# over the Picket fence





# Summer, 2024 June, July, August 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 5











#### **Thoughts From Our President:**

#### **Bugs**

Today I want to talk about bugs! You might ask "What are bugs and why are they important?" Bugs are small creatures that do not have a spinal column and are called invertebrates. They are the glue that binds the plants, microbes, fungi and animals, including us, to each other on this small planet. We can quite safely say that we would not last long without invertebrates. Invertebrates include insects, arachnids, crustaceans, myriapods, earthworms and leeches. It's impossible to live in a bug-free life on this planet! Bugs provide services essential for human's quality of life. Some of the benefits that they provide include: pollinating the plants that all animals, including us eat; recycling plant and animal wastes by turning them into food and fertilizer; soil aeration, nutrient cycling and seed dispersal; keeping harmful insects like mosquitoes, ticks and other disease vectors in check. Yet, our cultural relationship with bugs has been one of disgust and animosity where they are maligned. People still use chemicals to indiscriminately kill all bugs instead of the few destructive ones. Then super bugs and super weeds develop. Then we need super chemicals. An article in the Detroit Free Press last year stated that 75% of all non-organic fruits and vegetables contain pesticides. Think about that!

Bugs are in trouble! They have declined around the world over 50% in the last few decades! Decades of pesticide spraying, habitat loss and fragmentation of habitat, have contributed to their decline. And we don't yet know how climate change will affect them. What can we do to help them? And we can help them. This is where our yards come in. All creatures need food, water and shelter to exist. We can make small nature sanctuaries in our yards, by shrinking our lawns and planting native plants. Bugs 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, especially keystone plants, which are acclimatized to our local growing conditions. Native plants need less water, are low maintenance and need very little, if any, fertilizer. Bugs need shelter so that they don't get eaten before they reproduce. We need to be able to put up with a little damage to our plants that the bugs feed on. Do you know that that big, ugly tomato hornworm turns into the beautiful Sphinx Moth also known as the Hummingbird Moth? Because of our neatness in cleaning up leaves, fallen branches and debris in our yards and use mulch as a dressing on every inch of bare soil, we have chased bugs away from our yards. Small habitats can make a big difference to support bugs. Bringing bugs back into our yards can be as easy as less tidying up. Leave some leaf litter and hollow stems of perennial plants. Add a rock pile. Make a small brush pile in the back corner of your lot or a small stack of wood. Lots of people in our area sell firewood for about \$3 to \$4 for a small bundle. Easy to obtain. Don't cover all bare soil with mulch. Leave some bare soil for bugs to dig into for making nests, like some bee species.

Don't forget about water. Provide a shallow bird bath or a bowl with stones on which bugs can safely perch. Add some dirt to a shallow bowl to attract butterflies or maintain a mud puddle. Butterflies get minerals in a mud puddle. Bugs also drink water that is sitting on top of leaves. Plants with fuzzy leaves like Ladies Mantle and Lamb's Ear hold dew drops early in the morning. Hostas, Cup Plants and others hold rain drops for a long while. If you have window wells, cover them. Bugs, as well as frogs, voles and other small animals fall in them and starve to death. If you have outdoor lights, use motion sensor lights. Blazing security lights are ecological traps that kill thousands of bugs and increase your carbon footprint and do not increase security any more than motion sensors.

Edward O. Wilson, one of the most eminent biologist of our time and Pulitzer Prize winner of the book "Half Earth: Our Planet's Fight for Life" (2016) said "If all of mankind were to disappear, the world would regenerate back to the rich state of equilibrium that existed ten thousand years ago. If insects were to vanish, the environment would collapse into chaos." If we don't help the bugs, who will? Remember, if we are not part of the solution, we are part of the problem.

**Submitted by: Sharon Morman** 



#### June

- 7 Diane Nemitz
- 22 Kevin Burtterfield
- 23 Barb Scherer

#### **July**

- 5 Christine Schulte
- 7 Pat Bettin
- 9 Marilyn Austin
- 9 Renee Mallison
- 12 Melinda Dougherty
- 17 Carolyn Ptaszenski



#### **Welcome to New Members**

Kristin Adams...206 E. Broadway, Scottville...562-504-2541 kla332@yahoo.com

Joanne Duquette...800 W. Fitch St, Ludington...231=233-0707 <a href="mailto:jiduquette@live.com">jiduquette@live.com</a>

Maureen McGowan..610 Rath St., Ludington...734-674-0508 <a href="mailto:mkmcgowan82@gmail.com">mkmcgowan82@gmail.com</a>

Stuart Urquart...919 Woodlawn, Ludington...231-425-3312 <a href="mailto:landplumber@yahoo.com">landplumber@yahoo.com</a>



