



over the picket fence

Fall, 2014
September, October, November

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.



**I love fall! Fall is exciting. It's apples and cider. It's an airborne spider. It's pumpkins in bins. It's burrs on dog's chins. It's wind blowing leaves. It's chilly red knees. It's nuts on the ground. It's a crisp dry sound. It's green leaves turning. And the smell of them burning. It's clouds in the sky. It's fall and that's why.....
I love fall!**

Author Unknown



"A Bouquet of Gardens"

I would like to send out a big thank you to our members whose homes we featured on this years garden walk. Barb Doty, Sue Hansen and Mary Peters. I understand all the extra work and time you took to make them just beautiful for the garden walk and how many people enjoyed them, I'm still hearing comments. Thank you also to a wonderful committee, all your ideas and input made for a great garden walk and getting to know all of you on a more personal level I am truly blessed for such great new friends, thank you. Thank you to all the members that worked at pre-sales, as docents and refreshments it's a big job but it all came together beautify. Thanks also to Deb and her great radio station for the generous donation of air time that got the word out over the air waves. Maggie for all her high techie stuff she does that got the word out on Facebook and more, I thank you. You are all a wonderful group of ladies and I appreciate you all. *Thank you again, Julie*



October's poplars are flaming torches lighting the way to winter.

Nova Bair



Local Events –

Through Sept - Ludington Farmers Market Fridays 3-8 and Manistee Farmers Market Saturdays from 8-2

Sept-October - Lewis Farms, New Era continuous Fall events

Sept 17 - Beach Sweep by AFEW at 1st curve on M116

Sept 18 - International Beach Sweep at Stearns Park Ludington

Sept 18-20 - Scottville Harvest Festival

Sept 20 - International Beach Sweep at Ludington State Park

Oct 4 - Applefest at St Simons Church, Ludington from 9-5

Oct 10-11 - Autumn Days at Historic White Pine Village

Oct 25 - Downtown Halloween in Ludington from 3-5

Oct 26 - Haunted Village at Historic White Pine Village

Nov 29 - Aglow on the Avenue Parade at 6 in Ludington



**No Spring nor Summer Beauty hath such grace
As I have seen in one Autumnal face.
John Donne**



The monarch butterfly is in serious trouble:

On the heels of recent bee declines, another iconic pollinator, the monarch butterfly, is in serious trouble. Last month, the New York Times reported that the number of monarchs arriving at their ancient overwintering grounds in Mexico has reached the lowest level on record. The monarch butterfly's sharp decline has been linked to massive increases in the planting of genetically modified crops engineered to tolerate huge doses of Monsanto's Roundup herbicide. These herbicide-tolerant "Roundup Ready" crops have encouraged farmers to use ever-increasing amounts of this weed killer virtually wiping out milkweed, the only food young monarchs eat. Help protect this iconic pollinator. Take action here through Friends of the Earth (www.foe.org/monarch) to call on the USDA and EPA to stop approving GMO crops.



**Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.
Albert Camus**



National and Michigan Garden Club, Inc. Upcoming Events

September 24: District V Leadership Training Workshop at the Little River Casino Resort in Manistee. Contact our President Mary Ann Ferguson for further information.

September 25: District V Fall Meeting "Light in the Garden" hosted by the Spirit of the Woods, Portage Lake and Periwinkle Garden Clubs at the Little River Casino Resort in Manistee. Terry Pepper, President of the Michigan Lighthouse Keepers Association, will speak about area lighthouses and lighthouse keepers' gardens.

Carolyn Thayer of "Designs in Bloom" will talk about ways to integrate Michigan native plants into many types of landscapes.

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: Gardening Study, Course I at the Botanic Garden at the Historic Barns Park in the Traverse City. For more information contact Co-Chairs, Nancy Collard: 231-943-697, handymama@chartermi.net or Terry Harding: 231-947-0568, wsharding@chartermi.net.

October 9-11: 2014 Central Region Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota. "Autumn Splendor" at Oak Ridge Conference Center, Chaska, Minnesota. Registrar Beverly Munson 612-869-7220 .

