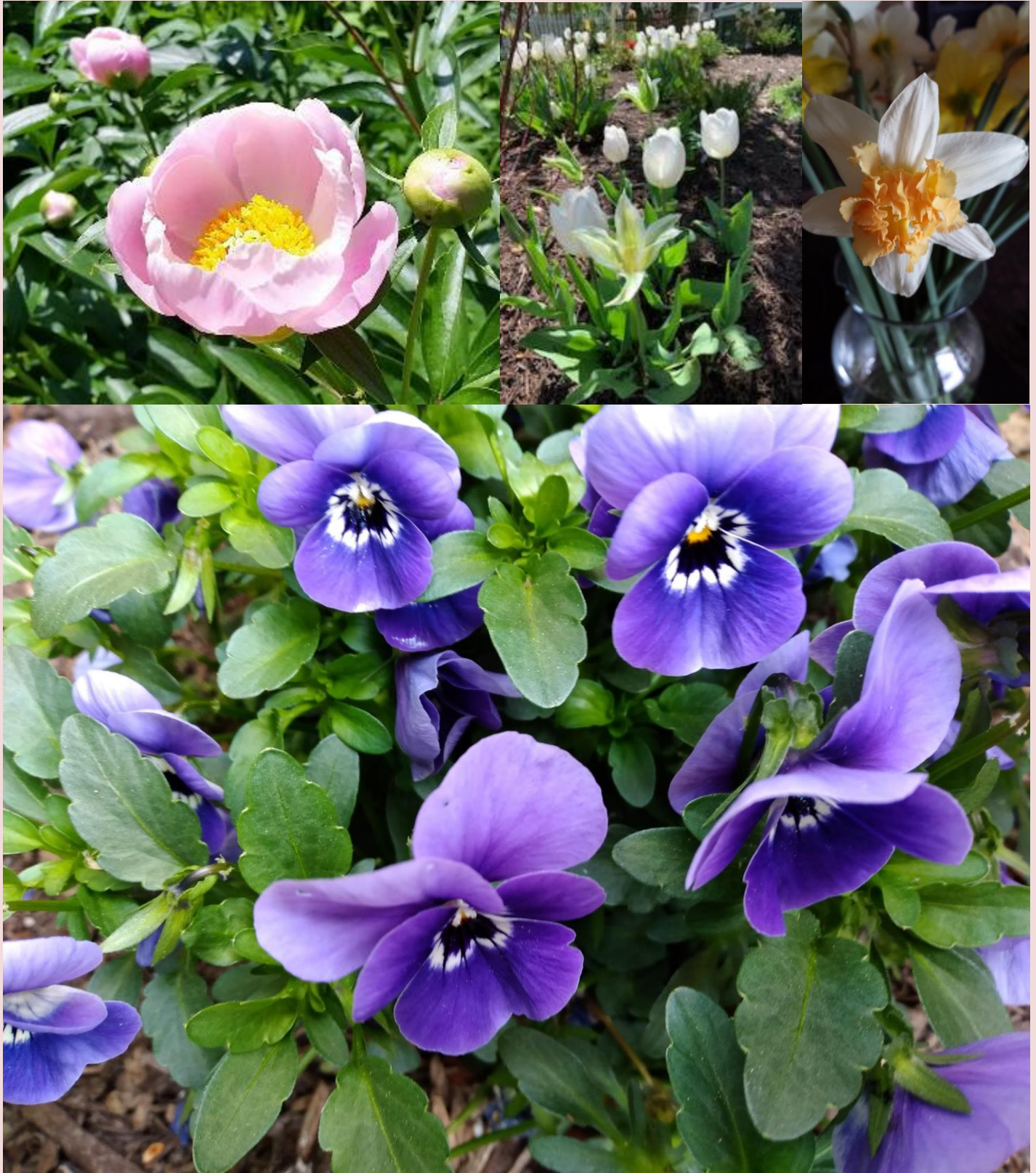


THE DIGGERS

Dorchester Garden Club

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*“Where flowers bloom, so does hope”
... Lady Bird Johnson*

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From DGC President, Jeanne Bernard...

