

Over the Picket Fence



**The Mason County Garden Club Quarterly Newsletter
(Since 1926—our 87th year)**

www.masoncountygardenclub.org

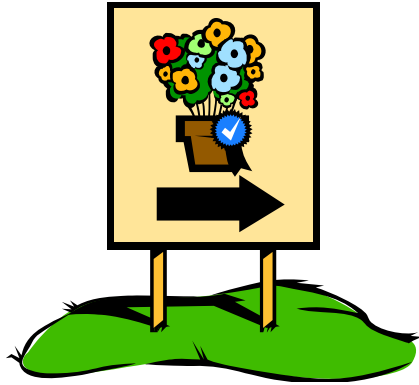
Member

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

September, 2013



After Labor Day, autumn stretches ahead like a country road, winding through a few glorious weeks of corn mazes, apples, pumpkins, mums, football games and scenic drives. From the fall issue of Midwest Living magazine, savor a few more of the essential fall experiences that await us around this season's bend as you read through the newsletter.



Fall Plant Sale - Saturday, September 7
9:00am until Noon at Leveaux Park
(corner of Ludington Ave & Saffon St)
NO EARLY SALES!!!

This is a time for all members to come together for the club's major fund raiser. Most important is for you to bring your extra perennial plants potted, labeled and ready to sell. Please have the plants at the location by 8:30 to give the committee time to sort and organize. Tables, wagons, plant books and helpers are also needed by the committee to continue the success we have had at past sales. All members of the community are welcome. This is a great way to meet other gardeners, give your extra plants a good home and buy some new plants for your own garden. Marilyn Raymond and her committee have been hard at work and need everyone's participation. This is one of the few events where all members are expected to take part...so let's see everyone on Saturday Sept. 7.

Field Trip - "Architectural Expressions"
Nature's Creative Edge in Fruitport
Friday, September 20

This is a spectacular outdoor exhibit presented by over 40 floral designers and mixed media artists from all over the country. The exhibit is illuminated by strategically placed spotlights and a plethora of candles. Guests are welcome to come early and experience the visual evolution as evening falls on the forest. Presented at the beautiful woodland estate of Robert Friese near Fruitport, Nature's Creative Edge is an evening of unique entertainment for young and old alike. Visitors are welcome to bring cameras. Join a carpool caravan departing at 4:15pm from the United Methodist Church parking lot in Ludington or the West Shore Bank parking lot in Scottville. We will stop at Panera Bread on Sherman Ave in Muskegon for dinner. We will then continue on to Fruitport where tickets to enter the exhibit can be purchased for \$15. We will return to Ludington or Scottville at approximately 9:30pm. Be sure to wear comfortable walking shoes for sure footing as you walk through the woodland gardens.



Changing Leaves

We've heard it before: "The leaves don't look so good this year. Spring was too wet. Summer was too dry." The reality is we're just impatient. Every year, the day comes when we drive home and discover our street covered with fiery maple and golden oak leaves. Fall is fleeting, yes, and a bit fickle, but nearly always as good as we remember.



Welcome new members



Rita Holly rhje1992@hotmail.com

Barb Doty, 2829 S. Lister Rd, Ludington; 248-625-0532; debar10@yahoo.com; birth date: 9/3

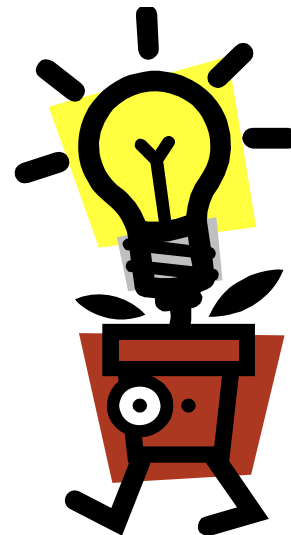
Julie Tews, 6627 W Park View Court, Ludington; 517-719-7639; birth date: 3/1

Member update – Jackie Christensen has a new e-mail address;
pjchristensen30@yahoo.com

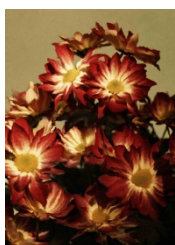
Blasting: Why bulb buds went bad this spring!

As reported by Old House Gardens - Heirloom Bulbs in their June E-Newsletter: "Why didn't my buds open?" That's a question we heard a lot more than usual this spring. When buds form but fail to develop into flowers it's called "blasting." This usually happens because the plant didn't get what it needed, and first-year plants with immature root systems are most at risk.

