

November 10
The Importance
of
Bee-ing



With Lisa Ghezzi
Master Beekeeper

December 1
Holiday Decor
Workshop

Details to follow



Culinary



October visit to
Greek Shop
has been
rescheduled for
April

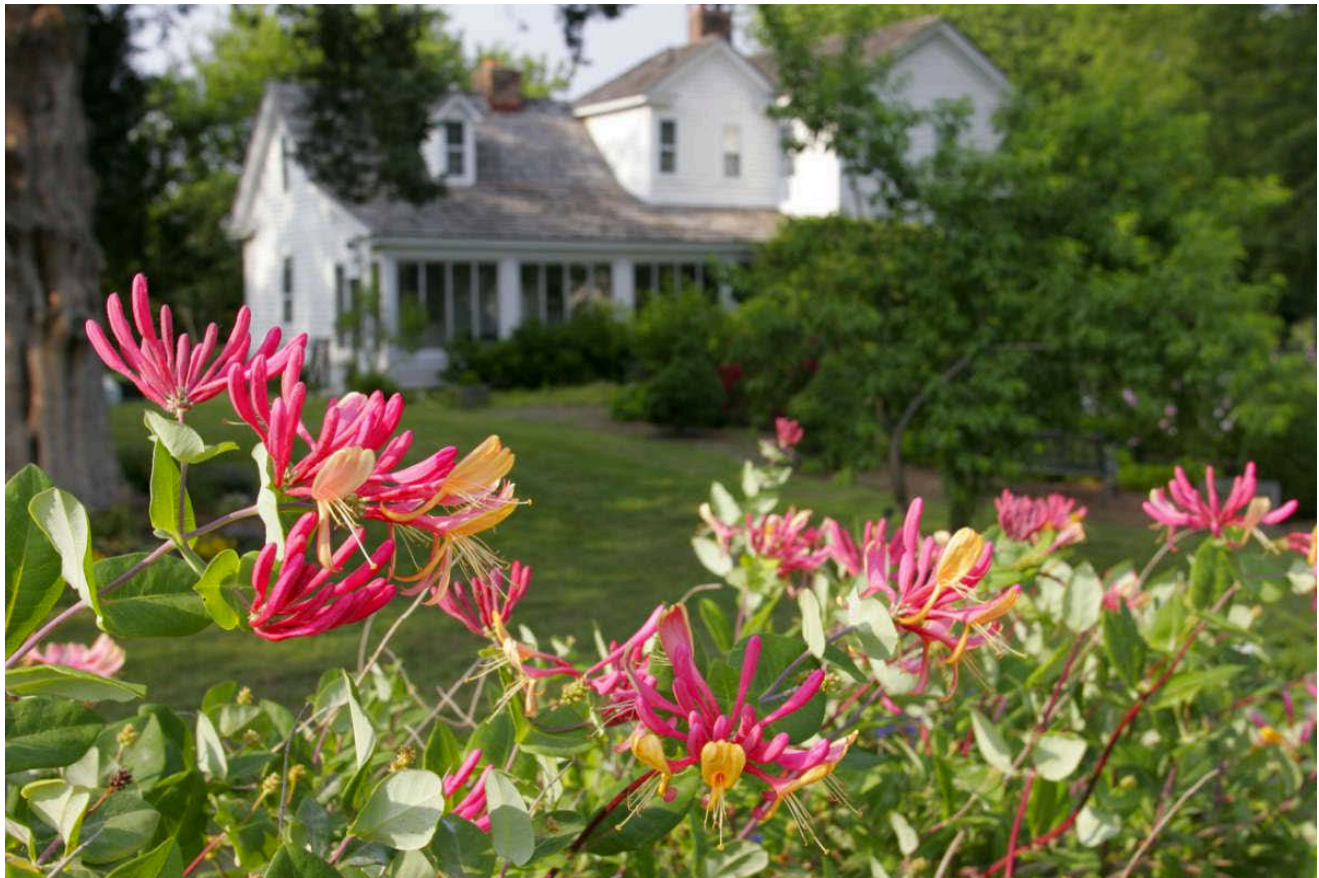
Culinary

November 17
Wine & Cheese
At the clubhouse
With
Cabot Creamery



WOMEN'S CLUB OF SAINT MICHAELS

GREEN THUMB



Garden Tips for October

Clean-up time. Time to start cleaning your gardens. As annuals and most vegetables reach the end of their productive life, cut them down and add the healthy material to the compost bin. Any diseased (for example, downy mildew) or insect-infested material should be bagged and placed in the trash. All garden weeds should be pulled now and bagged (and definitely not

**"The garden year
has no beginning
and no end."**

**Elizabeth
Lawrence**

composted), chopped or otherwise made incapable of growing. Left in place, the weeds will produce thousands of seeds in your lawn and garden, making your job much more difficult next year.



Insects. It would seem with the end of the growing season approaching, insects would be less of a problem, but that is not always the case. Like us, they're preparing for winter. Wasps, including the yellow jackets that are often misidentified as bees, are particularly aggressive this time of the year. Remember, there are hives in the ground as well as in trees and shrubs.

And beware of ticks, they continue to be active even as the temperatures drop. The list of dangerous tick-borne diseases grows each year. Moreover, ticks do not die with the first frost: they will survive the winter and hop onto the unwary any day the temperature is above freezing.

Raking – Don't! Research by Cornell Extension Service shows that raking your lawn is totally unnecessary. Just use a mulching mower (almost any gas or electric-powered mower will do) to chop the leaves into small pieces which will compost directly into the soil over the winter. Cornell's research shows up to sixteen (more than a foot) inches of dried leaves can be added to the soil every year. This includes tough oak leaves, which break down very slowly unless they have been chopped up, and pine needles, which are less acidic than oak leaves. If your leaves are deep, you may have to mow twice to chop them all sufficiently small, but it's still a lot less work than raking and much better for the environment than throwing leaves in the trash. By mulching, all the nutrients in the leaves go back into the soil where they'll be available for the tree roots to take them up for future years.

Do you appreciate Monarchs? Fall is time to collect milkweed seeds for next spring. Use only seed native to your area and pick only dry brown pods. Pods must be dry to ensure seeds are mature. Plant the milkweed in the fall in a sunny location by sprinkling seeds over loosened soil. Pat them down, add a thin layer of top dressing and water well. In the spring the plants should appear. Monarch caterpillars will be along to munch on the leaves several times through the summer. A variety of flowers throughout the summer will keep the monarch butterflies nearby.



Vacation is over for your houseplants !

While it is still warm outside, houseplants that have spent the past few months under the summer sun or on a porch need to begin the transition back indoors.

- Those that were fully outdoors should be brought onto a porch or deck where they will receive less daylight – the first step to help them acclimate to the lower light level in your home.
- Plants that have been in contact with the ground should be re-potted to ensure worms, ants or pests are not tagging along.
- Check for any obvious signs of insects on the leaves, stems and top of the soil.
- Cleaning the plant using an insecticidal soap can help to keep aphids, mites and others from causing a big problem indoors.

It's a great time to take cuttings from some tender favorites such as begonia, coleus and geranium. Cut a 4-inch tip of the plant, remove the largest leaves, dip in rooting hormone and place in wet sand or a perlite/peat moss mixture. Keep this growing medium wet until a gentle tug proves that roots are in place. Then transplant to a small pot and you have a new houseplant..