

# Over the Picket Fence



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

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

Member

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

## June 2012

When Johnny comes marching home again,  
Hurrah! Hurrah!  
We'll give him a hearty welcome then  
Hurrah! Hurrah!  
The men will cheer and the boys will shout  
The ladies they will all turn out  
And we'll all feel gay when Johnny comes marching home.  
*When Johnny Comes Marching Home Again*

### **Memorial Day was first**

flowers were placed on the soldiers at Arlington National almost every State on the last the first to wear a red poppy who died serving the nation



**observed on May 30, 1868**, when graves of Union and Confederate Cemetery. It is now celebrated in Monday in May. Moina Michael was on Memorial Day in honor of those during the war.

The Blue Star became an icon in World War II and was seen on flags and banners in homes for sons and daughters away at war, as well as in churches and businesses. The Blue Star Memorial Program of the National Garden Club, Inc. was created to honor service men and women. This program began with the planting of 8,000 Dogwood trees by the New Jersey Council of Garden Clubs in 1944 as a living memorial to veterans of World War II. In 1945 the National Council of State Garden Clubs adopted the program and began a Blue Star Highway system which covers thousands of miles across the Continental United States, Alaska and Hawaii.



A large metal Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker was placed at appropriate locations along the way. The program was eventually expanded to include all men and women who had served or were serving or would serve in the armed services of the United States. Memorial Markers and By-Way Markers were added to the Highway Markers, to be used at locations such as National cemeteries, parks, veteran's facilities and gardens. The Mason County Garden Club, along with area veterans organizations, placed and maintain the Blue Star Marker on the front lawn of the Mason County Courthouse.

This is my country! Land of my birth!  
This is my country! Grandest on earth!  
I pledge thee my allegiance, America, the bold,  
For this is my country to have and to hold.  
*This is My County*

**\*\*\*\*\*WELCOME \*\*\*\*\***  
**MELANIE BETTINGER, DOROTHY HAYWARD,**  
**PATRICIA STEVENSON, DONNA CLOUD,**  
**EVELYN BROWN, BETTY ORTON, BONNIE PRICE,**  
**RITA HOLLY**



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!!!

Please be sure to add the names and addresses of our new members to your yearbook.

Melanie Bettinger

Dorothy Hayward

Patricia Stevenson

Donna Cloud

Evelyn Brown

Betty Orton

Bonnie Price

Rita Holly

A SPECIAL NOTE OF THANKS TO ONE OF OUR NEWER MEMBERS, SUE ANN HANSON (December 2011). Sue Ann took over our yearbook and website duties immediately after joining. She is an amazing woman and our club is so fortunate to have her as a member.

**The Memorial Garden at the Center for Families of the Fallen**, at Dover Air Force Base, in Dover, Delaware, has been installed and dedicated. You may remember this is a garden conceived by the Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs, encouraged by the National Garden Club and supported by garden clubs from 35 states including the Mason County Garden Club. The purpose of the garden is to provide a private outdoor garden space for family members who come to Dover to receive the body of their fallen military loved one. Watch for an announcement on the development of a Phase 2 in the future.



## SOMETHING TO DO IN YOUR GARDEN NOW!

- Conserve moisture
- Add several inches of mulch around each plant, which should slow water evaporation.
- Consider a drip irrigation system. Its flexibility enables you to place the water source directly at each plant and control water output.

- Water early in the morning or late at night, which will reduce evaporation.
- Plant drought tolerant native plants. They will add texture, color and interest to the garden, while saving water and labor too.
- Cut back on the watering, and maintenance, of the thirsty grass in your lawn. Replace the grass with the foliage and flowers of ground covers.



From Detroit down to Houston,  
 and New York to L.A.  
 Well there's pride in every American heart,  
 and its time we stand and say.  
 That I'm proud to be an American,  
 where at least I know I'm free.  
 And I won't forget the men who died,  
 who gave that right to me.

