

# Lake Owasso Garden Club

## April eNewsletter



### Next Meeting:

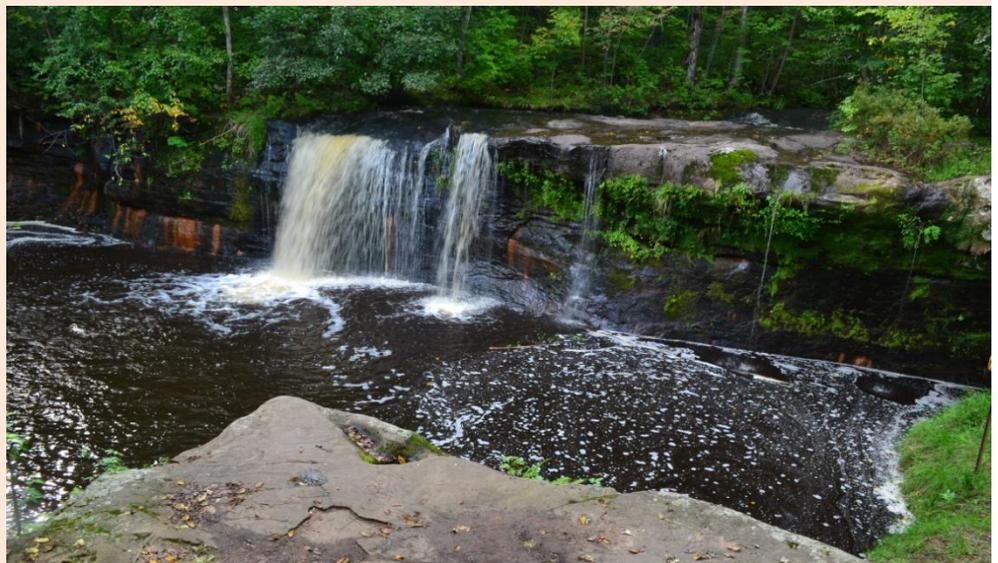
April 9, 2018

#### Location:

Presbyterian  
Church of the Way  
3382 Lexington Ave N  
Shoreview MN 55126

6:30 – Social,  
Snacks Provided

7:00 – Lecture



Banning State Park

**Bring a friend to our April meeting on 4/09!**

#### April Event Introduction – New Garden Plants of 2018

Renowned local horticulturist Deb Lonnee from Bailey Nurseries will talk about some of the exciting new plants coming to your garden for the 2018 growing season and walk us through trends to expect this year. What a fantastic way to start the growing season!

#### March Event Recap – Botanical Names

Last month, Alex Eilts from the University of Minnesota's College of Biological Science came to talk about the Latin naming system used for plants. His enthusiastic presentation explained the origin and history of binomial nomenclature in a fun and engaging way. While we may not remember the names in his examples, he taught us how to be aware of the scientific name and cautioned about buying plants using only their common names.

# APRIL in Minnesota

Average High: 58°  
Average Low: 37°

Average Rainfall: 2.68 in  
Average Snowfall: 3 in

## April 1, 2018

Sunrise 6:53am DST  
Sunset 7:40pm DST  
Total Daylight: 12:47 hours

## April 30, 2018

Sunrise 6:03am DST  
Sunset 8:17pm DST  
Total Daylight: 14:13 hours

# Presidents Message

*There is still a lot of snow around, temperatures continue cool as a result so we are probably not looking at an early spring this year. Not sure how many things will be up for the plant sale. But a couple weeks of sun does miracles.*

*The changes outside between now and May's newsletter will finally be great.*

*Look around your neighborhood for a friend to bring to the April meeting.*

Ron Kvass, April 2018

## Treasurer's report

Balance at the end of February: \$12,289.41

Income: Membership dues - 25.00, Purchase of plants by member - 124.40  
Expenses: Printing of yearbooks - 333.04, Speaker for March - \$50  
Speaker for April\* 200.00

Balance as of March 22, 2018 \$11,855.77



**The Flamboyant tree is endemic to Madagascar,  
But it grows in tropical areas around the world**

# *Secretary's report*

LOGC Meeting: March 12th 2018

20 Members Present and 1 Visitor

Our speaker for the evening was Alex Eilts, from the College of Biological Sciences at the University of Minnesota. He is the Curator of the University's Plant Collection. The topic for his presentation was "Botanical Names" or "Latin 101". Alex gave a lively presentation on how plants have been classified and named through history. He made it clear that Latin names provide much useful and descriptive information about a plant. Latin names are also unique and relatively permanent. Common names for plants, in contrast, can be very confusing because one plant may have several common names. These same common names can vary from one region of the country or world to another. Alex made an excellent case for correctly identifying the Genus and species names of our garden plants!

