



# over the Picket fence

Summer, 2015  
June, July, August

The Mason County Garden Club Quarterly Newsletter

(Since 1926 - Our 89<sup>th</sup> year)

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

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



This quarter also marks our nation's 239<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 4<sup>th</sup>. One way the authors honor our country is to give back to our community through our volunteer efforts. The Garden Club has many opportunities for you to also participate at a local level: Blue Star Memorial, Garden Therapy, Leveaux Park, White Pine Village, Standard Flower Show, Petunia Parade, Cups of Cheer, *just to name a few!* There are many worthwhile organizations locally that can always use volunteers: COVE, Salvation Army, Red Cross, Sandcastles Childrens Museum, HELP, *plus many many more!* Roll up your sleeves, put on your garden gloves or your volunteer jacket and join the nation's group of volunteers!



## **"A Bouquet of Gardens"**

Nineteen 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 12 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 Sue Hanson (231-425-3119 or suehanson1325@gmail.com).

## **Member Highlight – Dawn Rollenhagen**



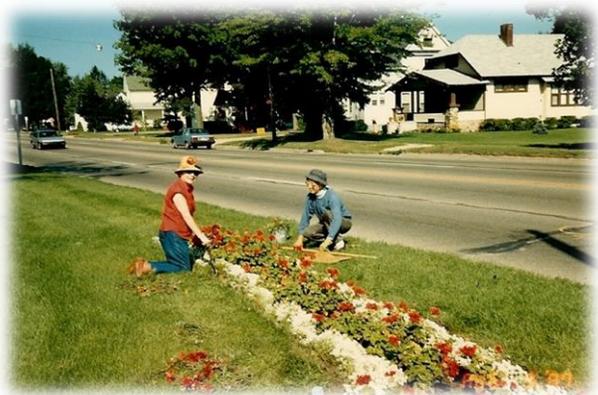
We're starting something new in order to get to know each other just a bit better. We will be highlighting one member each month. Get to know Dawn Rollenhagen even more by sitting near her at a member meeting or joining in one of her committees!

Dawn and her husband of 43 years moved to Ludington in 2012 after living in Battle Creek for 35 years where she was a junior high science teacher. They chose Ludington in part because Lake Michigan was so accessible and swimmable. She came to several Garden Club meetings and was impressed by how organized and friendly we are. She joined Garden Club in 2013 and jumped right in, first as a committee member, now as Secretary for our group and Chairperson for the Spring Plant Exchange (which, by the way, was a big hit again this year!!) The 1<sup>st</sup> year in her Ludington home required Dawn and her husband to "tame the jungle" – removing invasive vines and years of unattended growth and spreading of lilacs, ferns and briars. After she could see her house, she set her sites on the 12" of limestone in various flower beds. They are not done by any means, but now she can at least plant several flower beds with hydrangea, daisies and daylilies. We welcome Dawn to the club and thank her for being such an active participant of the Mason County Garden Club!

## Our Legacy, Our History

Many of us have recently retired to Ludington. Others moved here to raise their families and have stayed. Several of us have connections to the past history of the Mason County Garden Club.

Sue Hanson's aunt Mrs. Roy (Bonnie) Parker was President in 1972/73 and 1984/85 (see her below in a Leveaux Park planting in 1987).



Sue asked if there were other connections and we found these:

Glenna Paukstis - My mother-in-law, Mae Paukstis, was a long time member of the club. She worked at Leveaux Park with Norma Pelter. When Glenna was adding on to the house, she notified Garden Club to come dig—as some gardens would be covered. So, Mae's gardens are all over town!!

We also have current members who are directly related: Deb Laskonis and Melanie Bettinger are Aunt and Niece; Marilyn Raymond is Ashley Raymond's grandmother; and Maureen Myers and Mary Margaret Scanlon are cousins!!

**Mason County Garden Club** was recognized at the recent District V Spring Presidents' Meeting with numerous awards for 2014 activities and projects. The club was given the Diamond Club of Distinction award (first place for District V!). The yearbook received a District V 1<sup>st</sup> place, a MGC State 3<sup>rd</sup> place, the newsletter received a District V 1<sup>st</sup> place, a MGC State 1<sup>st</sup> place and \$25 (and it was sent on to National Garden Clubs), and the website also received a District V 2<sup>nd</sup> place, a MGC State 3<sup>rd</sup> place.



