

IN THE

# Garden

Quarterly – Winter 2022



**Tulsa Garden Center**  
*at Woodward Park*



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# If Ifs and Buts Were Candy and Nuts

By Laura Chalus, CEO, Tulsa Garden Center at Woodward Park

It's that time of year again when we all yearn for those warm, fuzzy feelings of a classic Merry Christmas. Yet most of us likely have at least one childhood memory, born

from those tiny Ifs and Buts, when we were disappointed by the givers of gifts who didn't seem to understand us at all. Maybe you didn't get that fossil kit you would have died for,

or maybe you'd been vying for a chemistry set and received kitten-festooned pajamas instead. Oh the horror!

My young, Christmastime memories include the looks of dismay on my parent's faces after I broke yet another toy while trying to figure out how it was put together. Do you know what's inside a Stretch Armstrong? Well, I do, much to my older brother's chagrin, and trust me when I say that that bikini-clad hunk was never quite the same. Thank goodness there weren't microwaves back then!

So how do we foster and instill a child's natural curiosity, especially in little girls, without sending the message that they're forever relegated to easy bake ovens and doll houses? Well, the educational programs we provide here at one of Tulsa's favorite destinations, Woodward Park, might just fit that bill.

Utilizing STEM-based educational standards, the mission of our award-winning Outdoor Classroom program is to positively affect underserved communities by empowering young scholars with intellectual problem-solving habits. Through experiential exploration of the natural living laboratory that is Woodward Park, we instill perseverance and critical thinking to nurture strong youth voices and effect real, positive change.

Our team of Naturalist Educators see these phenomena play out each





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week as they witness young minds connecting the dots. Plush squirrels go whizzing past the Conservatory after being ejected from home-made catapults so students can support an argument, with evidence, that earth's gravitational force pulls objects downward toward the center of the earth. While in the Arboretum, tarp-covered, pvc-pipe structures are surrounded by student discussions on whether they have indeed built the ultimate survival shelter using the scientific method. Young people are starved for skill sets which illustrate that there are many solutions to any problem in life, if they only know how to come up with the pathways.

So, if you have a frustrating child or grandchild who may have disassembled their Christmas gifts in the past, take heart that you may just have a budding engineer, physician, or future scientist on your hands. Why not consider supporting their inquisitiveness by investing in a microscope or human skeleton replica, then sit back with your steaming mug of coffee on Christmas morning and be ready to hand over a spittle sample to a goggle-wearing youngster for prompt examination.

The Christmas that changed it all for me was the year I opened an Erector Set, with all the tiny, adorable little wrenches and screwdrivers,



just like my father used every day in his garage-based machine shop. I must have strewn little nuts and bolts all over the carpet, forever wreaking havoc on the vacuum and my mother's nerves, and yet I was always encouraged to be an explorer of knowledge.

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays,  
and most of all – Thank You, Mom!





# SPRINGFEST

*at Woodward Park*

# SAVE THE DATE!

Friday, April 7th: 9am-3pm / Saturday, April 8th: 9am-3pm

Kick off the Spring gardening season with Tulsa Garden Center, the horticultural non-profit that's been Growing Woodward Park since 1954. SpringFest at Woodward Park is the longest running garden & plant festival in Oklahoma, and has been happening in Woodward Park for over 3 decades! Join us on April 7th and 8th for all things WOODWARD PARK!

Shop dozens of vendors selling a wide variety of plants, garden art, and more, and talk with expert horticulturalists to solve all your gardening questions.

**#findyourspot**



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# Brighten the Winter Blues with these Garden Wonders

By Andy Fusco, Director of Horticulture, Tulsa Garden Center at Woodward Park

The crisp air and shorter days could be considered a welcome respite to many of us after the summer of 2022. The heat hung on way longer than it should have and it continues to be drier than our gardens would like. I know we're all ready to catch our breath at the end of a fun growing season, but as things begin to turn brown and those days come where the sun seems to hardly shine, I need things in the garden to brighten my spirits.