- **Too Little Water** – Spring-blooming bulbs such as daffodils and tulips need plenty of water (a) in the fall to grow roots and (b) in the spring to grow leaves and buds that open successfully. If there's a stretch of dry weather in the fall, initial root growth will be hampered and the bulb may never catch up. The same thing can happen when there's a stretch of dry weather in spring. Either way, once the rush of spring growth begins above ground, a bulb without plenty of roots may manage to develop foliage and buds, but if it can't draw up enough water fast enough, those buds will blast.
- **New Bulbs and Late Planting** – Inadequate root development is more often a problem for newly planted bulbs, and even more so for bulbs that are planted late in the fall.
- **High Temperatures** – When spring heats up or temperatures spike, even bulbs with good root systems can struggle to supply their buds with enough water to make up for what's being lost through transpiration. When they can't, the buds blast. Late-blooming varieties are most at risk, as well as bulbs planted in hot spots.
- **Too Little Sun** – Sun-loving plants such as marigolds and peonies won't bloom well in the shade, and the same is true of sun-loving bulbs. If they can't photosynthesize enough to fully develop their buds, they'll blast.



- Storage Problems – Dormant bulbs should be stored at temperatures above freezing but cooler than 72 degrees or so, and protected from ethylene gas, which is contained in automobile exhaust fumes and produced by ripening fruit.
- Doubles, Etc. – To develop their many extra petals, double flowers require more moisture and sunlight, which means they blast more easily. Pheasant's-eye narcissus do, too—and especially double pheasant's-eyes—because their roots develop slowly and they bloom late when spring is at its warmest.
- Solutions – In most cases, and especially for newly planted bulbs, the most important thing you can do is keep your bulbs well watered from early fall, when they start growing new roots, until a couple of weeks before the ground freezes solid (or all winter if it doesn't), and then again in the spring while they're busy producing leaves and flowers. If you do that, and Mother Nature is kind, you can expect to have very few blasted buds and lots of beautiful spring flowers.



Mounds of Mums
Yellow, purple, magenta, bursting from pots outside the super-
market, cheerfully asking for a ride home and a spot on your
stoop.

President's Letter

My term as President of the Mason County Garden Club, your President, will soon be coming to an end. I will have been President for three and a half years.

I was a member in the garden club only one year when I was asked to be an officer. I asked, "What office?" I was told that the club was looking for a President and a Vice President. I replied that I would be willing to be a Vice President, NOT President. You may remember that at election time, there was no one volunteered to become your Vice President, so I volunteered with some trepidation to be a Vice President, NOT President. I had never been in a club before, let alone, President! I fronted of so many people! (At least that.) I thought that the Past President did such a good job that I would follow in her footsteps, but she graciously offered throughout my term to assist in many



willing to be President, so I must admit that I had never been in a club before, let alone, President, Suzanne Townsend, never be able to follow in her footsteps and was there ways.

Being your President has been a very positive, rewarding experience and I have been humbled by the many kind words of encouragement given to me by you. I have had terrific, hardworking Board members that have made my job easy. I have gotten to know a lot of you personally by working with you on our various projects, and I have also made friends with members in other garden clubs. It is with some sadness that I will turn the Presidency over to another club member, but it needs to be done.

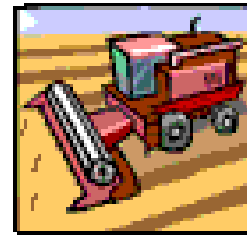
You do know where this is leading, don't you? We will need to install a new President in December. This office is really not as scary as many of you think. We all have our own style or way of doing things and that is refreshing. So you don't have to think about the way I have done things, but you need to address the office with your own style. After a few times of conducting meetings in the early part of my Presidency, I overcame my fear about standing in front of you and speaking because I thought of

My words to the future President--**I will be there to assist you as you need it, as will the Board members.** We **DO** need to elect a new President. My hope is that one of you will come forward and take on the challenge, and if not, then I will be contacting members and "twisting arms". **It really has been fun and I am thankful for the opportunity and experience of being the Mason County President for these past years.**

Sharon

Harvest Landscapes

Something deep in our Midwest souls stirs when we see a combine rolling across a cornfield, a season's worth of hard work and watchful waiting coming to fruition, another year gone by.



Local Farmers Markets

Ludington—Fridays from 3:00-7:00 downtown in the James Street Plaza until September 27

Scottville-Tuesdays from 4:30-7:30 in the West Shore Parking lot until Oct 1

Manistee - Saturdays from 9-12 in downtown Manistee until Oct 12

Dividing German Bearded Iris--Late summer is the best time to divide German bearded iris—and to battle the iris crack apart the rhizomes. If you see you will likely find a few borers (fat, the borers then replant the divided root sits above the soil surface. Then sure to angle the cut so water doesn't or other bacterial problems.



