

Events at J.J.'s

March Events

Story Hour - With Sarah

Saturday March 10th, 11am & 2 pm

Look Up Club "for those with a curious mind"

Saturday March 17, 2 pm

"Bird House Basics"

Preregistration required. No cost

Craft Day - With Abby

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

Pom-Pom Bunnies- no cost

Garden Design Series

Thursday evenings 6 to 7

3/8 - Elements of Design

3/15 - Color in the Garden

3/22 - Scale, Unity, Harmony & Balance

3/29 - Line, Shape, Texture & Form

Limited seating -Preregistration required. Cost \$25

(Courtship, continued from front page)

person to person. A minimum requirement if you don't want to be a slumlord is to clean out your boxes. Sweep out all of the old nesting material, be sure it is not this year's nest. Bill Thompson the author of Bird Homes and Habits writes "If it's still a little grungy, rinse the box with a light bleach-water solution (a capful of bleach in a bucket of warm water), using a scrub brush or an ole tooth brush if necessary. Rinse well and let the box air dry before closing the entry."

If you need to replace or just get your first nesting box come on in. There books to help understand the appropriate specifications & requirements to build for different types of nesting boxes. Precut kits are available to share the experience with your kids We also have house ready if you are looking for a plug and play option.

NEW ITEMS AT JJ'S



February was a busy month at the store. If you have been in you have probably seen me in my paint

clothes. I know that I am strange but I love to paint. Any thing walls, molding furniture pictures and other stuff. We started to experiment in the stock room with different colors because it is a safe place to experiment. It now is sporting lavender, chartreuse, yellow and purple. Now is much brighter (maybe a bit over the top??) Abby is busy painting murals on the shelving. Then we toned down the colors from to be more suitable for the public and started to paint up front. One of the newly painted walls was is now displays our collection of Motawi Tiles.

We have the newest Motwai bird tile "The Seed Bandit" Our collection had also been expanded to include flora and Frank Lloyd Wright designs.

Our garden coaching space has been carved out. You can't miss it. The area sports a bright floral rug that Kate found for us.

It is never to early to start planning your garden. You can schedule a coaching sessions and join us for our garden design series. Thursday evening openings there will be classes on different topics each week from 6 to 7 pm at the store. Space is limited so early reservations are suggested.

So for your next visit plan some extra time for a cookie and chocolate and a stroll around the shop. Thanks gretchen giles

DIVERSITY - THE KEY TO A HEALTHY GARDEN



Diversity is necessary for a sustainable environment. As good stewards of our yards we should create and invite as much diversity as we possibly can. This includes plants wildlife and insects. For some this contradicts our previous western culture belief that "bugs" are bad and need to be eliminated rather than encouraged or introduced.

One excellent addition to your garden would be mason bees. We recently received our mason bee cocoons for the season. We carry the Spring Blue Orchard Bee an early pollinator that looks more like a fly than a honey bee. They have large eyes, thick furry legs and a hairy bodies. The homes can be mounted on a wall with warm morning sun at about 5 to 7 feet where you can watch the bee's activity. They are entertaining to watch and they have a gentle nature and rarely sting.

They emerge when temperatures rise about 53°F to pollinate early spring flowers, fruit and nut trees. On the average one foraging female mason bee will pollinate the equivalent to one hundred foraging honey bees. It is a simple thing to do to be a good steward and add diversity to your garden.

P.S. We still have some Praying Mantis available. Stop by and let us help you.

J.J. Cardinal's Calendar



FEBRUARY 2018

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

A TASTE OF SPRING . - BUT NOT THERE YET.



This week I bought my first pots of flowers. I know it is early but the warm temperatures and the sun had me convinced it was okay to try. My first purchase was a few cool season flowers to put out in front of the store, daffodils, primrose and oxalis. I put them in some pots and in a basket so I can easily bring them in and out as the weather fluctuates. Of course as I am writing this newsletter it is snowing outside. Ugh!

But I am not the only one planning on an early spring. Two weeks ago one of our young "Looking Up Club" members said he had seen Red wing black birds. When we looked at "Journey North" web site we saw another sighting had been documented in Goodrich. Since then we have had other customers tell us they have seen them too. One customer came in for woodchips for his wood duck house since they were back in his yard. All good signs.

This week I also received my seed order. In the next few days I will set up my first (of 3) growing tables along with a heat mat in my basement. We are now about 12 weeks from the last freeze date in our area. Depending on the source

the last freeze dates ranges from May 10th to May 31st. Planting is never exact to the day so I am working with May 15th knowing I can hold the seedlings for another two weeks if needed.

If you have never tried to grow some plants from seedling I suggest you try. It is wonderful experience to eat specialty tomatoes that I started from seed myself. One of the other benefits is I can grow what I want with out having to run from greenhouse to greenhouse to find exactly the cultivar or flower color what I want. Johnny Select Seeds also has a wonderful library of how to videos and information. You should check it out. Last year I bought a soil block maker from Johnny. It compress wet soil in to planting blocks (seen in photo above.) This eliminates the need for plastic or paper containers. When you transplant the seedlings it significantly reduces shock. As an experiment I left some seedlings in the block outside all summer to see how the held up. The blocks were rounded but still in tack. I was still able to separate and plant.

Even when things don't turn out the way I expected it to it was still worth the effort for the learning experience. No one starts out being an expert. Only one way to learn is to do.



First Comes Love, then Comes Marriage, then come Baby Birdy Carriage



Last month we covered courtship. If the courtship is successful then the mating pair begins to settle into make a home for the upcoming family.

Some birds mate for life. Others for the season other flit from one lover to another. Hum! It sounds like another species. :)

If you have nesting boxes now is the time to be a good landlord and get them ready for new tenants. Landlord involvement ranges from

Courtship, continued on page 2

OUR STORE

Visit our website for the latest info: 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

