

over the picket fence



Fall, 2024

September, October, November

The Mason County Garden Club
Quarterly Newsletter
(Since 1926-our 98th year)

www.masoncountygardenclub.org

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





Thoughts From Our President:

The days are getting shorter and color is beginning to creep into the trees and shrubs. It's subtle at first but then becomes an explosion of color that takes away our breath. I love autumn! (Actually, all three of my children were born in autumn.) We are already preparing our gardens for winter. We've dug up plants for the fall plant sale and purchased more plants, hopefully natives, to nourish the wildlife in our gardens.

As usual, it's been a busy year for our garden club. Members have attended the Environmental School in Manistee, the annual MGC conference in Bay City and the District 5 fall meeting in Mackinaw City. We've held a successful plant exchange in June with the community joining in with us. We've planted and cared for gardens in White Pine Village, Leveaux Park, Rotary Park, the Memorial sites, as well as planted and weeded petunias and the planters downtown. We've planted a vegetable garden plot to furnish food for those who are struggling financially. We've recognized attractive gardens in our neighborhoods and alerted the public to share in this beauty while unconsciously encouraging them to do the same. We had a successful return to holding a garden walk since Covid, and one that the public has missed and has been inquiring about. Members have worked with youth and the elderly and have met monthly to bring cheer to nursing home residents. Wow! I get tired just by writing about it! And that's all in addition to our monthly, informative, fun meetings. A few field trips thrown in there too.

Our recent fall plant sale was a huge success, despite the very cool weather. We made almost \$1500! Good job everyone! When I arrived with my plants I was so surprised at all the donations that we had just from our own members. Then committee members brought in the donations from the various businesses. Wow, did we have the plants! I was told that associate member Bobbi Clingan, who owns The Giving Tree, was very generous with donations. Thank you, Bobbie. The Rotary Park was a very good choice. There was lots of room to spread out and nearby parking.

However, our work is not yet finished for the year. We have more interesting meetings to come and a couple of opportunities to provide for those less fortunate than us. In November we'll bring non-perishable items to give to the local food pantry and exchange seeds collected from our gardens. In December, we'll continue to have a raffle with all the wonderful items that our members donate. The money will be given to a local charity. All you members are so amazing! I'm proud to know you and belong to this magnanimous club.

Also in November, we'll be voting for the officers on next year's Executive Board. Two of the Directors, Marilyn Austin and Roxanne Antczak, are termed out after having served for three years. If you've never served on the Executive Board, please consider volunteering for this position. It is not difficult. You can read about the duties of the Executive Board on page 58 of the yearbook. Don't forget to apply for awards. You're already doing the work. Applications are due October 1st. Let's get some more awards!

Sharon



September

9 Carol Copeland
17 Bonnie Henretty
18 Jeanne Knuth
19 Joan Nelson
28 Karen Klukowski

October

3 Rhonda Hildebrandt
5 Randee Smith
12 Carmen Muscat
19 Sue Joslin
20 Sue Ann Hanson
22 Dawn Rollenhagen
30 Linda Starr
30 Deb Tennant

November

3 Vicki Houk
4 Patricia Otto
12 Susan Jabrocki
13 Marilyn Raymond
14 Gig Rose
18 Sandra Luxford
18 Sandra Zwyzhuizn
20 Diane Davis
20 Dianne Portwine
22 Julie Haselhuhn
22 Linda Wolven
28 Roxanne Anciazak



Mason County Garden Club Events:

September:

Thursday, September 26 – 1:00 p.m.- Meeting and Program – United Methodist Church –“OH, DEER” (and other gardening questions) – Answered by a Panel of Club Master Gardeners.

October:

Thursday, October 24- 1:00 p.m. – Meeting and Program – United Methodist Church – “GIRL POWER”
An Historic Trek Along The North Country Scenic Trail – by Joan H. Young, Hiker, Author, Journalist.
(2025 Dues – Life/Honorary: \$16: Member: \$30.00: Associate Member: \$40.00. Submit to Treasurer
Deadline is December 12, 2024)

November:

Thursday, November 21 – 1:00 p.m. – Meeting and Workshop – United Methodist Church –“CREATE A GINGERBREAD HOUSE AND BRING THE HANSEL AND GRETEL STORY TO LIFE” – Election of officers for 2025 and Food Pantry Donations. (Wear your favorite flannel shirt to the meeting). (Dues)

December:

Thursday, December 12 – 1:00 p.m. – Meeting and Installation of Officers – United Methodist Church – “HOLIDAY LUNCHEON” – Good Friends, Good Food, Great Season – Potluck – Christmas Bag Raffle – (Dues).



Fun with Fungi at Victory Township Park!



