



over the Picket fence

Fall/Winter 2015

September, October, November, and December

The Mason County Garden Club Quarterly Newsletter

(Since 1926 - Our 89th year)

www.masoncountygardenclub.org

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



“In the garden, Autumn is, indeed, the crowning glory of the year, bringing us the fruition of months of thought and care and toil. And at no season, save perhaps in Daffodil time, do we get such superb colour effects as from August to November.”

- Rose G. Kingsley, *The Autumn Garden*

Club News!!

September was full of events and activities. Here are the highlights:

Fall Plant Sale on September 12th was a success! Marilyn Raymond and her dedicated crew gathered plants and gardening items from The Giving Tree, Buss Gardens, Home Depot, Meijer, Walmart and Lowes. They identified and tagged all these donations plus those from our own garden club members. White Elephant items were in abundance and we sold nearly everything that we received. The only plants left at the end of the day were several daylilies and hostas. Many of these were given to Leveaux Park and White Pine Village. The day's sales totaled over \$770! Thanks again to Marilyn and her tireless committee, and all who donated plants or helped out that day. And we also got a new member, Susan Joslin, to join our club after her conversation with our member, Vicki Houk.

The District V meeting was attended by Sue Hanson, Vicki Houk and Dawn Rollenhagen. Sue Soderberg, District V's new president, provided details on new things happening at the state level. Carol Brodbeck, MGC 1st Vice President, gave details of the National Garden Club Convention to be held here in Grand Rapids, MI in 2016. (see "Upcoming Events" for more details on this convention.) The speakers focused on Bees and Pollunators. Take a look at the "Monarch Waystation" article further in this newsletter.

Our September meeting was a joint meeting with the Pentwater Garden Club at their location. Their speaker covered the topic of Bonsai. This is a very long commitment, 30+years, and is not for the faint of heart! Next year, the Pentwater group will come visit us during our September meeting.

October's monthly meeting will be a "Panel of Experts." The experts will be our own Master Gardeners. Our president Mary Ann Ferguson has been collecting questions all year. Check your email for the latest list that's been developed. Send Mary Ann any last minute questions you'd like to pose to our Master Gardeners. Also at this meeting, we'll start committee signups, collection of 2016 dues, and you can buy a ticket to the December Holiday Party. And get any yearbook changes to Sue Hanson.

November's monthly meeting will be a holiday craft workshop. This year, Peaches Throckmorton and Betty Orton will be leading us in decorating square door wreaths. You pick your favorite holiday to decorate for. The Club will provide the underlying Styrofoam molds. More details will be coming via email. Again, we'll continue the committee signups, collection of 2016 dues, and you can buy a ticket to the December Holiday Party.

December's Holiday Party will be catered by Cartier Mansion and will be in the community room of the Community Church, 109 N. Harrison. **This is a change from the Yearbook.** The cost will be \$10 and tickets will be needed so setup and food preparation can be accurate. See Sue Ann Schnitker at the October and November meetings to buy tickets. This is open to friends and non-members, too. And we'll be finalizing committee signups and collection of 2016 dues.

Look for our January and February luncheon dates at the December meeting.

Member Highlight – Julie Tews



This is the second installment of our member highlights. Get to know Julie and our other new members by inviting them to sit with you at our meetings!

Julie and her husband of 32 years, Doug, moved to Ludington in 2013 to be closer to their daughter Jenna. Julie has been employed by UPS for 24 years and continues as logistic manager for the early morning shift of drivers. She and Doug also built a landscape business in Lansing that grew out of their combined love of earth, soil and plants. Now, Doug helps all of Julie's phenomenal garden ideas become reality at their new home. (Side note: Julie will be on the 2017 Garden Walk!)

Julie became involved with our Garden Club after she saw the 2013 hypertufa workshop advertised in the newspaper. Even though the workshop was cancelled, she decided to see what we were all about. She loved the friendliness of our group and the programs and field trips were just what she was looking for. At her very first meeting, she volunteered to chair the 2014 Garden Walk. Wow! Talk about getting involved! Now she chairs the Leveaux Park committee and helped with the 2015 Garden Walk. Julie has a very creative streak and is a member of the National Society of Tole and Decorative Painters and a member of Heart of Michigan Decorative Artists (HOMDA). She extends this creative streak into her garden plants, garden art, and her love for the autumn season. Thanks for being such an active member of our club, Julie!

