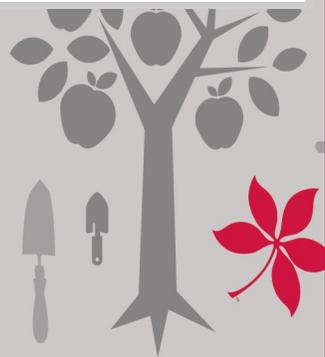


*“Nature will bear the closest inspection. She invites us to lay our eye level with her smallest leaf, and take an insect view of its plain. ~*

**Henry David Thoreau**

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# Licking County Master Gardener



Volume XX, Issue 1

January 2020

## Fedco Seed Orders

**Nancy McClary**



Just a reminder that if you would like to order seeds from Fedco, the deadline is February 5, the date of our February member meeting. As of this time, I have only received **three orders whereas last year we had 15 orders**. If you need help ordering, Elaine Boaz or myself are available.

## Wanted! We Need You!

**Linda Bishop**

Four our upcoming Four Seasons of Gardening Conference (details on Page 4) we need volunteers to bake cookies, muffins, and/or bread for our upcoming Conference. **There is a new rule:** You must take the Occasional Quantity Cooks Volunteer Training free online course first before providing any baked goods this year. You can find the course on VMS—this is a common sense course, a one-to-two hour commitment and education hours for 2020. Contact Lori if you can't find this FREE online course.

Signups sheets and recipes for the muffins and Focaccia bread will be available at the February and March member meetings. We will need lots of cookies, muffins, and bread so please take the course soon. Thank you so much!!!



**Coordinators Column**

**Lori Swihart**

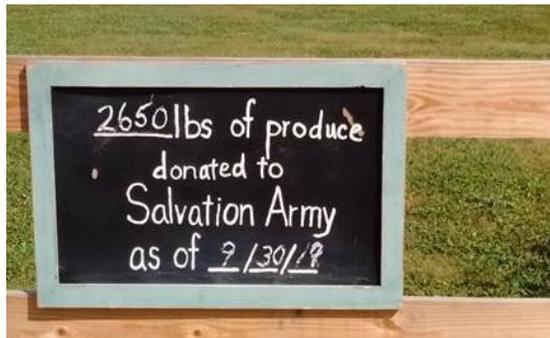


As I sit and reflect on all the wonderful projects accomplished in our past, I find myself excited about the future.

Our growing membership has some of the most talented and dedicated individuals state-wide. I am told on many occasions “wish we were as active as Licking County” and “you have an awesome program in Licking County.”

I always respond “I am blessed with the best volunteers.” That is the truth. **The. Best.**

Members total hours for 2019 (a couple yet to enter hours) hit an all-time high of **6,669.15** hours. This equals to **\$169,796.55** estimated value of each volunteer hour in Licking County. Members’ continuing education hours are **1,443** hours. Think of all that knowledge gained!!



The first year Pantry Garden was a great success and the **2650** pounds of food equates to a food value per pound of **\$62,275** for lunch and supper meals, according to USDA Food and Nutrition Service and represents **3,180** meals served at the Salvation Army for community members in need.

We have increased our number of contacts at both the Hartford Fair and Newark Grows. (Woo Hoo! - thank you so much.)

Here are the contacts from our projects for 2019:

Contacts	Total	Male	Male Youth	Female	Female Youth
<b>Totals</b>	<b>27310</b>	<b>12033</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>13295</b>	<b>1012</b>

2019 was spectacular! Are you as excited as I am to see what goals are met? To watch how the contact numbers for our projects exceed 2019 stats? You bet I am!

I appreciate you and the ways in which you give of yourself to our mission. I hope all of you have a healthy, prosperous and exciting 2020.



## Vice President's Column

Kathryn Bierley

## Looking at our strengths and opportunities



If you've been at the last few monthly meetings, you've been part of a process often called a "SWOT Analysis". The November meeting is traditionally focused on planning what Licking County Master Gardener Volunteers will be doing in the upcoming year. This November, we spent the better part of the meeting listing internal group strengths and weaknesses as well as external opportunities and threats. Quite a list of positives and problems from within as well as outside the group emerged. Cheryl Beaty, our secretary, did an amazing job recording in the minutes the ideas generated by the group.

In December, we spent time whittling the lists down to the top ideas in each area. The executive board discussed the shortened list of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to identify steps we can take in 2020 to improve.

In January, we reviewed results of the members' choices of our top SWOT items.

