



# THE GREEN THUMB

The GARDEN CLUB OF DALLAS



[www.thegardenclubofdallas.com](http://www.thegardenclubofdallas.com)



VOLUME LXXXIX, Number 3

DALLAS, TEXAS

March 2026

## Garden Club Meeting

March 18, 2026

Daylilies

by Malcolm Avaritt



Malcolm Avaritt is the current president of Daylily Growers of Dallas and a Ellis County Master Gardener. Lifelong resident of Dallas & Ellis counties, born and raised in Garland and has lived in Cedar Hill and Midlothian.

B.A. in Economics from Texas Tech, married for 34 years to Michelle. Retired in 2018 after 26-1/2 years as general manager for HoneyBaked Ham Co. I've been growing my own vegetables since age 8 and growing daylilies since 1998 and have around 450 different varieties.



## President's Message

*Spring* is here!

Normally, during the cold winter months, I am very much looking forward to March. March is the beginning of Spring in the South. Spring is much more of a mental motivator than New Years is to me. We can see new beginnings in nature. It happens right before your eyes. You don't have to dream it up, wish for it, or even look at a calendar. The warmer weather has you shedding the old, heavy clothing, and putting on the new, brighter thoughts of the future.

This year we have experienced a warm winter. Yes, we have had the minimum number of very cold days needed to help freeze some bugs. But in general, it has been very mild. This has meant that I did not have to wait until March to start working in the garden. While many dates still apply such as when to start seeds, a lot of work can be done while the weather is pleasantly warm. Instead of hibernating, I have been cleaning up, moving perennials and prepping for the right time to plant. Being able to extend the workload time line is a gift I am thankful for. Now is the time to shake off the dust and get moving. Get out there and plant for the future. If you need me, you can find me in *the garden.*

Visitors Welcome

Club meeting Location

**At the Dallas JCC**

**7900 Northaven Road, Dallas**

**Next to North Haven Gardens**

**Meet & Greet @ 6:30pm**

**Program @ 7pm**

**2026 OFFICERS**

<b>President</b>	Anna Williams
<b>First V. P.</b>	Michael Rector
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<b>V. P. Programs</b>	Michael Rector
<b>V. P. Promotions</b>	Dana Brown
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<i>Hospitality Assistant</i>	Laurie Pessetto

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**In Memoriam of  
our friend  
Phyllis Rueckert  
who passed quietly  
Monday the 16th of  
February.**

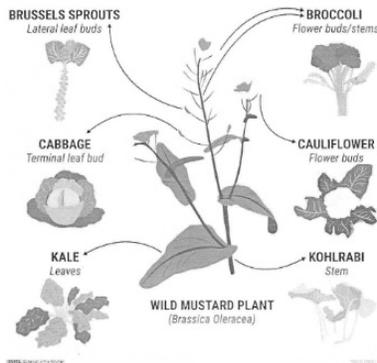
**She will be sorely missed.**





### 6 vegetables that are the same plant

Over hundreds of years farmers have been breeding one plant – called *Brassica Oleracea* – into dozens of different varieties. These six vegetables you can find in the grocery store are actually all the same plant.



### **BREAKING NEWS!**

Broccoli is man made.

Who knew? The Romans did. Broccoli, along with cabbage, cauliflower and kale, and collard greens can not be foraged in the wild. They do not exist. They all are cultivated from one plant. They are in the Brassica family, and are not actually different species, just cultivars of the wild mustard plant.

Remember the, ‘faith of a mustard seed’ adage?

Around the 6th century BCE, during the Roman Empire Era, in the Mediterranean region, the wild mustard plant was edible but bitter. In an effort to improve its palatability, farmers identified characteristics in some wild mustard plants that they wanted to keep and planted seeds from those plants, gradually emphasizing certain traits. They also used propagating techniques such as cuttings, grafting, and layering. This is called selective breeding. It is an extensive and lengthy process that can take hundreds of years. From the wild mustard plant, those with large terminal buds were bred to produce cabbage. Plants with desirable leaves eventually became kale and collard greens. Brussels sprouts were developed from plants with large lateral buds with those with larger stems became kohlrabi. In the case of broccoli and cauliflower, the flowers were the focus.

