



February 2021

There will be a Neighborhood Watch/Community Meeting for Ward 3 on **Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 6 p.m.** on Zoom.

Please think about any questions or concerns you have. You can email them to me so we can be better prepared to answer your inquiries during the meeting (we may need to get stats, or look up information about incidents).

Join Zoom Meeting by copying this link and pasting it into your browser:

[https://a2gov.zoom.us/j/99613228760?](https://a2gov.zoom.us/j/99613228760?pwd=VFluNFMxV2o0MDViRnp2WHVTNm4wdz09)
[pwd=VFluNFMxV2o0MDViRnp2WHVTNm4wdz09](https://a2gov.zoom.us/j/99613228760?pwd=VFluNFMxV2o0MDViRnp2WHVTNm4wdz09)

Meeting ID: 996 1322 8760

Passcode: 448842

**Ice Melt
available
at the office**

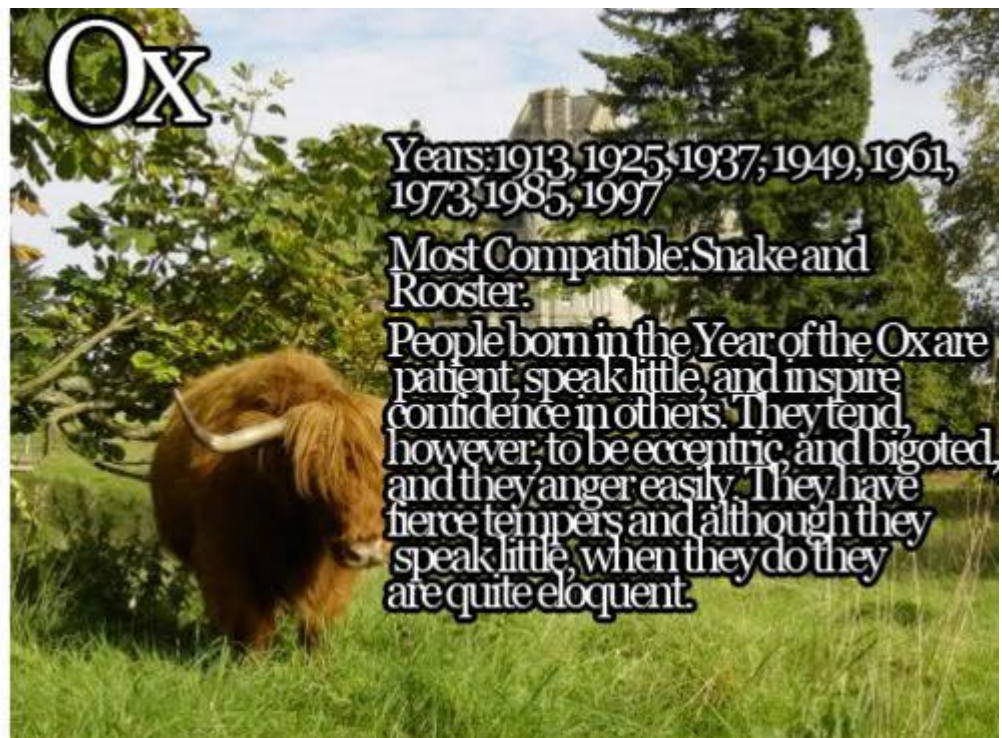
Winter 2021 protocol:

De-icer can be found in the wheelbarrow just inside the garage, facing the office's parking lot during regular business hours.

Also, please remember to return your empty baskets so staff can refill them for others. Thank you!

**2021 is the Year of
the Ox**

**Chinese New Year
begins February 12**



IN THE GARDEN

By Lisa Joseph, Community Horticulturist

Welcome February!

Dry shade is a formidable adversary. I have a problem area on the south east side of my house where a big Maple grows. The tree blocks the south sun, creating what I call a partial or dappled shade bed. The soil has been amended, but the tree roots absorb most of the water, leaving the perennials growing in that area bone dry. This is the year that I will endeavor to make changes, transplanting woeful perennials to more fitting locations and adding suitable plants that tolerate parched soil. I picture myself pulling up a chair to sit by this bed to admire my achievement. So to start, I've been busy researching plants that will tolerate this habitat. I'll share with you a perfect trio I came up with that will not only look pleasing together, but will also flourish in these conditions:



FOAMY BELLS- HEUCHERA 'PINK FIZZ' (12 x 18"). Foamy Bells blooms in early summer with enchanting frilly pink bells on slender stems held above the foliage. Each soft green lobed leaf is etched with purple. The lovely flowers are inviting

to pollinators, and the attractive foliage adds interest in the garden after flowering.