***“ . . . we spent the better part of the meeting listing internal group strengths and weaknesses . . . ”***

Strengths = project diversity, willing to learn and change, membership knowledge, connections to community, leadership

Weaknesses = hesitant to lead, incompetence, too many projects, not marketing and not celebrating our successes.

Opportunities = increasing interest in gardening, collaborating with groups, working with young people, develop new members

Threats = Aging population, low interest of younger people in community

Some interesting points emerged: One strength is the group's leadership abilities yet a weakness is being hesitant to lead. Another strength is project diversity but a weakness identified was too many projects. Other ideas led to your board taking certain steps. Lori has introduced several new ways to recognize members' successes. Members are being asked to update their personal information on VMS to better identify individual interests and strengths. Chairpersons will be reviewing and updating the project descriptions on VMS as well. Grizz will be working more closely with Soil and Water folks on developing the woodlot and finalizing the path from the parking lot to our garden gate. Many other steps are in the development stage, all thanks to the ideas you generated.

As 2020 progresses, we will continue to look at our SWOT process for ideas to improve and grow Licking County Master Gardener Volunteers. As a group we can tackle any weakness or threat that comes our way. Thank you for the strengths and opportunities that make us such an amazing group.

## 2020 Veggie Series

Phil Metzler

**CFAES**

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION



### 2020 Gardening Classes

All you need to know about "**VEGGIES & MORE**"



Provided by Licking County Master Gardener Volunteers



### Class locations:

#### **Pataskala United Methodist Church**

458 S. Main Street, Pataskala, Ohio 43062

January 18 -- February 1

March 7 -- April 4 -- May 2

#### **Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church**

732 Hebron Road, Heath, Ohio 43056

January 25 -- February 15

March 21 -- April 18 -- May 16

Sessions are **FREE**, open to the public and  
No registration is required!

Classes are cancelled if Licking County  
is under a **Level 2** snow emergency.

*The same classes held in  
Pataskala are also held in Heath.*



### Classes:

**Saturdays 9—11 a.m.**

January 18 or 25  
**Garden Planning**

February 1 or 15  
**Organic Raised Row Gardening  
& Healthy Soil**

March 7 or 21  
**Planting / Harvesting Crops  
& Seed Starting**

April 4 or 18  
**Attracting Pollinators  
& Limited Space Options**

May 2 or 16  
**Maintaining a Healthy Garden**



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

For more information: Contact Lori Swihart, Program Coordinator, at [swihart.33@osu.edu](mailto:swihart.33@osu.edu) or phone at 740-670-5322

Facebook: Master Gardener Volunteers of Licking County

## Four Seasons of Gardening Conference

Linda Bishop



**Coming Soon!** It's coming!! Get excited!! This year's Four Seasons of Gardening conference promises to be incredibly inspiring because of our line-up of speakers—our own Homegrown Experts.

On March 28<sup>th</sup>, the Licking County Master Gardener Volunteers will welcome the following distinguished Ohioans to speak at our 19<sup>th</sup> Annual spring conference. First, we will hear from Jim McCormac. Jim has been a botanist for 31 years and authored numerous books. His presentation, *A Romp Through Ohio's Flora and Fauna*, will be a pictorial adventure; a wander through Ohio's varied habitats with visits to flora and fauna great and small. Jim will discuss well-known plants and animals as well as obscure species that few have heard of or encountered. His overarching theme will encompass the importance of ALL the cogs of the ecological wheel, and the need to protect everything.

Our second speaker, Jim Chatfield, is an Associate Professor and Extension Specialist for The Ohio State University. If you know Jim—and I think many of you do, you won't be surprised by the title of his presentation, *What Gets Us Into Trouble Is Not What We Don't Know But What We Know For Sure*. Aren't you curious about what he will say to us? I am. And, I am sure he will pass along the wisdom and knowledge of his vast expertise in plant diagnostics, plant selection, and plant pathology.

Did you go on a visit to Butterfly Ridge last summer? This hidden gem in Rockbridge Ohio is the brainchild of Christopher Kline and his wife. They converted 21 acres of forests and fields into a beautiful butterfly sanctuary. Chris, the former Director of the Butterfly Specialist at Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, left the conservatory when the opportunity came about to build Butterfly Ridge. At our conference, Chris will tell us about his family's journey through his presentation of *If You Plant It, They Will Come*.

