

Over the Picket Fence



The Mason County Garden Club Quarterly Newsletter
(Since 1926—our 85th year)

www.masoncountygardenclub.org

Member

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

June 2011

The Gardener's Morning

The robin's song at daybreak is a clarion call to me

Get up and get out in the garden, for the morning hours flee.

I cannot resist the summons, what earnest gardener could?

For the golden hours of morning get into the gardener's blood.

The magic spell is upon me, I'm glad that I did not wait;

For life's at its best in the morning as you pass through the garden gate.



Inspirational Readings from NGC, Inc.

Written by Howard Duff

Submitted by Porterfield Garden Club

As Memorial Day approaches our thoughts go to our soldiers and the Memorial Garden at the Center for Families of the Fallen at Dover Air Force Base. The National Garden Club Federation of Garden goal to make this a garden will be part of will include the the Fallen, a and the nine bedroom overnight residence



and Delaware Clubs are near their reality. The memorial a gated campus that Center for Families of meditation pavilion Fisher House, an for grieving families

donated by the Fisher Foundation. S. Todd Rose, director of the Mortuary Affairs Division Operations Center at Dover sees the memorial garden as a valuable asset in his mission to treat the fallen heroes with dignity and respect. He sees it as a "serene yet private space for families to go to and remember their loved one." Alice Witterholt, president of the Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs, has spearheaded this effort and hopes it will be dedicated next Memorial Day

From your Conservation/Wildlife Committee

Experts say flushing expired or unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medications down the toilet or drain will pollute the ground water and waterways thus affecting the fresh water resources of our country. Michigan's aquatic environment will be contaminated because wastewater systems are not designed to remove many of these medications. Precautions also need to be taken to keep these discarded drugs from being misused by humans or scavenged by animals. Recently, area law enforcement and pharmacies have combined efforts to provide collection sites for the disposal of these expired and unwanted medications. Known as the **Yellow Jug/Old Drug Program**, this will be an ongoing effort and will be provided during regular business hours at designated law enforcement agencies and participating pharmacies. Law enforcement agencies will collect all types of medication, while participating pharmacies will accept non-controlled prescription and over-the-counter medications. The following locations are available for disposal: **Rite Aid Pharmacy, Ludington; Nichols Drug, Scottville; Ludington Police Department and the Mason County Sheriff's Office.**



www.plantjotter.com

helps you organize your notes about garden ideas, plant success or failure.



your calendar now!

We're sorry! We were remiss in letting you know about the sixth annual **World Naked Gardening Day on May 14!** As reported by the Grand Rapids Press, people across the globe were encouraged to tend their gardens, flower boxes and yards "clothed as nature intended." Why garden naked? Besides being liberating, nude gardening is second only to swimming as an activity people are most ready to consider doing nude according to the American Association for Nude Recreation. We know you won't want to miss this day next year so mark



www.HGTV.com/gardeningclub

offers gardening activities for adults and children.



Upcoming Local Events

- May 28 Pentwater Garden Club annual plant sale, 9:00am-Noon, Bell Park, Hancock St., Pentwater
- June 10-12 National Asparagus Festival, Shelby
- June 14 Maple Syrup Pancake Supper, 5-7:00pm, Historic White Pine Village
- June 18 Mason-Lake Conservation District annual Native Plant Sale and Workshop. Workshop 10:00am-Noon; Sale 1:00-4:00pm in Scottville. Contact Lynda Herremans 757-3708 x 3
- July 9 MCGC 15th Annual Garden Walk "A Bouquet of Gardens," 10:00am-3:00pm, Ludington
- July 14 Village Fish Fry, 5:00-7:30pm, Historic White Pine Village
- July 16 Pentwater Garden Club and Pentwater Arts Council garden walk and art show, 1:00-5:00pm, Pentwater. Contact Carol Buechin at 231-843-4470
- August 20 Mason, Manistee & Oceana County Household Hazardous Waste & Pharmaceutical Collection, 9:00am-2:00pm, Mason County Road Commission, Scottville
- August 25-26 MCGC Small Standard Flower Show "Arts & Flowers," Ludington Center for the Arts

Upcoming Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. Events

- June 9-11 MGC Inc 80th Annual Convention "Growing Gardens Creating Communities", Midland. Contact Sharon Mormon for information
- August 9-10 Flower Show School Course I, Okemos. Contact Sue Kropschot

517-351-0464

September 8-9 Landscape Design School Course I, Ludington. Contact Suzanne Townsend 757-2565

October 10-11 Environmental School Course IV, Sturgis. Contact Pat Hjertos 269-496-4815

Upcoming Central Region Events

October 2-4 MGC Inc. hosts the Central Region Annual Meeting "Autumn Tapestry," Crowne Plaza, Grand Rapids

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

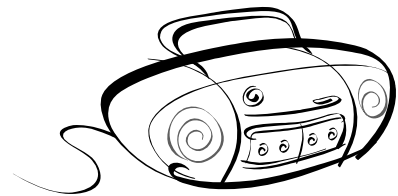
June 6-12 is National Garden Week.

