



GFWC-Big Rapids, Inc. Newsletter

APRIL, 2025

Spring has finally arrived, sort of. At least the robins are back, you can hear the birds chirping and the spring flowers are starting to come up. Soon the trees will start to show some green and everything will come alive!

Spring brings busy times for us, the GFWC State Convention, our annual Yard Sale, and the May Banquet ending our club year.

As we are all so busy with everything in and out of GFWC, please remember to take time for yourself and to "smell the roses".

Sue

Sue Johnson, President (231)349-5137
Linda Telfer, 1st Vice President
Delores Simpson, 2nd VP(Membership)
Leona Royer, Secretary
Ann Stellard, Treasurer
Melonie James, Parliamentarian
Linda Telfer, Newsletter Editor

Due date for the newsletter is the 25th of each month.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

April 4—Wear Blue Day—Child Abuse Prevention Month

April 8—Club Meeting 6:00 social/6:30 meeting

April 24-27—GFWC Michigan Convention, Park Place—Traverse City (see hotel info pg. 5)

May 13—Spring Banquet 6:00 pm @ Antler's Cost \$30

MEETING CHECKLIST

A FRIEND

Can Tabs

Sneakers

\$ for Heifer Intl.

Used Greeting Cards

Birthday Bag Items

Operation Smile Items

Batteries

Spring Banquet Money



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 13—Delores Simpson

April 27—Cathy Chapman

A decorative border made of red roses and green leaves, framing the central text.

CARES AND CONCERNS

Joan Boroff—health issues

Mary Sue Hansen—health issues

Janet Miller Monfils—health issues

Janet Miller Monfils' Husband (Greg) - health issues

Pat Rossi—surgery

Mel James' mother—health issues

Mary Beth Vanderlist—surgery

Vickie Vogel—health issues



GFWC Tidbits . . .

GFWC International—In 1872 J. Sterling Morton proposed a tree planting holiday to be called Arbor Day and GFWC, a national organization, began to recognize Arbor Day in 1905, making it part of their environmental and community outreach efforts. This year it is celebrated around the world on April 25th

GFWC Michigan—GFWC clubs throughout Michigan recognize Arbor Day by planting trees and asking their city commissions to recognize the day by proclamation. Although some choose different dates to recognize Arbor Day, Michigan stays with the nationally recognized date which is the last Friday in April, the 25th.

GFWC Big Rapids—This year GFWC Big Rapids will recognize Arbor Day by planting trees provided by the Environment CSP.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NEXT CLUB MEETING

Tuesday, April 8th

6:00 Social Time/6:30 Meeting

Host: Environment

Speaker will be Dr. Clifton Franklund



Payable at the
April meeting.



JUNIOR SPECIAL PROGRAM

Champion for Children

- Wear BLUE on April 1st and post on social media
- Plant blue pinwheels, the symbol of child maltreatment prevention.
- Host a family fun event-movie night, game night, or a craft event

MAKE THE SAFETY AND WELLBEING OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES A PRIORITY.

Wear Blue Day

Every April we kick off Child Abuse Prevention Month with Wear Blue Day! This year Wear Blue Day is Friday, April 04, 2024.



2025 GFWC STATE CONVENTION

April 24-27, 2025

Park Place in Traverse City

**Make sure you have submitted your
registration with payment.**





GFWC Michigan State Convention 2025 Raffle

**Sue Johnson will
have tickets available
at the club meeting.**



**Win the perfect getaway
and support GFWC
Michigan!!!!**

**Retreat to Bellaire and enjoy the comforts
of our home at Hall's Haven in Shanty
Creek Resort Bellaire, MI**



Our cabin offers:

- ◇ **12 beds (4 bedrooms & 3 baths)**
- ◇ **Access to pools @ 2 resorts**
- ◇ **Beach Club on Lake Bellaire**
- ◇ **Private Sauna**
- ◇ **Fully equipped & spacious home**

FIND US ON AIRBNB Hall's Haven—Your Home away from Home

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING...



CRYSTAL TRAVELS . . .

Can you guess where Crystal was? Keep looking. . .



DR. SEUSS BIRTHDAY PARTY



Cheryl Tessier and Joan Boroff assisted Mr. Howard, Children's Program Director at the Library, host the annual Dr. Seuss Birthday Party/Story Hour. Fourteen children along with 12 parent(s)/grandparents, enjoyed an hour of stories, a short Dr. Seuss movie (Green Eggs and Ham) and played a parachute game. Club members handed out goodie bags filled with a couple of Dr. Seuss inspired children's erasers, a couple of prepackaged snacks and a small water. Dr. Seuss books donated by GFWC for the kids were laid out on a table and each child was able to choose a book to take home.