Another Ohio expert, Nancy Stranahan, former Chief Naturalist of Ohio State Parks, will share her journey of saving an ecological jewel, her home biome--the temperate forest in Appalachia. Nancy shares that the temperate forest is the most disturbed biome on earth. Her project, the Arc of Appalachia, is her educational mission to inspire citizens of Ohio to identify and protect the many species that dwell in the forest biome she has advocated to save. Nancy seldom does presentations anymore but for us, she has agreed to present, *The Invisible Forest, Home Sweet Biome*.

Our final speaker will be Danae Wolfe who will present, *Little Creatures, Big Stories*, a photographic exploration into the world of insects and spiders that dwell in our gardens. Love 'em or hate 'em, bugs are an integral part of a healthy planet and a healthy garden. You will learn about the many benefits of bugs and how you can support these incredible creatures in your home landscape while minimizing damage from pests. As a digital specialist and conservation storyteller, also working for OSU, Danae's presentations are always lively and amusing.

We hope you plan on attending the conference this year. It will be at the same venue as last year, the Community Wesleyan Church at the corner of Myrtle Avenue and 21<sup>st</sup> Street in Newark. The conference fee will be the same as last year, \$40, and the website to sign up for the conference will go live in early February. You can also pay for the conference at the member meetings in February and March.

If you hold it, they will come. Won't you? And, bring a friend!

**Guest Column****John Bierley**

I don't know how often your newsletter receives an article from a non-member, but perhaps this could turn out to be a good thing!

I've watched my wife, Kathryn, become absorbed with the Licking County Master Gardener program ever since she joined three years ago. While my thumb will never be green, I want to support her with the same enthusiasm she shows for my musical obsession. She comes to my concerts, listens with enthusiasm when I create a new piece of music, and helps lug around equipment when my group plays on location. Reciprocally, I help water at the poly house, tote plants for the spring sale, and unload chairs for the open house. None of these things are done as a labor of love, except perhaps, a love for each other.

At home, we have a pretty clear delineation of duties...I do most of the improvements inside the home, while she does wonders with the yards outside. Sure, our paths cross. I couldn't have finished the kitchen remodel without her help (well, okay...I could have finished it myself, but there would have been a lot more foul language). In exchange, I sometimes lend muscle to yard work so that she can concentrate on the finesse.

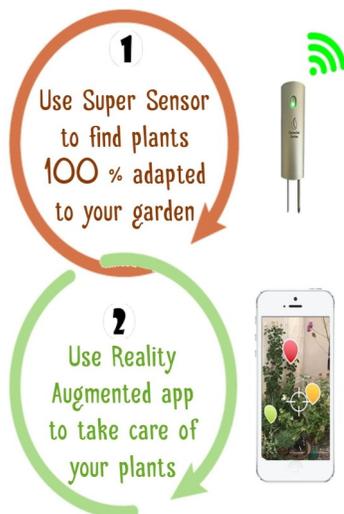
As the summer turned to autumn we raked leaves in to the areas of the yard needing mulch. We pulled plants out of the raised flower beds, and she planted a cover crop to condition the soil for the next planting season. Kathryn expressed feelings for autumn as her least favorite season. She has always viewed it as a warning shot for the barren winter ahead. Additionally, it's a stark reminder that her love of gardening must wait for next spring to arrive.

As a way to break up the winter doldrums, we recently took a four-day vacation to Fort Lauderdale. We had wonderful weather in the high 70's each day, and enjoyed the rapture that comes with sitting by the roaring ocean until the sun goes down. It was a pleasant experience for me...but I had no idea the impact it had on Kathryn. Once we were home, she shared thoughts on how profound the experience had been for her. For four days, she didn't have to look at bare trees and brown grass. What she saw was a world of green and blooming flowers. Suddenly, she realized that planning for her next planting season didn't have to wait until spring. The world is alive with growth all year 'round...it's just not visible looking out our front window.

With renewed vigor, Kathryn now sees January as the beginning of the next growing season...not a period of mourning for last year. I encourage all of you to see that same spark. Get excited. Start planning now for a great 2020 planting season. Drive your loved ones crazy with your gardening obsession 12 months a year. And, if your loved ones don't understand...maybe we can start a support group together!

## Making Your Garden “Smart”

Nancy McClary



I recently received this article in my email inbox from Better Homes and Gardens (bhg.com) and thought I would share the possibility of using technology when it relates to gardening. Note the date of this article, but a recent online search for the Sensor returned no new information. Is this something gardeners should look for in the future?

