



over the picket fence

Summer, 2014
June, July, August

The Mason County Garden Club Quarterly Newsletter

(Since 1926 - Our 88th year)

www.masoncountygardenclub.org

Member
Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.,
Central Region and National Garden Club, Inc.



"Just living isn't enough," said the butterfly. "One must also have sunshine, freedom and a little flower." This was written by Hans Christian Anderson. Do you feel like this butterfly as you enjoy a morning in your garden? The joys of Garden Club also fulfill these needs the butterfly spoke of. We, as members, are able to explore so many avenues offered to us by our club so don't hesitate to take part in everything that is out there.



"A Bouquet of Gardens"

Eighteen years ago our club started a tradition that we are continuing again this year. The Garden Walk "Bouquet of Gardens" will take place on Sunday, July 13 from 1:00pm to 5:00pm. We have some lovely gardens lined up for the event, and look forward to sharing their horticulture, landscapes and design, as well as their beauty with the public. You will enjoy this opportunity to look into very special places created by very talented gardeners and leave with new ideas for your own gardens.

The Garden Walk is our Club's major fund raiser, and to ensure its success, maximum member participation is necessary. If you haven't been contacted to take on a job or if you have had a change in plans and can now participate, please contact Julie Tews (517-719-7639) or Sue Hanson (231-425-3119).



Potted plants, especially those in terracotta pots, are vulnerable to overheating. Lightly mulch and, where possible, position them out of hot western sunshine. Remember that standing potted plants in saucers of water encourages root rot and mosquito breeding. Instead, stand them in saucers filled with sand, and keep the sand moist. This ensures roots stay cool and plants remain healthy. If potted plants dry out to the point where re-wetting is hard, soak them in a bucket of water for half an hour, then drain.



Member Updates

New Member Emily Bowman, 2176 N. Sherman Rd, Ludington, MI 49431
231-845-1884, JQBowman@charter.net, Birthday - May 10

New Member Ashley Raymond, 903 Lawndale, Ludington, MI 49431
210-843-6547, rashleyraymond@gmail.com, Birthday - September 27



The memberships of Karijo Donovan, Marci Riba and Robert Shirley have been dropped.



To keep algae growth from your bird bath drop some pre-1982 copper pennies in. A normal size bird bath would need 7 pennies. The reason for the pennies being pre-1982 is that before that year, the pennies contained copper, a natural algicide. You could also use a small length of copper pipe or tubing. This works very well until temperatures stay above 90 for extended periods.



Local Farmers Markets

Ludington - Fridays from 3-8 at the James Street Plaza
Scottville - Tuesdays from 4:30-7:30 in the West Shore Parking lot
Pentwater - Monday and Thursday from 10-1 in the Village Green
Manistee - Saturdays from 9-12 in downtown Manistee



Mason County Garden Club was recognized at the recent District V Spring Meeting with numerous awards for 2013 activities and projects. The club was given the Diamond Club of Distinction award and the Standard Flower Show received a Certificate of Appreciation. The yearbook received a District V 1st place, a MGC State 1st place and \$25, the newsletter received a District V 1st place, a MGC State 1st place and \$50, and the website also received a District V 1st place, a MGC State 1st place and \$50 for website design.



To control black spot, powdery mildew and rust on your plants, scientists have found that two uncoated aspirin tablets (325mg) dissolved in 1 quart of water and used as a foliar or leaf spray can thwart these diseases.



Upcoming Local Events:

Thursday, June 19

AFFEW Beach Sweep with Barefoot Wine and Alliance for the Great Lakes
Start at Stearns Park South Concession Stand, Barefoot Wine and appetizers from
6:00pm-7:30pm.

