



EDELWEISS NEWS

Gardeners of the Bluffton Pandora Area

April 26, 2018

Spring Wild Flowers At Motter Park:

The Gardeners of the Bluffton/Pandora Area will be touring the Johnny Appleseed Park District Motter Metro Park in search of wild flowers. We will meet at 6:30 p.m. May 1, 2018 at the Motter Park parking lot where a naturalist from the Johnny Appleseed Park District will give us a walking tour of the park in search of wild flowers. It may be difficult to find many in bloom as we have had so much cold weather recently and flowers are delayed in blooming this year. We can expect that there will be some to be seen, although the flowers that would be more common that early wildflowers are mostly seen in the woodland habitat and most of Motter is a prairie nature preserve in the making.

We hope that you will come along with us to look for them and see the progress of this new park in our area. As you may not know the Motter Park is only about two years old and when you try to create a prairie habitat out of farmland it may take a few years of effort. The reintroduction of some of the native plants that were in the area when farming was started can be tedious in the best of circumstances. The park district must be applauded for the foresight to begin this project for our county's residents and the future generations to be able to see the way that some of our lands looked like when it was settled.



Prairie wildflowers are more in the summer than Spring.

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Is It Time To Plant?:

In a word the answer is yes with the caveat that what you plant should not be a tender plant like tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, ... the things that are not affected by frost can be planted and they will grow. Now is the proper time to plant potatoes (not sweet potatoes), lettuce, radishes, carrots, peas,... this is because the soil temperatures are now warm enough that seeds planted will germinate and grow well if not at an accelerated rate than those that were planted to early. Though they may have germinated the plants may have been setback in their development due to their being damaged by freezing temperatures. You may also divide perennials and plant hardy annual flowers like alyssum and pansies. It is still a good time to plant trees, shrubs and bushes. Don't forget that now is a good time to get rid of anything that you no longer want as you can locate those plants easily in your landscape without being hidden by other plants growing close to them.

Weeds:

The Gardeners of the Bluffton/Pandora Area had a presentation by Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteer Bill Jones on April 3, at the library and the subject was weeds and how you might control them in our lawns and gardens. There are various ways to control weeds some of them are easier than others. If you can spray/apply something one time to prevent a problem weeds then your problem becomes will it affect other plants that you want. If you use mulch it can make manual weeding easier, but you have to be diligent about doing

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