**August** 

14 Viann Priniski



## In Loving Memory of Joanne Krone and Mary Quillin



<u>Joanne Krone</u> passed away on May 11<sup>th</sup> at the age of 91. She was the beloved mother of Garden Club member, Gail Burkhart. She had been a member of the Mason County Garden Club since 1996. During her Membership in the club, Joanne was a "Gardening Angel" and planting and taking care of the Gardens at the White Pine Village Chapel was her passion. Joanne was born and raised in Chicago and earned a Master's Degree in Education from Loyola University of Chicago. During her career in education, she was principal of the Park Ridge School for Girls and a special education teacher at a number of schools. Joanne loved to travel and traveled to China, Kenya, throughout Europe and the United States.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles, and is survived by her 6 children, 12 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren and many friends. Heaven now has a true "Gardening Angel."



Mary Quillan passed away on May 24<sup>th</sup> at the age of 87. She joined the Mason County Garden Club in 2007 and was an Associate Member. Mary enjoyed living in Mason County and raising her children in the country, as she loved being able to have various farm animals and explore her love for gardening even more. All her life she had dreamed of owning a horse, so that was her first big venture on her little farm. She was involved in 4-H with horses, gardening, and crafts with the younger children, plus lead boy scouts and girl scouts. In 1980, Mary and her husband, Jim, moved to Bradenton Florida to be near her sister, Delores. Mary decided to go back to school and earn her CNA degree. She then worked at the Bradenton

Manor Assisted Living Facility, working her way up to the Activities Director. This experience was evident during her time spent with the Garden Therapy Committee at Ludington Woods. After the passing of her husband, in 2000 Mary decided to move back to Mason County to be near her daughter, Bonnie Barclay.

Gardening was her true passion in life. She was an active member of the Mason County Garden Club for many years, where she loved to share her gardening knowledge with other enthusiasts. She loved sharing starts of plants with others, along with full descriptions of how to grow them. The worst part of the last few years of life was not being able to get out in her gardens anymore. I am certain God has special gardens in Heaven for her to tend to and take care of!

#### **Submitted by Diane Davis**



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#### **Recipes Submitted by Garden Club Members**

#### Stir-fry Asparagus

1# fresh asparagus washed and bias sliced into 1 1/2" lengths

- 4 green onions bias cut into 1" lengths
- 1 1/2 cups sliced fresh mushrooms
- 2 small tomatoes cut in thin wedges or several cherry tomatoes halved
- 1 tablespoon cooking oil
- 3 tablespoons cold water
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 2 teaspoons cornstarch

#### Hot cooked rice

Preheat large skillet over medium high heat. Add oil and heat.

Add vegetables and stir for about 4 minutes or until asparagus is bright green and tender-crust or they are cooked to your preference.

Push vegetables to the side. Stir soy sauce mixture and add to pan. Let mixture bubble slightly, then stir into vegetables. Cook briefly until mixture is thickened and bubbly. Add tomatoes and heat through. Serve with rice.

Submitted by Deb Gundersen



#### Mason County Garden Club Events:

#### June:

Thursday, June 27<sup>th</sup> – 1:00 p.m. – Meeting and Program – United Methodist Church – "Tea, Glorious Tea" – Ann Gligrest

#### July:

Sunday, July  $14^{th} - 12:00$  noon to 5:00 p.m.  $-23^{rd}$  Garden Walk - "Gardening in the City" - various gardens within Ludington city limits.

Thursday, July 25<sup>th</sup> – 1:00 p.m. – Meeting and Program – Unitd Methodist Church – "Water Is Life – Treat It Right" – Symon Cronk, Biologist, Mason-Lake Conservation District.

#### August:

Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – Field Trip to Hackley-Humes Houses in Muskegon.

Thursday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> – 11:00 a.m. (notice time change) – Outdoor Garden Event – Spamalot – A Luau Themed Garden Party – Garden Tea located at ChaSuSaKaEm Farm (Home of Sue Ann Hanson and Charles Bristol) – 3324 W. Hansen Road, Amber Township.

#### September:

Saturday, September 7 – 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Fall Plant Sale and White Elephant Sale – Leveaux Park, Ludington.

#### **Upcoming Local Events:**

#### Petunia Parade - Weeding Days:

June 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>
July 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>
August 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>

#### June:

June 14<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and June 15<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 a.m. to Noon American Association of University Women Ludington Area Branch Used Book Sale – United Methodist Church – 5810 Bryant Road, Ludington. Contact: Patty Otto at 231-845-7665.

June 15th- June 16th - Gus Macker 3-on-3 Charity Basketball Tournament -Stearns Park- 420 N. Lakeshore Dr.,

June 19<sup>th</sup> - 7-8pm - AFFEW Beach Sweep -Beach clean up at <u>Stearns Park Beach</u>.