Friday, July 4th

Freedom Festival Fireworks at dusk, from Stearns Park Beach, Ludington

Sunday, July 13

18th Annual Garden Walk "A Bouquet of Gardens" 1:00pm to 5:00pm

Thursday, July 17

Children's Day from 10:00am to 5:00pm at Historic White Pine Village

Thursday, July 17

AFFEW Beach Sweep from 7:00pm to 9:00pm at Stearns Park South Concession Stand
BYOB Green Drinks to follow

Saturday, July 19

Garden Walk & Blooming Art sponsored by The Garden Club of Pentwater and The
Pentwater Arts Council. Artists will be painting/doing artistic work at each of the gardens
as well as on the Village Green; artists' works will be available for purchase at a silent
auction on the Village Green, Pentwater.

Tuesday, August 5 - Saturday, August 9

Western Michigan Fair at the Mason County Fairgrounds, Ludington.

Thursday, August 7

Down on the Farm Day at the Historic White Pine Village, from 10:00am to 5:00pm

Tuesday, August 12

Clown Band Concert and Corn Roast at 7:00pm at the Historic White Pine Village.

Thursday, August 14

Beach Sweep by AFFEW at Stearns Park south end, Ludington

Upcoming Local Events (cont.):

Saturday, August 16

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day & Clean Sweep from 9:00am to 2:00pm.
Collection sites: Mason County Road Commission, Scottville; Manistee County Road Commission, Bear Lake and Oceana County Dept. of Public Works, Hart.

Thursday, August 21

Children's Day at the Historic White Pine Village from 10:00 to 5:00pm.

Thursday, August 21

AFFEWS Beach Sweep at 7:00pm to 9:00pm. BYOB Green Drinks, Stearns Park South Concession Stand, Ludington.

Saturday, August 30 - Sunday, August 31

Lumber Days from 10:00 to 5:00pm including the Lumberjack Brunch 11am-2pm and Old Time Baseball Match at 2pm on August 31 at Historic White Pine Village.



Any time Iris stop flowering, it's time to divide. Take the center out and move it elsewhere or compost it. Optimum time for this is July. The plants will have half the year to store starch and lengthen their roots to anchor themselves to hold the heavier blooms of the next year.



Fracking in Michigan:

(The Thornapple Garden Club submitted this information and the National president is also very concerned about water issues and how to defend our waterways and coastlines.)

Every month members of our garden clubs recite the Conservation Pledge wherein we pledge to defend our country's resources. The oil & gas exploration boom that is taking over our country is a threat to our country's resources so if we honor that pledge we must get involved.

Fracking in Michigan (cont.):

Recently our garden club, the Thornapple Garden Club of Hastings, Michigan, learned of this threat when our state government started auctioning off State lands for exploration. The fracking process used to extract the gas from the shale is a brutal, controversial drilling technique which involves the injection of millions of gallons of hydraulic fracturing fluids – a mixture of chemicals, water and sand – into a well to create pressure that cracks open the shale underground, releasing the gas.

There are many issues with this process.

- o Where are the many, many millions of gallons of clean water coming from?
- o Where is the high-silica sand coming from?
- o What are the chemicals used?
- o What happens with the unusable, toxic water left in the ground or sucked back out of the ground?
- o What of the air quality while the silica sand and the chemical smells are in the air?
- o What about property values when thousands of noisy, smelly wells are running 24 hours a day?
- o What impact are the resulting earthquakes having on the underground water tables?
- o Are tourists going to come to a state littered with thousands of noisy, smelly wells running 24 hours a day?

Yes, fracking has been around for 50-60 years but it was a shallow, vertical drilling process that used up to 750,000 gallons of fluid. Even this old process has its problems. We very much realize fracking is not the only threat to our country's resources but we're asking each garden club to become educated on this issue and decide the issue for themselves. If we do not stop fracking now, it's going to get worse – very soon. In just three years, drilling companies in Pennsylvania produced 1.3 *billion* gallons of contaminated wastewater. The water in New Mexico has already been polluted by more than 800 drilling sites. And the industry is looking to drill tens of thousands of wells if fracking is allowed in new places like New York, Michigan and other states. How many billions of gallons of wastewater will that produce, and how many rivers, streams and drinking water supplies will that wastewater contaminate? I don't think we want to find out.