Ongoing

- Ludington Farmers Market, Friday, 3:00-8:00pm, N. James St. Plaza
- Scottville Farmers Market, Saturday, 9:00am-1:00pm, West Shore Bank parking lot
- Pentwater Farmers Market, Monday and Thursday, 10:00am-2:00pm, Village Green
- Yellow Jug/Old Drugs Program-- Rite Aid Pharmacy, Ludington; Nichols Drug, Scottville; Ludington Police Department and the Mason County Sheriff's Office.

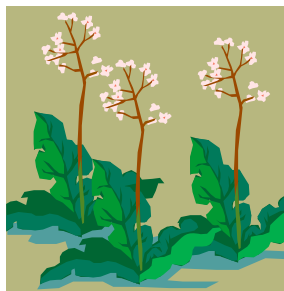
www.myflowerland.com

Grand Rapids retail store also has a radio program on 106.9FM Saturday 9-11



Thyme

You probably have this herb in your cupboard to flavor salads and sauces but what you may not know is how considered as a part of your source as an antioxidant and manganese, calcium and that thyme contains a volatile acts as an antiseptic and You can apply a mixture of wounds to prevent infections.



this herb can also be medicine cabinet. It is a good also is a good source of iron, fiber. Researchers have found oil known as thymol. This oil disinfectant. honey and thyme to small

Because of the disinfectant properties of thyme you can also clean a sick room by making a tea solution with boiled water, a bit of soap and thyme. Allow the

solution to cool and then strain into a clean spray bottle. You can clean all hard surfaces with it. It is also great for cleaning and disinfecting your cutting board instead of using harsh chemical cleaners which can linger. The chemicals kill bacteria but so does thyme. A natural cleaner makes more sense.

Drinking tea brewed from thyme can aid digestion, help respiratory problems and ease PMS.

Lemon Thyme Tea



Bring two cups of water to a boil. Place three or four lemon thyme leaves into a teacup (use five to six leaves for a stronger tea). Allow the thyme to steep for 5 minutes. Remove and discard the used thyme leaves from the teacup. Add 1/2 to 1 teaspoon of honey to the tea. Mix the tea and honey mixture until the honey has completely dissolved. Serve the tea piping hot or allow it to cool and serve over ice.

www.bhg.com/planagarden

lets you map out landscaping for your yard and garden



To Do



In Your Garden

- Remove spent daffodil, tulip and hyacinth blossoms leaving the leaves to dry thus providing nourishment to the bulbs for next year
- Prune forsythia, flowering quince and other blooming shrubs after blossoms are gone by selectively removing the old canes. This maintains the natural growth habit and assures blossoms for next year.
- Move houseplants outdoors when night temperatures remain above 50 degrees.
- Mulch all bare patches of soil to stop weed growth and conserve water
- Keep bird baths full
- Pay special attention deadheading flowers that self-seed so that you maintain control over where they spread in your garden.

- Keep a close watch over your garden for any sign of pests so you can move quickly and take action.
- Put stakes and supports in place for tall plants like peonies and delphiniums. Also support climbers in order to maintain control over where they grow.
- Don't forget to keep up with your watering. If you don't water enough, roots will stay near the surface, making them even more prone to the heat. An inch of water a week is a good rule of thumb.

We have such good cooks in our club. Here are two recipes - an Orange Cake from Helen Woirol and the Key Lime Coconut Bars Diane Nemitz brought for the refreshment table at the March meeting. Enjoy!



Orange Cake

Mix together -

1 box orange cake mix (only

1 3oz pkg. orange jello

2 eggs

1/2 cup vegetable oil

1 1/2 cup water

Mix well and pour into a well-greased and floured 9x13 pan. Bake at 350° for 30 minutes.

Frosting

Cream together -

4 oz cream cheese softened

3/4 cup orange juice

Add -

1 sm vanilla instant pudding - dry

1 8oz Cool Whip

Frost cool cake and serve

found at Meijer)

Key Lime Coconut Bars

Crust -

2/3 cup brown sugar

1 3/4 cup flour

3 cups shredded, toasted coconut

1 stick unsalted butter, cut into cubes

1/2 tsp, coconut extract (optional)

Filling -

8 oz cream cheese (Neufchatel)

1 1/2 cups sugar

3 tablespoons flour

4 large eggs

1/2 cup key lime juice (Nellie and Joe's)

Preheat oven to 350°. Lightly spray a 9x13 pan

To make crust: combine all crust ingredients in food processor and mix until crumbly. Set aside one cup for topping and press the remaining into the baking pan. Bake for 16 minutes.