So, not only did the Romans know how to make great, long lasting roads, they also made many of the common vegetables we enjoy everyday.

## Puzzle 17: A Variety of Tomatoes

I love you from my  
head to-ma-toes

Q	H	E	E	L	I	B	U	J	G	Q	S	F	F	K	L	F	V	W
B	C	H	J	H	C	A	M	P	A	R	I	J	I	P	W	G	C	G
G	L	C	H	N	F	E	P	A	R	G	R	Q	N	Q	G	R	Z	L
E	U	A	C	G	Z	E	X	W	D	M	O	W	C	D	D	P	D	T
K	C	I	C	M	T	D	Y	E	E	K	M	X	A	O	L	C	U	U
A	G	K	L	K	F	F	S	A	N	M	A	R	Z	A	N	O	L	N
E	P	R	D	U	K	O	A	P	P	L	U	M	C	V	L	F	F	P
T	E	G	E	L	P	R	U	P	E	E	K	O	R	E	H	C	L	V
S	Z	H	N	E	I	F	I	B	A	R	U	E	T	J	T	H	N	I
F	W	E	E	F	N	Z	O	M	C	I	D	A	B	N	B	E	I	A
E	O	T	Q	I	I	Z	G	N	H	O	L	L	A	X	N	R	B	B
E	D	U	Q	I	R	L	E	Q	T	O	C	I	B	Z	D	R	X	B
B	F	B	H	F	O	L	F	B	C	H	G	K	S	P	M	Y	G	Q
I	Q	S	J	B	T	T	O	O	R	N	E	X	T	E	U	J	P	U
G	Q	V	E	E	N	Y	H	O	A	A	U	V	M	A	M	P	A	A
B	Z	D	S	R	A	C	M	M	M	Y	O	U	I	R	I	H	Y	G
O	Q	S	U	J	S	B	R	A	N	D	Y	W	I	N	E	L	V	D
Y	Y	B	Y	B	I	E	A	R	L	Y	G	I	R	L	E	E	U	T
I	N	E	N	D	G	H	U	O	H	X	I	R	A	F	A	C	T	H

BEEFSTEAK  
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ON THE VINE  
ROMA

BIG BOY  
CAMPARI  
CHOCOLATE  
GARDEN PEACH  
GRAPE  
INCA  
PEAR  
SAN MARZANO

BLACK KRIM  
CHEROKEE PURPLE  
COCKTAIL  
GERMAN GIANT  
GREEN ZEBRA  
JUBILEE  
PLUM  
SANTORINI

"Paradicsom" is the Hungarian word for "tomato", and also "paradise"

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## Mystery Search

This month on the *website*, **NOT IN THE GREEN THUMB**, we will have a hidden **Four Leaf Clover** for you to find. This is for members only. We are changing the format. Instead of the first to find the Clover winning, the name of everybody who finds the Clover by Noon on March 17th and emails us at [info@thegardenclubofdallas.com](mailto:info@thegardenclubofdallas.com), will have the chance to have their name drawn for a prize .



Laurie Passetto is our February winner. She discovered that the Cupid was on the balloon on the Birthday notice. Congratulations to sharp eyed Laurie.

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This club welcomes beginner “wannabe” as well as experienced gardeners. We all can learn something about gardening at each meeting.