We're asking for support from our national and state garden club organizations to say no to fracking before it causes more unreparable damage to the environment and to say yes to renewables. We ask that the Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. web site provide educational information so garden club members can make an informed decision on the process.

If we don't honor the pledge we make we should just change it to read....**We grow pretty flowers.**

Sincerely, Thornapple Garden Club President Anita Lyons and Vice President Cindy Teater



The solstice occurs June 21, marking the start of summer. Work in your yard early in the morning and late in the afternoon to avoid overhead sun. Wear a wide-brimmed hat. Apply and reapply sunscreen, or wear a long-sleeve shirt.



Help for Gardeners with Allergies

This has been and will continue to be a difficult year for gardeners with allergies. Web MD has put together these tips you can use to avoid seasonal allergies.

- A pot of petunias isn't likely to trigger allergies but too much of any flower can be a problem.
- Sunflowers, daisies and chrysanthemums have their dark side. They are all related to ragweed. There are hypoallergenic sunflower seeds and the plants won't produce pollen.
- Flowers from your garden should stay outside with their pollen so pick up cut flowers on your way home.
- Many flowering bushes and trees - roses, azaleas, dogwoods and plums - don't release much pollen. Just don't plant them under a bedroom window or you could have a pollen reaction.
- Boxwood produce lots of pollen. Keep them closely clipped and you'll have fewer pollen problems.
- Burning bush is one of the beauties of autumn but beware. It's in the tumbleweed family and is a notorious pollen producer.
- In times of stress and drought, a tree will produce more pollen than usual.
- A healthy green lawn is a very effective pollen trap. The grass traps the sticky pollen, which washes down into the roots and soil when watered.



New! NGC Membership Photography Contest! Theme: "NGC Membership Is..."

The NGC Membership Committee would like to see the essence of NGC Membership portrayed through your photos with captions. What does NGC Membership mean to you and your State or Local Club? Give it some thought and take some pictures that best convey the idea of NGC Membership. Then, join in the photo contest! Entries must be submitted electronically and must be received by March 15, 2015. All the information is on the National Garden Club website at www.gardenclub.org.awards/membership-photo



National Garden Clubs



National and Michigan Garden Club, Inc. Upcoming Events

June 1-7 - National Garden Week

June 21 - Spring Lake - Annual Garden Walk

June 21 - The Tri-Cities Garden Club, Inc. will host its Annual Garden Walk (Spring Lake and Ferrysburg). 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tickets: \$8.00. Contact: Harriet Nise, 616-846-1207, wilnise@triton.net.

July 17-19 - The Tri-Cities Garden Club, Inc. will host its 57th Annual Flower Show, "Blooms 'n Birds," at the Spring Lake District Library, 123 E. Exchange St., Spring Lake. Thursday, the 17th, 3:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.; Friday, the 18th, 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; and Saturday, the 19th, 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Free. Contact: Sandy Minuth, 616-844-0249, ramadler@charter.net

July 17 - The Friendly Garden Club of Traverse City 32nd Annual Garden Walk, July 17, 11:00 to 7:00 rain or shine in the Oak Park/Boardman neighborhoods in Traverse City. Tickets available at Visitor's Center; \$8 in advance, \$10 day of walk. Ph: 231-938-5851 or visit the friendlygardenclub.org.

July 24 -- The Portage Lake Garden Club is hosting a Small Standard Flower Show, Art in Bloom at the Farr Center, 5283 Main Street, Onekama, Michigan 49675. It is open and free to the public, 1:00-4:00 pm.

National and Michigan Garden Club, Inc. Upcoming Events (cont.)

August 27-28 -- Flower Show Symposium: McGuire's Resort, Cadillac, Michigan
Design: Penelope Decker-“Color” Horticulture: Dorothy Yard-“Dwarf & Miniature
Horticulture. For more information, contact: Lynn Dinvald, Registrar,
ydoublelne@aol.com

September 25 - District V Fall Meeting at the Little River Casino Resort in Manistee
hosted by the Portage Lake Garden Club, Spirit of the Woods Garden Club and
Periwinkle Garden Club.

