Sale last spring.

Chairperson Reports

Plant Sale Saturday May 7th- Susan Absher- We need lots of plants for our sale. Please look in your garden for plants that need to be divided. Also, we are asking that you reach out to friends and neighbors to see if they have plants they would share with us. We will have dig teams that will dig and pot their plants. Please let the Susan know if you are willing to help on the dig team. The sale will be located at the YMCA in the camp pavilions. Susan would like to add the Garden Boutique this year. Is there someone that would like to chair the boutique? The selling of seeds was also suggested. Would someone like to help with that? We hope to have some high school kids help with the digs and setting up the sale.

Garden Walk June 17 and 18—**Kathy Barker and Martha Larsh.** It's our 25th Garden Walk and we have 7 gardens. Because of this the hours will be from 4-8 on Friday and 10-4 on Saturday. We will need many docents. Please ask a friend or husband to sit with you, or you can do it alone. We are in need of baskets. They should be worth \$50. And contain new items.

Booklets and wristbands can be picked up in the Methodist Church parking lot. The Methodist Church will be hosting their salad lunch from 11-3 that day.

Spring Garden Cleanup will be at 9:00 am on May 11th (12th if rain) & May Planting will be May 25th (26th if rain) Kathy **Blackburn** if you can help.

continued on next page..



Minutes: Continued from previous page

New Business

Nominating Committee Report – **Linda Becker**- We need a President, a VP for Publicity and a VP for programs. These can be filled by partners. Linda had fun doing programs with Barb Amey and has lots of ideas and contacts for programs. She even hinted that a few may already be in place. Call to volunteer.

As a result of our Facebook page **Lisa Willard** was approached by the mother of a Milford High School student. They would like to start a garden club. They already have a teacher sponsor. This is a great outreach possibility and could provide some labor for us. WIN WIN. Send her an email if you are interested. It would count toward Master Gardener hours. lbwill@comcast.net

A monthly Euchre club has formed. They are in need of 2 subs. The next game will be at **Gail Coopers** on March 30th.

Adjournment Time: 7:35 pm

Submitted by Brook Qualman



**Program:
Naturally Natives for
Butterflies & Moths**

**Speaker:
Jean Persely from
BMO Logistics
3/10/22**