President Ron Kvaas then called the business meeting to order: The following items were discussed.

1. Ron discussed that he and Beth Oelke had met with floral designer Britta Wilson to discuss their design for "Art in Bloom" at the Minneapolis Institute of Art. Ron, Beth and Wendy Lucas will be Pedestal Floral Artists that will interpret a work of art at the MIA in a floral arrangement. "Art in Bloom" runs from April 26th to April 29th and the Pedestal Floral Artists will be in the gallery with their arrangement on April 26th from 6-9 PM. Ron would like to organize a group from LOGC to attend.
2. Beth Oelke provided updates on the Flower Show which is scheduled for July 14th and 15th at the Roseville Library. The committee is typing up the program and will discuss the theme "Through the Garden Gate" at our upcoming meetings. Beth also said that the show will focus on marigolds and zinnias for our annual display, if members are interested in starting seeds to have flowers to enter. She also outlined that there will be three categories for photography. They are: 1) Pictures of garden gates, 2) Pictures of Flora and Fauna (plants and animals) and 3) Close Encounters (pictures of single blooms). Photos need to be 4 by 6 size and unframed.
3. Beth Oelke discussed that she, Patty Costello and Patty Sullivan have met to discuss the design for the LOGC garden at the Roseville Arboretum. It will be a herb garden presented as an "Herbal Kaleidoscope". A planting day will be scheduled in late May and a notice will be sent out for any and all LOGC members to participate in planting the garden.
4. Ron discussed that he has the order completed for the plant sale and will send it in later this week. Members can still order flats in the next few days.
5. The speaker for our April meeting will be Debbie Lonnee, discussing "New Plants and Annuals for 2018". Members are encouraged to bring a friend or neighbor as a potential new member for the club.
6. The Minnesota Horticulture Society Spring Gala is Friday April 27th. It is from 5:30 to 10PM at the Marriott Hotel, 7025 Northland Drive. The cost is \$75.00 of which \$30.00 is tax deductible.
7. Dates for the "Flowers for Vets" Program have not yet been determined. Rebecca Patient will contact the coordinator and get our group scheduled in June or August.
8. Ron attended the Federated President's Tea this month where he brought back from it, the idea of having a yard sale of excess pots, tools, gardening supplies, etc at our plant sale. Other garden clubs have done this and Ron wanted to know what LOGC members thought of the idea. It will be discussed further in April.
9. Ron mentioned that Rose Diestler is doing better and welcomes visitors at Sunrise Care Center where she is now living. Afternoons are the best time to visit. Her home phone number has been transferred to her residence at Sunrise. Also, Lois Witzel is at home recovering from a hip replacement. A card from the club has been sent to Lois.

10. Ron is also looking for someone to take over as Secretary for LOGC. Dot Stewart has had to resign from that position and we are in need of a replacement for her.
11. Dick Flipp asked any members who have experienced trouble getting the newsletter the last few months to let him know. Some members have not been receiving the email. Dick also mentioned that the Washington County Horticultural Society asked him to inquire if any of our members were interested in having their gardens on tour this summer. Please let Dick know if you are interested in this or know of someone who may be interested.
12. Ron thanked our hostesses Evie Larson and Margy Philben for their wonderful refreshments.

Respectively Submitted by Rebecca Patient

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## A LETTER, FROM CHARLES and TERRI

From: Terri and Charles Anderson <[owasso@visi.com](mailto:owasso@visi.com)>

Date: Mon, Mar 19, 2018 at 10:50 PM

Subject: LOGC Handbook

To: [bbpatient@gmail.com](mailto:bbpatient@gmail.com)

Hi Rebecca-

Thank you for sending me the Lake Owasso Garden Club handbook. I realize it's a bit more bother to have to mail it than just to hand it out at a meeting, but I do appreciate your doing it for me.