I've come to especially value plants that provide interest to our gardens in the "off season" as I've spent more time working in public gardens. There's a common misconception that there's "nothing to see" in the gardens at Woodward Park from November to March, but if you change your lens a bit you will see a whole new side of mother nature. Here are just a few of the plants that have been catching my eye recently and will be sure to brighten even the gloomiest of days in the cold months ahead.

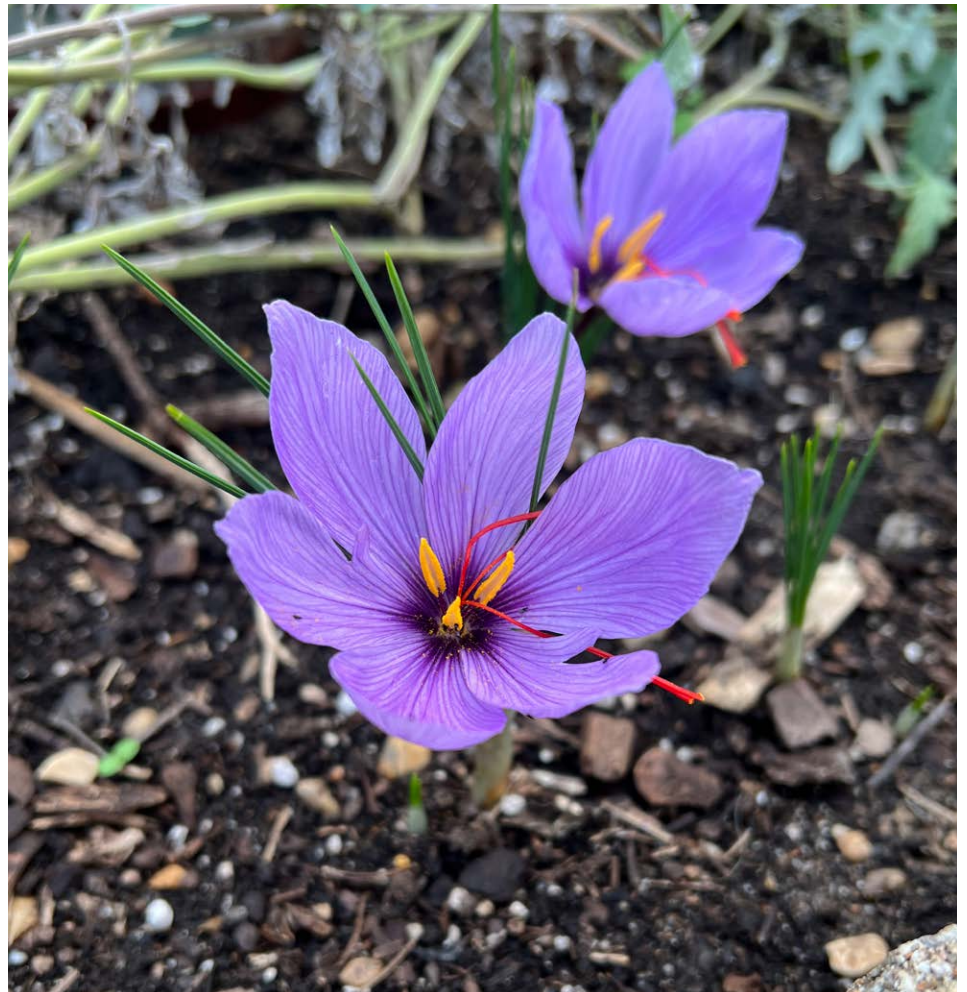
Coming from a family of "foodies" I have always been intrigued by the Saffron Crocus (*Crocus sativus*) and was excited to add some bulbs to the Teaching Garden Herb Garden this year. It really put on a show! Unlike its close relatives, this crocus species blooms in the fall, only a few weeks after being planted. The bright red stigmas (female reproductive

organs) in the center of the flower are the source of the often-expensive culinary spice saffron, used in many Asian cuisines to add interesting flavor and color. Beyond its culinary importance though, it is rare to get such showy flowers out of a perennial (yes, *perennial*) this late in the season and for that it is a must have.

American Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*) is a small deciduous

shrub native to much of southeastern United States and was a favorite among Teaching Garden guests this fall. It thrives in partial shade that mimics its natural understory habitat. It does best under a large tree or in an area that will get some afternoon shade. It is mostly inconspicuous through the spring and summer, but as the large clusters of bright purple berry form along its stems in early fall, it really starts to stand out.

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The Tulsa Herb Society  
would like you to join us for our annual

# *Carols & Crumpets*

## *Herbal Craft Fair*

Featuring:

The Tulsa Herb Society Booth  
& 28 Artisan Vendors!

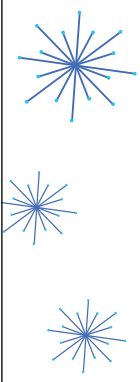
**Saturday, December 3rd, 2022**  
**8:00am-3:00pm**

Tulsa Garden Center  
2435 South Peoria Ave

Admission is FREE, and a portion of the proceeds  
benefit the Tulsa Garden Center.

# Snowflake Cafe

will be open for lunch from  
11:00am-2:00pm





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## Brighten the Winter Blues with these Garden Wonders CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

As the desire for natives continues to grow, American Beautyberry is becoming easier to find in local garden centers and there are even a few cultivars out there with different shades of pink and purple berries. The berries are an important food source for many species of birds so they too will enjoy this shrub in our urban gardens.

Asters are often cited as go-to plants to add color to our landscapes late in the season. There are many great options, but the Tartarian Aster (*Aster tataricus*) brings more than just late showy flowers to the garden. With its upright habit, the blooms can reach heights of over four feet, drawing the eye away from other perennials



that may be past their prime this time of year. It's also a persistent perennial, quickly filling in any bare ground around it. We divide many of our clumps in the Teaching Garden each year to keep them contained and to be able to offer them to the public at SpringFest. What really blew me away this year, however, was the amount of bees, butterflies, and other pollinators on the Tartarian Aster. It was as if this plant was the watering hole in the middle of a desert, a desperate respite of nectar and pollen in a garden of faded flowers. If Tartarian Aster is not already present in your pollinator gardens, it needs to be.

A shrub (or small tree depending on who you ask) that often gets cited as a winter showstopper is the Deciduous Holly or Possumhaw (*Ilex decidua*). I take the time to mention it again here because despite its reputation in horticultural circles, it doesn't get the attention it deserves in the landscape more broadly. Unlike other larger domineering species like American (*I. opaca*) or English (*I. aquifolium*) Hollies, Deciduous Hollies will fit in almost any urban landscape, reaching a height and spread of around 12 feet. In the winter, it drops all its leaves revealing beautiful bright berries. Being native to the eastern half of Oklahoma, these berries will be just as attractive to local wildlife as they are to us. 'Warren's Red' is the cultivar in the Arboretum and easily found at garden centers, but yellow fruited varieties do exist. Possumhaw's are dioecious, which means there needs to be a male plant nearby to ensure winter fruits,



but this is usually not a problem in urban settings—the Arboretum's Possumhaw puts on a wonderful show each year despite not having a male counterpart anywhere in the park.

As you spend the winter curled up next to the fire flipping ambitiously through garden catalogues, think beyond a stunning summer display and consider what your garden could look like all year round with just a few exciting additions such as these. 🌿



*Growing Woodward  
Park Since 1954*



**#findyourspot**



**Tulsa Garden Center**  
*at Woodward Park*

2435 S. Peoria  
Tulsa, OK 74114-1350



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# Hello!