SIBERIAN BUGLOSS- BRUNNERA 'JACK FROST' (18 x 18"). Siberian Bugloss blooms with blue Forget-me-not flowers in early summer. Each heart-shaped leaf is light green with gorgeous silver etching.



JAPANESE PAINTED FERN - ATHYRIUM NIPONICUM 'PICTUM' (20 x 20"). Japanese Painted Fern is a foliage plant with beautiful silver, green, and burgundy fronds. The coloration and delicate texture of this



plant combines perfectly with the silvery large and coarse-textured leaves of the Brunnera.

LET'S TALK ORNAMENTAL GRASSES

Versatile ornamental grasses add movement and texture and beauty to a landscape. The larger grasses can even be used in place of a woody shrub. Grasses are easy to grow and maintain and add multiple season interest to the view. Some tried and true grasses, one new:



MISCANTHUS 'PURPURASCENS' - Flame Grass 6' tall x 2.5' wide; full sun.

In late summer, the grayish green foliage turns a brilliant orange with red tones, the grass is ablaze with color. The seed heads when they start developing in

late summer are magenta, maturing into silky white plumes that remain throughout the winter.

ANDROPOGON G. 'BLACKHAWKS' - Big Blue Stem 5' tall x 2' wide; full sun.

This hardy and long-lived hybrid tolerates a wide variety of soil conditions and has low water needs. The foliage emerges in spring a dark greenish purple and deepens to dramatic dark purple by fall. This native grass also provides nesting materials and shelter for birds.

PANICUM 'TOTEM POLE' - Switch Grass 6' tall x 2.5' wide; full sun.

I adore Switch Grass, the narrow grass blades, the airy fluffy pink seed heads, the swishy noise it makes in a breeze. 'Totem Pole' is a new tall narrow variety that promises to be a majestic presence in the landscape. It could stand alone or be planted in a group of three or more for an effective screen. The slender grass blades are steel blue throughout the summer, turning paper bag brown in winter. The plants are covered in fall with crowns of billowy golden seed heads. Panicum seeds are attractive to little songbirds who also find shelter from harsh winter weather in the foliage.

HAKONECHLOA MACRA 'ALL GOLD'- Japanese Forest Grass 14" tall x 24" wide; partial to full shade.

The radiant lemon yellow foliage of this grass brightens shady spots in the garden. It is fabulous with yellow-variegated Hosta such as 'June', with Epimedium, or with the blue flowers of Monkshood (Aconitum). I've also used Japanese Forest Grass as the pièce de résistance in fabulous shade planters!

Celebrate and take peace in nature. Until next time...



COVID-19 Testing Overview

By Brenda Webster, newsletter contributor

Considerations for who should get Tested

People who have symptoms of COVID-19, or those who have had close contact (within 6 feet for a total of 15" or more) with someone with confirmed COVID-19; those who have taken part in activities that put them at higher risk because they cannot socially distance as needed, i.e. travel, mass gatherings, or crowded indoor settings. People who have been asked or referred to get testing by their healthcare provider, local or state health department.

Currently not everyone needs to be tested. If you are required to test, you should self-quarantine/isolate at home pending test results and follow the advice of your healthcare provider.

How to get tested for current COVID-19 Infection

You can visit your state or local health department's website to look for the latest local information on free testing.

Free Testing – There are 2 federal coronavirus aid packages signed into law in March 2020 required insurers to pay for COVID-19 tests and antibody test at no cost to consumers. The law explicitly prohibited charging copays or deductibles, for the test themselves or for related doctor's appointments. Funds have also been set aside to cover tests for those without insurance. According to two recent analyses, some consumers have been charged with bills for tests, ranging from hundreds to thousands of dollars. Contact your insurance company if you are unable to resolve the issue.

Ongoing testing sites – If possible, Google "COVID-19 testing sites near me" or call the local health department.