I lived in Roseville for a little more than 40 years, so I still have many memories and friends from those years. The LOGC membership is one of the few ways that I can still re-connect with you folks up there. In 2016 Ron Kvass stopped to see me, but unfortunately in January there was not very much to show him beyond evergreen broad leaved trees. If any of you are ever headed to Florida or the Gulf coast down I-24 call me and I will be happy to meet you for lunch or dinner in Paducah (its about halfway from Minnesota to Florida). I very much look forward to the monthly newsletter that Dick Flipp sends out. So, as long as you will have me I will keep my membership going.

We are having a very wet, cold spring (for us). The daffodils are now just about at peak bloom and the redbuds are blooming. We had a 8-inch snow which for this climate means total shutdown until it all melts, as most of the local roads are not plowed. It took it 3-4 days to melt off the roads.

Gardening in the South has not quite turned out to be the "free pass" away from the problems I used to have in Minnesota. Granted winter hardiness is not an issue here, and the growing season runs from April to into November. But a couple of other equally difficult problems have arisen: the very hot 90 degree days of July and August, and the tendency of many plants to get root rot in the warm, moist clay soil. I fully admit that a large part of this problem was my own inexperience in growing in the South. I had several beloved plants that I initially tried and found out the hard way would not survive the summer- lilacs, rhubarb, red raspberries, and such. But in learning from other successful gardeners I have found plenty of things to grow- and most of them are very happy at 90 degrees. Roses like hot weather (some get huge) and crepe myrtles are my new lilacs. I did get one chuckle from one of your articles on pond gardening. Water lilies do very well around here, but you may have a very unwanted friend- water moccasin snakes in your small pond.

So if it ever stops raining I will be out planting again. It does every year and so I go out and do what I love most now that Terri and I are retired- that is, planting flowers and food. It's the same as what you do up in Minnesota.

Share this email with the other members of LOGC if you wish to do so. Meanwhile please keep in touch.  
Charles Anderson [owasso@visi.com](mailto:owasso@visi.com)

# "Just Add Water"

Articles and Photos by Soni Forsman

## Batter bowl repurposed as water garden

A container water garden small enough to sit on a table? The idea began to percolate one cold January day several years ago as I walked the aisles of a discount department store. In the kitchen area, I spotted a large white bowl. Printing on the bottom identified it as a 10-inch batter bowl.

Always on the lookout for another container to make just one more water garden, I bought it. If a few small pieces of aquatic plants did not transform it into my vision, I would turn it back into a mixing bowl. I followed the thriller, filler and spiller formula, using a small piece or sliver of three different plants. It quickly matured into a petite water garden.

The following is the recipe I used for my first one. The original plant choices worked so well, I still use the same ones each year.

### Petite Water Garden Recipe

- Small bowl/container (10-inch batter bowl)
- 1 plastic pot that fits comfortably in the container (five- six-inch azalea pot)
- Sword-leaf rush (*Juncus ensifolius*), aka Japanese dwarf rush, broadleaf rush
- Red-stemmed parrot's feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum* var. red-stemmed)
- Chameleon plant (*Houttuynia cordata*)
- Water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) optional

Plant a sliver of the broadleaf rush, the chameleon plant and a couple pieces of the parrot's feather in the plastic pot filled with garden soil, **not** potting mix. Top off with small gravel and place into the bowl and fill with water. If using water hyacinth, tuck a young/small plant into the space between the inside pot and the bowl. I added fertilizer to the planting medium than occasionally dropped an aquatic fertilizer tab into the water to nourish the floater and the other plants.

Instead of the three plants, you could use just one or drop in a floating plant, water hyacinth or water lettuce. My plant choices are just suggestions. Experiment with others, keeping the size and number of plants in scale with the outer container. This is a project you could do with another gardener. An aquatic plant growing in a four-inch pot will probably be more plant than needed for one of these small water gardens unless it will be the one and only. Divide and share if using more.

