

over the picket fence



Summer, 2023
June, July, August
The Mason County Garden Club
Quarterly Newsletter
(Since 1926-our 97th year)

www.masoncountygardenclub.org

Member: Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc
Central Region and National Garden Clubs, Inc
Club No. 140 – District 5





Thoughts From Our President

“There can be no purpose more inspiring than to begin the age of restoration, reweaving the wondrous diversity of life that still surrounds us.”

E. O. Wilson

That’s a quote taken from Douglas Tallamy’s book “Natures Best Hope”. If you haven’t read it, you really should, especially because we are gardeners, conservationists, and environmentalists.

As summer approaches and weather has turned warmer, most of us are restoring our gardens and hopefully adding plants that will nurture the life around us. We have all heard or read about the alarming rates of decline in birds, honeybees, native bees and of course the Monarch butterfly. Actually all insects are on a precipitous decline. But because the Monarch population has declined by 90% in the last 2 decades and people love seeing the Monarch, they are beginning to build way stations to help the Monarch. By now you all know that the milkweed species is the only food for Monarch caterpillars, but it doesn’t support but 1 or 2 other butterfly species. Same goes for butterfly bush. It is host to only one butterfly species and that species lives in California! It’s true that butterflies do get nectar from the bush but why not have bushes that are native and supply not only the nectar but food for the caterpillars. Also, the butterfly bush is becoming invasive. It produces about 2,000 seeds a year per bush.

All creatures need food, shelter and water to survive and this is where our yards play an important role. We can make small sanctuaries in our yards by reducing our lawns and planting native plants. Insects can’t eat turf grass. They need the native plants that they have evolved with over eons. That’s why we need a variety of native plants. They are acclimatized to our local growing conditions and they are low maintenance, need less water and very little, if any, fertilizer. But not all native plants are equal. Some plants support many times more insects than others. These are called keystone plants. Goldenrod is one and is host to 135 butterfly and moth species in our area while milkweed supports only 2 or 3.

You should go online to see which plants we should be adding to our gardens. The address is: <http://www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder> Without keystone plants, the food web would fall apart. Quoting from the book “Nature’s Best Hope”, “A landscape without keystone plants will support **70-75% fewer caterpillar species than a** landscape with keystone plants, even though the keystone-less landscape may contain 95% of nativeplants in the area”

I know you’ve all heard many times to plant for pollinators. We just have to do a little research to make sure that we are really making a difference with which natives we plant.

Remember, if we are not part of the solution, we are part of the problem.



June

- 4 Liz Krupa
- 7 Diane Nemitz
- 23 Barb Scherer

July

- 5 Christine Schulte
- 7 Pat Bettom
- 9 Marilyn Austin
- 12 Melinda Dougherty
- 17 Carolyn Ptaszenski

August

- 14 Viann Prinski



Welcome to New Members:

Lori Longmore: 1933 N. Jebavy Drive, Ludington, MI
231-499-5734 – loriludington@frankencutters.com

Deborah Tennant: 703 N. James St. Ludington, Mi
734-330-3492 – Deborah.mtenant@gmail.com

Richard (Rick) St. John: 708 W. Haight St., Ludington, Mi
231-425-4125 – pennyshea@charter.net





Michigan Garden Clubs' Upcoming Events:

June

June 6-7: Michigan Garden Clubs 2023 State Convention, Grand Rapids, MI

92nd ANNUAL STATE MEETING & CONFERENCE

Registration begins at 8:30AM on Tuesday June 6th

Enjoy vendor shopping, silent auction, educational exhibits and connecting with other garden club members from 9-10AM.

Meeting starts at 10AM!



Mason County Garden Club Events:

June

June 3: 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m....Spring Plant Exchange and White Elephant Sale...Leveaux Park...Ludington

June 22: 1:00 p.m. Meeting and Program...“Exhibits For A Flower Show” – Sharon Morman, President, Mason County Garden Club and Accredited Flower Show Judge. United Methodist Church, 5810 Bryant Rd., Ludington

July

July 20, 21, & 22: “A Day In The Garden” – an NGC, Inc., Standard Flower Show - Ludington Senior Center, 308 S. Rowe Street, Ludington.

July 27 : 11:00 a.m. – “ Chai Tea near Lake Michigan” – Susan Kaplan’s home at 719 Diana St., Ludington, Mason County Garden Club member.

August

August 24: 1:00 p.m. Meeting and Program – “Backyard Wildlife Habitat” presented by Josh Shield, B.S., M.S., PhD. Certified Forester, Wildlife Biologist, Arborist, Manistee and Mason-Lake Conservation Districts.



