

---

## THE FAIRFIELD GARDEN CLUB



---

Issue #3

April 17, 2020

### VIRTUAL SEEDS OF WISDOM: TIPS AND QUIPS

Hello to all,

Here is week three of our Friday Tips and Quips. We hope that the words and pictures and blogs and links that are shared below bring you some useful inspiration for more hopeful times ahead. Please keep sharing.



From Barbara Geddes Wooten

To see a World in a Grain of Sand  
And a Heaven in a Wild Flower  
Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand  
And Eternity in an hour

William Blake, Auguries of Innocence

From Deb Kouzoukian: March 2, 2020.



**From Susan Bonner:** If you need something from a shop that doesn't have curbside delivery or you can't get out or don't want to go out, I am using 2 college students who are trying to be useful and stay busy to do my shopping for me. One is a young woman who has gone to Stop & Shop, Pantry and Trader Joe's for various provisions. The other is a young man who picked up from Home Depot a huge order of garden soil and manure and Rose Tone that provided many projects that are keeping my husband entertained. Both are happy to have me share their contact information. Just email me [sbonner@thegoldenribbon.com](mailto:sbonner@thegoldenribbon.com).

**From Patti Spaght:** "Critiquing Your Work" webinar recording is available to watch on YouTube. It's presented by Colleen Miniuk who teaches you how to evaluate your own photographs. It's very interesting and instructive and it is free to watch.

<https://youtu.be/ojnO9VBjnZE>.

**From Ann Toombs:** Flying over Southport Harbor, this bald eagle must be one of the pair that took up residence last summer and can be seen regularly now that it is springtime.



**From Marybeth Auszura:** The magnolia in my backyard.



This is a link to a wonderful, soulful artist that has brought me much peace / calm lately ...

<https://youtu.be/ZbDG4K93cAM>

**From Barbara Geddes Wooten:** While we are all in seclusion and trying to flourish amidst so much that is disheartening, video conferencing on Zoom is one way to see the smiling faces of friends, families and colleagues, which is a godsend these days.

### **The Pros and Cons of Zoom**



Picture from The New Yorker Magazine

So, is Zoom a noun or a verb? Can you “zoom” together? Can you use Zoom? Is Zoom another version of “Skype?” Was Skype a noun or a verb? Zoom is the most popular communication video and audio app on our computers and smart devices of the current crisis. Some of us have been using it for a couple of years. Now, some of us use it, albeit reluctantly at first, all day long.

Who is using it? GCA is a major user. Universities are major users. Design professionals like my office prefer it because you can share drawings and draw over them together. E-Learning is using it with safeguards for kids at home. Others use other platforms.

**Is it “safe.?”** In my view, nothing is really safe. I am not a fan of Facebook, but I use LinkedIn all the time. Like all such platforms, it has some rules of the game and some cautionary advice. Have people been “photobombed?” Yes, News stories note these incidents. Does this happen all the time? No. Has Zoom fixed this recently? They have updated and are trying.

**First**, you **do not** have to have a Zoom account to participate in a call. So, ignore any ads or invitations. Can you delete history afterwards? Yes, please do.

**Second**, you **do not have to turn on video** if you do not want to do so. You can just call in at any time. One of our sons has morning meetings this way without any video. Our joke is that everyone might be in pajamas for all we know. Yes, it is your right!



**Third**, you should ALWAYS have a password to sign onto a call. If there is no password offered, email the host and ask for it.

**Fourth**, if you do want to sign up, it is “free” for up to 40 minutes for three people plus. After that, you must subscribe and give them a credit card. Monthly is about \$15/month. The first time you try it, they do not seem to care how long you speak. If you are using it with only one other person, the length is unlimited.

**Fifth**, the fun part, **you can change your virtual background** when you appear on screen in a video. It is surprisingly easy. You go to the ribbon at the bottom of your screen at lower left. You move to the right to the arrow that opens virtual background. It will give you some stock alternatives from a green screen to the northern lights to a beach scene and to the bridge in San Francisco.

You can click on one of those or you click on the + sign and add you own photo to the menu. I have about six I have added for different meetings: a sunset on Sasco Hill for wine and cheese social meetings, daffodils in Amsterdam for my daytime spring shot (see below), the moody gardens at Inverness on a rainy day, my son’s drone picture of my house just for fun, and Brooklyn Bridge Park when I am speaking to our New York clients and more.



**From Jeanne Reed:**

**It's a Bird . . . It's a Library . . .  
It's a Live Bird Library Cam!**

With a *live* feed showing a library diorama birdfeeder.

Just the thing to keep you - and your cats - entertained for hours! [Just click here . . .](#)



Cornell's bird camera is much more reliable, with a great variety of birds and a lot of cheery birdsong!

