

Over the Picket Fence



The Mason County Garden Club Quarterly Newsletter
(Since 1926—our 86th year)

www.masoncountygardenclub.org

Member

Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc., Central Region, & National Garden Clubs, Inc.

September 2012



September 22 is the first day of Fall and what a wonderful season it is. There's a subtle change with skies bluer and nights clearer. There's a crunch and rustle of leaves with each step we take. The orioles and hummingbirds have disappeared and the geese and sandhill cranes are migrating to warmer climates. The first frost is right around the corner and the pumpkins, gourds and squash are being pulled from the vines. Enjoy the beauty of this new season.



- **Turn your clocks back on November 4**
- **VOTE on November 6.**

"**Flower Pounding - Put the Metal to the Petal**" is the title of our September 27 meeting featuring our President Sharon Morman. Flower pounding is a process where you take a petal or leaf from a fresh flower, tape it down on fabric or paper and hammer the petal so that the dye from the flower bleeds in the fabric. Keep adding more flowers and pretty soon you will have a beautiful design that looks like a watercolor painting. Remember to bring a hammer and flowers and be ready to have fun while creating beautiful art work.



"For a spring of beautiful flowering bulbs mix up 1 cup of sugar, 3 cups of bone meal and 1 cup of Epsom salts in an old bucket. Mix together well and sprinkle a pinch of this sweet snack into the bottom of each hole as you're planting each bulb. This will give them something nutritious to munch on as they get up and grow." *

Perennial Plants to Prune in the Fall

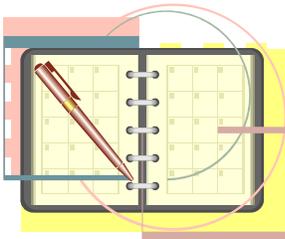
- **Bearded Iris** The tall foliage of bearded iris begins flopping early in the season. By fall, it is cover for iris borers and fungal diseases. Cut back after a killing frost and it would be wise to dispose of the foliage rather than composting. (Zones 3 - 10)
- **Beebalm (Monarda didyma)** Even the most resistant varieties of Monarda can succumb to mildew. When that happens, you'll be cutting them back long before fall. Fresh, new growth can be left on until spring. Sometimes selective thinning of the stems is all that is needed and you can leave the remaining seed heads for the birds. (USDA Zones 4 - 9)
- **Blackberry Lily (Belamcanda chinensis)** Prune to keep the foliage from collapsing and causing the crown to rot and to avoid borers. (USDA Zones 5 - 10)
- **Blanket Flower (Gaillardia x grandiflora)** Gaillardia is a pretty hardy plant, but cutting back the spent stems seems to improve its hardiness even more by improving its vigor. (USDA Zones 3- 10)
- **Bronze Fennel (Foeniculum vulgare 'Purpureum')** Bronze Fennel has increased in popularity lately and can be found accenting many gardens. The foliage provides food for swallowtail caterpillars, which can leave the stems completely stripped by fall. If that's the case, they are no longer providing any useful service and can be cut back to the ground. (USDA Zones 5 - 9)



- **Catmint (Nepeta)** Nepetas respond well to severe pruning throughout the season. The foliage will be damaged by winter cold and will need to be cut back anyway, so get a head start by pruning in the fall. (USDA Zones 3 - 8)
- **Columbine (Aquilegia)** Remove any foliage showing leaf miner damage and remove any debris around the base of the plants. Aquilegia send out growth early in spring and appreciate not having the old foliage to contend with. (USDA Zones 3 - 9)
- **Corydalis (Corydalis lutea)** It's hard to kill Corydalis, but if you'd rather cut back on its enthusiastic spreading habit and it hasn't been deadheaded during the summer, cut it back after a killing frost. (USDA Zones 5 - 7)
- **Crocoshmia (Crocoshmia)** The flowers of Crocoshmia fall off naturally once blooming has finished and the seed heads can offer interest, but the foliage eventually heads downhill and there is nothing to be gained by leaving it up through winter.
- **Daylily (Hemerocallis)** Daylilies respond well to shearing and unless you are in an area where they remain somewhat evergreen, fall pruning will save you a messy cleanup in the spring (USDA Zones 3-9)
- **False Sunflower (Helianthus)** By the time Helianthus foliage isn't a standout to begin with and by the time the flowers have faded it's also time to cut the plants down. (USDA Zone 4-9)

from <http://gardening.about.com>

"**DEER** eat over 600 different kinds of plants. To make sure yours aren't on the menu, puree 2 raw eggs, 2 cups of water, 1 to 4 cloves of garlic and 2 tablespoons of hot sauce at high speed in a blender. Allow this tonic to sit covered, for several days. Then pour or sprinkle the mixture over any and all vulnerable plants." *



Upcoming Local Events

Sept 20-21-22 - Scottville Harvest Festival

Sept 21-22 - Civil War Muster Days at White Pine Village.