Dates and Times of 2023 Local Farmers Markets:

Ludington:

Artisan and Farmers Market: Fridays from 3-7 pm, May to September- The Market is located in the heart of Downtown Ludington, under the pavilion at Legacy Plaza. The space is easily accessible from all directions with ample parking for vendors and patrons

Scottville:

Farmer’s Market, Saturdays: June to October from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. The Market is located at 202 North Main Street in Scottville.

Pentwater:

Pentwater has two farmers’ markets during the summer months, one on Mondays and one on Thursdays. Both are from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the Pentwater Village. June until Labor Day.

Manistee:

The market hours this season will be from 9am until 12pm every Saturday starting May 27th through October 7th at the Wagoner Community Center, 260 Saint Mary’s Parkway in Manistee.

Important Local Events:

June:

- 3 MCGC Spring Plant Exchange and White Elephant Sale: Leveaux Park 11:00 am – 1:00 p.m.
- 3 Petunia Parade Weeding Day (cancelled due to hot weather).
- 10 AFFEW Native Plant Sale
- 17 Petunia Parade Weeding Day
- 21 AFFEW Beach Sweep

July

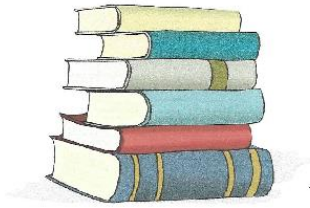
- 1 Petunia Parade Weeding Day
- 15 Petunia Parade Weeding Day
- 19 AFFEW Beach Sweep
- 29 Petunia Parade Weeding Day

August

- 12 Petunia Parade Weeding Day
- 16 AFFEW Beach Sweep
- 19 Manistee, Mason & Oceana County Household Hazardous Waste & Pharmaceutical Collection: 9 am – 1 pm
Mason Co. Road Commission Building
- 26 Petunia Parade Weeding

**American Association of University Women
Ludington Area Branch**

Used Book Sale



All books are donated.
Proceeds used for local scholarships.
Friday June 16th 9am-5pm
and Saturday June 17th 9am-noon
United Methodist Church 5810 Bryant Road
Ludington

To donate books please contact:

Patty Otto 231-845-7665 or
Sonja Siewert text 231-794-8106
siewertss@hotmail.com



We have a storage unit until mid-June and can
accept donations now.

Primary fundraiser for Ludington AAUW since 1964



Tews Tips and Tricks:

June is Perennial Gardening Month by Debi Harrington- National Garden Clubs

For many gardeners perennial plants are the "bones" of their gardens. Unlike biennials or annuals, perennials come back to one's garden year after year- sometimes for only three to four years, but often for ten, twenty or more.

Often, many participants are hesitant to try their hand at incorporating perennials into their gardens, landscapes, flower beds and especially in their container garden creations. Their main reason for this hesitancy is cost. And many perceive perennials as providing limited color choices.

Up front, perennials may seem pricey, but not when one considers how long they live and the fact that many grow and multiply quickly. As an avid gardener, one of my favorite things is being able to look around my garden and see peonies and iris that were once grown by my husband's great-grandmother and mother. I also have perennial clumps that were once small plant starts, given to me as a 20-year-old newlywed, by gardening friends and relatives who have now passed on.

Perennials come in an amazing variety of sizes, colors, forms, and plant types. After all, trees and shrubs are some of our longer lived perennials. Most offer several seasons of colors to our gardens. What amazing beauty and sculpture is added to one's garden when trees and shrubs are incorporated. Evergreen types add year-round beauty. Both evergreen and deciduous foliage only perennials can lend much needed contrast in color, form, size and texture when incorporated into one's garden plan.

Unlike most annual plants, which provide a seemingly non-stop, one season of color, many perennials are extremely cold hardy and return each spring. Most perennials do bloom for one season- in either spring, summer or fall. But there are exceptions. Many hybrid perennials have been created to give a period of re-bloom, such as irises, daylilies, lilac, clematis, hydrangeas and most modern roses. Also, many perennial flowers will reward gardeners with almost continual bloom during their season if they are deadheaded regularly.

A carefully planned perennial garden will include perennial plants that offer a succession of bloom. Bloom might begin in early spring with hellebores, snowdrops, narcissus, tulips, and numerous other spring blooming bulbs that were planted the previous fall. Bloom will then progress to spring blooming trees (fruit and ornamental), shrubs, roses, iris, peonies, etc. Daylily blooms range from extra early (May) to very late (August to September) , so gardens plethora of varieties and colors of more roses, phloxes, Shasta daisies, heucheras, hostas, gaillardias, foxgloves, yarrows echinacea and veronicas, just to name a few. In late summer and early fall, a perennial garden can continue to provide the gardener extended bloom with chrysanthemums, autumn crocuses, goldenrods, Maxillian sunflowers and an amazing assortment of grasses. Decorative grass clumps can provide much needed winter interest and should not be cut back until early spring, as they also provide winter sanctuary for many pollinators and beneficial insects.