### **Upcoming MCGC Meetings & Field Trips**

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

**June 25, 1pm, United Methodist Church** – Reversing the Loss of Pollinators, Dr. Heather Keough, US Forest Service

**July 23, 1pm, Barb Doty's Farm** – Daylily Farm and Hybridization

**July 31 – Standard Flower Show “Quilting Bee”.** The show will be held at the Community Church, 109 N Harrison St., Ludington. It will be open to the public from 3:30 to 8:30 pm. The design portion is open to club members only, but the public is eligible to bring in horticulture for judging. The time to bring plant material is from 8 am to 11:30 am. Contact Sharon Morman for more information at 231-843-8539.

**August 11, 1pm, Tour of Eastern County gardens** – Various gardens of our members will be open to our membership.

**August 27, 1pm, Historic White Pine Village** – A tour of White Pine Village, free to members, regular admission for non-members. See what the Garden Angels are doing!



### **A summer Treat - Italian Fruit Salad**

**Like watermelon? Here's a fun recipe from Better Homes and Gardens**

#### **Ingredients:**

- 1 pound seedless watermelon, peeled and cut into 1-inch cubes or balls (4 cups)
- 3 cups seedless green grapes, halved
- 2 cups fresh blueberries
- 2 tablespoons thinly sliced fresh basil leaves
- 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- 1 tablespoon honey

#### **Directions**

1. In a large bowl combine watermelon, grapes, blueberries, and basil. For dressing, in a small bowl whisk together vinegar and honey. Pour dressing over fruit; stir gently to coat. If desired, cover and chill for up to 8 hours.

**Don't plant too soon!!** June 21 marks the first day of summer. Our plant exchange was May 16<sup>th</sup> so we planted our perennial treasures. Maybe we sneak in some annuals, too, before Memorial Day because we *just can't wait*. BUT Gardener beware! May 31<sup>st</sup> is the documented spring frost date for Ludington. This date is largely considered the first day of the outdoor gardening season. After this day it is unlikely that you will get a hard frost that would kill tender plants. But don't feel bad: the Tahquamenon Falls spring frost date is July 9<sup>th</sup>!



If you crush the stems or foliage of Virginia creeper, do not allow the juices to get on your skin.

## **Dangerous Plants: A Healthy Respect Will Keep You Healthy**

An Excerpt of a recent Article by Janet Macunovich

*Janet Macunovich is a professional gardener and author of the books “Designing Your Gardens and Landscape” and “Caring for Perennials.” Read more from Janet on her website [www.gardenatoz.com](http://www.gardenatoz.com).*

“My hobby-turned-profession has brought me up close and too personal with so many surprisingly dangerous plants that I’ve cultivated a downright awe of plant defenses. Each time I encounter another plant-based allergic reaction, skin irritation or chemical burn, my library and files swell with more books and articles. ... I thought you would be interested in some of the discoveries too.

In listing these plants I do not intend to put an end to your enjoyment of any plant, but to point out where precautions might be in order. You’ll probably even find that to eliminate all potentially harmful plants from your garden or landscape would be very difficult, simply because so many plants have potential to cause harm. Better to learn safe ways to interact with plants—wear gloves, cover your arms and legs while pruning and gardening, wash well after being in the garden, and eat only known edible plants.

So knowledge is your best defense against plant defenses, and you should be prepared to learn more every time you add another plant to your garden or yard. Start by learning the several categories of dangerous plants: 1) those we shouldn’t allow to contact our bare skin, 2) those with pollen or other airborne elements that can cause distress if inhaled, and 3) plants we shouldn’t eat.”

The article continues to provide lists of plants with the above affects on us gardeners and our garden visitors, specifically other humans. I found these surprising plants in Janet’s lists:

- Clematis and daffodils (irritant sap)
- Fennel, celery, Queen Anne’s Lace (phototoxic – triggered by the sun)
- Elephant’s ear and Boston ivy (needle-like crystals that irritate if plant is bruised or broken)
- Bleeding heart, marigold and magnolia (allergic dermatitis)
- Foxglove, Rhododendron and Star of Bethlehem (toxic if ingested)



**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 Fall newsletter, too!



## Local Farmers Markets

Ludington – Fridays from 3 – 8pm at the James Street Plaza  
Scottville – Saturdays from 9am – 1pm in the Millers Marketplace, 202 N. Main Street  
Pentwater – Monday and Thursday from 10am – 1pm in the Village Green  
Manistee – Saturdays from 8am – 2pm on Memorial Drive

## Places to go and things to do

## Local Events

### **Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup>**

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.