God Bless The USA

MGCG is hosting the Course III of the Landscape Design School for the Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc on October 6-7. 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. Gig Rose, Suzanne Townsend and Sue Ann Schnikter have pooled their talents and the school is getting rave reviews from the attendees. Contact Suzanne for further information. A registration form can be found on our website: [www.masoncountygardenclub.org](http://www.masoncountygardenclub.org)



## Berry Compote--a perfect patriotic dessert for you Memorial Day Cookout



- ½ cup sugar
- 1 (6-ounce) basket fresh raspberries
- 1 (6-ounce) basket fresh blueberries
- 1 (6-ounce) basket fresh blackberries
- 1 pint fresh strawberries, hulled and quartered
- 1 store-bought pound cake, cut into six 1 ½ inch slices
- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter
- Whipped cream for serving (optional)

### Cooking Directions

To make the berry compote, bring the sugar and ½ cup water to a boil in a small saucepan over high heat, stirring to dissolve the sugar. Let the syrup cool. Combine the raspberries, blueberries, blackberries, and strawberries and stir in enough of the syrup to sweeten the berries to taste. Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours and up to 8 hours. Prepare an outdoor grill for direct cooking over medium-low heat (350°F).

Brush the cooking grate clean and lightly oil the grate. Spread the butter over both sides of the pound cake slices. Place the cake slices on the grill. Cook, with the lid closed as much as possible, turning once, until lightly browned on both sides, about 4 minutes. For each serving, place a cake slice on a plate and top with the berries and their juices. Add a dollop of whipped cream, if desired. Serve immediately.

And...another great recipe contributed by Shirley Casler. She baked it and says it's **Good!**

### **Orange Olive Oil Cake** **Melissa dArabian, Food Network**

Prep time: 10 min  
Cook time: 30 min  
Serves: 8

#### **Ingredients**

Butter, for greasing the pan  
1-1/4 cups all-purpose flour, plus more for the pan  
3/4 cup sugar  
2 eggs  
1/3 cup olive oil (any type)  
1 tsp vanilla extract  
Juice and zest of 1 orange (about 3 tbsp juice, 1 tbsp zest)  
1 tsp baking powder  
1/2 tsp baking soda  
1/2 tsp salt  
Confectioner's sugar for dusting



#### **Directions**

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Grease and flour a 9-inch round cake pan.

Mix together the sugar and eggs in a medium bowl with a hand mixer on medium speed until blended and light. Drizzle in the olive oil and vanilla and mix until light and smooth. Add the orange juice and zest and mix well. Sift together the flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt in another medium bowl. Add the flour mixture half at a time to the wet ingredients and mix on low just to incorporate. Pour into the prepared cake pan and bake 25-30 minutes. Let the cake cook 15 minutes, then dust with confectioner's sugar and serve.



O beautiful for spacious skies,  
 For amber waves of grain,  
 For purple mountain majesties  
 Above the fruited plain!  
 America! America! God shed His grace on thee,  
 And crown thy good with brotherhood  
 From sea to shining sea!  
 America The Beautiful



The Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc  
 been designed and will be  
 \$5 in the very near future. Watch  
[www.michigangardenclubs.org](http://www.michigangardenclubs.org)

has announced a Blue Star Pin has  
 available to Garden Club members for  
 for the announcement or check  
 for more information.

## Upcoming Michigan Garden Club, Inc. Events

- |                 |                                                                                                             |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| May 26          | Pentwater Garden Club Annual Plant Sale 9 - 12 at Bell Park                                                 |
| June 3-9        | National Garden Week                                                                                        |
| June 4-5        | Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc 2012 State Convention hosted by District V<br>at Grand Traverse Resort           |
| July 12-14      | Tri Cities Garden Club 44 <sup>th</sup> Annual Flower Show "Dining by Design"<br>at the Spring Lake Library |
| July 14         | MCGC 16 <sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Walk "A Bouquet of Gardens"                                             |
| July 17         | Elk Rapids Garden Walk                                                                                      |
| July 19         | Friendly Garden Club of Traverse City 30 Annual Garden Walk 12-8                                            |
| Sept 6-7        | Landscape Design School, Course III in Ludington                                                            |
| Sept 24-26      | Flower Show School, Course III in Okemos                                                                    |
| Oct 2           | District Meeting "Celebrating Seasons" @ Crystal Mountain Resort                                            |
| Oct 22-23       | Garden Study Course I watch for more information on MGC website                                             |
| May 28-30, 2013 | MGC State Convention at the Haworth Convention Center in Holland                                            |
| June 5, 2013    | Spring District V Meeting " As Time Goes By" at Castle Farms, Charlevoix                                    |
| Oct 10, 2013    | Fall District V Meeting at the Black Lake UAW Camp, Cheboyan                                                |