Results

If you test positive, know what protective steps to take to prevent others from getting sick. If you test negative, you probably were not infected at the time your sample was collected. The test result only means that you did not have COVID-19 at the time of testing. Continue to take steps to protect yourself.

To your best Health,
Brenda Webster

Homebody Practice:

Mindful movement, inspired by yogic traditions.

Community classes weekly on Zoom:

Wednesday Unwind: 8:30pm - 30 min

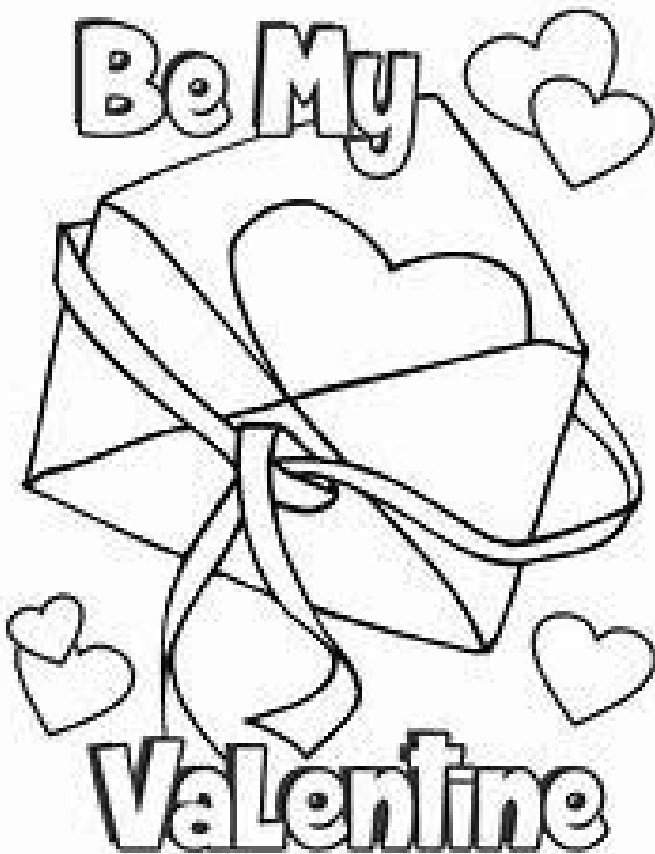
There are no prerequisites, no rules, and no expectations. I offer variations for poses and I design the sequence with beginners in mind. All my classes are streamed live from my living room, right here in the Pittsfield Community.

For more information or to sign up:

Website: bit.ly/homebodypractice

Email: brittanywidin@gmail.com

Kid's Coloring Corner



Stewardship Workday—Furstenberg Nature Area

Saturday, February 6th

1:00 PM—3:00 PM

Event Description:

Sedge meadows are a unique type of wetland, accurately described, for the larger percentage of sedges present when compared to a wet meadow. Although similar in appearance to grasses, sedges have distinct differences – find out what they are as we remove invasive plants from the sedge meadow at Furstenberg Nature Area!

Pre-registration through Rec1 is required as space is limited. Participants must wear a mask and maintain a 6-ft distance from others at all times. Please wear long pants, closed-toed shoes, and leather work gloves. All minors should be accompanied by a guardian.

Tools and know-how provided. Meeting location will be provided after registration.

<https://tinyurl.com/Furste020621>

Hi, my name is Irene Hayes, owner of Paws & Tails Pet Care. I'm located right here in Pittsfield Village!

Have peace of mind while you're away with quality care and affordable rates for your furry family member!

I provide daily dog walking for people who have long, busy, work hours, new puppies who need potty breaks and socialization, or for those that want their dog to have a fun break in their day!

I also provide house visits for dogs, cats, and small animals for those gone on vacations and business trips.

Email to book your free meet and greet with me and to receive more information.

Contact information: irenehayes03@yahoo.com

Pittsfield Village Office

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COMMITTEES

Maintenance & Modification: Lisa Lemble, Chair
Landscape: Brian Rice, Chair

February meeting links:

M & M Meeting (first Tuesday)

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/952231453>

BOD Meeting (last Wednesday)

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8127031811409771791>

Copy and paste these links into your browser if you wish to attend either one or both of these virtual meetings



FEBRUARY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 6:00pm open forum; 6:15pm M&M Committee	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 6:15pm open forum; 6:30pm: BOARD MEETING	25	26	27
28						