June 27<sup>th</sup> -10pm - Sunset Bonfire - Free bonfire with live music featuring Brett Mitchell at Stearns Park Beach.

June 20th-August 1<sup>st</sup> - 10am-12pm -U Dig It! Youth Summer Program: The U Dig It Community Garden, AFFEW, and Lakeshore Food Club are hosting a highly interactive, hands-on program covering organic gardening, nature, and art experiences for kids ages 9-11. The event is free but pre-registration is required by contacting Julia Chambers at <a href="mailto:president@affew.org">president@affew.org</a> or (231) 690-9561.

#### July:

July 3<sup>rd</sup> - July 4th, <u>Ludington Area Jaycees Freedom Festival</u> -Event includes Children & Pet Parade, 1-Mile Fun Run, Parade, and Fireworks. Downtown Ludington.

July 6th- July 7<sup>th</sup> - West Shore Art Fair Sponsored by Ludington Area Center for the Arts.-Saturday from 10am-5pm and Sunday from 10am-4pm. Rotary Park- Corner of Lewis St. and Ludington Ave

#### August:

August 2nd-4<sup>th</sup> - <u>Downtown Ludington Sidewalk Sales</u> - Downtown stores offer big savings throughout the weekend. Hours are Friday & Saturday from 10am-6pm and Sunday from 10am-4pm. Individual store hours may vary.

August 5th-10<sup>th</sup> - Western Michigan Fair - Multi-day event with fun for the whole family. Mason County Fairgrounds-5302 W. US-10, Ludington.

August 10th- August 11<sup>th</sup> - Gold Coast Artisan Fair - Saturday from 10am-5pm and Sunday from 10am-4pm. Rotary Park- Corner of Lewis St. & Ludington Ave., Ludington.

August 17<sup>th</sup> - 12-5pm - <u>Suds on the Shore Craft Wine & Beer Festival</u> Benefit for the United Way of Mason County. Rotary Park-Corner of Lewis St. and Ludington Ave.

August 21<sup>st</sup> - 9-11pm - <u>S.S. Badger Carferry Shoreline Cruise</u> - Includes live music. S.S. Badger Carferry-701 Maritime Dr., Ludington. (800) 841-4243.



#### Dates and times of 2024 local Farmers Markets:

#### Ludington

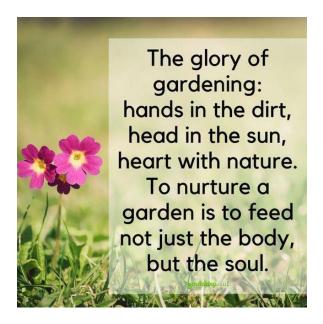
Ludington's farmers market operates from 3pm-7pm on Fridays - May - -September . The Ludington Market is located in the heart of Downtown Ludington under the pavilion at Legacy Plaza.

#### **Pentwater**

Pentwater has two farmers markets during the summer months, one on Mondays and one on Thursdays. Both are from 10am to 1pm on the Pentwater Village Green. June –September.

#### Manistee

Manistee's farmers market is located on Memorial Drive and is open from 9am to 12pm Saturdays. May –October.





#### Julie's Tips and Tricks:

#### Planting a Beautiful Garden in the Shade

Creating a beautiful garden is possible, even in the shade. Most plants need at least 6 to 8 hours of sun to thrive, but there are many varieties that will turn drab, shady areas into beautiful shapes. As with any garden, it's best to start—with a plan. Here are a few things to consider when creating a shade garden. The best gardens have layers of plants. If you're planting in the shade, chances are there's a canopy of shade trees or shrubs already overhead. Do you need to add groundcovers or low-growing plants for the front of the space? Place tall plants in the back, stepping down to shorter ones in the front. In addition to plants, decorate the space with some accents, like gazing globes, statues or stepping stones. Be sure to select the right plants for the area.

#### Some of the best options for shade.

Annuals- begonia, caladium, calla lily, coleus, lobelia, torenia.

Perennials- astilbe, bleeding heart, burnnera, coral bells, corydalis, fern, hosta, liriope, Jacob's ladder.

Groundcovers- ajuga, ivy, laminum, pachysandra.

Shrubs- azalea, clethra, hydrangeas, holly, pier iris, rhododendron, yews.

Trees-dogwood, flowering almond, Japanese maple, magnolia.

Proper planting is essential. Soil preparation is the most important step when planting. Proper drainage is very critical, since most soil must have air as well as moisture. Add soil amendments as necessary. Amend with peat moss and topsoil when planting in sandy soils. Add finely shredded pine bark when planting in clay soil. Plant at the same level the plant was growing in the pot. Never put any new soil on top of a root ball.

