

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.

September 2011

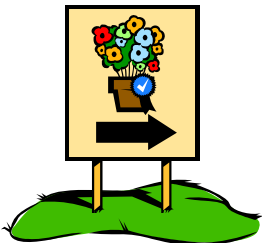
Fall Has Begun

golden, orange and yellow leaves glimmer in the setting sun
this is one of the first signs that summertime is done
I can hear the soft rustling as they fall from the trees
soaring and gliding as they are blown through the breeze
masses of leaves form into one
plants are decaying,
lifeless and swaying, shadows are growing,
less light is showing, animals sleeping, no sound or peeping
the whole world knows that fall has begun

---Sabrina Ryans



The **Fall Perennial Plant Sale** is just around the corner—on Saturday, September 10th at **Leveaux Park in Ludington**. Please note that the location is moved...the sale will no longer be held at the Farmer's Market in Scottville.



This annual sale is a major fund-raiser for our club. Last year was such a success that bigger and better things are expected this year. We already know that plants from some of our recent flower show winners will be available, plus many more "tried and true" perennials for our gardens.

If you haven't already started, now is the time to dig and divide your perennials. Place your extras in appropriate pots or bags and allow them to become nicely established before the sale. **Plants should be labeled so people will know what they are buying, especially if they are not familiar with that particular plant (ex. Siberian Iris—blue; Siberian Iris—pink).** If you don't know the color...ex. daylilies, that's OK. Just give as much information as you can.

All members are expected to participate. Please be at **Leveaux Park** around 8:00am to help set up. If you have a folding table or wagon that you can bring, it would be very helpful. You can park alongside Leveaux Park to unload your plants, table, etc. After unloading, **please move your vehicle to allow parking space for our customers.** Committee Chair, Marilyn Raymond, has received permission from Dr. Reisterer to park in his office lot. This lot is east of the park directly across Staffon Street. You do not cross Ludington Ave. Either park here or on a side street. Remember...we want to have plenty of parking for our customers. The sale lasts until noon or earlier if all the plants are sold. Let's pray for a nice day—not cold and rainy like last year!

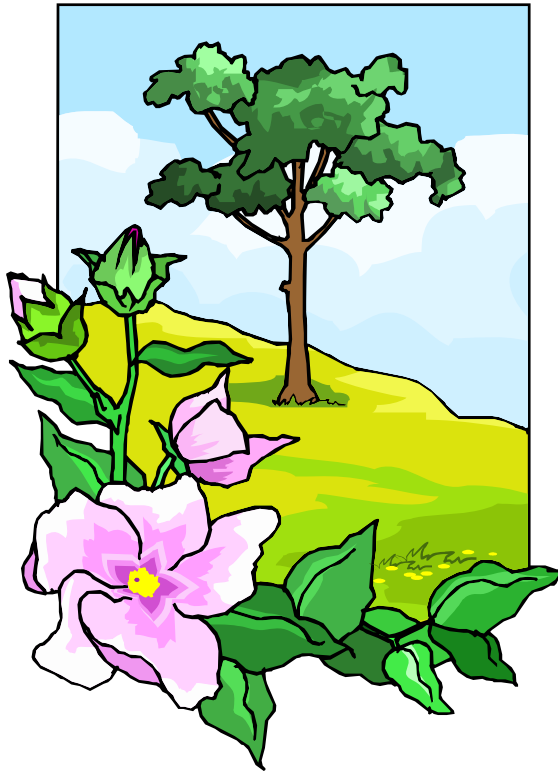
Plant Sale Committee Chair Marilyn Raymond wants to remind our members...
The first day of Fall is September 23, 2011

Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary

For her 2011-2013 term, Nancy Stark, Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. President has chosen to continue to support the Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary Project. Previous President, Lynn Dinvald began this endeavor in 2009. Located near White Cloud in the Huron Manistee National Forest, the website www.fs.usda.gov describes the partnership forged with Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.

