

# over the picket fence



**Summer, 2021**  
**June, July, August**  
**The Mason County Garden Club**  
**Quarterly Newsletter**  
(Since 1926-our 95th year)

[www.masoncountygardenclub.org](http://www.masoncountygardenclub.org)

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





**Thoughts from our President:**

Dear Fellow Gardeners,

We all understand the Circle of Life. We may not always like it, but we understand it. This year, we survived the COVID pandemic only to be faced with unusual heat and drought in May and June, right at the beginning of the growing season, which could threaten our local farms as well as our own gardens.

But Gardeners are eternal optimists and we will help Mother Nature where and when we can, by watering and weeding our own (and community) gardens. "Grow a Row" to share produce with the Lakeshore Food Network (and others) will be needing the results of our hard work.

So this season, keep your watering can handy and let's do a rain dance to entice Mother Nature to help us out a bit more.

Sue Ann



**June**

- 7 Diane Nemitz
- 23 Barb Scherer

**July**

- 1 Judy Lehtinen
- 5 Christine Schulte
- 7 Pat Bettin
- 9 Marilyn Austin
- 12 Melinda Doughety
- 15 Cathy Claus
- 17 Carolyn Ptaszenski

**August**

No Birthdays



## Upcoming Events:

### Saturday, June 19 9am -1pm

Garden Club of Pentwater Annual Plant Sale, Water Tower Park, Pentwater

### Saturday, June 25 10am-4pm

Tri-Cities Garden Club, Spring Lake and Nunica area. Rain or shine, refreshments and sale of plants. Tickets \$12.00 available at the Tri-Cities Historical Museum or contact [www.tricitygardenclub.org](http://www.tricitygardenclub.org)

### Friday, July 9 10am-4pm

Garden Walk along Crystal Lake. "Gardening for Water Quality" is the theme of this year's garden walk hosted by the Periwinkle Garden Club of Frankfort. Gardens are located along the shoreline of Crystal Lake. Call Monica at 651-726-4488 for ticket information.

### Thursday, July 15 11am-7pm

Friendly Garden Club of Traverse City hosts The Magical Garden Tour. This will be in the Long Lake/Interlochen area. Go to their website [www.thefriendlygardenclub.org](http://www.thefriendlygardenclub.org) for additional information.

### Friday and Saturday, August 6 3:30pm-6pm and August 7 9am-5pm

**Mason County Garden Club presents "Our Solar System", a NGC Standard Flower Show, at the Mason County District Library.**

### Tuesday thru Saturday, August 10-14

82 Annual Western Michigan Fair at the Mason County Fairgrounds, US 10, Ludington.

## *Dates and times of 2021 local Farmers Markets:*

### Ludington

Ludington's farmers market operates from 3pm-7pm on Fridays May 28-September 24. The Ludington Market will be located on Loomis Street behind Wesco until it can be moved to the completed North James Street Legacy Plaza.

### Scottville

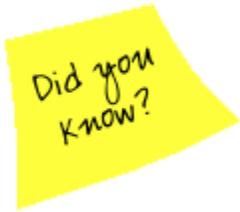
Scottville's farmers market returns in 2021 and will operate on Saturdays from 10am to 2pm on the sidewalks in downtown Scottville. May 15-September 25, 2021.

### Pentwater

Pentwater has two farmers markets during the summer months, one on Mondays and one on Thursdays. Both are from 10am to 1pm on the Pentwater Village Green. June 7-September 6, 2021.

### Manistee

Manistee's farmers market is located on Memorial Drive and is open from 9am to 12pm Saturdays. May 29-October 2, 2021.



