

## Events at J.J.'s

### June Events

#### Story Hour - with Sarah

Saturday June 2, drop in anytime from 12:30 to 3 pm. No cost

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

Saturday June 16, 2 pm - 4 pm

'What is that?' Taking an Observation walk meeting at Bicentennial Park. No cost

#### Craft Day - with Abby

Sunday June 24, drop in anytime from 12:30 to 3 pm

- no cost

(garden tours, continued from front page)

sons learned from this group gardeners that are willing to open up their home spaces for us. The gardens range from formal and elegant to quirky and inspirational. I find home gardeners to be very resourceful. I have seen musical instruments decorating garden walls, color wine bottles edging a path & found objects and weavings hanging in trees. I would recommend to anyone who even thinks they might like to garden to join a tour.

The Genesee Master Garden Tour is June 24 Sunday from 10 to 5. This one will feature five Grand Blanc home gardens. I know I will be going.

Clarkston is July 18th from 11 am to 7 pm. & Goodrich has it's garden walk on July 28th. The art work was amazing. Go to michigangardener.com event calendar for more details on these and other garden events.

## NEW ITEMS AT JJ'S



We recently received a new shipment of Folkmanis Puppets.

Sarah was excited to show me the elephant. It has an animator incorporated to lift and move his trunk.

Tammy has add some new books to our collection. I am a huge fan of insects so I was excited to see "Bugs" by George McGavin and Jim Kay. It is a pop up book packed with so much knowledge that is not just for small children. We also have a disappearing SPF30 zinc sunscreen from Naked Bee that has no chemical absorbers. Early next month we should be receiving our monarch eggs. I would suggest not waiting too long if you are interested. The supply will be limited.

Finally We have finished planting our new garden in front of the store. Now it is a matter of waiting to see if it becomes the image in my head. Even if it does not it will be a great learning experience. I believe that we learn more from our mistakes than our successes.

This space is truly challenging. First Sarah, Abby and I had to remove a lot of rocks and landscape cloth. Below that there was mixture of clay and sand with out a hint of top soil and I am sure full of salt. I never saw an earth worm while I was planting. Not a good sign for soil health But the only way for it to become a garden is to start. So here we go. Stop by to see it develop.

We look forward to seeing you soon. Thanks gretchen giles

## CREATING A WILDLIFE HABITAT

When developing a wild life garden think in layers. There should be several layers to create a diverse habitat. First is the tree layer to provide the top canopy followed by shrub understory and down to the carpet layer of flowers. A layer of debri/decay (aka mulch) is the finishing layer. The layer approach has two benefits. The first is that you can add more plants to your space the second is that each layer increases the diversity of species of wild life that will be attracted. The addition of water is key to success.

When you are designing your garden to attract more wildlife take note of your surrounding neighborhood. The wildlife you will be able to attract will depend on the landscape around you. If you plant a buddleia and you live by a large area of urban wildscape (aka an abandon site) as apposed to a neatly manicured neighborhood. You will see more butterflies since it is less likely to be chemically managed area. If you are near a mature woods you are more likely to spot cavity dwelling birds such as woodpeckers and nuthatches. It is possible to create a habitat that is completely foreign to your area but a mini-habitat typical to your area will be more successful at attracting wild life quickly.

No mater how small your space it is possible to invite nature to share your space. The upper canopy can be provided by growing a plant on a vertical surface. Followed by large plant and smaller plants at the base in a container. The water feature can be a pond or a shallow dish of clean water. Watch for future issues for more details.



# J.J. Cardinal's Calendar



June 2018

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

## OBSERVATION - WHAT IS IT REALLY

I have been asked to do a presentation at a local elementary school on a topic that covers summer time learning activities. So I am going to talk about observation. I will provide the children with a bag of bird seed and ask them to let me know what they saw eat the seeds.

You don't need to be a child to continue to learn. In a time when so many of us have our heads pointed down looking at our mobile devices I believe we miss too much of what is around us. So my challenge to you this month is to observe and experience the world right around you.

One of my birding books suggests for bird identification to compare a new bird to one you already know. His example was to compare it to a bird that most of us already know, a Robin. Is it bigger or smaller. Is the beak the blunter or more pointed. Is the tail wider. And so on. But to do this you truly need to observe the robin first. Even though we know a robin when we see it many would have problems describing the details. We know they have rusty red breast but how many of us would describe the white markings around his eye. I don't see well faraway but I can see movement and patterns easily. One of ways I first recognize Robin is by the way the stiff double leg hop on the ground. It is like knowing it is a bat by the way they fly in the night sky.

Plants are what I know best. Weeding is an excellent practice in obser-



vation. You get to know the leaf and stem and colors of small seedling to know who gets to stay and who is removed. Did you know members of the mint family have square stems?

For each of us it may be there may use different senses in our observation,

I know the smell of sand and a pine woods near a lake from the camping trips I took with my parents. I knew when we were close to the park when I could smell it. I know the sound of a storm coming in at night by the sound of leaves in the trees. Most of us can sense spring approaching it not only has to do with temperature but with subtle smells and moisture in the air.

So now back to my main topic. Take the time to truly observe and experience something outside. You don't need to go far just get a chair take your shoes off and sit in your yard. Just watch or close your eyes and listen life in the garden, the movements of the leaves feel the grass and smell the air.

## GARDEN TOURS & WALKS



Recently I was cleaning old messages off my phone when I found a text from April 15th when I was asking the landlord when the parking lot was going to be salted during our last ice storm. Too funny as I am sweating trying to keep up with the watering when it is over 90 degrees. We went from January to July in just 6 weeks. :)

I know many of you have been working diligently to get our gardens back in shape from a long winter and some are ready to show off their gardens. June marks the beginning of home garden tours/walks. I am constantly amazed at the creativity and les-

*Garden walks, 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