### Descriptions of the plant I used

- **Sword-leaf rush** - Its broad slightly blue-green leaves produce dark brown seed heads, reaching a height of 12 inches.
- **Red-stemmed parrot's feather** – It is about one-half the size of the larger green variety with brilliant red stems. It is compact with more branching.
- **Chameleon plant** – Its green heart-shaped leaves are splashed with red and white, turning maroon in the fall. It has single white flowers.
- **Water hyacinth** – a favorite floater that likes full sun.



**Inner pot sits comfortably in the batter bowl,  
(with plenty of room for water around and over)**



**Mini water garden adorns an outdoor table.  
The heron sculpture is from a local art fair.  
Chameleon plant is visible near the heron's head  
Early fall- Spikelets arch under the weight of the maturing grain**

# "Brianna's Kitchen Garden"

## Creamy Garlic Mushroom Soup

It's still functionally winter in April. Sure – the sun feels warm, the snow melts, the ground thaws, and we can put our first seeds into the ground, but as far as fresh produce goes, we're still pulling from last season's stores. It's still a good time of year for soup and this mushroom soup makes a tasty bowl. Try adding cooked wild rice or fresh greens, like spinach.

### Ingredients

- 1 lb. fresh mushrooms (*try baby bella*)
- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- Pinch salt & pepper
- 2 Tbsp butter
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 cups broth or stock (*your choice of flavor*)
- 2 cups water
- 1/8 tsp dried thyme
- 1/2 cup heavy cream (*or you can use half-&-half or milk*)
- 1 tsp soy sauce

### Instructions

- Wash the mushrooms to remove any dirt or debris. Slice half of the mushrooms and roughly chop the other half.
- Add the olive oil, mushrooms, garlic, and a pinch of salt and pepper to a soup pot. Sauté the mushrooms over medium heat until they have released all of their moisture, all the liquid has



evaporated from the bottom of the pot, and the mushrooms become very dark brown.

- Add the butter and flour to the pot. Stir and cook for about two minutes more. The flour and butter will form a thick paste and coat the mushrooms and the bottom of the pot. It's okay for the flour to coat the pot and brown a bit, just don't let it burn.
- Finally, add the broth, water, and dried thyme. Stir to dissolve all of the flour from the bottom of the pot.
- Allow the liquid to come up to a simmer, at which point the flour will slightly thicken the broth.
- Stir the cream into the soup.
- Finally, add the soy sauce, taste the soup, and add an additional pinch of salt if needed. L SEP

Source: <https://www.budgetbytes.com/2017/09/creamy-garlic-mushroom-soup/>

# To Till or Not To Till

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This is a topic that comes up every year in the spring. The ground thaws and gardeners everywhere are eager to pull out the tiller and pitchfork to “fluff up” their garden beds. I’ll admit, I’ve been a pitch-fork and hoe advocate for years. However, there is a growing body of evidence that this annual practice is not necessary. “Heresy!” you say, but hear me out.

The soil in your garden beds has a texture depending on its composition of sand, silt, clay, and organic material. You can feel the difference if you try to squish a ball of soil into a ball – sandy soil will refuse to cooperate and clay soil will form a dense ball. You can also tell the difference when you water – after a rain, sandy soil will feel almost dry and clay soil will probably still have standing water.

During the growing season, many of us add compost or other organic material; this acts as a magic ingredient in the soil – it gives the sand more body so it can hold water and its shape; it allows clay soil to drain and loosens its rigid structure. Insects like worms and beetles and tiny beneficial microbes like fungi and bacteria like the nutrients that the compost has to offer and create tunnels through the soil. When we introduce our plants to the mix, there is a matrix of paths for the young and delicate roots to grow. This means the plant doesn’t need to invest as much effort underground and can start developing

the above-ground portions sooner or with more vigor.

Then what do we do every spring? Bring out the tiller, pitchfork, and hoe and “fluff up” the soil. This might look nice and darn if it doesn’t feel satisfying, but it destroys those delicate tunnels and forces the plants to work that much harder. Then we spend the whole season building up that texture again.

A better solution is to use a small hand trowel or hand fork to loosen only the soil around where a plant will be entered into the soil. Once the transplant starts growing, it will find a whole array of pre-made tunnels waiting to help it grow. What a pleasant surprise for the plant! And a whole lot less work for the gardener. Both things I like.