### **Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup> and Sunday June 20<sup>th</sup>**

Arts, Crafts and Antiques Fair sponsored by The Pentwater Arts Council.

### **Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup>**

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

### **Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup>**

West Shore Art Fair, Ludington City Park

### **Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup>**

19<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Walk “A Bouquet of Gardens” 1:00pm to 5:00pm

### **Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup>**

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

### **Tuesday, August 4<sup>th</sup>**

Musical Festival featuring Clown Band Concert and Corn Roast at 10:00am to 9:00pm at  
the Historic White Pine Village.

### **Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup>**

Gold Coast Artisan Fair, Ludington City Park

### **Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup>**

Western Michigan Fair at the Mason County Fairgrounds, Ludington.

### **Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup>**

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 20<sup>th</sup>**

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

### **Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup>**

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

### **Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup>**

Lumber Day will include the Lumberjack Brunch and Old Time Baseball Match at Historic White Pine Village.

## **Summer Gardening Tips**



**Window Alert:** Protect your windows AND the birds by using a product like WindowAlert™. This almost invisible decal can barely be seen by the human eye but its ultraviolet technology makes it totally visible to birds. Sandy Zwylghuizen will give you her personally testimony on how well it works!

**Attack Spider:** Are woodpeckers getting the best of you, and your cedar siding? You may want to try a new product from Birds-Away called *Attack Spider*. It “jumps” when it is activated by the sound of a woodpecker. The movement frightens away the intruding woodpecker and the spider retreats into its holding spot. It can be found at Amazon.com along with other woodpecker deterrents.

### **General Pruning Tips for Shrubs and Trees:**

These are VERY general tips but can be used as rules-of-thumb for most trees and shrubs.

1. Always prune right after the blooms fade. Reason: Many flowers take place on new growth so if you cut late in the season, you’re cutting off next year’s blooms.
2. Never prune in a month without an “R”. That means don’t prune in May, June, July or August. These are high growth or high temperature months and pruning could damage the plant in part by allowing insects, bacteria or fungal spores to invade the wound.
3. Ignore above rules if you are pruning a broken limb. ALWAYS fix a broken problem.



## Growing Milkweeds for Monarch Butterflies

Posted on **May 26, 2015** by [Duke Elsner](#), Michigan State University Extension

**Monarch caterpillar on common milkweed. Photo credit: Duke Elsner, MSU Extension**

The monarch butterfly is one of the most widely recognized butterfly in North America, well known for its spectacular migrations. The caterpillar stage feeds only on the leaves of plants in the milkweed family. In recent decades, the availability of milkweed for monarchs has greatly reduced because of changes in the way we use land from gardens and lawns on up to forests and fields. This has contributed to a severe decline in the population of this beautiful butterfly.

Anyone with a bit of garden space to spare can help the monarch population recover. Planting milkweeds on your property will provide food plants for monarch caterpillars and nectar sources for adult butterflies. In addition to supporting the monarch, milkweed species are important sources of nectar for dozens of other butterflies and numerous pollinating insects such as native bees and honey bees.

### **Which milkweeds to grow**

There are over 100 milkweed species in the United States, but typically only a few species will be adapted to the climate and growing conditions in a particular area. Therefore it is important to choose the correct milkweed varieties to grow on your property. Some milkweeds can spread rapidly by means of underground rhizomes, so be cautious about planting these where space is limited or other plants may have trouble competing.



**Monarch caterpillar on common milkweed.**

**Photo credit: Duke Elsner, MSU Extension**

### **Planting milkweeds**

Milkweeds can be started from seeds or as young container plants. Older milkweed plants are very difficult to transplant, so [Michigan State University Extension](#) does not recommend this approach.