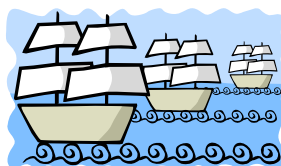
Loda Lake is an area that lake, a bog-like wetland marshy areas, oak forest, successional old farm site. noted, "Loda_Lake is ideally sanctuary and although highways, can still be a plants. This is due to the associations it affords in Loda Lake is the only U.S. National Forest both financially and Garden Clubs of Michigan more information, email:

MGC Spiritware sold at Meetings and on the MGC Wildflower Sanctuary. Our club took a bus trip to Loda rainy day and they noted shelter. With the help of can happen. She asks all clubs to consider adding a donation to Loda Lake as a line item in the budget to build the fund. Approximately half of the \$20,000 needed to build the pavilion has already been raised.



includes a small spring-fed area, a creek and riparian pine plantations, and an early Botanist Clayton Bazuin suited as a wildflower near one of Michigan's busy natural reservoir of wild large number of ecological which they may survive." Wildflower Sanctuary in the System, a project supported botanically by the Federated for over seventy years. For k2motawi@starband.net

State Conventions, District website benefit Loda Lake State President;s garden Lake in May on a cloudy and the need for the pavilion for Michigan Garden Clubs, this



October 10 is Columbus Day—No mail today!

A recent press release by the National Garden Club reaffirms the value of the work done by our own Garden Therapy Committee at Ludington Woods ----

“The Garden Club of North Carolina Inc. grows remarkable garden therapy project at Raleigh’s Gov. Morehead School for the Blind”

ST. LOUIS Enjoying the beauty of a leisurely stroll in a garden on a spring day is something most people take for granted. But, as members of National Garden Clubs across the nation can attest, for many individuals the sensory delights offered by a garden can add up to much more than a pleasant way to pass the time. In fact, the concept of "garden therapy" as a tool to improve the lives of people of all ages and abilities is gaining ever-wider acceptance. Nowhere is this more apparent than at a well-respected school for visually impaired children in Raleigh, N.C., according to Renee Blaschke, of Smithville, Texas, immediate past-president of the 200,000-member National Garden Clubs Inc.

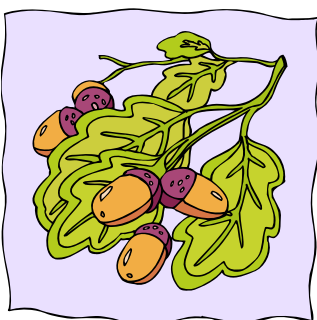


Thanks to a cooperative effort launched in 1960 between the Gov. Morehead School for the Blind and the Garden Club of North Carolina Inc., more than 1,000 visually impaired children from across the state have enjoyed the unique experience of an on-site garden sanctuary designed specifically for them. Called the Martha Franck Fragrance Garden, it offers students from kindergarten to grade 12 a nurturing outdoor-learning classroom environment. In addition, the garden is used in the North Carolina Division of Services for the Blind’s rehabilitation services for blind and visually impaired adults.

Sara Brooks, NGC Garden Therapy national chairwoman and resident of Whiteville, N.C., says that in keeping with National Garden Clubs’ ongoing garden therapy program, the garden began as a regional project and a committee was appointed by the 10,000-member Garden Club of North Carolina Inc. to plan and implement the space. To date, the committee has raised more than \$200,000 and continues in its fund-raising efforts to support additional improvements. Perhaps more importantly, local garden club members have supplied innumerable hours of volunteer labor and leadership efforts toward designing, installing, maintaining and "growing" the garden. Plans to develop a tactile garden that will feature statuary and information depicting the history of North Carolina currently are in the works.



Halloween is October 31



From your Conservation/Wildlife Committee

The Michigan State University Extension office in Scottville has confirmed the presence of Oak Wilt Disease in Mason County. Oak wilt is a fungal disease that attacks the water conducting system of oak trees. To block the spread of the fungus, a tree produces gums and resins which plug these vessels and the tree wilts and dies.