Michigan Battery D Artillery will be camped in authentic fashion on the grounds. Go to www.historicwhitepinevillage.org for more information.

Oct 12-13 - Autumn Days at White Pine Village. The village will abound with the fall harvest including pumpkins, gourds, corn stalks and decorations. Watch apples being pressed into cider, enjoy a hayride and reminisce as you stroll the village.

Nov 24 - "Aglow on the Avenue" in downtown Ludington. Go to www.ludington.org for more information.

FARMERS MARKETS - UNTIL THE END OF SEPTEMBER

Ludington - Friday 3-8pm at the N. James St. Plaza

Scottville - Saturday 9-Noon at the city parking lot

"Voles are especially partial to the tender young snow flies, mix ½ cup of castor oil and ½ cup of and saturate the area around all the trees and



bark of trees and shrubs. So before the first dishwashing liquid in your 20 gallon sprayer, shrubs." *



Upcoming Michigan Garden Club, Inc. Events

Oct 3, 2012 - District V will have their Fall meeting "Celebrate the Seasons" at the Crystal Mountain Resort and Spa in Thompsonville, hosted by the Lake Shores Garden Club. The day will include talks by Carol Reid of "Growth Benzie" and Mark Johnson of Johnson Hill Land Ethics, an optional tour through the colorful fall landscape of the Michigan Legacy Art Park on site which houses 40 sculptures, a coffee as you arrive, numerous vendors and a wonderful lunch. Late

registrations are accepted up to September 27. Contact Suzanne Townsend, District V Treasurer.

Oct 12-14, 2012 - The Charlevoix Area Garden Club is sponsoring their Fall Bulb Sale at the Apple Fest in East Park.

Oct 22-23, 2012 - Garden Study School - Course I is hosted by the Michiana Landscape Study Club. Contact Bobbie Quick @ bquick50@gmail.com for further information.

Dec 1, 2012- The 12th Annual Holiday Home Tour sponsored by the Cadillac Garden Club. Hours are 10-3. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 the day of the tour. Tickets go on sale on Nov 1 and can be purchased by calling 231-510-9047.

April 25-26, 2013 - Environmental School - Course I held in Pleasant Ridge. Contact Stacey Strutcher at 248-546-6538 for more information

May 9-10, 2013 - Landscape Design School held here in Ludington and sponsored by the Mason County Garden Club. Watch for more details or contact Suzanne Townsend at 231-690-9968 or setownse@aol.com.

"Sometimes plants don't do transplanted. To guarantee handful or two of dry replanting. Oatmeal so instead of dying plants,



so well when they are a great restart, simply add a oatmeal to the soil mix when provides many essential nutrients, you've got happy, thriving ones!" *

Florence Smith, Central Region Director, highlighted two exceptional state projects—one in Missouri and one in Michigan, in the Aug-Sep-Oct 2012 issue of National Garden Club "Keeping In Touch" Newsletter. She reported that Michigan's partnership with the Michigan USDA Forest Service (since 1937) to develop the *Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary* in the Manistee National Forest is proceeding. The goal of \$20,000 for a teaching pavilion has been accomplished. Now on to phase two—restrooms!



Recycling Reminders
Renew, Reuse, Reduce, Reclaim

National Garden Club Recycling Chairman Carol Carter posted this information (abbreviated but worthwhile to share) on the NGC website www.gardenclub.org. Many new recycling ideas are being developed and shared as local clubs are looking for ways to preserve and protect our environment. Here are some of the responses from garden club members and other sources:

- Bring your own mug to meetings for punch, tea and coffee
- Broken pottery and dishes - use as drainage in flower pots; make a garden border out of old plates
- Collect metal pull can tabs for Ronald McDonald House recycle program
- Donate gently used books for public library used book sale
- Unplug "Wall Warts" (rechargers, TVs & appliances not in use) - "standby electricity" eats up energy and is polluting
- Take plastic plant pots and trays to garden centers for recycling
- Use egg cartons to start seeds
- Put dryer lint out for the birds to build nests
- Clear plant containers from the deli or salad bar can be cut in half and used under flower pots
- While waiting for faucet water to warm up, catch that running water in a bucket and use to water plants.
- Print on both side of paper or save documents electronically instead of printing