## Maidenhair Tree

*(Ginkgo biloba)*

My name is derived from my leaf shape, which resemble those on a maidenhair fern. I am considered “prehistoric” because I am the only surviving member of a group of plants that inhabited the earth up to 150 million years ago. I am a male tree, but I also have a female counterpart. Many complain about the female tree’s foul-smelling fruit, but the seed within is consumed for its medicinal properties. It’s also mildly toxic, so don’t try it at home!

*Many complain about the female tree’s foul-smelling fruit.*



The Arboretum @



**Tulsa Garden Center**  
at Woodward Park





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# Hello!



## Western Soapberry

*(Sapindus drummondii)*

I am a North American native tree, and if you come see me from May to June, you will see my delicate blooming cream-colored flowers, followed by “soap berries” (where I get my name!) - which last until the fall. When crushed in water, my fruit creates suds, which were used by Native Americans as a laundry soap. I was an original 1964 planting in the Arboretum.

*When crushed in water, my fruit creates suds.*



The Arboretum @



**Tulsa Garden Center**  
at Woodward Park

# Winter Wonderland in Woodward Park



**Carriage Rides through  
Woodward Park**



**Warm up with hot  
cocoa & tasty treats inside  
the Carriage House**

**Wednesday December 21st | 6pm-8pm**  
[tulsagardencenter.org/winter-wonderland](http://tulsagardencenter.org/winter-wonderland)



## CLASSES AND EVENTS

### ▶ WEEKLY RECURRING EVENTS

**Every Tuesday – Tulsa Herb Society member activities.** 9:00 am–11:30 am (except 2nd week of month.)

**Every Thursday – Let’s Talk Gardening!** 12:00–1:30 pm.

### ▶ THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1

**Tulsa Area Daylily Society meeting.** 7:00 pm.

**Cacti and Succulent Society of Tulsa–OFFSITE HOLIDAY DINNER.** 7:00 pm.

### ▶ SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

**Tulsa Herb Society presents the Carols & Crumpets Holiday Party.** 8:00 am–3:00 pm.

# Carols & Crumpets

## Herbal Craft Fair

Featuring:

The Tulsa Herb Society Booth  
& 28 Artisan Vendors!

### ▶ SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

**Teaching Garden Closes for the Winter Season.**

### ▶ MONDAY, DECEMBER 5

**Tulsa Garden Club meeting. OFFSITE.** 11:00 am.

**Oklahoma Native Plant Society meeting.** 6:30 pm.

**Green Country Bonsai Society meeting.** 7:00 pm.



### ▶ TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

**Tulsa Garden Center - Affiliated Plant Society Officer’s meeting.** 5:30 pm.

### ▶ WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

**Tulsa Garden Club – Flower Design Workshop.** 9:30 am.



### ▶ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

**Tulsa Orchid Society–HOLIDAY DINNER.** 1:30 pm.

**Tulsa Rose Society–HOLIDAY DINNER.** 2:00 pm.

### ▶ TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

**Tulsa Herb Society MEMBERS-ONLY HOLIDAY MEETING.** 10:00 am.



**Green Country Water Garden Society meeting.** 6:30 pm.

### ▶ WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

**Teaching Garden Volunteer Activity. Bulb Planting Day.** 9:30 am.

### ▶ THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

**Tulsa Area Iris Society meeting.** 6:30 pm.

### ▶ MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

**Oklahoma Mycological Society meeting.** 7:00 pm.

**African Violet Society of Greater Tulsa–OFFSITE HOLIDAY PARTY.** 7:00 pm.

### ▶ TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

**Tulsa Area Azalea Society meeting.** 5:30 pm.

**Tulsa Audubon Society meeting.** 7:00 pm.

### ▶ WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

**Winter Wonderland Carriage Rides in Woodward Park.** 6:00 pm.



[tulsagardencentral.org/store/carriagerides](http://tulsagardencentral.org/store/carriagerides).