I’m going to try it this year; hope you do too!

Plant in April: Leafy greens (lettuce, arugula, spinach), cool season herbs (cilantro, mint, parsley), root vegetables (radishes, carrots, beets), peas, onions, brassica (broccoli, kale, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, turnips, cabbage)

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## **We just received two thank you letters for our 2017 donations.**

This is a small part of the letter from Como Friends—“Your contribution will help Como Friends invest in high impact habitat improvements, powerful education partnerships, and conservation-minded initiatives such as the new Minnesota Garden that welcomes and inspires plant lovers with butterfly friendly native flowers and plants”

From FGCM, “Thank you for helping the FGCM Scholarship Fund Award students at the University and Colleges in Hort and Ag.” “At the annual meeting we will have the opportunity to meet our scholarship winners.”

Mary Fowler, 2017 Treasurer

## **Flowers for Vets Project**

Save the date of Thursday June 14th for the Flowers for Vets Project. We have seven LOGC members who want to participate, but we could always use more! Rides to the VA are provided and this is fun work made light by more hands. Please consider participating.

Thank you, Rebecca Patient

# Plant "Imagination"

## Winky Blue and White Columbine



**Winky Blue And White Columbine** has stunning nodding blue bell-shaped flowers with white overtones and blue spurs at the ends of the stems from late spring to early summer. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its lobed compound leaves remain bluish-green in color throughout the season. The fruit is not ornamentally significant.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone. It will grow to be about 24 inches tall, with a spread of 15 inches. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground and grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 5 years.

This plant grows well in both full sun and full shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH.

**Winky Blue And White Columbine** is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges.

**Note:** When growing in outdoor containers and baskets water more frequently than you would in the yard or garden. Be aware that in our climate, most plants cannot be expected to survive the winter if left in containers outdoors, and this plant is no exception.

# Taste That!

## *Sweet Potato and Orange Casserole*

2 lbs (3-4) large sweet potatoes

4 small oranges

Cooking Spray

1 stick butter

1 cup (packed) light brown sugar

½ cup chopped pecans

1 cup fresh orange juice

3 Tbsp pure maple syrup

1 Tbsp cornstarch

1/8 tsp ground cloves

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Place the potatoes in a large pot; add enough cold water to cover by 1 inch. Bring to a boil, reduce the heat to medium-high and cook until tender, 30-40 minutes; drain. Peel the potatoes while still warm, then cut into ¼ inch thick slices.
2. Using a sharp knife, cut the peel and pith from the oranges; cut into ¼ inch thick slices. Coat a 9 x 13 inch baking dish with cooking spray. Alternate the potato and orange slices in the dish, overlapping slightly in crosswise rows.
3. In a medium saucepan, melt the butter over medium heat. Add the brown sugar and pecans. Cook, stirring constantly, until the sugar melts and a smooth sauce forms, 2-3 minutes; spoon over the potatoes and oranges.
4. In a small saucepan, bring the orange juice, maple syrup, cornstarch and cloves to a simmer over medium-high, whisking often, until thickened, about 5 minutes. Pour over the potato and orange mixture. Bake until the juices bubble and thicken, about 15 minutes.

## 2018 Officers

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## About LOGC

Monthly Lectures/Meetings (September-May)

Where: Presbyterian Church of the Way  
3382 Lexington Ave North,  
Shoreview MN 55126

Website

<http://www.lakeowassogc.weebly.com>

There you can link to crosspollination for more clubs and calendar of events.

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/Lake-Owasso-Garden-Club-174124202623663/>

Membership

\$25<sup>00</sup> per year

Newsletter Submissions

Deadline is by the 25th of each month.

The newsletter is released on the first of the month.

We welcome pictures (*provide a title and description, including Latin names of plants*), news items, and commentary. Send content via email to [raflipp@comcast.net](mailto:raflipp@comcast.net).



**What's going on in the Minnesota gardening world?**

Go to: <http://www.crosspollination.weebly.com>

***Once There:** You will find a calendar of events and links to many garden clubs and their Websites, Facebook, Twitter etc.*