"For bright, bursting soil after planting. It keeps chipmunks and any four-footed



bulbs-- two quick tips: sprinkle Epsom salts on the gives bulbs a dose of much-needed nitrogen and and squirrels away. And sprinkle medicated baby bulbs before planting them to help fend off foul fungi felons in the "hood". *

Easy Skillet Apple Pie (from Southern Living Magazine)

2# Granny Smith apples
 2# Braeburn apples
 piecrust
 1 teaspoon cinnamon
 3/4 cup sugar
 1/2 cup butter

1 cup brown sugar
 1 pkg refrigerated
 1 egg white
 2 tablespoons sugar



Preheat oven to 350'. Peel apples and cut into 1/2" wedges. Toss apples with cinnamon and 3/4 cup sugar.

Melt butter in 10" cast iron skillet over medium heat; add brown sugar and cook, stirring constantly, 1 to 2 minutes or until sugar is dissolved.

Remove from heat and place 1 piecrust in skillet over brown sugar mixture. Spoon apple mixture over piecrust and top with remaining piecrust. Whisk egg white until foamy. Brush top of piecrust with egg white; sprinkle with 2 tablespoons of sugar. Cut 4-5 slits in top piecrust. Bake at 350' for 1 hour and 10 minutes or until golden brown and bubbly, shielding with aluminum foil if necessary to prevent excessive browning. Cool on wire rack for 30 minutes before serving.

Bulb Lasagne
from NGC quarterly "Keep In Touch" newsletter
Nov 2011-Jan 2012



ENJOY 3 months of blooms from layers of bulbs.

Ingredients: 10 daffodil bulbs; 7 tulip bulbs; 3 hyacinth bulbs; 5 crocus bulbs; 2 (6-packs) pansies;

16" x 16" flower pot; 1 ½ cubic-foot bag GARDEN soil; bulb food (1 tablespoon at a time)



Directions:

1. Start with a four-inch layer of soil in a minimum of 16"(deep) pot sprinkled with 1 tablespoon of bulb food, and plant your tulip bulbs in the center, placing them firmly into the soil.
2. Add additional three to four inches of soil, bulb food and a layer of daffodil bulbs that bloom in mid-spring. Arrange daffodil bulbs past the center of the pot, where you have already placed the tulip bulbs.
3. Add additional three to four inches of soil, bulb food and a layer of hyacinth bulbs and crocus bulbs, two inches from the edges of the pot.
4. Add the final four inches of soil. DO NOT add bulb food to this layer.
5. Top off your lasagne with winter pansies, already in bloom. They will survive the winter climate and will wilt, to remind you to water the pot. # # #
6. Water with approximately four gallons of water after planting. Whenever pansies are wilted, water with approximately two gallons of water. Do not add plant food to your water or pot before February.
7. CHILL ALL WINTER: Leave the pot outside to take advantage of the winter's chill. # # # In colder climates you need to put your lasagne container in a cold cellar or garage rather than outside. If you do try to leave it outside, mulch it heavily with lots of leaves and branches. When the temperatures start to rise, you could try pansies and cover them if temperatures go way below freezing. Water the container during the winter.

This recipe comes to us from Suzy Andrego, NMGC, Inc.
Mary Ann Moreno, Container Gardens Committee jbmamoreno@gmail.com.

*** Jerry Baker "America's Master & garden expert" is the man to grow gorgeous lawns & supermarket products**



Gardener and the nation's #1 lawn who's taught millions of people how gardens using common



MGCG is hosting Course IV of the Landscape Design School for the Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. on May 9-10, 2013. What an opportunity to attend a school designed and accredited by the Nation Garden Clubs, Inc. without having to incur the cost of gas or lodging. The knowledge you gain will go forward with you as you share your knowledge as a consultant or reinvent your gardens at your own home. This is the last school of the series to be held in Ludington, and it is not required that

schools be attended in order. This last course promises to be extra-special, because it includes a two-hour "field trip" to evaluate a home garden and a public garden. The next series of National Garden Club Landscape Design Schools will be held in Ann Arbor beginning in fall of 2013. Gig Rose, Suzanne Townsend and Sue Ann Schnikter have pooled their talents and the school is getting rave reviews from the attendees. Contact Suzanne Townsend for further information. A registration form can be found on our website:

www.masoncountygardenclub.org

Members...this is YOUR newsletter!!



Newsletter Ideas??? Please share them with Suzanne or Gwen. We are always looking for interesting information.

See you at the upcoming meetings,
Suzanne and Gwen