Hello All and Happy Spring, I guess.



I miss seeing all your smiling faces and share your concerns and sadness during these unprecedented times. I am so disappointed, as well, that so many of our plans to celebrate our 90th anniversary have been cancelled or postponed. (Not to mention all our personal activities and events now cancelled or postponed -- weddings, graduations, first communions, baby and bridal showers, holiday celebrations and so much more). We worked very hard to make this a special year, from our monthly meetings with speaker topics inspired by decades of movies, to the Gold Star Marker dedication at Beulah Veteran's Cemetery and the May 2nd House and Garden Pilgrimage, the latter of which dozens of club volunteers have been working on since last summer. For those of us who were scheduled to be on the tour, we were so worried about the early spring date and what our gardens might look like. As it turns out, it would have been beautiful! My daffodils have been glorious (early, but a stunning display nonetheless) and they will certainly be gone by then, but everything else should look spectacular. In fact, if we ever get through this pandemic (unscathed—is that even possible?), I invite anyone who wishes to schedule a visit and tour my gardens anyway.



A further note about our programs...those we have to cancel we will try to reschedule same time, next year. I do hope we can kick off "It's a Garden Party" with a big bang at our June picnic at Fran Collins' home. Think positive thoughts that we will be in the clear by then. Maybe heat and humidity will defeat Covid-19.

The theme for June's picnic (1950s) is "Singing in the Rain." If you have any clever ways to celebrate given that film inspiration, please let me or Fran know! And if we do have to cancel, well we'll just figure it out, won't we? Peruse your new yearbooks to see what else we have planned for the rest of the year. We'll take it day-by-day, month-by-month. It will make celebrating our anniversary at the Hyatt in December an even sweeter occasion.

So what do we do now? This is a great time—once it really warms up and the wind dies down-- to spend lots of time in our gardens. It is a spiritual space that may bring some solace in times of pain. With not much else we can do, away from home that is, it's a fine time to reassess your landscape beds, do some soil sampling, move some plants around to maximize their growing success or maybe use some of those plant labels we all bought at the Digger's Boutique and label some of our prized plants.



How about planning and planting a Victory Garden? You can still order plants and seeds on line if you are not venturing out to garden centers. Not sure we are allowed to do that, although I certainly believe shopping for plants is an essential activity. Right?

And finally, here are a few of the many lovely photos shared by DGC club members from their home gardens for “The Buzz” to brighten our spirits these past weeks as we shelter in place (in addition to those on the cover), along with a beautiful view of our club’s plaque at the Heron Garden. Thank you, Ivy Leaguers!

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Faye Phillips



Trish Greenwell



Lynne Davis



Mari Stanley

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Miriam Zijp-Koedijk



Patti Hopkins



Sue Lachenmayr



Jeanne Bernard

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Heron Garden, Spring 2020

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February 14 “Improving our Landscape for our Avian Friends” Meeting

The Dorchester Garden Club celebrated Valentine’s Day with their February 14, 2020 Meeting at Immanuel United Church of Christ in Cambridge. Club president, Jeanne Bernard, welcomed members and guests and provided highlights of interest and upcoming events and committee chairpersons were invited to report to members. The February meeting program featured a very timely and informative presentation by Susie Creamer, director of Patterson Park Audubon Center in Baltimore, where she and her team work to create bird habitat and also offer a variety of nature-based educational programs and volunteer opportunities for youth and adults alike. Her talk, “Creating a Bird Friendly Garden” stressed the importance of providing food, water, shelter and a place for birds to raise their young, with an emphasis on including a variety of native plants, shrubs and trees for birds to feed on – as well as to attract insects for the birds to feed on.



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DGC Members were encouraged to create their own bird friendly gardens and to earn an Audubon Bird Friendly Habitat sign featuring the iconic Baltimore Oriole.

The meeting also included the club's traditional mini-flower show, featuring an array of horticulture entries, including some very early daffodils, and stunning design entries.