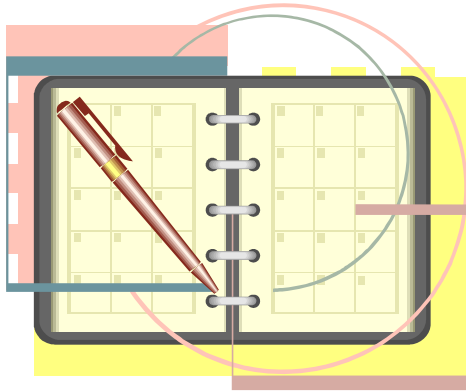
borer. Dig up the iris clump and any smelly, rotten root sections, pink grub-like larvae). Squash rhizomes so the top half of the cut the foliage back halfway. Be sit on the blunt end, causing rot

Flower Bulbs

The squirrels have their acorns. We Midwesterners have our tulips and daffodils, buried in the fall, hidden in the frozen ground through the winter, waiting patiently for spring.



Upcoming Local Events



Sept 7 - MCGC Fall Plant Sale, Leveaux Park
Sept 14 - International Beach Sweep at
Stearns Park sponsored by AFEW
Sept 14 - Petunia Parade Pulling Day
Sept 22 - Autumn begins
Oct 11-12 - Autumn Days at White Pine
Village
Oct 14 - Columbus Day
Oct 31 - Halloween
Nov 3 - Daylight Saving Time ends
Nov 11 - Veterans Day
Nov 28 - Thanksgiving



Raking Leaves -- By raking, of course, we mean jumping in the pile!!!



National and Michigan Garden Club, Inc. Upcoming Events

District V - Fall 2013 Meeting

Tuesday, September 24 -- Fall District V Meeting, *Blooms and Twilight* will be held at the Bridge Vista Beach Hotel and Convention Center (1027 Huron Avenue, Mackinac City; phone 800.576.2842) overlooking the Mackinac Bridge and Island. Mary Stewart Adams, Program Director of the Emmet County International Dark Sky Park (2 miles west) will be the Main Speaker. The park designation is the 6th in the United States and 9th in the world protecting 23,000 acres of night sky to be free of light pollution and light trespass. (A bill was signed by Michigan's Governor in July 2012.) She has extensive knowledge on star lore of the northwest Michigan night sky from the first contact of Europeans with the native tribes in the mid-1700s until the present. She will speak on *Dark Sky and Moon Blooms*. Photographer, Dan Welihan will do a Power Point on *Candid Blooms*, and Kay McInnes and Kris Sorgenfrei will discuss creating *Moon Gardens*. Hosted by the four Sunrise Side of the State Garden Clubs: Seedums of Cheboygan, Perennial of Cheboygan County, Stepping Stones of Onaway and Presque Isle. Call letters were emailed to District V club presidents 60 days prior to event. Cost is \$30. Mail Club registration form to: Kris Sorgenfrei at 4141 Ocqueoc Rd., Millersburg, MI 49759. Phone: 989-733-4056.

Landscape Design School, Course I

Tuesday & Wednesday, October 1-2 – Landscape Design School, Course I. Hosted by District IIA at the Holiday Inn, 3600 Plymouth Road, Ann Arbor, 48105. For more information, contact local chairman, Mary Pulick at marypulick@gmail.com or 734-476-2453. To access the registration form, click [here](#).

Charlevoix Fall Bulb and Garden Gifts Sale

Friday-Saturday-Sunday, October 11-12-13 -- The Charlevoix Area Garden Club is hosting their Fall Bulb and Garden Gifts Sale at Charlevoix's AppleFest in East Park on Bridge Street/Harbor. Unusual bulbs, dried flowers, and garden tools will be available for below retail prices.

2013 Central Region Convention

Wednesday-Friday, October 16-18 -- Indiana invites you to “slow down” in the middle of Amish Country for a “Patchwork of Pleasures.” This Central Region Meeting will be held in Middlebury, Indiana, at the Essenhaus Inn and Convention Center. This Inn is in Northern Indiana and conveniently located on US 20, one mile west of St. Rd 13 and 6 miles south of the I-80/90 Toll Road-Exit 107. This pleasant place has the flavor of a Bed & Breakfast and sits in the middle of a complex including 6 unique village shops, walking paths and a large family style restaurant.

