

## Events at J.J.'s

### May Events

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

Saturday May 19, 2 pm

"Let's plant something" Bring a pot  
Membership required. No cost

#### Craft Day - with Abby

Sunday May 26 , drop in anytime from  
12:30 to 3 pm

Rainbow Pots for Mom- no cost

#### Potting Party

Saturday May 19, 9am to 12.

Design and build a container.

Soil & refreshments will be provided.

You can bring your own container or  
purchase one.

Think outside  
of the box

and let's have  
fun.

Limited seating -  
Preregistration



(orioles, continued from front page)

year I have upgraded to a larger covered two dish feeder in hopes the whole family come back. Theresa taught me this year that orioles eat nectar too. I learn something new every day. We have feeders that can do double duty for both orioles and humming birds.

So pull out your feeders from winter storage and clean them up. We have a display area dedicated to orioles and hummers with the supplies you need to attract the colorful birds, even the small brushes for cleaning nectar holes. We look forward to helping you get exactly what you need.



## NEW ITEMS AT JJ'S



Yes-  
terday  
I com-  
pleted  
the  
spring  
plant-  
ing of

of the beds by our entrance sign.

The daffodils, tulips and crocus I planted last fall are close to bloom so I added some bright yellow and orange pansies to give it a good pop of color. It looks so happy!!

This week some of our perennial plants will arrive. We are bringing in a limited quantities of hard to find or specialty perennials. As I said earlier in the news letter I am often frustrated in my search for plant material. The shipment coming in this week is from a premier Michigan supplier - Hortech. Hortech is known nationally for their work on green roofs and living walls.

I have been to their growing location and was very impressed. They use natural methods such as compost teas, beneficial insects and soil inoculants. The plants establish rapidly and are safe to handle.

My selection has been focused on hardy plants for bird, butterflies, natives and salt hardiness. We are in the process of adding a perennial bed at the front of the store with challenging soil, moisture and sunlight requirements. So many of the plants are intended for this design.

I have also ordered a large variety of hens and chicks with some sedums- just because they are fun and I like playing with them.

We look forward to seeing you soon. Thanks gretchen giles

## DID YOU KNOW THAT BIRDS PEEK?

According to the "Birder's Handbook a Field Guide to the Natural History of North American Birds" birds "peek" while they sleep. Birds will open their eyes briefly during their dozing or "quiet sleep". Dennis Lemdrem observed flocks of duck during their quiet sleep & found they opened their eyes every two to six seconds. He found the amount of "peeking" time was dependent on the numbers of co-flockers, their location within the flock & time of the year.

If the flock is large the ducks peek less often. If their position is less protected then they will peek more often. Males will peek more often than females during mating season. This appears to be due to the sexual activities of the flock. As the ration of females increases so do the peeking activities of males. The males are keeping an eye open for promiscuous behaviors of other males. Mated males will peek more often than bachelor males. Males with bright plumes need to peek more often for predators.

How much active sleep (non peeking time) a bird required is still unknown. I was amused to read about the EEG patterns of birds and how they like humans they have different sleep phases. I imagined a bird with my Fitbit strapped to their leg and it tickled my funny bone. But back to serious business. Peaking reduces the threat of predation, and for some males increased mating opportunities. (my funny bone is tickled again) :

# J.J. Cardinal's Calendar



May 2018

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

## CONTAINER TIME - THINK OUT SIDE THE BOX

This has been the year that winter had no apparent end. Finally last weekend as the sun came out and temperatures rose above 50 degrees. People emerged from their homes like butterflies from the cocoons and began to reclaim their yards from winter. If you have been to the store you have seen my early container displays. I use shrubs, perennial and spring bulbs in my first displays.

For those that are less risk adverse than me Mother's day is the traditional start to container season. I don't think there are too many of us who have not brought home a overflowing flower pot to our Mom from our favorite greenhouse. Since I am an early starter I have been to several of our local greenhouses and found some wonderful plants.

Sunrise Greenhouse had two wonderful pansy color mixes, delta monet and spring matrix daffodil. I used one for the beds front of the store and the other for my home. Carlson's had ranunculus in colors I had never see before. They are in the pots in front of Treasure Baskets. There is a magnificent blue almost black, ceramic container at the front of the store with a contorted filbert from Wojo's in Ortonville. At home I have a fun cement toad planter from Bordine's that I will fill with hens& chicks. Recently Tammy and I attended our Association of Professional Gardner's meeting for a presentation by George Papadelis. George is



one of my garden heroes when it comes to his knowledge of plants and ability to think outside of the box with garden displays. Here is where I will go on my soapbox to urge all of you to spend some time at your local garden centers instead of the big box stores. Diversity is key to having a great garden design. Nothing is more disappointing than going from garden to garden seeing the same plants repeated over and over again. I am a plant geek so I read and go to every lecture I can to stay on top of new ideas in gardening. These new ideas do not make it to mass production until it is no longer a new idea.

It is at these artisan garden shops where I am able to find new plant collections that have not made it to mass production. My favorites are the shops the ones where the growers work. These people who established the plant with care and the knowledge base I need to make a great performing display. So be bold, be brave, have fun and think outside of the box

## ORIOLES ARE BACK AND THE HUMMERS ON THE WAY



Baltimore Orioles were back in Michigan last week and Hummingbirds were sighted in Belleville on the 23rd according to our favorite tracking website, Journey North. So now is time to put out the grape jelly, the oranges and nectar to attract the early arrivers to your feeders. Last year is the first year I had my feeder out early enough to attract orioles. I was so excited to see my first pair eating the jelly. After a bit they disappeared and I was sad. But in a few weeks they came back with a family of 6 fledglings. This

*Orioles, continued on page 2*

## 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