Milkweed seeds can be collected from existing plants or purchased from commercial suppliers. Seeds need a three-month period of exposure to cold (cold stratification), so it is a good practice to plant seeds in autumn. Container plants can be planted in spring, but it is advisable to wait until the threat of spring frosts has passed.



## National and Michigan Garden Club, Inc. Upcoming Events

It's summer!! And there are a lot of things to do in the summer, especially related to gardening. Enjoy this list of events from our sister-clubs within an hour of us.

**June 3-5** – Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. State Convention, Petosky, MI

**June 7-13** - National Garden Week

**June 14** - The Pentwater Garden Club (District IV) will dedicate a Blue Star Memorial at the Oceana County Courthouse in Hart on Flag. For additional information contact Kay Dion, 231-747-3537.

**Wednesday, July 15** - The Charlevoix Area Garden Club is pleased to announce its annual Garden Walk, "A Day with Flowers and Friends" from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Tickets sold BEFORE the day of the Walk are \$10; tickets purchased on 7/15/15 will be \$15. For tickets, please call Carolyn Navarre at 231-547-2119 or email her at [navar@torchlake.com](mailto:navar@torchlake.com).

On the very same day as the Walk, the Club is also offering a luncheon, "Lunch with Flowers and Friends" in the East Garden Room at Castle Farms. Tickets must be pre-purchased; no "walk-ins" the day of the luncheon. The price per person is \$25.00. There will be thirty-two exquisitely designed tables created by our members. For ticket information please call Mary Watson-Chavez on her cell phone 989-859-1666. Make a day of it!

**Thursday, July 16** - The Friendly Garden Club of Traverse City will hold the 2015 Garden Walk from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., rain or shine. There will be six gardens located on Old Mission Peninsula. There will be refreshments. Cost of the ticket is \$8 in advance; \$10 the day of the Walk. Contact person: Letha Cairns, 213 271 6831.

**Thursday-Saturday, July 16-18** - The Tri-Cities Garden Club, Inc. presents "Traveling the USA," a Standard Flower Show at Spring Lake District Library. For more information contact: Pat Bazany, 616-842-3092 or [rbazany@yahoo.com](mailto:rbazany@yahoo.com).

**Wednesday, August 12** - The Muskegon County Garden Club will host the Books in Bloom Flower Show – "Fantasy, Fiction and Flowers" at the Norton Shores Branch, Muskegon Area District Library, 705 Seminole Rd. Norton Shores. 12 noon – 7 pm. No charge and open to the public. For details contact Peggy Hartmann at 231-744-3540.

**Tuesday-Thursday, August 25-27** - Flower Show School, Course I sponsored by District VI to be held in at the Blessed Mary Church, 3516 Monroe Road, Midland, Michigan. The Local Chairmen are Ethel Gallagher and Kathryn Clary, [kathrClary@aol.com](mailto:kathrClary@aol.com). The Registrar/Treasurer is Alice Mesaros.

**Tuesday, September 15** - District V Fall Meeting "Birds, Bees, Butterflies and their Natural Environment" hosted by the Elk Rapids Garden Club. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. at the Sacred Heart Church Hall, 143 Charles Street, Elk Rapids, MI 49629. Speakers: Kay Charter, author, For the Love of Birds; Stuart Campbell, founder of Perennial Harvest; Brian Zimmerman, owner of Four Season Nursery; and Tom Ford, Bird illustrator published in Breeding Bird Atlas. Contact: Sonja Perry at [socperry@hotmail.com](mailto:socperry@hotmail.com) or 231-264-5835.



### **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.
- Even if you didn't follow instructions at the Hypertufa workshop last June, the material will eventually loosen from the original mold. Ask Sue Hanson: she forgot to spray her stainless bowl before adding the hypertufa. She waited all winter before the hypertufa released her mold. It is now home to a pseudo-fairy garden.



### **Yearbook Corrections**

Please make the following changes to your yearbooks:

Page 36 – Change Bobbie Clingan's phone number to 231-510-7178

Page 37 – Change Jackie Lane's email to [lanetrj330@gmail.com](mailto:lanetrj330@gmail.com)

### **Member Updates**

*New Member* – Lori Blough, 905 Elder Lane, Ludington, MI 49431, 231-233-5923, [sheldonlori@hotmail.com](mailto:sheldonlori@hotmail.com), Birthday – December 21

**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