

over the picket fence



Fall, 2019 September, October, November

**The Mason County Garden Club
Quarterly Newsletter**
(Since 1926-our 93rd year)

www.masoncountygardenclub.org

**Member: Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.
Central Region and National Garden Clubs, Inc.
Club No. 140 – District V**





Wow, I can't believe it is time for another edition of "over the picket fence." These past months have been really busy ones for the Club.....In August, some of you ladies enjoyed a trip to the Fox Barn Winery and Marketplace...Landscape Design & Civic Beautification Awards were presented at our August meeting...a successful Fall Plant and White Elephant Sale to start September and THEN...our very successful Michigan Gardens Club, Inc. District V Fall Conference at Lincoln Hills Golf Course, where there were 115 District V Members in attendance, along with amazing speakers and vendors. In October, we are looking forward to the Terrarium Workshop with Mike Underwood and Sharon Bradley Johnson of the Tree Advisory will be speaking in November. Of course, we are all looking forward to our annual meeting, installation of officers and Holiday Luncheon in December (Good Friends, Good Food and Great Season). Those of you who will be staying to brave our, hopefully, not too harsh Winter, plan on attending our luncheons in January and February (places to be announced at a later date).



September

6 Terry Baldwin
9 Carol Copeland
17 Bonnie Henretty
19 Joan Nelson
22 Liz Donakowski
23 Karen Oele
28 Karen Klukwski

October

3 Rhonda Hildebrandt
12 Carmen Muscat_
19 Sue Joslin
20 Sue Ann Hanson
22 Dawn Rollenhagen
23 Agnes Gray
26 Sue Smith
30 Linda Starr

November

3 Vicki Houk
4 Patricia Otto
12 Susan Jabrocki
13 Marilyn Raymond
14 Gig Rose
18 Sandy Luxford
20 Diane Davis
20 Dianne Portwine
22 Julie Haselhuhn
25 Sue Sabin
28 Roxanne Antczak

Field Trip to Fox Barn Winery & Marketplace:



Landscape Design & Civic Beautification Awards



Gwen Jackson presents awards to West Shore Family Support Center (formerly known as West Shore Pregnancy Center); Vacation Station RV Resort and "The Pocket Garden" (located in the vacant lot behind Sunset Bay Antiques and Jamesport Brewing).

Fall Plant Sale and White Elephant Sale



Don't tell secrets
in the garden.
The potatoes have eyes,
the corn has ears,
and the beanstalk.



Highlights From The Michigan Gardens Club, Inc District V Fall Conference (Fall, Friends and Flowers)



Centerpieces by Julie Tews..Programs by Diane Davis



Dawn welcomes everyone to the Conference



District V Director, Sue Soderberg



115 Garden Club Members in attendance



Vendor, "Bee Keepers" had a variety of honey.



Members loved shopping at the vendors' tables.



Gail Burkhardt introduces speakers, Todd and Bradd Reed Photographers.."Michigan in Bloom."



Sue Joslin introduces speakers, Alan Wernette and Bradley Youngstrom



Alan Wernette: "History and Natural Changes: Ludington State Park."



Bradley Youngstrom: Creative Containers: One Pot... Three Seasons." Fall



Winter arrangement by Brad.



Brad's Christmas arrangement.



Wonderful luncheon: Grilled Chicken Salad and Tomato Basil Soup.



Upcoming MCGC Meetings:

Checkout your yearbook or our website for locations, instructions and other detailed information!

Thursday, October 24 at 1:00 p.m.: Program and Business Meeting at Emmanuel Lutheran Church (note change).
Terrarium Workshop with Mike Underwood, Owner, Underwood Farms.

Thursday, November 21 at 1:00 p.m.: Program and Business Meeting at United Methodist Church.
Sharon Bradley Johnson, Chair of the Ludington Tree Advisory Board.