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. Pleasant Ridge is a northern suburb of Detroit near the I-75 and I-696 intersection and at the I-696 (10 Mile Rd.) Woodward Ave. intersection. For further information contact Anastatia (Stacey) Stutcher at 85 Amherst Rd., Pleasant Ridge, Mi 48069, (248) 546-6538; fstutcher@yahoo.com.

December 6: 14th annual Holiday Home Tour presented by the Cadillac Garden Club from 10:00-3:00. Visit four area homes decorated in the season's finest. Discounted advance tickets. Sales begin Nov 1st. Call 231-501-9047 for more information.

April 13-14, 2015: Gardening Study, Course II. More details to follow.

May 7-8, 2015: Landscape Design School - Course IV hosted by District IIA at 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.

May 11-18, 2015: National Garden Club Convention in Louisville, Kentucky

June 3-5, 2015: Michigan Garden Clubs Convention hosted by District V and taking place at the Odawa Casino Resort in Petoskey.



**The leaves fall, the wind blows, and the farm country slowly
changes from the summer cottons into its winter wools.**

Henry Beston



Propagating your Succulents

- Choose a leaf that is in good health, with a hearty shape and no rips or blemishes. Pull the leaf off neatly. Use a clean razorblade or a craft knife to make a clean cut. If you use your fingers, be very gentle. Twist the leaf carefully back and forth, from side to side to pull it off intact, without ripping the stem of the plant.

- Once you pulled off the leaves you wish to propagate, allow them to dry out a little bit. Let them dry for 1-3 days. It's important you don't water the leaf before 1-3 days as your leaf will turn brown and mushy and will start to rot.

- The "wound" on the stem of the parent plant should also be allowed to air dry in a sheltered and well-lit spot for a few hours. During its healing process, the plant will seal the wound and prevent disease from getting in.

- Place the dried leaves on some soil ready to grow. It's best to just place them on top of the soil without sticking it in - in that way you can see the propagation happen as well as it is almost guaranteed they won't die. The roots will find their way into the soil on their own. As you're going to look at it for a good amount of months, you may as well make it look nice in a pretty pattern or just place them randomly - that's all up to you. The soil should be well drained. If you need to improvise good growing soil, mix half well-rotted compost with half fine pumice or grit.

- The leaves need water at some point but only a light sprinkling. While "grown-up" succulents only need to be watered every second week, or even once a month (depending on the season/heat), the leaves need to be watered constantly without being watered too much. Only water the soil after it is dry (stick your finger into the soil around the planted leaves; if it feels moist, watering is not needed but if it's dry, then water).

- All you have to do now is to wait for the leaves to grow roots or even new leaves. You'll see some changes within just a month or so.



Winter is an etching, spring a watercolor, summer an oil painting and autumn a mosaic of them all.

Stanley Horowitz



Liz Donakowski has shared the delicious recipes she made for the August meeting.

Hummus:

- 1 (15oz) can of chickpeas drained - save a little juice to mix with the chickpeas
- 3 tbsp fresh lemon juice
- 2 tbsp minced onion
- 2 cloves of garlic
- 1/4 cup of olive oil
- 2 tbsp sour cream
- salt & pepper

Puree first four ingredients in blender. Add olive oil, stir in sour cream, salt and pepper to taste. Best made day before serving. Service with pita bread - 12 to 15 servings

Avocado Dip

- 2 ripe avocados, lightly mashed
- 1/4 cup red onions, chopped
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1/4 cup tomatoes, chopped
- 1 fresh lime, squeeze in the juice and mix well
- salt & pepper to taste.

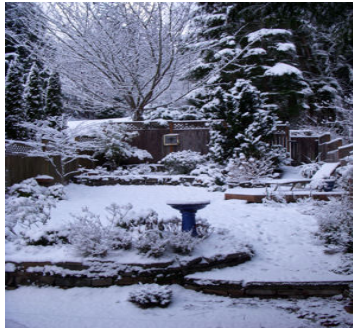
Garlic Pita Crisps

- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 tsp minced fresh garlic
- 2 pita breads cut into 2 layers and then into triangles
- 1 tsp sea or kosher salt

In small sauce pan, heat olive oil and garlic until the garlic turns golden and remove from heat. Place pita triangles on a baking sheet and brush them with garlic & olive oil mixture. Sprinkle lightly with salt. Bake 5 minutes or until crispy at 375'.