### ***Brunnera macrophylla* 'Jack Frost'** 2012 Perennial Plant of the Year™ selected by the Perennial Plant Association

*Brunnera macrophylla* 'Jack Frost' PP13859 grows 18  
 inches tall and 18 inches wide in a mounded form.  
 Brunneras are treasured for their shade tolerance and  
 early baby-blue, forget-me-not like flowers. *Brunnera*  
*macrophylla* 'Jack Frost' has enchanting silvery leaves  
 with green venation and a thin green margin. One

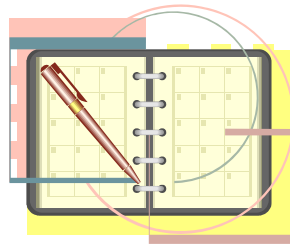




common name for this perennial is heartleaf brunnera because the emerging leaf enlarges to a heart shape.

- **Light** - Plants thrive in the shade is essential, particularly in southern gardens.
- **Soil** - This perennial performs best in shady areas with good moisture retentive soils.
- **Uses** - ‘Jack Frost’ brunnera may be used along the front of the shade border, is excellent in a container, or can be combined with other ground cover perennials such as hostas, ferns, and epimediums. The silver foliage lights up a dark garden from spring to fall.
- **Unique Qualities** - From mid to late spring, blue, forget-me-not like blossoms are held in clusters several inches above the brilliant frosty silver leaves. The rough leaf texture makes this perennial less palatable to browsing deer.
- **Hardiness** - USDA Zones 3 to 8

## Upcoming Local Events



- |           |                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| May 28    | Stearns Park Barrier-Free Walkway Dedication 1:00pm                                                                                      |
| June 1    | History in Action Day at White Pine Village 1-5:00pm                                                                                     |
| June 2    | West Coast Lighthouse Festival – for a schedule of events go to <a href="http://www.splka.org">www.splka.org</a>                         |
| July 1    | Red, White and Blue Ice Cream Social at White Pine Village 1-5:00pm                                                                      |
| July 4    | Ludington Jaycees Freedom Festival Parade, downtown Ludington at 2:00pm                                                                  |
| July 6    | Scottville Summerfest and Rubber Ducky Race                                                                                              |
| July 7    | Patriotic Pancake Breakfast at White Pine Village 11-2:00pm                                                                              |
| July 10   | AFEW Beach Cleanup co-hosted with Barefoot Wine at Stearns P:ark. For information contact <a href="http://www.afew.org">www.afew.org</a> |
| July 14   | Old Time Baseball Tournament at White Pine Village 10-5:00pm                                                                             |
| July 27   | MCGC “Community Flower Show” at the Ludington Area Center for the Arts                                                                   |
| August 14 | AFEW Beach Sweep at Stearns Park 7-8:00am                                                                                                |
| August 18 | Household Hazardous Waste/Clean Sweep sponsored by Mason-Lake Conservation District in Scotville 9-1:00pm                                |

### Farmers Markets

- Ludington - Friday 3-8 at the N. James St Plaza  
Scottville - Saturday 9-12 at the city parking lot



We love thine inland seas,  
Thy groves and giant trees,  
Thy rolling plains;  
Thy rivers' mighty sweep,  
Thy mystic canyons deep,  
Thy mountains wild and steep,--  
All thy domains.

*My Country Tis of Thee*

Jackie Christensen hosted a wonderful field trip and sack lunch on May 24 at her family's riverside cabin south of Scottville. Our speaker/guide was Joan Young, who has enjoyed the out-of-doors her entire life. In 2010 she became the first woman to complete the North Country National Scenic Trail on foot...a total of 4,395 miles! Look for her monthly column "Get Off the Couch" in the Ludington Daily News. Joan led a "walk and talk" tour along the Pere Marquette River and all enjoyed viewing the flora and wildlife. Thank you, Jackie, for your generosity!!!



And I gladly stand up,  
next to you and defend her still today.  
'Cause there ain't no doubt I love this land,  
God bless the USA.

Have a safe and happy Memorial Day Weekend.  
See you in June at the meeting.

Suzanne and Gwen