### ▶ THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22 THROUGH MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 2023

**Tulsa Garden Center Offices Closed for the Holiday Season.**



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# Benefits of Membership

## Reasons why it pays to be a member:

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Become a member or gift one to a friend at:  
[www.TulsaGardenCenter.org/join](http://www.TulsaGardenCenter.org/join)

Subscription to the quarterly Tulsa Garden Center E-Newsletter: *In The Garden*.

Free or discounted admission to American Horticultural Society Reciprocal Gardens ([ahsgardening.org](http://ahsgardening.org)): FREE admission to Myriad Botanic Garden in OKC, Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden, and hundreds more!

Discounts on Tulsa Garden Center programs and events: A Tulsa Garden Center member would save nearly \$150 on the Native Plant Certification Program

Invitations to Special Members-only Events

Discounts at local nurseries

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Become a member or gift one to a friend at:  
[www.TulsaGardenCenter.org/join](http://www.TulsaGardenCenter.org/join)



## CLASSES AND EVENTS *continued from page 14*

▶ SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

**Tulsa Orchid Society meeting.** 1:30 pm.



**Tulsa Rose Society meeting.** 2:00 pm.

▶ MONDAY, JANUARY 9

**Green Country Bonsai Society meeting.** 7:00 pm.

▶ TUESDAY, JANUARY 10

**Tulsa Herb Society, meeting.** 10:00 am.

**Green Country Water Garden Society meeting.** 6:30 pm.

▶ WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

**Tulsa Garden Club – Flower Design Workshop.** 9:30 am.

▶ MONDAY, JANUARY 16

**Oklahoma Mycological Society meeting.** 7:00 pm.

**African Violet Society of Greater Tulsa meeting.** 7:00 pm.



▶ TUESDAY, JANUARY 17

**Tulsa Audubon Society meeting.** 7:00 pm.

▶ THURSDAY, JANUARY 19

**Tulsa Perennial Society meeting.** 6:30 pm.

▶ WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25

**Tulsa Garden Club – Flower Design Workshop.** 9:30 am.

▶ THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

**Cacti and Succulent Society of Tulsa, meeting.** 7:00 pm.



▶ MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6

**Tulsa Garden Club meeting.** 11:00 am.



**Green Country Bonsai Society meeting.** 7:00 pm.

▶ WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

**Tulsa Garden Club – Flower Design Workshop.** 9:30 am.

▶ SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

**Tulsa Orchid Society meeting.** 1:30 pm.

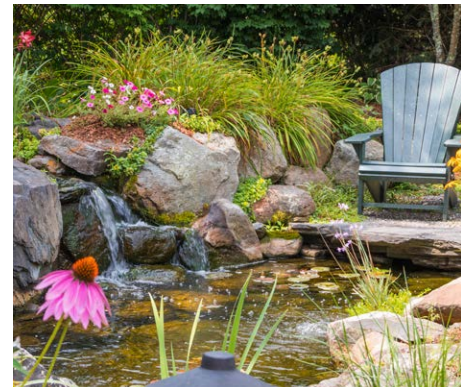
**Tulsa Rose Society meeting.** 2:00 pm.



▶ TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

**Tulsa Herb Society meeting.** 10:00 am.

**Green Country Water Garden Society meeting.** 6:30 pm.



▶ THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

**Tulsa Perennial Society meeting.** 7:00 pm.

▶ MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20

**Oklahoma Mycological Society meeting.** 7:00 pm.

**African Violet Society of Greater Tulsa meeting.** 7:00 pm.

▶ TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

**Tulsa Audubon Society meeting.** 7:00 pm.

▶ WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

**Tulsa Garden Club – Flower Design Workshop.** 9:30 am.

▶ SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

**African Violet Society of Greater Tulsa – Spring Sale.** 9:00 am–3:00 pm



**Tulsa Garden Center**  
*at Woodward Park*

2435 S. Peoria  
Tulsa, OK 74114-1350

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