**Visitors are welcome.** Membership is open to men and women, teenagers and young adults. \$50 annual dues (\$60 for couples) includes *The Green Thumb* and membership in the national organization: **Gardeners of America/Men’s Garden Clubs of America.**



## Bruce Miller

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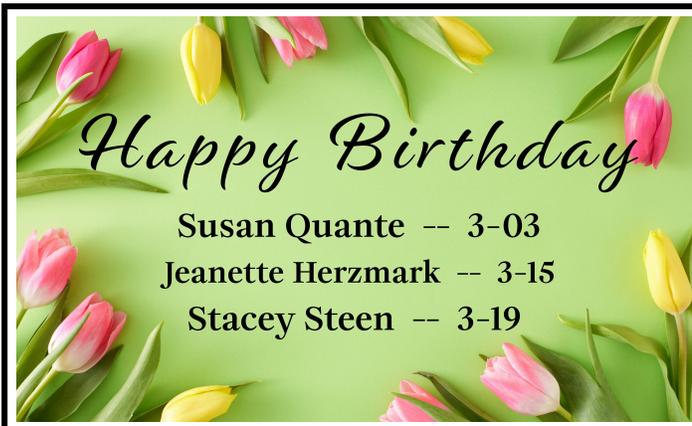
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If anyone has a favorite flower, plant, recipe or joke, please send it to [info@thegardenclubofdallas.com](mailto:info@thegardenclubofdallas.com) for inclusion either in the Green Thumb or on the website. Thanks



## Board Meeting

7 pm  
March 12, 2026  
at the home of  
Mike Rector



## \$50 Door Prize Winners

North Haven Gardens

Bruce Miller Gift Card



Forrest Blaney won the \$50 gift card



Mike Rector won the \$50 gift card

## Birds & Blooms Magazine

Courtesy Kathy Schlosser

Use this simple hummingbird nectar recipe to fill your feeders.

- Combine a ratio of 4 parts water to 1 part table sugar
- Bring the water to a boil to break down the sugar completely
- Once the mixture is cool, fill feeders
- Refrigerate what you don't use between fillings



More info on the website

Pure white table sugar is the safest option for for DIY hummingbird nectar. Avoid brown sugar, honey or artificial sweeteners. Many also consider organic sugar, which doesn't tend to be fully refined to pure sucrose, unsafe for feeding hummingbirds. And *skip the red food dye* in your hummingbird mixture! The birds don't need it, and it's easier to monitor the freshness of colorless sugar water.

*Make sure to clean feeders regularly and refill them with fresh nectar.*

You can avoid moldy hummingbird nectar by filling feeders only halfway and cleaning them before each refill. Birding experts Kenn and Kimberly Kaufman say, "According to lab studies, the amount of sugar water consumed by a hummingbird will vary depending on the richness of the sugar concentration. With the typical 4:1 ratio of water to sugar, a ruby-throated hummingbird probably won't drink more than about 2 fluid ounces per day."

Placing your feeders in the shade will help to keep your homemade nectar from spoiling too quickly. Change out the mixture every three to five days—and more frequently on hot days. If feeders are empty, the birds will look for food elsewhere.

"Hummingbirds' needs regarding nectar are so specific and quite regular, so they'll always take advantage of those kinds of resources," explains John Rowden, senior director for bird-friendly communities at the National Audubon Society.

Foil territorial nectar hogs by putting up several hummingbird feeders out of sight from one another.

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Go to Members login: password "lily"

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Annual Ad rates: Business Card (3.5"x2") - \$50; Large Ad (3.5"x3") - \$200 or 4 \$50 Gift Certificates

*May the road rise to meet you,  
May the wind always be at your back,  
May the sun shine warm upon your face,  
and rains fall soft upon your fields.  
And until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.  
an Irish prayer*



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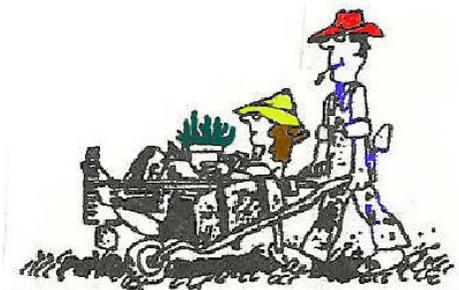
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