Thursday, December 12 at 1:00 p.m.: Annual Meeting & Installation of Officers
Holiday Luncheon... Good Friends, Good Food and Great Season



Upcoming National and State Events and Schools



October 6-8: NGC Central Region Convention, Missouri

October 15-16: Environmental Studies School, Course 11, Midland, MI

October 22-23: Gardening School, Course IV, Monroe, MI





Local Calendar of Events

October 13- 9am:

Last sailing day of season for S.S.Badger

October 15 – 16:

MGC Environmental School Course II, Midland, MI
Contact Registrar Judy Page 898-689-3420

October 19, 10:30am to 3:30pm:

Haunted Village at Historic White Pine Village

October 22 – 23:

MGC Gardening School Course IV, Tipton, MI.
Contact Chairman Elizabeth Bohland 734-242-6313

October 28 – 29:

MGC Landscape Design School Series XXII Course II, Grand Haven, MI
Contact local chairs, Andrea Anderson 616-837-3584 or Lynn Smith 616-690-0681

December 7:

Cadillac Garden Club Annual Holiday Home Tour 10:00am to 3:00pm
Cadillac Garden Club showcases their talents in 4 beautifully decorated area homes.
Music, refreshments, inspiration. Tickets go on sale Nov 1, 2019. Early discount
\$15.00/\$20.00. Call 231-510-9047

December 13, 4:00pm to 7:00 pm:

White Pine Christmas at White Pine Village. Enjoy an evening of Christmas
decorations and fun at the Village.



Our featured member for this Fall edition of the newsletter is Dianne Miller. Dianne is a good friend of Garden Club member Christine Schulte and, with the encouragement of Chris, Dianne joined the Garden Club this year. Dianne's love of gardening came from watching and working with her grandparents in their "spectacular" flower and vegetable gardens. Since her recent retirement, Dianne has been able to enjoy her own flower gardens. The flowers that are giving her much enjoyment and pride this summer have been her dahlias and zinnias. Everyone is noticing their beauty.

Dianne is a native of Concord, Michigan and is a graduate of Hackley School of Nursing in Muskegon. She and her husband came to Mason County in 1986 when he accepted a position at Memorial Medical Center. Dianne took a position at the hospital at that same time and completed the last 32 years of her career as a registered nurse at MMC before her recent retirement. Her nursing knowledge and experience took her from the ER to Home Health Care and finally Information Services, concentrating on medical records while at MMC.

Dianne and her husband have 3 grown children. Their 2 sons and a daughter each live out of state. As this article is being written, Dianne is on her way to be with their daughter for the birth of their first grandchild. An exciting time for Dianne and her family. Welcome to the Garden Club Dianne and we can't wait to hear all about this new little one when we see you at an upcoming meeting.



Feed Birds Naturally:

Nourish your feathered friends. Bird feeders aren't the only way; flowers can do this too. Don't cut the old, end of summer stems; let them go to seed instead. The birds will quickly find them. Among the better seed producers are sunflower, zinnia, salvia, purple coneflower, cosmos, black-eyed Susan, bachelor's button and hollyhock.

Before You Put Your Gardens to Bed:

Do an honest evaluation of your garden. What worked this year? What wouldn't you repeat next year? Do yourself a favor and start a list now that you can use when you shop next spring. Fall is also a good time of year to evaluate:

Which plants need to be divided:

- Which plants should be moved to a better spot in the garden
- Where you need more privacy or screening for less-than-ideal views
- Where you could use more plants with fall color/interest

Remove annuals from containers and landscapes: It was a great run, but by the time fall rolls around, it's time for the annuals to go and store your pots away for winter. It can be tough to do since long bloomers like Supertunia Vista® Bubblegum® and Salvia Rockin'® Playin' the Blues® can still look great in the fall, but once frost hits you'll wish you had pulled them sooner. Healthy annuals can be composted; any diseased plants should be disposed of.

Fall is for planting! Still-warm soil and relatively cool air temperatures promote healthy root growth in plants that return each year. Take advantage of end of season sales on trees and shrubs at local nurseries, and divide or move perennials around the garden in fall. Ideally, give the roots at least six weeks to settle into their new home before the ground freezes.

Plant spring blooming bulbs: Fall is the best time to plant spring flowering bulbs like tulips, daffodils, crocuses, and a wide variety of others you'll find at your local garden center this time of year. If squirrels, voles or chipmunks are a problem in your garden, spray the bulbs with an animal repellent before you plant them or cover them with a layer of chicken wire to prevent animals from digging them back up.

Cut select perennials back: Once your perennials have gone dormant, it's a good idea to clean at least some of their foliage out of garden beds. We typically cut them right down to the ground. This is especially important around plants like hostas that have received slug damage during the growing season. Slugs lay their eggs in the dormant foliage, and removing it in fall will cut down on slug issues the following year. Fall is not the best time to prune shrubs.