*This next-level gardening product isn't a shovel or mower: It's an app.*

By **Nicole Bradley - bhg.com**

(01/09/19)

*Imagine seeing how a plant looks in your garden before purchasing it. Along with that, envision information about your garden living in an electronic cloud, rather than in a faithful garden notebook. This will soon be possible, thanks to the release of a new product and app.*

*Earlier this week, the “Connected Garden Super Sensor “ was revealed at the annual Consumer Electronics Show. This techy product takes smart gardening to a whole new level—let's dig into how it works.*

*You begin by putting the product's sensor into the soil your garden. The sensor, which works in tandem with an app on your phone, will detect information about that spot in your garden—sunlight exposure, soil moisture, and pH are a few details it'll pick up.*

*From there, the synced app suggests plants that will thrive in the space where you put your sensor. Colored pins will be dropped at certain points in your garden: Each pin will indicate where your garden needs attention, i.e. the pH is too high or the soil is soggy. The darker the pin color, the more pressing the issue is and the faster you fix it. The coolest part about the device and the app? It provides an augmented reality view of your garden. On the app, use your phone camera to look at your garden, and virtual suggested plants will hover on the screen so you can visualize which plants look best and decide where to put them.*

*Augmented reality has been a huge plug for big-name company apps lately (like Target and Amazon) so that consumers can physically see furniture and decor in their space before buying. Connected Garden is the same idea, but is meant for outdoor spaces instead of inside homes.*

*There's no release date or price for the Connected Garden Super Sensor yet, but the company is predicting that it'll be available for purchase at the end of 2019. The company is also aiming to keep the sensor under \$100 while maintaining a \$5/month fee for the associated app.*

## Black Swallowtail Butterflies

Kaye Alban

As you all know by now...I LOVE butterflies...of all kinds. But this time of year, I'm interested in the eleven Black Swallowtail *chrysalis* which are overwintering in my garage. You probably are wondering, how is it possible to have any butterfly chrysalis in my garage in January? It is because I had dill, bronze fennel, rue and parsley growing in my garden.

I usually find Black Swallowtail caterpillars - "cats" - in late summer on these plants. I even have a few people call me to collect from their garden. By September, these cats will be ready to pupate into their chrysalis. But by that time of year it is too late to complete the metamorphosis to become a beautiful butterfly. So they are overwintering in my unheated garage.

This is the third year I have done this. Three years ago I had only four, last year I had seven, and this year there are eleven...a bumper crop. Glad to report that all chrysalis became beautiful butterflies in early May the next spring. It only takes a very warm day to make their entrance into the world.

I wanted to do this as it changes my butterfly interest from Monarch rearing to checking for Black Swallowtails and raising them inside. The big challenge in September or October is to have enough plants to feed them. By this time of year many of these host plants have seen better days. I have called on a few of my Master Gardener friends to provide these plants. If you do not have enough healthy plants to feed them, they will not thrive. They are safe in the garage in one of my containers I use for rearing butterflies. Only thing I do all winter is to spritz them with water about every two weeks to keep them from drying out.

In closing, hope this piques your interest next fall to also raise Black Swallowtail butterflies, and to protect them over winter to become a beautiful butterfly in your garden in the spring.



*Black Swallowtail in Garage May 2019*



*Black Swallowtail in Garage currently*

## Favorite Recipe

This is a new feature suggested by Phil Metzler. For future publications we would like **your** favorite recipes and also those shared at Newark Grows and the Canal Market. So if you have a recipe you would like to be published in the newsletter, please provide it for any upcoming issue.

### Cranberry Pumpkin Muffins

by Phil Metzler

#### Ingredients

2 cups flour - 1/2 cup brown sugar - 1 tsp baking soda - 1 tsp cinnamon - 1/2 tsp nutmeg - 1/2 tsp salt - 1 cup pumpkin - 6 oz. package Ocean Spray Craisins (dried cranberries) - 1/2 cup oil - 1/4 cup milk - 1/4 cup molasses - 1 egg

#### Directions

Preheat oven to 350. Add dry ingredients to a bowl & stir. Combine remaining ingredients in a separate bowl. Add liquid ingredients to dry & mix just until dry ingredients are moist. Fill each muffin cup 2/3 full. Bake 30 minutes or until golden brown (be careful to not over-bake). Remove from cupcake pan & cool on wire rack.

If you have a mini-muffin pan, that size would be perfect for sharing these at a group gathering. Also, Craisins come in different flavors; we used "original" (regular) but "cherry" might be good also.