Did you know the National Garden Club has a "Store"? It has numerous items, including garden related jewelry, books, calendars, gifts and other supplies. The "Store" can be found online at [www.gardenclub.org/our-store](http://www.gardenclub.org/our-store)

### **The Dos and Don'ts of Watering Plants**

How, when, and where you water your garden and houseplants can critically impact their greenery and blooms. Read on for the best ways to ensure success. By [Glenda Taylor](#)



No matter what color your thumb, you likely already know that all plants need water to reach their full potential—after all, that basic knowledge goes back to introductory middle-school science class. But what you might not know is that incorrect watering techniques can [put plants at risk for disease](#) and even kill them

### **Watering Outdoor Plants**

- 1. DO hydrate plants in the morning.** The [most efficient time to water](#) outdoor flowers and vegetables is before the heat of the day when the soil is cool and the water has the best chance of seeping down to the roots of the plants before evaporating. Watering plants early will ensure that they have sufficient store of moisture beneath the soil to withstand the heat of a hot summer day.
- 2. DON'T water too frequently or too little.** Especially during hot weather, it [may be tempting](#) to water just enough—and often enough—to keep the soil damp. Shallow surface watering, however, discourages deep root development. Instead, opt for a less frequent watering routine that thoroughly saturates the soil. This method encourages the roots to reach deeply for residual water, even when the surface of the soil appears dry. The standard rule of thumb is to give your flowers and vegetables the equivalent of at 1 inch of water per week (and as much as double that amount in the peak of summer).
- 3. DO water plants at soil level.** Directing water at the base of your plants delivers the hydration right where it's needed: the roots. Consider winding a [soaker hose](#) between plants in a flower or vegetable bed to soak the soil slowly and deeply and ensure healthy growth.
- 4. DON'T use broadcast sprinklers.** In addition to soaking the plant's leaves, which can increase the risk of a fungal disease, broadcast sprinklers are simply inefficient. On a hot or windy day, much of the water distributed by this type of sprinkler can evaporate before it even reaches the plant and less water goes to the base of the plant.

**5. DO water outdoor container plants at least once per day.** Soil in [container gardens](#) and flowerpots dries out more quickly than soil in a garden plot or flower bed. The smaller the container, the more frequently you need to water. Soak the soil in containers in the morning, and, if the mercury in the thermometer climbs to 90 or above, give them another soaking in the afternoon. Alternatively, insert an [automatic plant waterer](#) that features a hollow spike and attaches to a standard plastic water bottle. When the spike is inserted in the pot, water slowly seeps into the soil, offering the plant a steady supply of water.

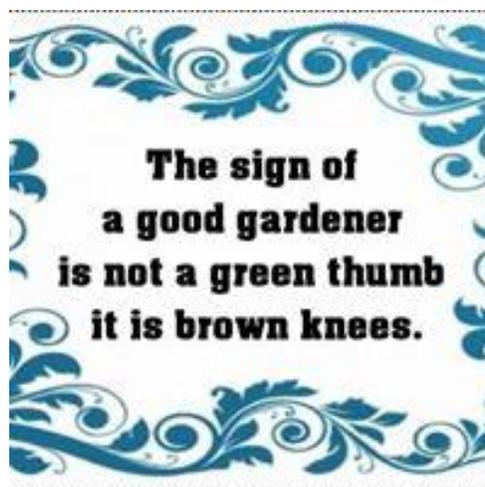
**6. DON'T forget that trees need water, too.** [Newly planted trees](#) and shrubs should be thoroughly soaked with water two or three times per week for the first month. After that period, water weekly during their first growing season. Established trees and shrubs (which are at least two years old) only need to be watered once every two weeks during the growing season when rain is scarce.

**7. DO use a wand to water container plants.** A [watering wand](#) extends the reach of your arm, allowing you to direct water at soil level in overhead hanging plants and in short, ground-level flowerpots on the ground without having to stretch or stoop. You'll conserve water by directing only the amount needed to the base of the plant and you'll save your back.

**8. DON'T water container plants with a jet-type spray nozzle.** Pressurized nozzles are great for [washing off driveways](#) and sidewalks, but the spray that they deliver can damage tender foliage and blossoms. It can also disturb the soil around the roots of a container plant. If you don't have a watering wand, just remove the nozzle from the garden hose, hook the hose into the hanging pot or container, and let the water run out slowly.