A growing trend in container gardening is using some, or all, perennial plants when creating colorful containers for a patio or placed as a focal point of color in garden beds. Many perennials work beautifully in pots and in hanging baskets.

Gardeners can also learn to take advantage of "layering" perennials in their garden beds. A few years ago, during an NGC Convention, I had the privilege of touring Brandywine Cottage. Brandywine Cottage is David Culp's (of Longwood Gardens) historic home and two-acre Pennsylvania garden. There he mastered the design technique of laying by inter-planting many different species in the same garden area. In layering, as one plant passes its peak, another takes over. This method results in a nonstop color show that begins with heirloom daffodils, hellebores and tulips in spring and ends with jewel tone show of Asian wildflowers at the beginning of winter.

For those of you who have not routinely used perennials in your landscape, I encourage you to give perennials a front and center role in your gardens. It's time to "Plant America- Play Outdoors!"

Hope you enjoyed this article and will give one or more a try- **Juls**



Timetable of Gardening Activities

SUMMER

- Prune from June through July.
- Water during the growing season, as needed; usually 1" a week is sufficient.
- Weed throughout the growing season.
- Remove dead flowers from annuals throughout the growing season to promote continuous bloom.
- Spot-fertilize as needed up until the end of August; feed roses regularly.
- Do not dig up or transplant trees or shrubs now.

EARLY SUMMER (late June)

- Fertilize azalea and rhododendrons with oak-leaf compost or cottonseed meal after blooming.
- Apply a mulch of grass clippings around roses to conserve moisture and control weeds.
- Divide bearded irises and replant.
- Apply 2 tablespoons of 5-10-10 granular fertilizer around each rose plant; mix well, evenly with the soil.

MIDSUMMER (July and August)

- Order fall crocus or colchicum for planting at the end of August.
- Stop fertilizing roses at end of August.

LATE SUMMER (early September)

- Replenish organic mulches around trees and shrubs.
- Give flowering annuals one last dose of fertilizer for extended bloom.
- Beginning of September, feed lawn and aerate if too compact.
- Mid-September, dig up summer-flowering bulbs and dry, before storing.
- Plant late-blooming annuals.

Look What We Did!

The Scholarship Committee received three applicants for the MCGC Scholarship Award for 2023. Two were close contenders and both would have been good candidates for the scholarship award. The Scholarship Committee decided unanimously to select: **Madison Kaiser, Mason County Central**. She will be the first in her family to further her education at the secondary level. We are proud to offer her the scholarship to use toward expenses not covered under The Mason County Promise program her first two years. She will then transfer to pursue a degree in Environmental Science. We wish her the very best! **Submitted by Christine Schulte**

Planting Pots for Downtown: A very successful morning getting the pots ready for Downtown Ludington. Roxy, Julie, Linda, Sue, Elsa, Gloria, Viann & Chris accomplished the task in record time. It was beautiful weather and the company was THE BEST!



Petunia Planting Time: The Mason County Garden Club joined forces with the Petunia Parade Committee to beautify Ludington Ave from the hospital down to the lake shore. Our gals braved the rain and chill to get our block planted in record time!



Leveaux Park Cleanup and Planting: Members got down and dirty cleaning up Leveaux Park. They were out in force to accomplish many spring tasks, including the cleaning and planting at Leveaux Park (corner of Staffon and Ludington Ave.) This park is getting a much needed facelift with many old and dying bushes removed last year. This year will see new tree planting (one in memoriam for Suzanne and Ron Townsend) and bed revitalization.



And when life
became too frenzied
**She came to her garden and
whispered to the plants until**
Her smile returned
and her mind was calm





Here are some photos of “happenings” after the last Newsletter was published
March Meeting: Social Potluck and Presentation of Life Member Achievement Award
and Honorary Member Awards



Dawn Rollenhagen receives a Life Member Achievement Award



Deb Gundersen receives a Honorary Membership Award



Sandy Luxford receives a Honorary Membership Award



Diane Davis receives a Honorary Membership Award

In April, the Garden Therapy Committee and Residents at Ludington Woods Decorated Vases and Did Flower Arranging:



Kim Beardslee, Susann Griffin, Lori Longmore, Terry Baldwin
Diane Davis, Liz Krupa, Betty Orton-Cochran, Pat Gimbel



May Meeting, Program and May Baskets:



Kimberly Ambrose
Co-Owner of Sister Bees



Sister Bees Products



Refreshment Table

Beautiful May Baskets



Julie Tews holds up the first May Basket to be won.