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Division I - Horticulture Awards

Class 1 Forced Branches

1b. Pussy Willow: 1st Cheryl Willey

1c. Any other: 2nd Cookie Brohawn

Class 2 African Violets

2b. Pot diameter more than 3": 2nd Betsy Parks

Class 3 Conifers

3b. Without cones or berries: 1st Beverly Shelly, 2nd Trish Greenwell, 3rd Linda Rossi

Class 4 Broadleaf Evergreen Tree or Shrub-one branch

4a. Flowering: 1st Billie Norton, 2nd Sue Lachenmayr, 3rd Kathy Slaughter, HM Nancy Johnson

4b. Foliage: 1st Beverly Shelly, 2nd Martha Keating, 3rd Trish Greenwell, HM Nancy Barger

4c. Fruited: 1st Beverly Shelly

Class 5 Ilex (Holly)-one branch

5a. Foliage: 1st Beverly Shelly, 2nd Cheryl Willey, 3rd Sue Lachenmayr

5b. Fruited: 1st Kathy Slaughter, 2nd Beverly Shelly, 3rd Trish Greenwell

Class 6 Container Grown Plants (maximum pot diameter 8")

6a. Flowering: 1st Cookie Brohawn, 2nd Sue Lachenmayr, 3rd Fran Collins

6b. Foliage: 1st Jeanne Bernard, 2nd Karen Cartwright, 3rd Fran Collins

Class 7 Open Class

7b. Perennial: 1st Martha Keating, 2nd Deana Kozak

7d. Bulb, corm, rhizome, tuber: 1st Beverly Shelly, 2nd Fran Collins, 3rd Ellen Higgins, HM Kathy Slaughter, Dona Dunlap

7e. Vines: 1st Beverly Shelly

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Division II – Design

Class 1. “I Love You” an Armature Design



First Place, Karen Cartwright



Second Place, Mari Stanley



Honorable Mention, Kay Karminski



Honorable Mention, Barbara Hubbard

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Class 2. "It's for the Birds" Artistic Design of bird's nest crafted from found items



First Place, Kay Karminski



Second Place, Barbara Hubbard

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Third Place, Mari Stanley



Honorable Mention, Cheryl Wiley

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March 13th DGC Annual Meeting

The March 13th meeting took place just before Covid 19 had been reported on the Eastern Shore, but it was not without it's last minute challenges. The planned meeting site, the Eastern Shore Hospital Center, had decided to close to visitors in an abundance of caution and thanks to Martha Keating and Kathy Slaughter space was procured at Immanuel United Church of Christ. Jeanne Bernard called the meeting to order and updates and annual reports by committee chairpersons were given and the 2020-2021 "It's a Garden Party" annual yearbooks were distributed, followed by a boxed lunch. The planned program "Mid-Atlantic Monarch Initiative: Planting Habitat for the Near Threatened Monarch Butterfly" did not take place due to illness of guest speaker, Suzanne Pittenger-Slear, President and CEO of Environmental Concern. (See excerpts from the Environmental Concern's recent newsletter for great information about their operation during Covid on page 21 of this issue of Diggers.)

Despite these challenges, much great information was shared at the meeting and there was a lovely mini flower show with exquisite photo entries in the Division II Design category. Here are some images and awards from the meeting...



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Division I - Horticulture Awards

Class 1 Forced Branches

1b. Pussy Willow: Cheryl Willey

Class 3 Conifers-One branch

3a. With Cones or Berries: 1st Cookie Brohawn

3b. Without Cones or Berries: 1st Cookie Brohawn

Class 4 Broadleaf Evergreen Tree or Shrub-one branch

4a. Flowering: 1st Joan S. Johnson, 2nd Cookie Brohawn, 3rd Billie Norton, HM Jane Parks

4b. Foliage: 1st Billie Norton, 2nd Cookie Brohawn

4c. Fruited: 2nd Cookie Brohawn

Class 5 Ilex (Holly)-one branch

5a. Foliage: 2nd Jane Parks

5b. Fruited: 1st Evelyn Renquist, 2nd Pat Jones

Class 6 Container Grown Plants

6a. Flowering: 1st Sandy Johnson, 2nd Karen Cartwright

6b. Foliage: 1st Susan Lachenmayr, 2nd Susan Matthews

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Class 7 Open Class

7b. Perennial: 1st Cheryl Willey, 2nd Martha Keating, 3rd Gloria Warner, HM Jane Parks, Bobbie Rideout