ENJOY! Phil & Mary Ann Metzler

## New Security Procedure

Lori Swihart

Important information from Licking County Offices:

Notice: New back door procedure for all persons using the Agriculture Center (Extension Office)

The back door will be permanently locked with a code reader in the near future. This is a safety procedure being implemented in **all** county buildings. The front door will be open and unlocked during office hours.

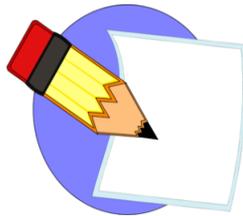
What does this mean to our members?

If you need into the building during office hours, you may want to park in the front and use the front doors without any issue. If we have a meeting during office hours, we can wedge the back door for late arriving members to enter with no problem. Working in the garden and need into the building – regular members working in the garden will have a four digit access code. Board members will have a four digit access code. If you are a chairperson and need in for a scheduled meeting after hours, contact the main office prior to the meeting and you will get a four digit access code.

I have not been given a date as to when this procedure will begin. I will send out a mass email to notify all when the doors have been modified.

## Writers Wanted

Lori Swihart



Writers wanted!!! Writers needed!!!

Pat Smith, our wonderful and talented writer for the Advocate has resigned due to personal reasons. We wish Pat and Terry the best in their new home and thank them both for the many years of service they have given to our program.

In Pat's absence, I am asking for garden writers for the Advocate to fill in our space. I have spoken with our contact at the newspaper and I expressed that we will not be able to have an article every week like Pat did for 10+ years, (bless her heart), but I didn't want to give up our space either. He stated that we can submit an article any time we wanted or needed and to not worry about someone taking our space. Whew!

Now I know some of you enjoy writing, because you have stated that on your applications! So, all writers please consider signing up for submission of articles. Each article needs to have 450 – 550 words. All must be sent to me by Monday's at 9 am prior to the Thursday it is to be in the paper.

Write about one of our upcoming events that you can tie into an educational article, how about a weed you hate, a flower you love, vegetable gardens, stick bugs in your home. Make it timely. Need inspiration? What are they talking about on the BYGL?

I have added a place to sign up on the calendar in VMS titled "Advocate Articles" for one year to see how this goes. Click the name on the date "Advocate Articles" and scroll to the bottom and click "Volunteer for Event". You can leave a message if you wish (see above "Volunteer for Event") if you have a topic in mind.

Last, need help? Contact me. I would be happy to go over ideas with you.

Thank you so much for your consideration - Lori

## Meet Us In R Garden

Nancy McClary

I have been researching several possibilities of local tours we could take this year, and at this time have received responses from these two businesses and what they can provide:

Sunny Meadows Flower Farm (located in Columbus): We do not provide guided tours of the farm, but you are welcome to come when the farmstand is open and walk yourselves around if you are interested. The farmstand is set up to be self-serve, so there is a little cash box out there or we may be in the barn processing flowers and could answer a few questions if needed. Just let us know if you decide to come so we know when to expect how many cars as parking is limited here to ensure there is space for paying customers.

Thank you for your interest and happy 2020.

---

Leo Berbee Bulb Company (located in Marysville): We welcome groups and do a lot of tours and talks. We would be happy to host your group.

Here are the tour options.

**Complete Package:** \$10/person

- Tour of the Leo Berbee warehouse with historical data
- Gardening presentation at Dutch Mill Greenhouse
- Shopping time at Dutch Mill Greenhouse
- Pack of seasonal flower bulbs for each guest to take home
- Discounted coupon for shopping that day

**Quick Trip:** \$5/person

- Tour of the Leo Berbee warehouse with historical data OR gardening presentation at Dutch Mill Greenhouse
- Shopping time at Dutch Mill Greenhouse
- Discounted coupon for shopping that day

**Stretch your legs:** Free

- Shop in our Garden Center- Dutch Mill Greenhouse
- Discounted coupon for shopping that day

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The above are just the responses from recommendations, and I am still reaching out. One suggestion is touring the former Lazarus department store in downtown Columbus and also visit the Topiary Park located close by. **If you have a suggestion, please let me know and I will look into it.**

## Outreach Program

Lori Swihart

Consider creating an outreach program?

I am looking for some members that would be interested in creating a 45 minute program for our Speakers Bureau. After reviewing Phil Metzler's feedback from attendees of last year's Veggie Series evaluation of other topics they would like for us to offer.