**9. DO check moisture levels** Garden plants can suffer when the soil dries out. On the flip side, they don't like "wet feet," meaning they also suffer if their roots are sitting in water and not getting sufficient oxygen. On a hot, windy day, the soil's surface may appear dry, while the ground beneath is still moist, so it's essential to perform a quick check to ensure you don't overwater. Keep a wooden dowel handy and insert it a few inches into the garden soil and then pull it out and check it. Moist soil will stick to the dowel, but if it comes out clean, the soil is dry, and it's time to water.

**10. DON'T Rely on Rain.** Most garden plants, flowers, and shrubs do best when they receive at least 1 inch of water per week, although they may need more during hot, dry spells. Rain isn't always sufficient at supplying enough water for plants to thrive, so don't count on it to keep plants healthy. Instead, [insert a simple rain gauge](#) in the garden and use it to monitor the amount of weekly rainfall. If the garden gets less than 1-inch of rain, supplement by watering.





## Tews Tips and Tricks:

### Annuals

Annuals should be filling in and blooming beautifully. Be sure to fertilize them regularly to help keep them healthy and flowering well. For great blooms use a water-soluble fertilizer every 10 days to two weeks. Annuals add color to the garden through out the season. It's not too late to plant them, either in beds or containers.

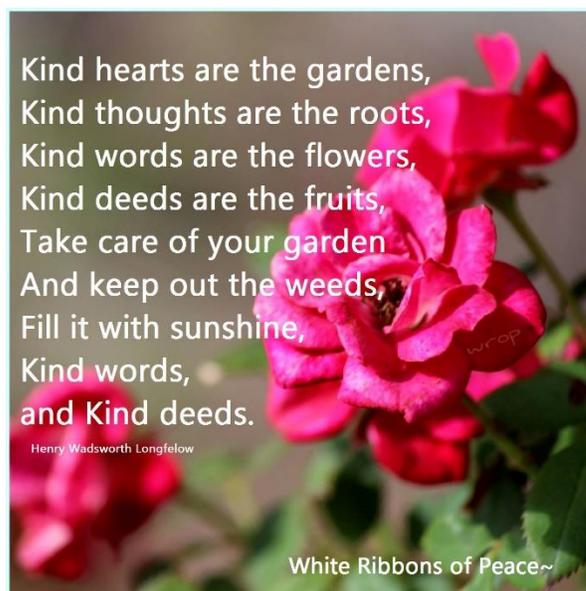
### Perennials

For continuous interest in the garden, fill your perennial garden with 25 percent spring bloomers, 50 percent summer bloomers and 25 percent fall bloomers. Consider height, texture, and color when selecting your plants. For best results, plant in mass with 3 to 5 plants in one area. Space properly and leave room to grow, I'm very bad at following this rule. I usually plant just one plant and unless it's a special specimen there's no wow factor or impact. This will work for more of a casual look and is fine if this is the look your are going for.

Perennials are also great for containers especially for shade. Keep them in a container for the season, but be sure to plant them into garden beds before frost. June is national perennial month, add them to your perennial garden to fill in holes. There are so many choices!

Whether it's annuals or perennials remember to water water water! Don't let them dry out. It stresses the plant and they start to shut down and have a hard time recovering.

Happy planting, we waited a long time to get out there and get our hands dirty!!! Enjoy!



## May Events:

### Petunia Parade Planting Day:

A good turnout for Petunia Planting in front of Cartier Mansion. (Melinda Dougherty, Gail Burkhart, Marilyn Austin, Rhonda Hildebrandt, Deb Gundersen, Jackie Lane, Gail Martin, Roxy Anctzak, Judy Olson, Karen Klukowski, Sue Joslin, and a couple of volunteers).



### May Meeting of the Garden Club:

In May, we were able to once again meet in the United Methodist Church and WITHOUT masks. It was wonderful to be able to meet face-to-face again and exchange hugs and smiles. There were many creative "May Baskets" handed out to members via drawing tickets. Our Program was "Back Swallowtail Butterfly Legislative Action", presented by Lorraine and Mark Schwender, members of The Spirit of the Woods Garden Club.