7d. Bulb, corm, rhizome, tuber: 1st Fran Collins, 2nd Joan S. Johnson, 3rd Martha Keating, HM Cheryl Willey, Cookie Brohawn, Nancy Johnson

Division II Design Class 1 "Butterflies are Free" B&W or color vertical matted photo



1st Place, Mari Stanley

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2nd Place Jeanne Bernard

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3rd Place, David Adams

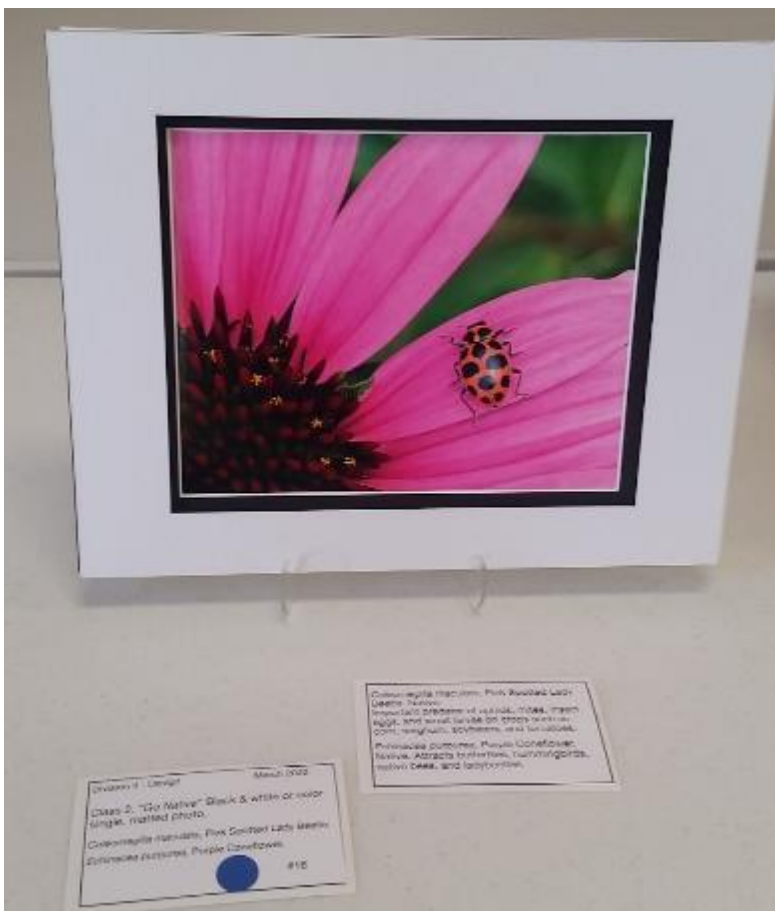
Honorable Mention: Linda Chandlee, Kay Karminski, Sue Lachenmayr

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Design Class 2: "Go Native" B&W or Color matted photo



1st place, Mari Stanley



2nd Place Kay Karminski

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3rd Place, David Adams

**Honorable Mention: Sue Lachenmayr, Jeanne Bernard, Shirley Chatham,
Nancy Johnson, Cheryl Willey**

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The following is from the recently issued Environmental Concern Newsletter, with great info that president and CEO Suzanne Pittenger-Slear would likely have shared at our March meeting about their operation and native plant and seed sales during the Covid 19 situation They are located nearby in St. Michaels.



**Monarch habitat is coming back...
thanks to you, our dedicated Seed Stewards!**



From our family to yours: **we hope that this communication finds you and your family healthy and safe during this challenging time.**

COVID-19 Update: **Environmental Concern** (EC) is on the list of "Essential Businesses" according to Governor Hogan's executive order during a press conference on Monday, Feb. 22. We are continuing to operate, following the recommendations by the CDC and the state of Maryland, and we are taking steps to keep our staff (and you) healthy and safe. As the situation evolves, Environmental Concern will keep customers, Seed Stewards for Monarchs, and visitors updated regarding any changes that may arise due to the pandemic.