Environmental Study School, Course II

Thursday and Friday, October 24-25 -- Environmental Studies School, Course I, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Pleasant Ridge Community Center, 4 Ridge Road, Pleasant Ridge, MI 48069. Pleasant Ridge is a northern suburb of Detroit near the I-75 and I-696 intersection and at the I-696 (10 Mile Rd.) Woodward Ave. intersection. For further information please contact Anastatia (Stacey) Stutcher at 85 Amherst Rd., Pleasant Ridge, MI 48069, (248) 546-6538; fstutcher@yahoo.com.

Garden Study, Course III

Monday & Tuesday, October 21-22 --Garden Study School-Course III is scheduled for October 21-22. The host of the school is Michiana Landscape Study Club and the chairperson is Bobbie Quick, bquick50@gmail.com.

Revolutionary Gardens Benefit Event Sept 29-Oct 2

A world class series of garden lectures, to benefit Traverse City's new Botanic Garden at Historic Barns Park, will be held September 29 through October 2 at the Fountain Point Inn & Club, 990 S Lake Leelanau Drive, Lake Leelanau, Michigan. Three internationally known, award winning authors and landscape designers will present a series of lectures that will provide an unforgettable experience for gardeners, historians and others. Andrea Wulf, author of *Founding Gardeners*, *The Brother Gardeners*, *This Other Eden: Seven Great Gardens and 300 Years of English History*, and *Chasing Venus*, will discuss themes from each of her books, including the defining role of gardening and farming in the lives of our country's. For featured speakers schedule and

registration information go to: Northwest-MichiganGarden.org or call Fountain Point Resort 231.256.9800.

Pumpkin-spiced Everything
Lattes, ice cream, muffins, granola, chair, beer, candles.....



Fall Gardening Reminders

- Trim & divide perennials as growth slows
- Plant evergreens
- Bring in houseplants
- Fertilize & aerate lawns
- Keep evergreens & shrubs watered well
- Repair and seed new lawns
- Dig, dry and store summer bulbs
- Clean out vegetable gardens, add summer's compost and dig in
- Plant spring bulbs
- Rake leaves, mulch them and compost
- Mulch tender perennials
- Protect young trees and shrubs from rodents
- Hill up rose bushes with soil
- Sever large tree roots that are invading gardens
- Loosely wrap burlap around pyramidal evergreens and rhododendrons
- Drain hoses and winterize garden equipment
- Bring in firewood
- Install outdoor seasonal lighting



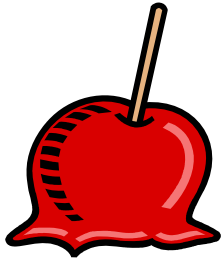
Where my Love of Gardening Came From ...

This month Jane Clark shared some of her gardening thoughts with us. "I have pretty much always enjoyed gardening. I was inspired by both my grandmother and mother. As a young child I really enjoyed my grandmother's garden. Her whole yard was one big garden. There were no grassy areas and only a few large trees. Wooden walkways separated the different areas went to visit my mother and grandmother and talk about all the various beautiful flowers. As a treat raspberries or gooseberries farm so you would expect to We spent hours out in the older I had to help with the



of her garden. Whenever we grandparents in the summer, my would always walk in the garden flowers and vegetables. I would because I liked looking at all the there always seemed to be to pick and eat. We lived on a find a large vegetable garden. vegetable garden and when I got weeding and picking. My favorite

vegetables to pick and eat right there were peas and yellow pear tomatoes. In addition to the garden, my mother had a triangle shaped flower garden near the house with a low picket fence around it. I loved to pick the flowers, but weeding the flowers was not so much fun. My mother would tell me the names of all the flowers she planted. When I married and moved into our first house, the first thing I did was plan where to have my gardens. Each of our different houses had a different garden. Some were in the sun and some were in the shade, but all of them were a challenge. I still don't like to weed, but I certainly do love to name and pick the flowers.”



Caramel Apples

Crisp fruit. Thick caramel. Small enough to eat on a stick without cutting slices, but big enough that the first bite requires a bit of dexterity and potentially a juicy dribble down your chin.

Peaches Throckmorton's Cream Cheese Mints

Mix 3 ounces of softened cream cheese with 1/2 teaspoons of peppermint extract. Gradually add 2 to 2 1/2 cups powdered sugar. Knead until no longer sticky. This may be divided into portions and colored with food coloring. Shape into 3/4 inch balls and roll in sugar. Flatten balls with a fork or flatten and use a small cutter to create the shape of your choice. Let dry at room temperature. Store loosely covered. Makes 6-7 dozen. Enjoy—they melt in your mouth!



See you at the meeting,
Gwen and Suzanne