October 1 & 2 - Landscape Design School, Course III. Hosted by District IIA at the
Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 North Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor, 48105. For more
information, contact local chairman, Mary Pulick at marypulick@gmail.com or
734-476-2453.

October 6 & 7 - Gardening Study School Series 18 Course I. Traverse City. For more
information contact Co-Chairs, Nancy Collard: 231-943-8697,
handymama@chartermi.net or Terry Harding: 231-947-0568,wsharding@chartermi.net.

October 23 & 24 - Environmental Studies School, Course IV, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Pleasant
Ridge Community Center, 4 Ridge Road, Pleasant Ridge, MI 48069. For further
information please contact Anastatia (Stacey) Stutcher at 85 Amherst Rd., Pleasant Ridge,
Mi 48069, (248) 546-6538; fstutcher@yahoo.com

June 3-5, 2015- The MGC State Convention will be hosted by District V and take place
at the Odawa Casino Resort in Petoskey.



The two fastest growing hobbies in North America are gardening and bird watching. Imagine combining both hobbies in your very own back yard through designing and planting a garden to attract these very special friends. To entice a variety of birds to your yard or garden, provide them with an oasis of everything they need to survive: food and water, shelter from weather and predators and a nesting place and materials. If you design your garden from a bird's perspective, they will come.



Did you know?

- You can recycle plastic flower pots at Lowe's and Home Depot to be crushed and formed into new pots for the next spring.
- We now have two more women of the same family as members of our club. Marilyn Raymond has brought into membership her granddaughter Ashley Raymond. They join Deb Laiskonis and her niece Melanie Bettinger. Plus Maureen Myers and Mary Margaret Scanlon are cousins.
- MCGC member Bobbie Clingan provided our club with a tree at her cost to be planted in Leveaux Park in memory of Suzanne Townsend. Thank you Bobbi. Watch for information on the dedication of the tree in the near future.



Keep your Boston ferns in the same pots they come in. Every other day submerge them in a 5 gallon bucket filled with 1/2 cup epon salts and 3 gallons of regular water until the soil stops bubbling. Then hang up to drip dry. Your ferns will be dark green, glossy, and beautiful.



Clematis pruning tips

Group 1 - if it blooms before June - don't prune. The blooms form on old wood which is why you don't want to prune it. Trimming away old wood can mean trimming away future blooms. The exception is to remove dead wood.

Group 2 - if it blooms in early summer and sometimes blooms again, cut the entire vine down to one foot tall every 2-3 years. The blooms of this group form on both old and new wood.

Group 3 - if it blooms in late summer, prune back hard, after blooming, leaving 6-12" of vine with strong buds. The blooms form on new wood only.

Five kinds of perennials that will thrive in your shade garden are Hostas, Foamflowers , Coral Bell, Ligularia, and Heucherella.



Strawberry Lemonade Muffins

2 1/2 cups self-rising flour

1 1/4 cups sugar, divided

1 8oz container sour cream

1/2 cup melted butter

1 tbsp lemon zest

1/4 cup fresh lemon juice

2 large eggs, lightly beaten

1 1/2 cups diced fresh strawberries

Preheat oven to 400°. Combine flour and 1 cup sugar in a large bowl; make a well in center of mixture. Stir together sour cream and next 4 ingredients; add to flour mixture, stirring just until dry ingredients are moistened. Gently fold strawberries into batter.

Spoon batter into lightly greased 12-cup muffin pans, filling three-fourths full. Sprinkle remaining 1/4 cup sugar over batter. Bake at 400° for 16 to 18 minutes or until golden brown and a wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool in pans on a wire rack 1 minute; remove from pans to wire rack, and cool 10 minutes.



Our next meeting is the Hypertufa Workshop on June 26 at Linda Starr's pole barn on 5684 N. Victory Park Road. It will be a hands on "down and dirty" fun project so wear your old clothes and be prepared to be creative. Further information will be coming soon from the committee.

See you at the meeting,
Gwen Jackson and Diane Davis