On a positive note, EC's nursery is open for Retail Plant Sales. We welcome your plant orders, but ask that you call or email first. We have a protocol in place for picking up orders safely. We are sanitizing our offices frequently, and taking every precaution recommended by the CDC for work place environments.

**Nursery Hours are from 8 am - 4 pm, Monday through Friday.
EC's plant availability is updated bi-weekly. Visit our website to review the list.
Or call 410.745.9620**

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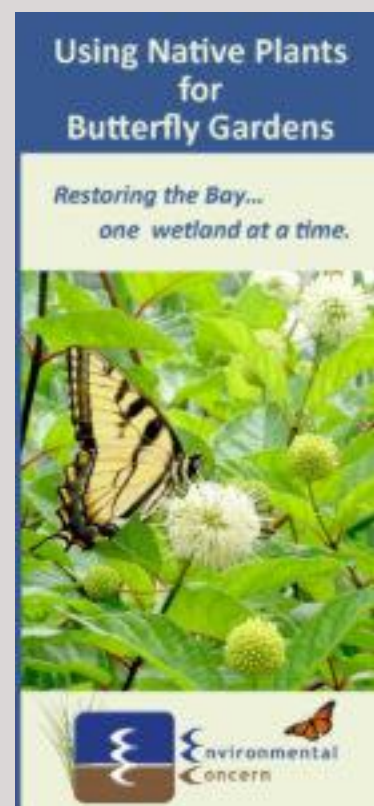
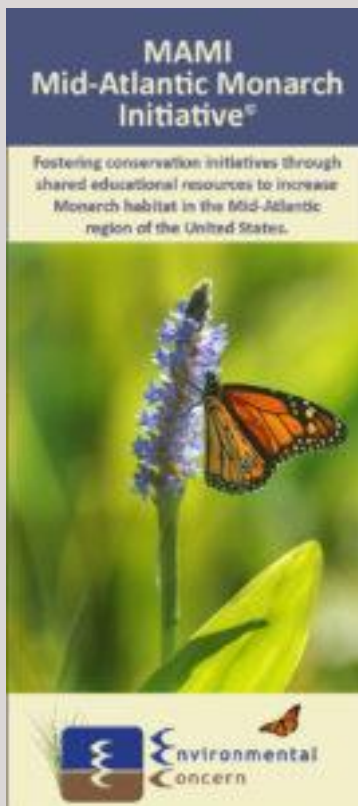
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Environmental Concern's Mid Atlantic Monarch Initiative (MAMI) introduced a special initiative "Seed Stewards for Monarchs" in 2018. The goal of the program is to increase milkweed seed inventory in order to grow more milkweed. Seed Steward volunteers receive free swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) or butterfly milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) plants to start a Monarch butterfly habitat.

Seed Stewards also receive a welcome bag filled with milkweed tools, tips and tags. Stewards collaborate with each other and with EC by sharing helpful hints by email, social media and in person. As the milkweed pods mature, and the seeds are ready to collect, Seed Steward volunteers exchange their seeds for more milkweed plants grown in EC's nursery.

You can learn more at the website wetland.org and also find out about joining the Seed Stewards for Monarchs Program and check out the below 3 brochures



Diggers in the Kitchen: Asparagus and Cheese Tart



It's asparagus season and here is a lovely recipe shared by our friend, Ali Buczek. It's divine! And we all have a lot of time to cook, so no excuse not to give it a try! Bon Appetit!

Ingredients:

- 1 lb asparagus trimmed
- 1 sheet frozen puff pastry, thawed
- All purpose flour for dusting
- 1 cup each grated fontina and gruyere cheese
- 1 Tablespoon minced shallot
- 2 egg yolks
- 3 Tablespoons whole milk
- 1/8 teaspoon freshly grated nutmet
- Kosher salt and pepper to taste
- 2 teaspoons extra virgin olive oil
- ½ teaspoon freshly grated lemon zest

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Directions:

Fill large bowl with ice water and set aside

Bring 1" of water to a boil in a large skillet

Add asparagus and cook until JUST tender – 2-5 minutes depending on thickness of asparagus

Immediately transfer the asparagus to the ice water to stop cooking process

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F

Roll out puff pastry into about a 10"x16" rectangle on a floured surface

Transfer pastry to parchment lined baking sheet and prick on all sides with fork

Bake until lightly browned, about 12 minutes. Let cool slightly.

