



PORTAGE PARK GARDEN CLUB

Come Help Us Grow

March 21st, 2024

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*Welcome to the 25th year of the Portage Park Garden Club. Our next meeting will be this **Saturday, March 23rd, 2024 at 9:30 am**. We will meet at the Trinity Lutheran Church, 5106 N. LaCrosse where there is plenty of free parking, ground level meeting room and easy access to bathrooms. We serve coffee and snacks. Joy Walker will be leading a discussion about house plants. Bring your stories!*

2024 at a glance...

March 23rd
Gardening Indoors
Joy Walker

April 27th
Flower Arranging
Harry Nyholm
Sharpening by Dave

May 25th
Landscaping
Rich Hord

June 29th
Garden Walk

July 27th
Speaker TBD

August 24th
Field Trip

September 28th
Speaker Bats

October 26th
Board Elections
Year in Review

Board Members

Anita Klein: President
Lisa Smith: Vice-President
Sherry Fantauzzo: Secretary
Debra O’Kennard: Treasurer
Jerald O’Kennard: Tech Support
Julie Larsen: Programming/Outreach
Joy Walker: Communications/Newsletter

Inquiries about joining the Portage Park Garden Club should be emailed to ppgardenclub10@gmail.com.

Bugs that bug our indoor plants.

Aphids, scale insects, spider mites, mealybugs—can you recognize these creatures or the effects they have on our plants? These are a few of the common bugs that infest houseplants. In this article I’ll discuss how to recognize them and how to try to eliminate them.



Jennifer, Anita, Debra and June sent these photos of their favorite houseplants. Can you name them? A bonus if you can match them to their owner:-)

Answers on the next page.

Let's consider them one by one. First, aphids. They are small and often look like little ovals, generally white or yellowish. They produce asexually by making copies of themselves or sexually with eggs. They eat holes in leaves and suck the life out of stems. Treat them by washing the plant with soapy water and then spraying with neem oil.



Announcements

March 19th was the Equinox, It is officially Spring!

Please consider donating items for our raffles. Items should be new or in excellent condition and should have a gardening theme. Wine is an exception to this (*well not really because wine comes from grapes;-)*

Consider volunteering your garden for the June garden walk.

Scale insects are tiny, oval, brownish sap suckers. They once killed a bay plant I was trying to grow indoors and I was never able to get rid of them. Soap helped but they always came back. Females produce hundreds of eggs and their tough shells protect them. You can try alcohol but you will be in battle for a long time—**isolate the plant!!** [or bury it and get another:-)]

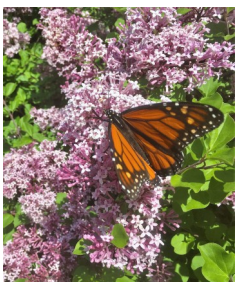


Spider mites are related to spiders and ticks. You can try the usual solutions—soap, garlic (it probably doesn't work on mites or vampires) or use an insecticide. You will know these predators by their webs. The actual mites may be too small to see. Neem oil keeps coming up in online discussions. I have been able to battle these mites with soap and water baths.



Mealy bugs make a white fluffy coating on the leaves. All the common solutions apply—soap and water, change the soil, keep the soil a bit dry and keep the infected plant isolated so the buggers don't travel.

Once you recognize a bug attach—the Internet is full of advice. Good luck!



Last month's mystery plant: Lilac

Answers to plant puzzle on p. 1:

- Anita: snake plant (*Dracaena trifasciata*)
- Debra: Swedish ivy (*Plectranthus australis*)
- June: Peace Lily (*Spathiphyllum*)
- Jennifer: Air Plant (*Tillandsia*)