Here are some suggested topics:

- Planting with Deer and Other Critters in Mind
- Raised Bed Gardening for Vegetables and Flowers
- Who are the Pollinators and How to Attract Them
- Adding Food to the Landscape Design
- The Power of Plants Where We Live (benefits of houseplants in the home, work, schools) information from NICH
- Get Fit in the Garden (using garden tools and how they help the body)
- Garden Thugs and Beneficial Bugs
- *Just the Berries! (growing berries in the home garden)* - Lowell
- Why Trees are So Cool
- Landscaping Simplified
- Hydroponic Gardening
- Native Planting for Diversity
- Flower Gardening with Purpose (cutting garden, pollinator garden, moon garden, annuals, perennials, native plants)
- Planting for a Healthy Lifestyle – adding herbs to your garden

Contact me if interested and we can discuss the program content, resources, etc.

All time dedicated to putting one together is volunteer time. All time used for research is advanced education time.

This is an opportunity to get both hours in one!!!!



## Bees Nectar and Pollen

Pam Satterfield

This time of year, the honey bees are in their “winter cluster,” where thousands of the worker bees surround their queen and keep her toasty and warm.

So during this slowest season of beekeeping, it is a good time to refresh on how our flowers and how our bees help each other. Below are a few fun facts about nectar, pollen, pollination and our honey bees.

Nectar is the fluid from the plant

- Rich in sugar, nectar provides an energy source for bees, butterflies, moths, hummingbirds and bats (the pollinators!)
- The flower provide nectar in order to attract pollinators by the sweet smell and taste of the fluid.
- Bees store nectar in a “honey sac,” in a 2<sup>nd</sup> stomach.
- Each bee must visit 100-15000 flowers to fill the honey stomach.
- All honey is made out of nectar, and it takes 8 bees all their life to product ½ teaspoon of honey!

Pollen is the fine powder from the plant that contain the plant’s sperm cells

- The bees carry the pollen in “baskets” on the stiff hairs of their legs--a single bee can carry one-half their body weight in pollen!
- The pollen is stored on the perimeter of the brood nest (where the eggs are laid) and are eaten by the nurse bees, and then secreted as royal jelly to feed the young larvae.

Pollination is the process of plant reproduction

- During pollination, the pollen is transferred from the male reproduction part of the flower (the anther) to the female reproduction part (the stigma) of another flower.
- Bees are the biggest pollinators of flowers.

Final Note: Most bees only get either nectar or pollen on one trip, but a few can carry both.



## LCMG Officers

Coordinator: Lori Swihart  
 President: Joe "Grizz" Smith  
 Vice President: Kathryn Bierley  
 Secretary: Cheryl Beaty  
 Treasurer: Mary Beth Mathews

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## Fun Facts

Nancy McClary

- Archaeologists have uncovered evidence that grapes were grown to make wine about 8,000 years ago in Mesopotamia (today's Iraq), although the ancient Egyptians were the first to record the process of making wine about 5,000 years ago.
- During the 1600s, tulips were so valuable in Holland that their bulbs were worth more than gold. The craze was called tulip mania, or tulipomania, and caused the crash of the Dutch economy. Tulips can continue to grow as much as an inch per day after being cut.
- The word pineapple comes from European explorers who thought the fruit combined the look of a pinecone with flesh like that of an apple. Pineapples are the only edible members of the bromeliad family.
- Small pockets of air inside cranberries cause them to bounce and float in water.
- The flower of the titan arum (*Amorphophallus titanum*) is the largest unbranched flower in the world and can reach up to 15 feet tall. The bloom produces a smell like that of rotting meat, giving it the common name of corpse flower. A similar smell comes from *Rafflesia*, another plant that hails from the rainforests of Sumatra. Both plants developed their scent so they could be pollinated by flies; they don't compete with other blooms for butterflies and hummingbirds.



## Mark Your Calendar!

### January & February Birthdays

#### January

Kathy Kern 2nd  
 Linda Mash 5th  
 Diana RowLee 6th  
 Scott Robinson 15th  
 Nan Darrough 19th  
 Jane Onspaugh 20th  
 Tammie Hedglin 25th  
 Jo Walters 28th

#### February

Jan Rengert 5th  
 Amie Walter 6th (Intern)  
 Victoria Kahn 17th  
 Lauri Morgan 22nd  
 Cheryl Campbell 24th  
 Linda Coppler 26th

**Remembering** - Gloria Popovich on the passing of her brother Steven Sukara