Meanwhile mix the fontina, gruyere, shallot, egg yolks, milk, nutmeg and pinch of S&P until combined

Spread mixture over puff pastry, leaving 1" border on all sides.

Drain asparagus and toss with olive oil and ¼ teaspoon salt and pepper

Arrange asparagus on tart and bake until cheese mixture is slightly puffy, 15-10 minutes

Sprinkle with lemon zest

Serve warm or at room temperature

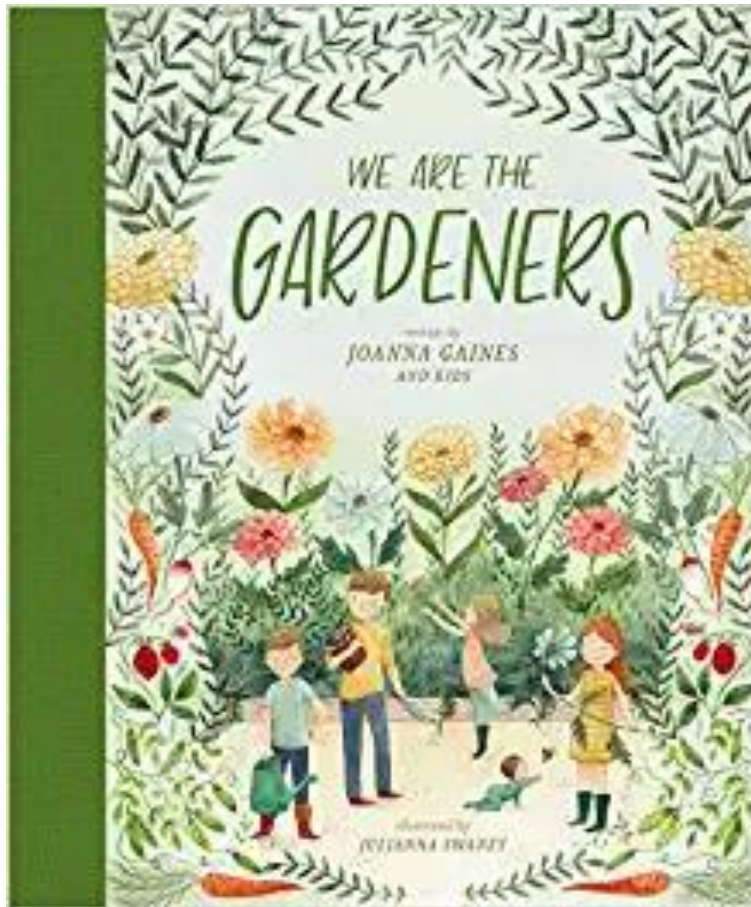
Yum!

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“We are the Gardeners”... a book by Joanna Gaines



Very sweet book “for the kiddos” as well as anyone who is a fan of HGTVs Fixer Upper and the amazing Joanna Gaines. It’s #1 on New York Times Bestseller list and is available on amazon.com. Here’s the write-up from amazon...

In *We Are the Gardeners*, Joanna and the kids chronicle the adventures of starting their own family garden. From their failed endeavors, obstacles to overcome (bunnies that eat everything!), and all the knowledge they've gained along the way, the Gaines family shares how they learned to grow a happy, successful garden. As it turns out, trying something new isn't always easy, but the hardest work often yields the greatest reward. There are always new lessons to be learned in the garden!

You and your children can learn all about the Gaines family's story of becoming gardeners in Joanna's first children's book—starting with the first little fern Chip bought for Jo. Over the years, the family's love for gardening blossomed into what is now a beautiful, bustling garden.

Julianna Swaney's illustrations bring the Gaines family garden to life with colorful, whimsical watercolors and invite you to enjoy the beauty of a thriving garden.

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On a lighter note, these days, even the dogs are sheltering in place and practicing social distancing...