Oak wilt is spread from diseased tree to healthy tree by root grafts. Sap-feeding picnic beetles may also carry the fungal spores from infected trees to

healthy ones, however, root graft transmission is the most common way for trees to spread the disease.

If there is no oak wilt in your immediate vicinity, then the insect poses the greatest danger for introducing the fungus into your area. Oak trees are only susceptible to insect infection during the spring, when rapid new growth is occurring.

Because picnic beetles cannot chew through the bark off trees, fresh wounds are necessary to successfully introduce the fungus into a tree's water conducting system. Thus, any wound made by pruning or mechanical injury to an oak tree during the spring creates an entry point for infection. As a result, prevention is easy to accomplish - simply do not injure or prune oak trees during May or June.

November 6 Daylight Savings Time ends...so "Fall Back"



Things to do in your garden for Fall

1. Amend soil in the garden by adding in a good layer of triple mix or manure. The frost and thaws of winter will help work it in.
2. Plant spring flowering bulbs such as tulips, daffodils, hyacinths and crocus.
3. Remove fallen leaves from the lawn.
4. Mulch Roses for added winter protection.
5. Clean garden tools and equipment so it's ready to go next Spring
6. Prune long stems and branches that may break due to heavy wet snow or freezing rain.
7. Clean up, remove debris and frozen soft stem annuals and perennials. Leave some growth on ornamental grasses and coneflowers behind as they will help to collect snow around the garden for insulation.
8. Purchase and Plant trees and shrubs up until the frost sets in--most are on sale.
9. Clean out and fill bird feeders for added winter interest in the garden. Birds bring movement and color outdoors in the dead of winter.
10. Sad to say but you can also hang your Christmas lights.....ahhhh!!



**Veterans Day is November 11
Be sure to fly your flag!**



Upcoming Local Events

- September 10 MCGC Fall Plant Sale, Leveaux Park, Ludington from 9:00 to until sold out.
- September 15-17 Scottville Harvest Festival
- September 17 Petunia Parade pulling day starting at 8:00—Cartie Mansion block
- September 17 The Botanic Garden Open House on the grounds of the old State Hospital in Traverse City. Contact NorthwestMichiganGarden.org for more information
- September 22 MCGC meeting "Household Hazardous Waste"
- October 1 Ludington OctoberFest with events starting at 10:00 and running throughout the day
- October 7 Historic White Pine Village Autumn Day from 10:00 to 5:00
- October 8 Mason County Barns & Byways Tour
- October 15 Historic White Pine Village closes for the year
- October 27 MCGC meeting "The Plants of Ludington State Park"
- November 17 MCGC meeting "Round Table Creations"
- December 1 MCGC "Christmas Tea" at the Ludington Area Center for the Arts. Deadline for reservations is November 21
- December 3 Cadillac Garden Club Holiday Home Tour 10:00 to 3:00. Call 231-510-9047 after November 1 for more information

Upcoming Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. Events

- September 8-9 Landscape Design School Course I hosted by the Mason County Garden Club
- October 2-4 MGC, Inc. hosts the Central Region Annual Meeting "Autumn Tapestry", Crowne Plaza, Grand Rapids. The Central Region convention is held in Michigan only once in seven years. The Central Region Director is Florence Smith, past MGC, Inc. President. Contact Sharon Morman for more information. ArtPrize is taking place the same dates—September 21-October 9. For more information on ArtPrize in Grand Rapids, go to www.artprize.org.
- October 10-11 Environmental School Course IV, Sturgis. Contact Pat Hjertos 269-496-4815
- June 4-5, 2012 MGC, Inc., State Convention begins with a flower show on the morning of June 4, followed by Lunch, afternoon and evening events. The convention ends on June 5 in mid-afternoon allowing for ample travel time to return home.
- October 3, 2012 District V Fall Meeting, Crystal Mountain Resort.

Ongoing

- Ludington Farmers Market, Fridays, 3:00-8:00pm, N. James St. Plaza
- Scottville Farmers Market, Saturdays, 9:00am-1:00pm, West Shore Bank parking lot
- Pentwater Farmers Market, Mondays and Thursdays, 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.