Everyone must take time to sit and watch the leaves turn.
Elizabeth Lawrence



+

Tips to Prepare Your Garden for Winter:

- Trim & divide perennials as growth slows
- Bring in houseplants
- Keep evergreens & shrubs watered well
- Dig, dry & store summer bulbs
- Clean out vegetable gardens, add summer's compost & dig in
- Rake leaves, mulch them and compost
- Protect young trees & shrubs from rodents
- Sever large tree roots that are invading gardens
- Loosely wrap burlap around pyramidal evergreens & rhododendrons
- Drain hoses & winterize garden equipment
- Plant evergreens
- Fertilize & aerate lawns
- Prepare & seed lawns
- Plant spring bulbs
- Mulch tender perennials
- Hill soil around rose bushes
- Bring in firewood
- Install outdoor seasonal lights



Member Update -

Carol Copeland has a new email address carolcan249@gmail.com

Jackie Lane also has a new email address lanetrj330@gmail.com

Margaret Ewing's phone number is 231-903-8478



Beth Clemenson has dropped her membership



Planting Bulbs in Containers

Choose a container. Anything that has drainage holes and is deep enough to accommodate a few inches of soil and the bulbs works as a container. You'll need to allow a 1-inch space between the tip of the bulb and the rim of the pot. But be sure the bulbs have at least 2 inches of soil beneath them.

Choose a potting mix. Use any bagged potting mix labeled for general houseplant use. Mix some fertilizer, such as a granular 5-10-10 or 9-9-6 bulb formulation, into the potting mix at the rate recommended on the product label.

Pot up the bulbs. Add 3 inches of potting mix to the container, and firm it gently. Place a bulb on the soil, and twist it a quarter-turn to give it some grip in the soil. Add the rest of the bulbs, spacing them no more than 1/2-inch apart. Add more potting mix around the bulbs, firming it into place with your fingers. The tips of the bulbs should barely show through the soil surface. Water well until some moisture leaks from the drainage holes.

Time to chill. In order to flower, spring-blooming bulbs require a chilling period of 8 to 14 weeks at temperatures between 35° and 40° F. To simulate the effect of winter, place container in a cool, dark place such as an unheated, frost-free basement, garage, or porch.

Check pots regularly. During the chilling phase, the bulbs are growing roots, so it's important that the potting mix not dry out. Check regularly for moisture by sticking your finger into the potting mix. If it feels dry an inch deep, fill the pot to the rim with water, and allow it to drain. Be careful not to overwater-excess moisture can lead to rot.

Watch for emerging top growth. After six to eight weeks of chilling, green shoots should begin to emerge. If you live in a cold-winter region, keep the containers in their cool place until you wish to encourage growth.

Place containers where they will receive light. Temperatures over 75° F push bulbs to grow too quickly, resulting in floppy, leggy top growth. A location in light shade should provide the right balance of light and moderate temperatures. To ensure that your bulbs stand erect, you can support top growth with flower rings or stakes and twine.

Maintain the show. As your bulbs grow larger and bloom, check soil moisture daily, and water as needed to keep the soil moist but not soggy.

Tips. Extend the bloom period by planting separate containers with varieties that have various bloom dates (early, mid-, and late season). Face the flat side of tulip bulbs outward toward the wall of the pot. When the leaves and blossom stalks emerge, they'll grow up and outward, instead of crowding toward the center.

As the bulbs start to bloom, you can move them to a prominent place for best viewing. When they cease to bloom, move the bulb container to an out-of-the-way place while it fades. You can plant various bulbs in a single container-but be sure to select varieties that are timed to blossom simultaneously (for example, don't pair late-season daffodils with early crocuses). Plant bulbs in layers in deeper containers, with large bulbs deeper and small bulbs closer to the surface. Space bulbs so they aren't planted on top of one another.



A September to remember. An October full of splendor. A November to treasure.
La Prevenchere

See you at the meeting,
Gwen Jackson and Diane Davis

