

## President's Corner – February 2023

Spring is on the horizon. One real indication of this is that an inspection of my Hellebores (also known as Lenten Rose) yesterday had small buds appearing underneath the desiccated leaves. What a wonderful surprise--I can't wait for them to be in full bloom.

And speaking of hellebores, **Garden Design** has a good article that includes lots of good information on how to care for these beautiful, early blooming flowers. It has good tips on where and when to plant them, if and when they should be separated, etc. If you enjoy this early bloomer, I suggest you read it at: [https://www.gardendesign.com/flowers/hellebores.html?utm\\_source=article-newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Hellebores-1-19-23](https://www.gardendesign.com/flowers/hellebores.html?utm_source=article-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Hellebores-1-19-23)

The **Missouri Botanical Garden (MBG)** says that some flower seeds can be started outdoors in February as they should sprout and begin growing before our weather warms. They recommend seeds should be planted where, in the garden, you plan for them to grow. The seeds they suggest include larkspur, sweet peas, Shirley poppies and snapdragons.

If you start seeds indoors, **MBG** also suggests some slow-growing flowers can be planted indoors in February such as ageratum, verbena, petunias, geraniums, coleus, impatiens and salvia.

In addition to flowers, some vegetables can be started indoors. These include celery, celeriac, broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, and cabbage. These can be transplanted into the garden later in the spring.

For those of you who are new to starting plants indoors from seed, **Garden Design** has a short article to help. You can find it here: [https://www.gardendesign.com/seeds/starting.html?utm\\_source=article-newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Seed-Starting-1-26-23](https://www.gardendesign.com/seeds/starting.html?utm_source=article-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Seed-Starting-1-26-23)

A few virtual programs and one live program that may be of interest to you:

**Thursday, February 2, 6 p.m. – 7 p.m.** *Jump Starting the Growing Season.* **Seed St. Louis.** How to get crops started earlier and what crops to grow. Register at: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/9016727768236/WN\\_c9IVQJBzRvuqxdQbLWHjOA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/9016727768236/WN_c9IVQJBzRvuqxdQbLWHjOA)

**Wednesday, February 8, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm PST.** *Growing Under the Stars with Master Gardeners: organic pest management*, a program sponsored by the **University of Nevada Extension**. While creepy crawlies AKA insects are a part of gardening, some are beneficial and some are not. If you are looking for a way to manage the insects in your vegetable that won't add harsh chemicals to your vegetables then this class is for you. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gutsmg-organic-pest-management-tickets-458718779217>

**Friday, February 10, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.** *Healthy Living for Seniors: Planning Your Garden.* Sponsored by **Aging Ahead** and held at the **Grant's View Branch** of the **St. Louis County Library**. Register at: <https://www.agingahead.org/events/planning-your-garden-in-person-2-10-23>

**February 15, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.** *History and Use of Herbs* presented by **St. Louis Herb Society** and offered by the **St. Louis County Library**. Learn how herbs were used in the past and how they are used today. Adults. Registration required. Register at: <https://slcl.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=322618>