[allaboutbirds.org](http://allaboutbirds.org)

Click - Live cams

Then click - Cornell Labs

## **Gershwin with Orin Grossman**

**Tuesday's @ 4 p.m.**

Come spend 20 minutes with Gershwin's songs. Pianist and professor Orin Grossman will tell stories about his songs and Gershwin's world as well as play his music.

tune in



From Peggy Moore: Daffodils at Brookside Park. Lesser celandine and Russian squill in the back yard of Ogden House.



Daffodils at Brookside Park



Lesser celandine at Ogden House



Russian squill at Ogden House



**From Susan Bonner:** A sea of helleborus in our woodland garden.



**From Garden Club of Darien:** ROSE BOWS FOR HEROES. Deep pink is the color associated with gratitude. Every service provider continuing to work on the frontlines is a hero and deserves our gratitude and support. Let's show our gratitude by tying Deep Pink ribbons/bows around a tree in our yards, on door knockers, mailboxes or fence posts. This is a simple, safe and visible way to promote gratitude in our community and something each of us can do on our own and without expense. We are hoping the concept will catch on and grow beyond Darien, inspiring gratitude and unity at this time when our country so desperately needs it.





**From Janet Sherin:** Here are some of the projects I've been doing while being holed up in Florida. I kayak to an island to find the driftwood. I hope everyone is staying healthy and safe.





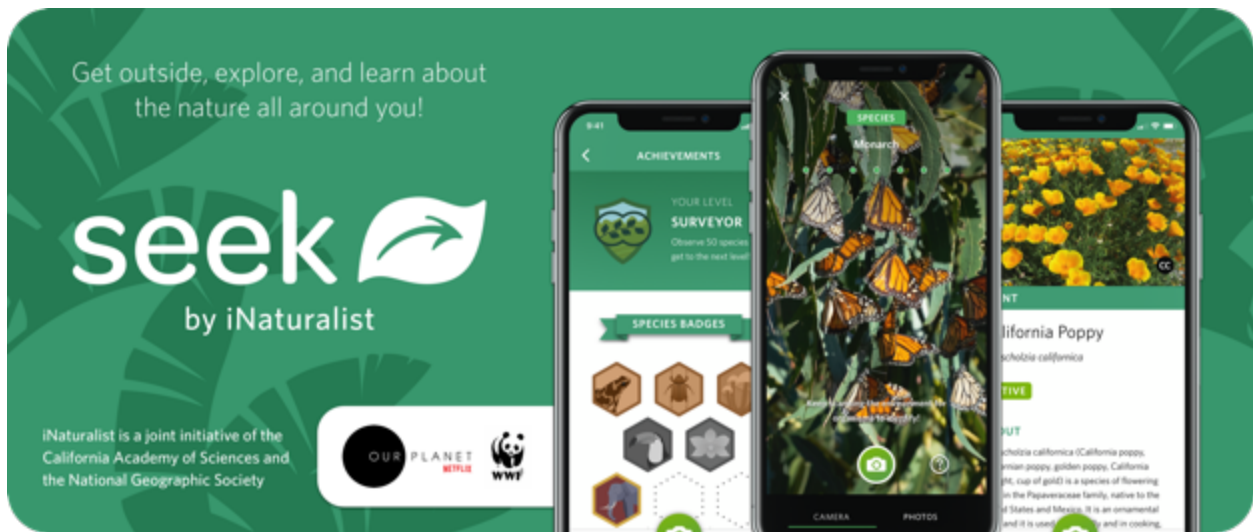
From **Laura Meyer**: A beautiful springtime walk in Southport Village.





**From Barbara Geddes Wooten:** Try these for yourself and with kids and grandkids. Two of the favorite apps are *iNaturalist*, where your observations become part of an international database; and the child-friendly *Seek*, created by *iNaturalist* which helps young explorers to discover plants and animals. These apps are easy to use and they are free. Just download them onto your smartphone or tablet and head outside. They also have helpful tutorials to get you started.

## Seek by iNaturalist



Take your nature knowledge up a notch with Seek! Use the power of image recognition technology to identify the plants and animals all around you. Earn badges for seeing different types of birds, amphibians, plants, and fungi and participate in monthly observation challenges with Our Planet on Netflix.

- o **Get outside** and point the Seek Camera at living things.
- o **Identify wildlife and plants** you see and take pictures to earn badges
- o **Learn fun facts** about the organisms all around you

[\*\*Learn More About Seek On Our Blog\*\*](#)

## **Open Your Camera and Start Seeking!**

Found a mushroom, flower, or bug, and not sure what it is? Open up the Seek camera to see if it knows!