To make filling: in bowl of electric mixer, beat cream cheese, add sugar. Stir in flour and eggs one at a time. Stir in lime juice and pour into crust.

Bake for 15 minutes, then sprinkle reserved topping mix over. Bake an additional 10 minutes until set around the edges but still wobbly in the middle. Cool before cutting. Refrigerate the ones you don't eat right away.

Note: I added green food coloring, but this is not traditional - if you do want the filling green, be very careful. One drop is enough.

*****WELCOME*****
ANNE KIVELA & LILA CATER



The smiling face of the Pansy represents your smiling face as you join the Mason County Garden Club. As you plant these Pansies in your garden, think about how you are now planted in your new club. As Pansies need sunshine, moisture, and a little pruning now and then to reach their full potential, so do members need nurturing to grow in knowledge of horticulture, environmental awareness, landscape design, and floral design. New members also help us to fulfill our mission in community projects. We are happy you will be sharing your time with us.

NOW IT IS YOUR TIME TO GROW!!!

Anne Kivela

Lila Cater

Please be sure to add the name and address of our new members to your yearbook.

NOTE---We will be making seed packets for distribution at the 4th of July parade during the June luncheon at Cartier Mansion.



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

REMINDER—May 31 is membership dues. Dues in lieu of a regular business Houk, .



the deadline to pay your 2011-12 are \$20. Since our field trip is May 26 meeting, please mail your dues to Vicki



A message from Sharon Morman

Our Mission statement is "To **Stimulate** a knowledge and love of gardening, landscape design and floral design, **Encourage** home and community beautification, **Promote** good horticultural practices, **Provide** education and resources, **Encourage** protection of our environment and conservation of our natural resources, and to **Promote** the programs of the Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. and the National Garden Clubs, Inc."



It does leave out one important aspect. That is "To **Plant seeds of friendship, cultivate carefully and watch them grow.**"

I must tell you that I am very proud to be a member of this garden club. It was a joy to see all the smiling faces yesterday. It was like a ray of sunshine and a breath of fresh, spring air! Every one of you seemed so genuinely happy to see one another after our winter's respite. And that's **also** what our club is about-----**FRIENDSHIP.**

AWARDS

Our Garden Club was honored at the May 10 District V Meeting with the following awards: Newsletter—1st, Yearbook—2nd,

Pressbook—Honorable Mention, and the prestigious Gold Seal Club of Distinction. **We hope the White Pine Village “angels” are holding their collective breath...because no mention was made of their Book of Evidence. That usually means it is being considered for a national award. Keep your fingers crossed, everyone! The state**



and national awards will be announced at the State Convention in Midland in June.

THINKING OF YOU, MARILYN RAYMOND!!!

Our sweet Marilyn is home recovering from pneumonia after being hospitalized for one week. Her doctor told her she was a pretty sick girl. I'm sure she will enjoy hearing from her garden club friends. And a big thank you to her husband, Bob, for taking such good care of her.



SPRING PLANT

Threatening rain softened to at our annual Plant Exchange afternoon. Lots of wonderful plants appeared at Leveaux Park and all of them found new happy homes.



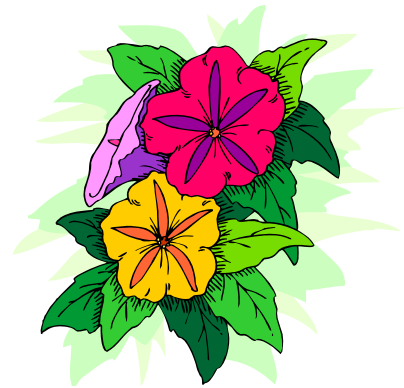
Our White Elephant table offered some very special gardening treasures, thanks to a generous donation from Bobbie Clingan of The Giving Tree.

EXCHANGE

lovely sunshine and everyone enjoyed a special spring

LUDINGTON PETUNIA PARADE

Lots of planters joined friends and neighbors for the 20th planting of red, white and blue petunias along Ludington Avenue. As many of you know, our own Sue Sabin (former president and life member) and her husband, Ellery, began the Parade and it is a tribute to their dedication that the tradition continues. The Parade Committee urges everyone to help keep the "Parade" weed-free over the summer. If you see a weed, pull it. Weeding days will be June 4, June 25, July 16 and August 13 (all Saturdays). I believe (don't have final word yet) that we will have traffic cones this year for a prescribed one or two-hour time period. Some of us who planted talked about getting together early, weeding, then all going out together for breakfast. Why don't you plan to join us!



As always, Gwen and I enjoy sharing this bit of Newsletter time with you...see you at Crystal Gardens on Thursday.

Suzanne and Gwen