Sue Ann Hanson draws the winning ticket.



HELP STOP THIS SECOND "SILENT SPRING!"

Acetamiprid...Clothianidin...Dinotefuran... Imidacloprid...Thiamethoxam

These chemicals are killing bees. If you see any of these ingredients listed on products in your home or your local garden center, do not use them.

NEONICS HIDE IN THESE POPULAR BRANDS:



- Aloft • Arena • Alleclus • Atera • Bithor • Caravan
- Coretect • Derby • Dino • Dominion • Equil Adonis
- Flagship • Flower, Rose, & Shrub Care
- Gaucho • Grub No More • Grubout
- Hawk • Imaxxpro • Ima-Jet • Imi Insecticide
- Imicide • Imid-Bifen • Imida-Teb Garden SC
- Imidapro • Imigold • Lada • Malice • Mallet
- Mantra • Marathon • Meridian • Merit
- Nuprid • Optigard Flex • Pasada • Pointer Insecticide • Premise • Pronto • Prothor • Safari
- Sagacity • Starkle: Bounty • Tandem • Tamprid
- Triple Crown Insecticide • Tristar • Tullihor • Xytect



Bees are "canaries in the coal mine," warning us of an imminent and frightening threat to our food.

You can help save the bees — and ourselves — by supporting Friends of the Earth and our Bee Action Campaign. Sign your Petition and make a contribution TODAY!

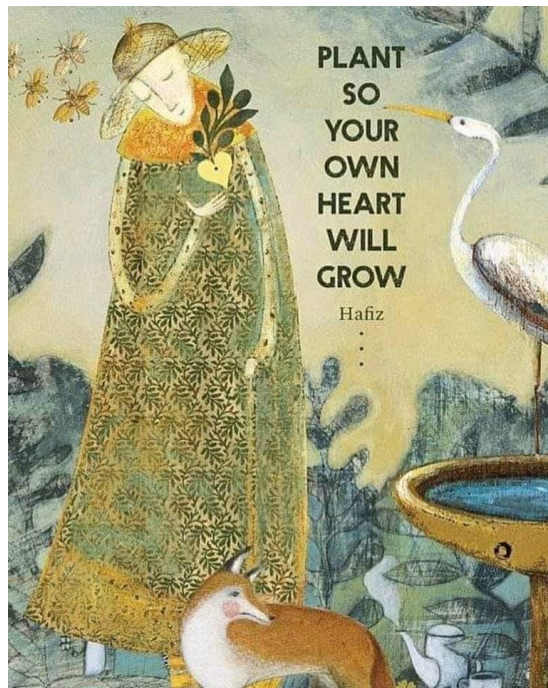
Friends of the Earth



Page: Garden White - Eco-Mark

Plant Exchange and White Elephant Sale was held in Leveaux Park on June 3rd:





Recipes submitted by Garden Club Members:

Stir-Fry Asparagus (Submitted by Deb Gundersen)

8 oz. fresh asparagus, ends snapped, then bias-cut into 1 1/2" pieces
4-6 green onions, bias- cut into 1" lengths
8 oz. sliced mushrooms or less if that seems like too much for you
2 small tomatoes, cut into thin wedges or several cherry tomatoes halved

4 tablespoons water
2 tablespoons La Choy low sodium soy sauce
2 teaspoons cornstarch

Stir water, soy sauce, and cornstarch together in a small bowl. Set aside.

Heat a wok or large skillet to medium-high for a few minutes. Add a tablespoon of oil. Stir-fry asparagus, onions, and mushrooms in hot oil about 4 minutes or until asparagus is bright green and mushrooms are cooked.

Push vegetables to the sides of the pan and pour in cornstarch mixture. Let thicken slightly. Stir into vegetables. Let mixture continue to thicken as you add tomatoes. Heat through and serve with cooked rice.



I hope you have enjoyed this edition of “over the picket fence.” Please help me out with future editions by submitting ideas, articles, recipes and suggestions. Stay safe and healthy and, hopefully, I will see you at the meeting this month. Yours in Gardening, Diane D

For More Information, Check Out:

MGC: www.masoncountygardenclub.org

NGC: www.gardenclub.org

MGC: www.migardenclubs.org

Also check us out on our Facebook Page at Mason County Garden Club

Club Collect

Keep us, O God, ever mindful of nature’s generous bounty. May we always bear in mind it is ours in trust to protect, to nurture and to enjoy.

Mrs. C.C. Caswell