New Members

We have FIVE new members since our last newsletter. Two of our new members are related to our long-standing members: Gail is Joanne Krone's daughter and Allison is Marilyn Raymond's daughter (and Ashley Raymond's mom!). A big WELCOME to all our new members!

Gail Burkhart, 6875 Duneview Drive, 231-425-3198, gailburkhart@juno.com

Marsha Combs, 3612 S. Ironwood, 248-515-0967, marshacombs55@gmail.com

Esther Genter, 2720 S. Tamarac Drive

Sue Joslin, 1460 N. Wooded Lake Drive, 734-634-1609, susankjoslin@gmail.com

Allison Ann Raymond, 919 Lawndale, 231-233-2777, alliraymond63@outlook.com

An Inspiring Gardening Story

A growing experience: Prison gardens transform inmates who tend to them

By Michael S. Rosenwald, June 7, 2015

The following excerpt from Mr. Rosenwald's article gives a promising viewpoint that prison gardens can transform the inmates who tend to them:

WESTOVER, Md. — Don Vass, an admitted drug dealer, pulls a cabbage from the ground, then hands it to Walter Labord, a convicted murderer. They are gardening behind soaring brick walls at Maryland's largest penitentiary, where a group of inmates has transformed the prison yard into a thriving patch of strawberries, squash, eggplant, lettuce and peppers — just no fiery habaneros, which could be used to make pepper spray.

It's planting season behind bars, where officials from San Quentin in California to Rikers Island in New York have turned dusty patches into powerful metaphors for rebirth. The idea: transform society's worst by teaching them how things bloom — heads of cabbage, flowers, inmates themselves.

"These guys have probably never seen something grow out of the ground," says Kathleen Green, the warden at Eastern Correctional Institution, watching her inmates till the soil. "This is powerful stuff for them." And they are lining up for the privilege of working 10-hour days in the dirt and heat.

Experts say that gardening provides career opportunities on the outside for ex-convicts with low job skills and that working with nature calms the soul and helps them jettison criminal behavior. The Insight Garden Program's curriculum includes classroom lessons on ecology, emotional intelligence and leadership.

Whole new worlds are opened. Prisoners at Eastern Correctional even say they watch gardening shows on public television in their cells.

The inmates who are getting out all say they plan on having a garden wherever they live. <<One inmate>>, convicted of theft in a carjacking, says he sometimes wonders whether he would have gotten into trouble if he'd been tending to vegetables.

"I could have had one at the places I've lived," he said. "It's a nice little hobby." <<He>>says his fiance is jealous of his garden: "She says, 'I want one when you leave.'"

She'll have to wait a few years.

To view the entire article, go to:

http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/can-gardening-transform-convicted-killers-and-carjackers-prison-officials-get-behind-the-bloom/2015/06/07/bf5c4cf0-0afb-11e5-a7ad-b430fc1d3f5c_story.html?hpid=z4



National and Michigan Garden Club, Inc. News and Events

Website Update - The District V meeting held in September was informative as well as enjoyable. First of all, the MGC website has undergone a major overhaul! It's look-and-feel is much more modern and there's a single userid/login for all of us to access the "Member Area." There is a lot of information on this site. Take a look sometime!

ID = 5member
Password = membermgc

National Convention - 2016 is going to be a big year for MGC: The 87th National Convention will be in Grand Rapids, MI from June 2 – 6. The theme is "Bloomin on the Grand". The folks in charge are looking for assistance and there are many areas where we as MGC members can help: fund raising, volunteering, hostesses, etc. A volunteer form will be made available at our future meetings.

State Convention - Mark your calendars for July 7-8, 2016 for the State Convention in Frankenmuth. What a fun place for a convention! We'll keep you posted on other details in 2016.