Presented by Manistee and Mason-Lake Conservation Districts, Forestry Assistance Program (FAP), Linda Scribner, AFFEW Friends for the Environment, and Victory Township Park

During this event you will learn about different types of fungi (including mushrooms) growing in the forests of Michigan. Specific topics will include identification of wild fungi (including edible and non-edible species) and the basic biology of mushrooms and other fungi. We will also discuss the ecological importance of such fungi in the forest. This event will take place at Victory Township Park in Ludington and will be led by Josh Shields, FAP forester and wildlife biologist with the Manistee and Mason-Lake Conservation Districts, and Linda Scribner, a naturalist who received her Wild Mushroom Certification through Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD). PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS WILL NOT BE A GUIDED HIKE – Rather, you will wander the park on your own or in groups and Josh Shields will also wander and help you identify fungi, while Linda Scribner will be stationed at a central location where you can bring her specimens. There will also be tables with information about fungi, conservation districts, and AFFEW.

Date and Location

***Saturday, September 28th, 2024, from 9:00am to ~12:00pm.**

At ~8:45am, meet at the parking area for Victory Township Park.

Directions –

- From US-10, go north on Jebavy Drive. Follow Jebavy north past Decker and Dewey Roads, then turn right on Angling Road. Follow Angling then turn left on Fountain Road, then right onto Victory Park Road. Follow this straight into Victory Township Park.
- From US-31, go west on Fountain Road, then right onto Victory Park Road. Follow this straight into Victory Township Park.

There is **NO COST** to attend this event! Please bring your own water and snacks. Please register by September 23rd, 2024, using the registration link at <https://forms.office.com/r/sUVSY6AbFh>, by calling Mason-Lake Conservation District at 231-757-3707 ext. 5 or scan the QR code!





Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.

Awards

Central Region Awards - Due September 10th (deadline passed).

Michigan Consultants Awards
(Garden Walk and Environment) - Due October 1st

MGC General Awards - Due October 1st

MGC Yearbook Awards -Yearbook and Applications
Due to District Director October 15th

MGC President's Club Best Practices Award -Submit anytime!

NGC Schools

Sponsored by MGC

Note: Registration is through the MGC Website Home page 12-14 weeks prior to the school date.

Landscape Design School Course 2

September 25 & 26, 2024

Eligibility for MI Master Gardener

Education Credits Pending

Flower Show School Course 3

October 10-12, 2024

Zion Lutheran Church, Ann Arbor



Julie's Tips and Tricks:

Goldenrod In The Garden

Goldenrod reliably adds cheerful late season color to the garden. Although it lacks diversity of color, goldenrod compensates with intensity of color. Its brilliant beaming gold contrasts especially well with purple and blue asters, which bloom at the same time. Other late summer companions include Japanese anemone, turtlehead, rudbeckia, lobelia, blazing star (liatris), sedums and ornamental grasses. In native plantings, goldenrod provides a source of late-season nectar, pollen and seeds as a follow-up to natives like milkweed, Joe-pye weed, bee balm, cup plant and culver's root.

Although many insects utilize the nectar and pollen, goldenrod has few insect pests. Occasionally, the same red aphids that appear on false sunflower will appear on goldenrod. For the most part they are harmless, but if present in annoying amounts, simply spray off with a stream of water or use insecticidal soap.

Powdery mildew is the most common disease, and in some years can become disfiguring. Fortunately, it appears in late summer while the plants are in bloom, attention will be reverted toward the brilliant flowers rather than the mediocre-looking foliage. As with other plants prone to foliage diseases, make sure the plants receive adequate sunlight and moisture, and above all, sufficient airflow around the plants. Goldenrod should be divided every three years to keep the plants from becoming too dense.

A common complaint with taller-growing goldenrods is browning and dropping off the lower leaves on the stems. A simple remedy, often employed with tall asters, is to plant a mid-height perennial in front of the goldenrod, blocking the bare "legs" from view at bloom time.

Goldenrods are often hard to find in garden centers. They are reluctant to offer these plants for three reasons; 1) customers still have lingering concerns about allergy issues and aggressive growth habits; 2) customers are less likely to shop in late summer, so nurseries don't carry many late-blooming perennials; and 3) goldenrod does not make an attractive, blooming, potted specimen for the nursery shelf. Simply put, garden centers find goldenrod difficult to sell. It is often easier to find goldenrod species and hybrids through online vendors. Among the best sources are nurseries specializing in native plants. Watch goldenrod grow through the summer and erupt into glorious bloom as summer turns to fall.

This article was written by Karen Bovio owner of Specialty Growers in Howell Mi.





The Loveliest Trees

What are the loveliest trees?
Are they the ones that attract the bees?
That will all depend on the season,
The loveliest then must stand to reason.

On sunny days in the spring
We often hear birds trying to sing.
One marvels at the fruit trees blossomed in many a hue,
The cherry, apple, pear or peach may be the loveliest to you.

