

## Events at J.J.'s

### February Events

#### Story Hour

Saturday February 10, 11am & 2 pm

#### Look Up Club "for those with a curious mind"

Saturday February 17, 2 pm

Bird Nest - who lives there?

Preregistration required. No cost

#### Craft Day

Sunday Feb 25, drop in anytime from 12:30 to 3 pm

Egg Carton Critters - no cost

### Save the Date - upcoming events

#### Unplugged Day

Friday March 2nd, 5 to 7:30 pm

Container Design Basics - free sessions.

#### Potting Party - Design & Build a Custom Container

Saturday May 19th - 10 am and 3 pm

Limited seating -Preregistration required. Cost \$25

*(Courtship, continued from front page)*

wooed his way into her heart, the frequency of song declines.

It is still unclear how the female makes her choice. It is thought she is listening for clues about his history, how long he has been in the neighborhood, his age, his health and his stamina. She maybe listening to determine his social ranking with other male birds. For example do other males disrespect him by singing over his songs?

It is because of this courtship we get to enjoy the pleasure of spring. Isn't love grand. Don't forget your Tweet-heart on Valentine's day.



## THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT - FEBRUARY 16-19



It is that time of year to be part of the great backyard bird count- GBBC. Birders of all ages from anywhere in the world are asked to participate in science project to collect data on wild birds. It is a worldwide 4 day count that takes place every February to get a snapshot of the distribution and abundance of wild birds.

The event started in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the Audubon Society. Currently over 160,000 people participate. So join in.

Yes you can be a "Citizen Scientist" you don't need to be an degreed ornithologist. Amateurs are encouraged to participate. All experts were at one time beginners. Give it a try I promise it will be interesting.

You only need to invest at least 15 minutes in observation time any time during the 4 day period. Just look around where you live, work or travel. This can be an private view or shared with friends. The more time you can invest the better. Every bit of data collected helps to increase the amount of information available for the study. So start with 15 minutes

The more data collected provides a better view of the diversity and abundance of the bird community. All that is asked is that you document the number and type of birds you see. If you have not participated in the past go to eBird and setup a free account.

Be curious look up and see the world around you.

## NEW ITEMS AT JJ'S

A few weeks ago, a few members of JJ's team went to the Atlanta Market to see what new products are available for our clients.

WOW!! What a show. There were 3 building each with over 20 floors of shops. We came home with a list of vendors and a huge wish list. We visited our tried and true vendors. Parasol had delicate glass humming birds (on the wish list for this spring) Folkmanis puppets had fun new puppets and many of our past favorites. I fell in love with the Enchanted Tree. We restocked our supply and snagged the last two peacocks and roosters. Both are being retired and when our inventory is gone, it is gone. Naked Bee was there introducing their newest product line—"Citron & Honey". We have testers at the shop for you to try. Our new Zen wooden puzzles have already arrived, complete with hidden shaped pieces. They are beautiful.

One of our goals was to find suppliers for garden products. There were so many great products, more than our space could handle. We are working to bring as many as possible.

Coming soon: quirky bud vases from "Chive," specialty botanical candles & wax sachets from "Rosy Rings" with flowers, shells, & spices imbedded in the wax. These are two of our newly found independent suppliers.

If you have been in recently you have seen us hard at work rearranging the shop to make space for our new products. Mid-February, we will begin to see our new products arrive. Plan some time on your next visit to have a cookie and look around!

# J.J. Cardinal's Calendar



FEBRUARY 2018

*A Unique Store For Those Who Enjoy the Care & Feeding of Wild Birds*

## THINKING SPRING ? - WISHING ??

I am sitting at my kitchen table watching the latest snowstorm cover my backyard and the woods behind my home. It has its own beauty. When all is covered in white I can see my feathered and furry neighbors so clearly. I can see so much more than when the woods are filled out.

With this thought my mind begins to wander to the potential splendor of my gardens and the wild woods in the spring.

Last fall, with the faith of a good gardener, I planted daffodils in the woods. I know that the deer will not eat them and that several years from now they will still herald the beginning of spring even if I am not here in the kitchen to see them.

It is not too early to start planning for your garden. This is the perfect time of year to sit in a comfortable chair with a warm drink and to start to make plans for warmer days.

JJ Cardinal now provides garden coaching services of Giles Garden. I can be your horticultural hand holder, your mentor, your security blanket.

I started as my father's assistant on our gentlemen's farm back in the 60's. I grew up raising goats and chickens and our own vegetables. All I ever knew was the organic way of gardening, with beneficial insects and making our own compost. I did not know there was any other way.

For me gardening is an obsession. I am always looking to learn more. I have taken the Master Gardener program twice. Then I went to Michigan State to get my Certification in Landscape and Nursery Management. I did my internship at the MSU Arboretum with responsibility of caretaking of the English Garden. I also had the privilege of working with Ann Hancock in the perennial gardens

I constantly read books, gardening publications and go to every lecture I can fit in to my schedule to stay current on new gardening trends and ideas. A few weeks ago, I attended the Michigan Landscape and Nurserymen Associations annual trade show. I was thrilled to attend 3 different lectures with Rick Darke, a hero of mine. Rick is an advocate of good stewardship and selective editing in garden design. He was part of the team that developed the High Line Gardens in New York City.

Enough about me. Let's talk about you and your garden. Stop by or call in to schedule a coaching session. Thanks, Gretchen Giles



## Singing for Love Courtship of Birds



Valentine's Day is rapidly approaching so it seems appropriate to review the role of bird songs and courtship. Most of us relate spring to an increase in chatter of our feather friends. According to Donald Kroodsma in [The Backyard Birdsong Guide](#) the eruption of song is primarily from the males trying to impress the females. He says that for most species the male sings to the non-singing female. The bachelor will sing all day long looking for his mate. Once he has

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## OUR STORE

Visit our website for the latest info: [www.jjcardinal.com](http://www.jjcardinal.com)—and “Like” us on **Facebook** where you may post your nature stories & photos.

### Monday through Friday

10:00 am - 6:00 pm

### Saturday

10:00 am - 5:00 pm

### Sunday

Noon - 4:00 pm