Drawing from millions of wildlife observations on iNaturalist, Seek shows you lists of commonly recorded insects, birds, plants, amphibians, and more in your area. Scan the environment with the Seek Camera to identify organisms using the tree of life. Add different species to your observations and learn all about them in the process! The more observations you make, the more badges you'll earn!

**Kid-Safe and Fun for Families** No registration is involved, and no user data is collected. Seek will ask permission to turn on location services, but your location is obscured to respect your privacy while still allowing species suggestions from your general area. Your precise location is never stored in the app or sent to iNaturalist.

Our image recognition technology is based on observations submitted to iNaturalist.org and partner sites, and identified by the iNaturalist community.

This is a great app for families who want to spend more time exploring nature together.

## **Thomas Jefferson and A Self-Quarantine and the Importance of Trees.**

I did listen to the actor playing Thomas Jefferson on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Jefferson's birthday "Live from Monticello."

He took questions from call ins. As one might expect, many asked "Jefferson" about the pandemic.

The actor told what turns out to be a true story about America's first major epidemic.

1793 marked the horrendous Yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia. Hot and humid in the city, the muddy areas spawned mosquitoes. No one knew for 100 years that the mosquitoes were the source of the disease. 5000 people died. This was one tenth of the entire population in three months. From August through October, the city was ravaged. Only a very early frost in November finally killed the mosquitoes and curbed the disease.



This was our capital city. 20,000 people, those with means, fled the city. President George Washington fled. Alexander Hamilton became ill with the fever and left. Thomas Jefferson, Secretary of State, decided to stay, and went into quarantine on the banks of the Schuylkill River.

He wrote that, though he grew up in the woods of Virginia, he never had such a great appreciation of the healthful value of trees as when he was in quarantine. These were the great plane trees on the river embankment.

**From Peggy Moore:** A shout out to the Untermyer gardens in Yonkers, NY. The daffodil display bloomed at a time when the garden was closed. In an effort to share the joy spring daffodils bring, they cut them and delivered bunches of blooms to the NY hospitals for the workers who are working on the frontlines.

You can follow untermyergardens on Instagram, Facebook or sign up for their newsletter to follow the garden as it blooms before it is open to the public. website: <https://www.untermyergardens.org/>

Floral Design tutorials:

A Mexican floral designer I observed when he competed in the World Floral Cup last spring in Philadelphia is Leopoldo Gomez. His design was natural with a bit of structure and he openly shared his love for design to all who were watching him compete. He offers video tutorials that are just fun to watch even if you do not have the supplies to follow along. You can follow him on Instagram or Facebook by searching leopoldogomezfloraldesign.



I also recommend to those on Facebook the International Florist Organisation. They keep up with the European floral design events and often offer tutorials. Their tutorials run from basic to exotic. Fun to watch. <https://www.facebook.com/Florint.org/>

**From Kim Cooper:**

Ramp season is upon us! Even though we sadly must delay our FGC Kids' Club kick-off event foraging ramps followed by a cooking demo with Jamie until next spring, you may still head to the woods (a perfect setting to maintain social distance!) in search of these wild spring onions, *Allium tricoccum*. You may discover patches of these spring natural wonders over the next few weeks in moist areas, under deciduous trees. Hint, look on the side of the road on Route 53 in Redding. Simply pull by the root and be sure to clean when you arrive home.



There are so many different ways to enjoy ramps ranging from simply sautéing in olive oil, adding to your eggs, whipping up pesto, pickling the bulbs, ramp butter and substituting for garlic and onion in any recipe for a taste of spring. This past Easter Sunday, I made a simple frittata with ramps and potato - yum!

Penny Ross kindly shared one of her favorite recipes. <http://kitchenrepertoire.com/blog-1/2014/5/2/binge-bruschetta-with-ramps-ricotta-and-pinenuts>

Here are some great links for ramp inspiration in the kitchen -

<https://www.marthastewart.com/1513965/ramps-recipes>

[https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.huffpost.com/entry/ramp-recipes\\_n\\_1428780/amp](https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.huffpost.com/entry/ramp-recipes_n_1428780/amp)



<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.foodandwine.com/chefs/how-to-cook-ramps-chefs%3famp=true>

<https://www.epicurious.com/ingredients/ramp-season-recipes-history-article>

<https://www.epicurious.com/archive/blogs/editor/2014/04/ramp-roundup.html>

Google is full of fun when you search ramps!

Here is great article from the New York Times

- <https://www.nytimes.com/1985/03/31/travel/ramp-feasting-in-west-virginia.html>. Coopers have a new bucket list wish, road trip south next year for a ramp festival!

Cheers and go on a RAMPage!

