

President's Corner – December 2022, Happy Holidays Edition

The holidays are almost here and there are some tasks which might make your winter gardening, inside and, out more joyful.

Some tasks this month from the **Missouri Botanical Garden (MBG)** include continuing to inspect inside plants closely for insect pests (white fly, aphids, spider mites, scale, etc.). If you have dried flowers and seed heads on wreaths and arrangement, they can be kept together using hairspray

Several tips for outside gardening include making sure your trees and shrubs do not have “volcano” mulching around the base or trunk. If present, push the mulch back from the trunk base to prevent girdling roots, disease or other problems. Look for, remove, and discard any bagworms and cedar-apple rust galls on junipers anytime now until spring. Inspection for bagworms is also needed for arborvitae, spruce, crabapples, and oaks.

By now most of us either have or are planning to get poinsettias. Knowing how to properly care for them is important. They do best in sun for at least half the day and in night temperatures in the 50's or 60's. Plants should be kept from drafts and soil should dry only slightly between waterings. Make certain to punch holes in the bottom of those decorative foil wraps.

More information about poinsettias including their care and the varieties available can be found at **Garden Design:** https://www.gardendesign.com/flowers/poinsettias.html?utm_source=article-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Poinsettias-12-1-22

As it gets colder, we need to be aware of how to protect our outdoor plants from adverse winter weather. The **University of Minnesota Extension** has two articles which may be helpful. One is on protecting plants: <https://extension.umn.edu/yard-and-garden-news/winter-protection-plants>. The other discusses the impact of de-icing salts on landscapes: <https://extension.umn.edu/lawns-and-landscapes/effects-deicing-salts-landscapes>

A couple programs may be of interest to you: one in the neighborhood and one virtual:

Friday, December 2 – 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. *Cooking with Herbs* will be presented by **St. Louis Herb Society** at the **Mid-County Branch**, 7821 Maryland Avenue 63105. Learn how to use herbs for a variety of ways in the kitchen. You can register at: <https://slcl.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=305073>

Wednesday, December 14 – 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. *Nature's Narratives: Rosalie Edge, Hawk of Mercy: The Activist Who Saved Nature from the Conservationists* offered by the **Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College**. Nature's Narratives is the monthly book discussion group. Join fellow garden enthusiasts and book lovers to discuss books about plants, nature, and the environment. Participants are encouraged but not required to read each month's selection prior to the discussion. Discussions led by Elizabeth Haegele and participants are welcome to share or listen. Register at: https://support.scottarboretum.org/natures-narratives-rosalie-edge-hawk-of-mercy/?_gl=1*f5ua5g*_ga*MTEyMjQwMDc3NC4xNjY5OTEwODAw*_ga_Y8DSF1N8WS*MTY2OTkxMDc5OS4xLjEuMTY2OTkxMTQ1Ni4wLjAuMA.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!