*****WELCOME *****

**MARY BOWNE, DIANE DAVIS, DIANA ROHRER,
SHARON EICKLEBERRY, BECKY ERICKSON,
KATHARINE McPIKE**



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!!!

Mary Bowne

Diane Davis

Diane Rohrer

Sharon Eickleberry

Becky Erickson

Katharine McPike



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

Yearbook changes

Delete: Marg Dahlberg, Esther Genter, Shirley Gregory, Linda Hummel, Nancy Mortarano, Sally Trevarthen, Cheryl Whitehead, Helen Woirol

Change: Maureen Myers email to:
Beth Clemensen email to:
Deb Gundersen email to:

Fresh Herb Vinaigrette

1/3 cup olive oil
1 teaspoon Dijon mustard

1/3 cup red wine vinegar
1 clove garlic minced
1-2 teaspoons sugar
1/8 teaspoon black pepper
1 tablespoon snipped fresh oregano (basil or thyme)



In a screw-top jar combine oil, vinegar, sugar, herb, mustard, garlic and pepper. Cover and shake well. Serve immediately or cover and store in refrigerator up to 3 days. (Hint- because olive oil will thicken and become cloudy when chilled, a salad dressing made with olive oil may do the same. If your oil-based dressing is chilled, before serving let it stand at room temperature for 30 minutes or until it becomes easy to pour or drizzle)

From our club president, Sharon Morman--

THE LIFE OF ONE LITTLE SEED

A little seed lay in the ground

And soon began to sprout.

Now which if all the flowers around,

It thought, shall I come out.

The little seed said to itself, "I don't want to be a petunia.

Their colors are just too loud, some are even bright red.

I don't want to be a violet. It's too dark and grows too low on the ground so it can hardly be seen. I'd rather be tall.

I don't want to be a snap dragon. That's a terrible name for a flower.

I don't want to be a periwinkle because, even though they are very hardy and even reseed themselves, they don't smell very good."

The little seed was like some people we know. It was critical of Everything around it. It found fault with all its neighbors. It didn't like the color of some, or the size of some and how they grow.

It didn't even like the name of some or the fragrance of others.

A person who spends time and energy being critical of others

Neglects to become his own best self.

And so it criticized each flower,

That arrogant little seed

Until it woke one summer day

And found itself



--a weed!

Written and submitted by
Imogene Tisdale
Scenic Hills Garden Club
Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, inc.

**November 24 is Thanksgiving—
A day to give thanks for all our blessings.**



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



See you at the Plant
Suzanne and Gwen



Sale

MICHIGAN GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

LODA LAKE FUND

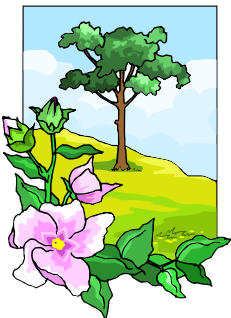
Michigan Garden Clubs have partnered with the U.S. Forest Service to manage the Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary for over 70 years. Donations from Garden Clubs and individual members have helped to pay for many park improvements over the years. MGC is currently working to raise funds to build a permanent pavilion for the existing picnic area. The pavilion is especially needed for groups such as students, scouts and visiting Garden Clubs. Donations to the Loda Lake Fund may be presented as honorariums or memorials. Clubs are asked to consider the Loda Fund as a budget item.

DONATION FORM

Make checks payable to Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. and note Loda Lake Fund on the memo line.

Name of Individual

and/or Garden Club _____



Address _____ Phone # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

If this donation is an honorarium or memorial, please list pertinent information needed for notification of the individual or family members.

HONORARIUM

MEMORIAL

Honoring _____

In Memory of _____

Person to notify

Person to notify

of the Honorarium _____

of the Memorial _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send to Karen Motawi, Loda Lake/Wildflowers Chairman, 20831 21 Mile Rd., Big Rapids, MI 49307-8701