**Cups of Cheer:**

In May, eleven members of the Cups of Cheer Committee were able to meet again at the Ludington Senior Center. Forty-three Cups of Cheer were made to distribute to Ludington Woods, Oak View and Tendercare facilities. Cups of Cheer is now meeting on the second Wednesday of each month at 1:00 at the Senior Center. Please join us for a fun time.



Marilyn Raymond, Terry Baldwin, Susana Griffin,  
Jackie Christensen



Sharon Morman, Gwen Jackson, Carol Copeland



Judy Olson, Barb Scherer,  
Dawn Rollenhagen



Jackie Christensen



Our creations



## Herbs Attract Beneficial Insects in the Garden

Gardeners who plant culinary herbs for foliage may often find that they get so busy they forget to harvest the leaves. Before they know it, the herbs have bolted and flowered. But that's okay, these plants still serve a useful function in the garden. The flowers of many herbs, such as cilantro, lemon balm, dill, and parsley, are quite attractive to beneficial insects. Beneficial insects are good to have in the garden as they will destroy the "bad" bugs. These beneficial insects are either predators, i.e., they eat harmful bugs, or parasites—they lay their eggs in or on the "bad" bug which release larvae that consume the bug.

Many of these beneficial insects are small, thus preferring easily accessible nectar chambers in small herb flowers. In many cases the adult insects need the nectar and pollen of the herb flower while the "babies" or larval stage eat the insects that are not welcome in the garden. For example, the larval stage of ladybugs, which look like mini alligators, consume aphids, many beetle larvae, and spider mites, among others. One can attract ladybugs into the garden by planting cilantro, dill, fennel, oregano, thyme, and yarrow so the adult form, the ladybug, can enjoy the pollen.

Lacewings are beautiful slender green insects with translucent wings. Their larvae, known as aphid lions, eat many aphids—thus they have a lion's appetite -- and many beetle larvae to name a few. Lacewings are attracted to angelica, caraway, tansy, yarrow, dill, fennel, and cilantro.

Parasitic wasps are small, non-stinging wasps. There are many types, but they all destroy pests by laying eggs inside or on the pest. The eggs hatch to release larvae that consume the prey, eventually killing it. Parasitic wasps will destroy tomato hornworms, bagworms, cabbage worms, Japanese beetles, and squash vine borers. The wasps are attracted to dill, fennel, lemon balm, thyme, yarrow, and cilantro.

Tachinid flies look like houseflies but as parasites, they destroy many kinds of caterpillars, Colorado potato beetles, cucumber beetles, Mexican bean beetles, and Japanese beetles in the same manner as parasitic wasps. The flies prefer cilantro, dill, fennel, parsley, feverfew, and chamomile.

Hover or syrphid flies look like small wasps because they have yellow bands, but they don't sting. The adults--the flies--will "hover" as they drink nectar from dill, fennel, feverfew, lavender, mint, yarrow, and cilantro flowers. The larvae will consume aphids, cabbage worms, other caterpillars, and mealy bugs.

Herbs also help beneficial insects by providing pollen and nectar when other annuals or perennials are not blooming yet. For example, cool season herbs such as cilantro and chervil bloom in the spring, providing an early source of pollen to beneficial insects.

Many aromatic, perennial herbs, such as oregano, thyme, and lemon balm, are not eaten by deer and small animals so they become permanent fixtures or "houses" for beneficial insects. Plus herbs are usually planted in bunches or become small shrubs, providing a large "neighborhood" for these insects.

However, despite the number of plants in the garden, these insects will only stay if there is a need, i.e., food for them, and if the surroundings are hospitable. Beneficial insects seek large populations of bad bugs to feed their own population. Some beneficial insects wait to lay eggs until there is enough "food" so it may be that the appearance of many aphids is the trigger to have ladybugs increase their own population because they now know there is plenty of "food." In other words, if there a lot of aphids on a particular plant, wait to see if ladybugs will arrive on the scene to correct the problem before reaching for an insecticide. Spraying chemicals may kill or alter the balance of beneficial insects. It is now known that plants that are under attack by bad bugs release chemicals which are signals to the particular type of beneficial insect that would be needed to correct the problem. There may be a little or minimal plant damage in order for the beneficial insects to receive the signal to come to that plant. Herbs can be useful for their flowers as well as their foliage. Planting several different types of herbs in the garden helps protect the rest of the plants against pests.