PENTWATER ROAD TRIP

Painting on Silk



Seven members traveled to Pentwater to learn how to paint a silk suncatcher at the Painted Frog Art Studio. What a fun time and everyone's project turned out great. We even got to see Delores' beautiful Pentwater home.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY WINNER

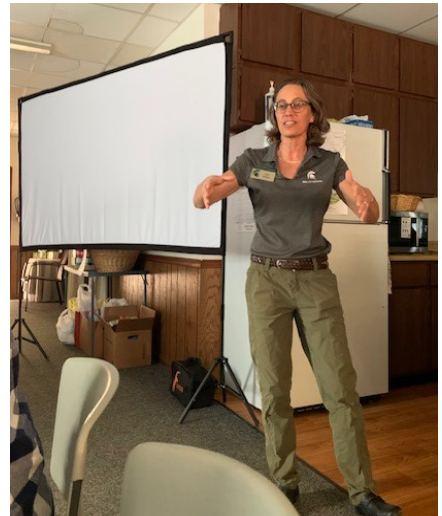
At the March meeting, Cheryl Tessier was selected as the winner of the St. Patrick's Day spirit contest. Congratulations Cheryl!





NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT GATHERING

MARCH 15, 2025



Eight members travelled to Evart on Saturday afternoon to attend the NWD Gathering. Despite losing power right before the gathering began, we continued on with a bit of a schedule change. Two MSU Extension workers explained healthy lifestyles as well as what the MSU Extension Office offers residents of Mecosta and Osceola counties. After their presentation, lunch was served and each club President shared some of their club's upcoming events. Melissa Povilaitis, NWD President, presented information on the State Convention which we are hosting in Traverse City and all members were encouraged to attend and assist with a sign-up sheet being available at this meeting.



FLOWER OF THE MONTH

(Sponsored by Environment CSP)

Easter Lilies

Like clockwork, Easter lilies (*Lilium longiflorum*) appear in grocery stores and flower shops in the spring. Their trumpet-shape, pure white blooms always look fresh and elegant, and they can [fill a room with their sweet scent](#). Frequently, when the flowers of these potted [lilies](#) fade, the plants are discarded, but with a little TLC, you can keep them around and add them to your [flower beds](#), where they'll likely bloom again for years to come. Here's what you need to know to get the most out of these [easy-to-grow bulbs](#), both in potted planters and also in the garden

Where to Plant Easter Lilies

In the garden, Easter lilies grow best in [USDA Hardiness Zones 4—8](#). The bulbs require well-draining, rich soil with regular moisture throughout the spring growing season. Because of their large flowers and eventual garden height of about 3 feet, they tend to flop over, so place them where they can lean against other plants yet still get [plenty of sunshine](#). Bamboo stakes and grow-through plant supports are also options.

How and When to Plant Easter Lilies

Plant the bulbs in the fall, a few weeks before your area's [first frost date](#), to allow for root growth. A rule of thumb is to [bury them twice the depth of the bulb](#) to keep the plant firmly in the ground during the heaving of winter freeze-thaw cycles. Setting the bulbs a little deeper in the ground also means the plant effectively uses the soil as support for the next season's stem. If they're planted too shallow, they may require more staking.

Easter Lilies Care Tips

Light

[Easter lilies](#) prefer full sun but benefit from some cover during the hottest part of the day. Planting them in a bed with [shorter perennials](#) and annuals provides some shade.

Soil and Water

Easter lilies require [well-draining soil](#) with [lots of organic matter](#) and regular watering during their growing season. Water early in the day so the leaves have time to dry out before night and don't mildew.

Temperature and Humidity

Easter lilies don't flourish in hot, humid locations. They like mild daytime temperatures of about 70° F and nighttime temps of about 55°F. Humidity around 50 percent is ideal for them.

Fertilizer

When the flower buds begin to form in early spring, fertilize Easter lilies with fertilizer containing a [high phosphorus content](#), such as a 5-10-5 formulation. The phosphorus is important for bloom development.

Pruning

Cut the entire stem of the Easter lily back to the ground in fall after the last bloom dies.

From: www.bhg.com