District V meetings – There will not be a spring 2016 for District V. The fall meeting will be Tuesday, September 20th. It will be hosted by the Petoskey Area Garden Club.

October 12-13, 2015 – Gardening Study, Course III

December 5, 2015 – Cadillac 15th Annual Holiday Home Tour, 10am – 3pm



Upcoming Local Events We are so lucky to live in an area with such great activities! If we didn't get your favorite event listed here, let us know. Send us notices for the spring newsletter.

Local Events

Friday, October 9th and Saturday, October 10th
Octoberfest in downtown Ludington, 3pm – 10pm

Saturday, October 10th
Autumn Days at White Pine Village, 10am – 5pm

Saturday, October 17th
Fall Tree Pickup, Mason-Lake Conservation District (order by October 10th)

Wednesday, October 21st, 7pm
AFFEW 25th Anniversary celebration, Ludington Area Center for the Arts

Saturday, October 24th
Haunted Village at White Pine Village, 3pm – 7pm

Saturday, November 28th
Aglow on the Avenue parade, downtown Ludington, 6pm

December 3 – 6
Manistee's Victorian Sleighbell Parade & Old Christmas Weekend

Fall/Winter Gardening Tips



Get those pruners out and cleanup those broken or damaged limbs. Also, shape your bushes (especially spirea) now for full, new spring growth. Cut 'em hard so your other plants will flourish next spring!



Mulch your leaves and put them around your shrubs and into your flower beds. Mow/mulch the last of your lawn clippings and leaf remnants directly into the yard. The mulching will make the pieces small enough to decompose over the winter.



Monarch Waystations

One of the speakers at the District V meeting in September, a landscape architect, talked about incorporating native plants into his designs. This concept is long in coming as before only ornamentals and cultivars had been on plant lists. As he went through his own metamorphosis, he also mentioned that there is now a program underway to provide guidance to folks on providing waystations for Monarchs. We investigated the website called www.MonarchWatch.org. The site highlights the reasons Monarchs (and all other insects) are in a decline: habitat loss due to development and widespread use of herbicides in croplands, pastures and roadsides. Since nearly 90% of all milkweed/monarch habitats occur within the agricultural landscape, farm practices have the potential to strongly influence monarch populations.

What can we do? Setting up and planting even a small plot specifically for monarchs will give them the elements needed to survive: eggs, larval growth and nectar sources for adults. The waystation doesn't need to cover acres: 100 square feet (10'x10') is enough to incorporate all the necessary plants. Put 10 of these waystations in a community, and there is an additional 1,000 square feet of habitat! They recommend at least 10 plants of 2 different species to cover the life cycle of the monarchs. Visit the site to get plant lists and a certification form.



Did you know?

- That macadamia nuts are toxic to dogs?
- That a 'jiffy' is actually 1/100th of a second?



Recipes

Krispy Kandy Bars - Just in time for Halloween!

Created and tested by Diane Nemitz

Ingredients:

1/2 cup butter
1 12-oz package chocolate chips
1/4 cup corn syrup
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 1/4 cups confectioners sugar
3 cups crisp rice cereal (Rice Krispies)
1 1/4 cups smooth peanut butter
1 7 oz. jar marshmallow creme

Directions

1. Grease a 9x12 pan.
2. Measure 2/3 cup chocolate chips and set aside. In large saucepan, combine remaining chocolate chips, 6 tablespoons butter and corn syrup. Cook over low heat, stirring until chocolate and butter are melted. Add vanilla. Whisk in confectioners sugar. Pour over cereal in a large bowl, and mix. Pat into the prepared pan.
3. In bowl with wooden spoon or electric mixer combine peanut butter and marshmallow creme. Spread over the cereal mixture. It will be stiff, use your hands if needed.
4. In small saucepan or in microwave, melt remaining butter and chocolate chips. Spread over peanut butter mixture and refrigerate until firm.
5. Cut into small pieces.



Ideas and suggestions are always welcome. We need your help in keeping interesting information in the newsletter. Send thoughts, articles and/or pictures to us at any time.

See you at the meeting, Sue Hanson and Diane Davis