From Peggy Riccio, NGC Blog Administrator

## Michigan Garden Club Inc State Conference

The first couple days of June, Gail Burkhart, Sue Ann Hanson, Gwen Jackson, Sue Joslin and Dawn Rollenhagen met at Sue Ann's home to virtually attend the Michigan Garden Club State Conference. Among the excellent speakers was Doug Tallamy, an entomologist and author from the University of Delaware. He has used his knowledge and stewardship to start "Homegrown National Park" a grassroots call-to-action to restore biodiversity and ecosystem function involving homeowners, property owners, land managers, farmers and anyone with soil to plant in by planting native plants and removing invasive plants. The goal of this group is 20 million acres of native plantings in the US. This represents approximately 1/2 of the green lawns of privately-owned properties. He states "time is of the essence. We are at a critical point of losing so many species from local ecosystems that their ability to produce, among other things, the oxygen, clean water, flood control, pollination, pest control, and carbon storage that this, the ecosystem services that sustains us, will become seriously compromised."

Go to the "Homegrown National Park" website [homegrownnationalpark.org](http://homegrownnationalpark.org) for more information and "Get On The Map".

“In the past, we have asked one thing of our gardens: that they be pretty. Now they have to support life, sequester carbon, feed pollinators and manage water.”

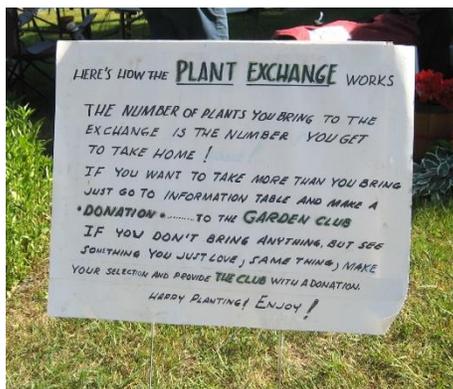
— DOUG TALLAMY

## June Events:

### Plant Exchange:



A windy, but successful Plant Exchange was held at Leveaux Park on June 5<sup>th</sup>. There was a good turnout of Garden Club Members, people from the community and lots of plants. The public donated over \$400 and the White Elephant Sale took in over \$200. A special thanks to all who helped and participated. Looking forward to the Fall Plant Sale.



**Field Trip & Lunch – Crystal Gardens:**

There were about twenty Garden Club members and friends who, despite the heat, ventured to Crystal Gardens In Frankfort to shop and browse through the variety of flowers and garden goodies that they offered. Afterwards, a few of us met in Frankfort at the Stormcloud Restaurant for lunch. Gail Burkhart was able to pick up the items for White Pine Village that was purchased through the Espoma grant she wrote...good job Gail (see pictures)



**White Pine Village: (Gardening Angels):**

The Gardening Angels meet every Tuesday, at White Pine Village, weather permitting, at 10:00 a.m., May through October, to plant, water, spruce up the grounds and have some social time together.





Our featured member for this edition is **Gail Burkhart**. In 2015, Gail brought her mother, long-time member Joanne Krone, to a Garden Club meeting. She was impressed with what she saw and decided to join our club at that time.

Gail grew up in the Chicago area with 4 brothers and 1 sister. Living in Harwood Heights, a small suburb of Chicago, she graduated from an all-girls Catholic high school and attended Loyola University for one year before meeting and marrying Donald Burkhart. They celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary over Memorial Day weekend this year! Together they raised 3 children: 2 daughters in the Chicago area and 1 son living near Madison, Wisconsin. They are also proud grandparents of 7 grandchildren.