Leaves come out, buds change as summer goes by,
Into colorful fruits that we like to try.
Apples red, green or yellow,
Is this trio the most beautiful fellow?

The glorious colors of the leaves in the fall,
Maples, oak and birches add colors all,
Making the landscape beautiful in the country side,
Attracting people to go out for a scenic ride.

The colored leaves have all fluttered to the ground,
Bare limbs on many are all around,
Pines, cedars, spruces are then the best to be seen.
They are clothed in many shades of green.
How beautiful they look when snow does fall and covers the green branches
of them all. **So, in each season of the year, the loveliest trees vary around here.**
(Submitted by Jackie Christensen)



Recipes Submitted by Garden Club Members

Fresh Tomato and Corn Medley (Submitted by Deb Gundersen)

1 cup cherry tomatoes halved or quartered
1 cup fresh corn, prepared your favorite way
Several basil leaves torn or cut into small pieces
1/4 teaspoon coarse salt
Olive oil

Cook corn and allow to cool enough to remove from cob.
Combine tomatoes, basil, and salt in a bowl.
Drizzle with small amount of olive oil.
Add corn.
Stir to combine. Allow to chill several hours so flavors blend.

Easy to make in larger quantities if you want. It can be used with pasta, on a salad, or as a side.

Look What We Did!

Garden Walk: This was the 23rd occasion of providing a Garden Walk to our community, after a lengthy hiatus due to the COVID pandemic and other factors. It was a huge success. Seven homes were opened up to the public and were visited by enthusiastic walkers. Garden Club docents were able to have a tour of the gardens the Thursday before the gardens were open to the public on Sunday.





Docents: Melinda Dougherty, Vicki Houk



Docents: Betty Orton-Cochran, Diane Davis



Julie Tews painting at one of the gardens.



Entertainment by the String-a-longs



Afterglow Party after a successful Garden Walk.

Field Trip to Hackley-Hume Houses: Dawn Rollenhagen, Gail Burkhart, Judy Olson and Marilyn Austin enjoyed a day in Muskegon touring the Hackley-Hume Houses and gardens surrounding them.



Spamalot—A Luau Themed Garden Party: Every summer, the Mason County Garden Club has one meeting outside at a member's home/property. This year, Sue Hanson and her husband Charlie Bristol hosted this outdoor meeting. They have many acres of planted Norway spruce and other acres with natural pines and grasses. A luau theme gave us our menu selections (lots of SPAM related recipes) and the local Ludington ukulele group, the String- ALongs, played many Hawaiian songs.



Fall Plant Sale and White Elephant Sale: was a success, even with the cold weather! (at least the rain held off!) Even with the location change, our community stepped up to add to their gardens from the plants we had for sale. A big thanks to the Plant Sale committee led by Marilyn Austin and Sue Joslin! Their hard work made the event go smoothly.

Our local businesses gave of their plant supply and really made buyers happy with the lovely fall mums! Thanks to these businesses for helping us out: The Giving Tree Garden Center (closed for the season, also loaned us space to store the plants prior to the sale). Home Depot, The Market, Meijer and Walmart. Plus all of our members who went through their gardens and divided their beloved perennials. THANKS everyone!



Patty Otto, Sharon Bluhm, Sue Joslin, Pat Bettin, Melinda Dougherty
Karen Klukowski, Marilyn Austin, Gale Martin (committee members)



District 5 Conference – Mackinaw City: Several members of the Mason County Garden Club attended the MGC District 5 conference in Mackinaw City. This conference is a good way to get the latest news about MGC (it is GROWING!) and District 5 (2 new clubs plus more members in existing clubs). This conference also held a Horticultural Flower Show to which our members contributed. Along side the fun of reconnecting with folks from across our region (Mason County/Lake Michigan all the way to the Alpena/shores of Lake Huron AND the UP), we had to chance to visit the Headlands Dark Sky Park just outside of the City. Judy Olson took "best in category" and Sharon Morman received a 1st for her rose and a 2nd for her evergreen branch.



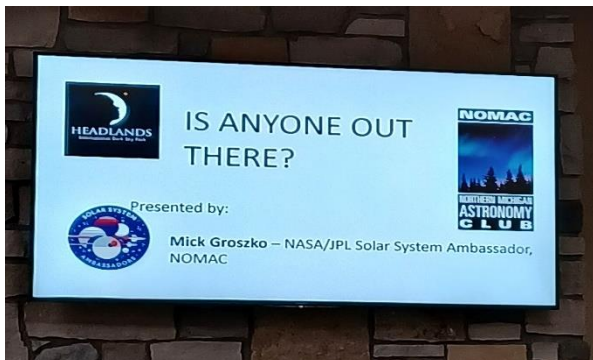
Nancy Ryan, Sue Ann Hanson, Dawn Rollenhagen



Sue Ann Hanson, Gail Burkhart, Judy Olson, Vicki Houk, Dawn Rollenhagen



Sue Ann Hanson, Dawn Rollenhagen, Sharon Morman, Gail Burkhart, Vicki Houk





How To Keep Your Mums Blooming Longer Than Ever This Fall – 3 Simple Secrets To Success!