DO NOT cut these perennials back in fall:

*Evergreen or semi-evergreen perennials like pinks (*Dianthus*), coral bells (*Heuchera*), foamy bells (*Heucherella*), foamflower (*Tiarella*), creeping phlox (*Phlox subulata*), bugleweed (*Ajuga*) and red hot poker (*Kniphofia*)

*Perennials with woody stems like rose mallow (*Hibiscus*), Russian sage (*Perovskia*), lavender (*Lavandula*), butterfly bush (*Buddleia*)

*Perennials with winter interest like False Indigo (*Baptisia*), coneflowers (*Echinacea*), Prairie Winds® ornamental grasses, Rock 'n Grow autumn stonecrop (*Sedum*), ornamental onion (*Allium*), Lenten roses (*Helleborus*)



Continue to water the garden: Evergreen perennials, shrubs and trees, as well as anything you've recently planted, will need to be watered until the ground starts to freeze. If you live in an area that receives abundant rain in fall, you might not need to provide much supplemental water. But if rainfall is less reliable, water deeply at least once per week.

Rake, shred, and mulch with leaves: Nature delivers natural mulch at our feet every fall when deciduous trees drop their leaves. Finely textured leaves from willow trees or honey locusts will easily degrade on their own and don't need to be raked. But broad leaves from maple, sycamore, oak trees and the like become matted down and take a long time to decompose on their own, potentially smothering your grass and perennials. These kinds of leaves should be raked out of garden beds and mowed on the lawn. It may seem counterintuitive, but it's a good idea to spread the shredded leaves back onto your garden beds as mulch in late fall as the ground begins to freeze. Doing so will keep weeds at bay, insulate your plants over the winter months, and enrich the soil as the leaves break down.

Protect sensitive and newly planted perennials and shrubs: If you're pushing the hardiness zone on a few of your plants, heaping a pile of shredded leaves or evergreen boughs on top of them once they are dormant may help them make it through the winter. This same technique works for plants with cold sensitive buds like some *Hydrangea macrophylla* cultivars. Additionally, it's a good idea to mulch newly planted perennials and shrubs that aren't well-rooted in yet to prevent the root ball from heaving out of the ground during the freeze/thaw cycles of winter. Mulch helps to keep the soil at a more consistent temperature.

Bonus Task: Start dreaming of next year's garden. It is never too early to plan for spring.

“Spring passes and one remembers one's innocence. Summer passes and one remembers one's exuberance. Autumn passes and one remembers one's reverence. Winter passes and one remembers one's perseverance.” – Yoko Ono





Join Us

As we **PLANT AMERICA** with membership

We Want You to Gain New Members in Your Clubs!

**You've Heard our Challenge for this Administration:
21% by '21**

"Why Do We Want New Members?" you might ask.

New Members

- Become new friends,
- Add diversity to our membership,
- Remind us how proud we are of our accomplishments,
- Increase our visibility to our communities,
- Share our passion,
- Increase our club's energy,
- Become our future leaders,
- Bring in more new members.

You see how very vital new members are!

Without New Members, our current members will eventually

- Get ill or pass away,
- Get tired,
- Lose interest,
- Will no longer remain involved.

And the main reason will be that they no longer receive the same benefits that brought them to our club in the first place!

**Garden Club Members Want to Have Fun, Learn New Things,
Fulfill a Mission, and Make a Positive Difference in our Communities!**

Most of our garden clubs have been making that difference in our members' lives and in the communities in which they live for many years – our earliest state garden club was organized in 1924. Most likely, someone in your past was a proud member of a garden club - possibly a parent, grandparent, great-grandparent, and/or family friends.

In Fairbanks, Alaska, in the early 1960's, a member of our Fairbanks Garden Club feared that a special wild area not too far from town would be divided up into homesites. She took it upon herself to reach out to everyone she knew and petitioned the Alaska Legislature to save part of this wild area. **They couldn't help but listen!** In 1967, they designated 15,360 acres for the Chena River State Recreation Area. In 1975, they designated an additional 240,000 acres.

Garden Club members are fearless and passionate for what they believe! There are stories just like this all over our country. We are called by many "The Conscience of America".

**Our numbers are dwindling and it's time to act! Is it worth it to nurture and grow your clubs?
Are we worth saving? YOU BETCHA!**



Hope you have enjoyed this edition of the “over the picket fence.” Ideas and suggestions are always welcome for the newsletter. Don’t hesitate to contact Diane or Gwen with your thoughts.

See you at the next meeting....Diane Davis and Gwen Jackson.

Club Collect

Keep us, O God, ever mindful of nature’s generous bounty. May we always bear in mind it is ours to trust, to protect, to nurture, and to enjoy.

Mrs. C.C. Caswell