After staying at home while her children were growing up, she decided to go back to school and share home work time with her children. She enrolled in Elmhurst College, graduating with a BA in Business Administration and Economics. With this degree, she went to work at ADP, leaving after 11 years as a manager. At that point, she and Donald opened a Great Harvest Bread Company, enjoying the bakery business. Later, after a couple years at H&R Block, she and Donald moved to Mason County.

Fifty years ago, Gail and her new husband spent their honeymoon near Ludington at the cottage of her cousin. Many trips were made back to the area until retirement was possible and they purchased a home not too far from her mother. As a side note, this home was owned by the parents of member Cathy Claus.

For 17 years, Gail was on the the Board of Directors of the local library in Illinois. This group began a Garden Club at the library. This peaked her interest in flower gardens after being a vegetable gardener at home, canning and freezing the bounty of their harvest. This love of gardening continues today, along with interest in cooking, baking, reading and crafts.

Gail is currently serving as a Director on the Garden Club Executive Board, Chairman of the Membership Committee, a member of the Website/Facebook committee, the Yearbook committee and White Pine Village committee. As you see, she is a very valuable member of our club and, Gail, I hope you know how much you are appreciated.

P.S. Thanks to Gail, and her successful writing of a grant for Espoma Products, she was able to pick up the items for White Pine Village on a recent Garden Club Field Trip to Crystal Gardens in Frankfort.



Dawn Rollenhagen and Gail with a cart load of Espoma Products



## Perfect snack on the patio with a glass of wine -

### Cheesy Rosemary and Pecan Snack

In a large bowl, combine 3 cups pecan halves, 2 cups each oyster crackers and square white cheddar cheese crackers, 1 1/2 cups freshly grated Parmesan cheese, 1 cup pumpkin seeds, 2 tablespoons each packed brown sugar and chopped fresh rosemary, 2 teaspoons crushed red pepper, and 4 cloves minced garlic. Drizzle in 1/2 cup melted butter; stir gently to coat. Spread on a large foil-lined rimmed baking sheet. Bake at 300' for 15 minutes, toss, then bake 15 minutes more. Let cool, then store in an airtight container.

**Submitted by Gwen Jackson.**

## An easy summertime dessert

### Strawberry Pizza Dessert

Roll of Pillsbury sugar cookie dough

1/3 cup sugar

1 tsp vanilla                      8 oz softened cream cheese

1 qt strawberries sliced

1 pkg strawberry glaze

Cut cookie dough into slices about 1/8" thick. Arrange on pizza pan with edges touching. Bake at 350' about 8 minutes or until golden brown. Cool completely. Combine cream cheese, sugar and vanilla mixing well until blended. Spread mixture over cooled cookie crust. Combine strawberries and glaze. Spread over cheese layer. Serve with dollop of Cool Whip.        **Submitted by Gwen Jackson**

## Date Crumble Cake    (This recipe came from my Grandma Brady-my dad's mother)

Filling: 1# dates

1 c. sugar

1 c warm water (1 tsp vanilla)

Simmer on low until mixture is completely blended. Add vanilla

1 1/2 C Oatmeal

3/4 C soft butter

2 c. Flour

1 tsp baking soda

1 c packed brown sugar

3/4 tsp salt

Mix with hands. 1/2 mixture in bottom of 9 x 13 pan, pat down, spread date mixture, finish with the remaining oatmeal mixture. Bake at 350\* for 30 Minutes. Do not grease pan. **Submitted by Sue Smith**



Ladies, we hope you have enjoyed this edition of “over the picket fence.” Lots of pictures to look at, as we have been making up for lost time during the “pandemic.” It is wonderful to be able to be back among our Garden Club friends and “being safe.” Looking forward to many more “happy times” with hugs, smiles, and a sense of normality in our lives. Happy Gardening and Happy Days.

Don’t hesitate to contact Diane and Gwen with your thoughts. Ideas and suggestions are always welcome for the newsletter. Yours in Gardening.... 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



"And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country. My fellow citizens of the world: ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man." **John F. Kennedy**