It's hard to find a more popular plant for fall decorating than flowering mums – but wouldn't it be great if you could keep them blooming just a bit longer throughout the Autumn season?

Mums, or "Chrysanthemums" as officially known, can certainly be pricey to purchase. And, unfortunately, they seem to be getting more and more expensive as each year passes.

**Nothing says "Autumn" like beautiful, blooming chrysanthemums in full color!*

With that in mind, getting the most "bloom" for your buck is in the best interest of every gardener. So here is a look at 3 simple secrets for keeping your mums and their beautiful blooms around as long as possible this fall.

3 Simple Secrets To Keep Mums Blooming Longer

Buy Smart At The Start:

Getting the most from your mum plants starts at the checkout begins right at the time of purchase.

** Selecting mums that are already in full bloom will give you just a few weeks of color at home.*

Unfortunately, mums that are already showing their blooms are not the best choice for bringing home. In fact, if they are in full flowering mode, they most likely have less two weeks or less of prime color left. Now that might be just the ticket if you need them for an instant display. But if you want your mums to be around for a month or longer, you need to pass on those plants. Even partial blooming mums in stores should be avoided if at all possible. Instead, look for plants that are full of buds but have not yet flowered. And the tighter the bud – the better!

**To get the most bloom for your buck, choose plants with compact, tightly wrapped buds.*

Mums at this stage will not only last longer, they can be managed better by the next two secrets to extend their bloom period to the fullest. And don't forget, when purchasing your mums, look for hardy mums that can be planted to enjoy year after year.

Watering Mums:

Now that you have chosen a mum with lasting power, success all comes down to giving it the best care possible. And that means keeping it watered well, and with the right method. The less humid and dry air of Autumn can quickly dry the soil in potted plants. Especially a plant that is using additional moisture to produce blooms.

** The less humid, drier conditions of fall dry out plants quickly.*

Mums require a consistent supply of water to keep their bloom cycle as long as possible. If they are allowed to dry out for extended periods by infrequent and inconsistent watering, it will greatly reduce their overall bloom cycle. Check the soil daily with the tip of your fingertips. If the soil is dry an inch or so down, it's time to water. Most potted mums will require water at least once a day, even more if it is exceptionally hot.

How You Water Makes A Big Difference!

As crazy as it sounds, how you water your mums also plays a huge role in how long the blooms will last too. And it all starts by never watering your mums from the top down. When the blooms of mums become saturated with water, it weakens and fades them quickly. In fact, it can cut a bloom's life span in half!

** When watering, water at the base of the plant and not through the buds or flowers on top.*

Instead, water around the edges of pots and containers, or below the bloom line when watering with a hose. The important part is to keep the blooms from becoming saturated.

Location, Location, Location.

Where you display your mums will also impact their blooming life span. Mums can certainly handle full sun, but all of that heat and light greatly reduce their overall bloom cycle time. Choosing partial to mostly shady locations will make a big difference in how long your blooms stay strong. In fact, it can extend their healthy look by as much as a full two weeks or more!

** Keeping plants in more shade than sun greatly extends the overall bloom life of the plant.*

Although the plants need sun to develop buds, mums will still unfurl their blooms in indirect light. That is why porches, patios and even underneath the canopy of bushes and trees are all excellent choices. Not only do they keep the sun's rays at bay, but they also protect the mums from hard rains as well.



**I love fall! Fall is exciting. It's apples and cider. It's an airborne spider.
It's pumpkins in bins. It's burrs on dog's chins. It's wind blowing leaves.
It's chilly red knees. It's nuts on the ground. It's a crisp dry sound.
It's green leaves turning. And the smell of them burning.
It's clouds in the sky. It's fall and that's why..... I love fall!**

Author Unknown



A September to remember. An October full of splendor. A November to treasure.



I hope you have enjoyed this Fall edition of “over the picket fence.” Thank you to those of you who contributed articles for the newsletter.. Please continue to help me with future newsletters by submitting ideas, articles, recipes and suggestions. I want to be able to continue with the newsletter, as I feel it is important to be able to communicate in this way and you can be a big part in helping me do so. Stay safe and healthy and hope to see you soon. **Yours In Gardening....Diane D.**

For More Information, Check Out:

MCGC: 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 to trust, to protect, to nurture and to enjoy.

Mrs. C.C. Caswell