Regular maintenance is important for a beautiful garden. Most plants fail to grow or thrive due to improper water or improper fertilization. New plants need water, but don't overwater, particularly if they're planted in clay soil. Plants in the shade will need less water than those planted in full sun. Long deep periods of watering are better than short and frequent watering. This ensures water will reach the plants roots. Feeding plants with proper fertilization will help plants thrive.

Regular pruning and deadheading of annuals and perennials keeps plants in shape and looking their best. A layer of mulch over garden beds helps keep weeds down and conserves moisture. Plants that are planted in the right area and properly maintained will be healthier and less stress. Quickly take care of any problems that occur. Check your garden regularly and you'll discover problems when they're small and manageable, rather than large and out of control.

Follow these simple steps and you can turn any shade spot into a beautiful paradise. Have fun, Juls





<u>War Memorials:</u> A small but mighty group got together to plant the pots and areas surrounding the War Memorials throughout Ludington. With financial support from the City for purchase of the plant material, this group makes sure the plants are healthy, planted correctly, and watered/weeded throughout the season. Locations include Stearns Beach memorial, Rotary Park and the Blue Star Memorial at the County Courthouse. Thanks for everything you do with these important memorials!



Linda Burns, Marilyn Austin, Dianne Portwine



Dianne Portwine, Marilyn Austin, Linda Burns



**Stearns Beach Memorial** 





Marilyn Austin and Dianne Portwine planting at Blue Star Memorial

<u>Leveaux Park:</u> At Leveaux Park (corner of Staffon and Ludington Ave), the Club made way for a much-needed facelift. Last year, at the recommendation of the Club, several dead/dying trees and shrubs were removed by Ludington DPW. This year, Julie Tews and her helpers dugout invasive plants, potted hostas for the Club's upcoming Plant Exchange, and moved shady plants out of now sunny areas.





<u>Downtown Planters:</u> The Club readied the pots/planters for the Ludington Downtown area. Christine Schulte and her committee (plus a very good friend) planted the 40 pots (which started out at 12 pots just a couple of years ago) with sedum and annual purple grasses. The City DPW will position them along Ludington Ave and James St. for the City's visitors to enjoy.









MGC Annual Conference – Bay City, MI: Four of our members represented the Mason County Garden Club at the 93rd MGC Annual Conference in Bay City on June 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>. Here are some of the highlights of their trip: **Submitted by Judy Olson:** 





Sue Ann, Sharon, Dawn and Judy



Floral Designer Karen Cherry

SueAnn, Dawn and Sharon having a "President/past presidents" discussion...







Designs done in honor of District Director



Center piece on table that lit up.



Sue Ann getting ready to board for a cruise.

#### **Awards Presented at Conference to Mason County Garden Club:**

Photography: District: 1<sup>st</sup> – State: 1<sup>st</sup>

Environmental Education for Youth: District: 1<sup>st</sup> – MGC, Inc. 1<sup>st</sup>. Horticulture Education for Youth: District: 1<sup>st</sup> – MGC, Inc. 1<sup>st</sup>.

Christine Grey Award: Honorable Mention from both District and State

Civic Beautification: District: 1<sup>st</sup> – State: 2<sup>nd</sup>

Social Media Website: District:  $\mathbf{1}^{st}$  – MGC, Inc.:  $\mathbf{1}^{st}$ . Social Media Facebook: District:  $\mathbf{1}^{st}$  – State:  $\mathbf{1}^{st}$ 

Newsletter: District: 1st – MGC, Inc.: 2nd

Landscaping of Historical Areas: District: 1st – State: 1st. (and Certificate of Appreciation from National Garden Clubs, Inc.)

National Garden Clubs, Inc. Award for the Clubs Standard Flower Show – "A Day In the Garden." with ribbon.

2023 Yearbook: District: 1<sup>st</sup> – MGC – 2<sup>nd</sup>

<u>White Pine Village – Gardening Angels:</u> The Gardening Angels are back to work at White Pine Village. Sprucing up at the Village and planting were done in May. The vegetable gardening is being rebuilt but we were able to do some planting

and weeding.















**Spring Plant Exchange and White Elephant Sale:** With a beautiful day and a great turnout from the community and a lot of hard work and dedication from Garden Club members, we had a successful plant exchange and white elephant sale on June lst. The grand total of sales was \$777.60. The White Elephant Sale generated \$155.60 and the sales from the plants was \$622.00.





















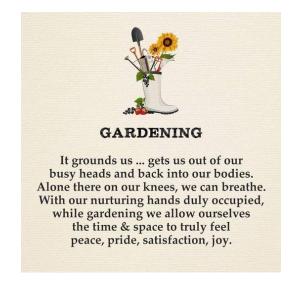
<u>Scholarship Recipient:</u> Members, Christine Schulte and Deb Gundersen, awarded a check to our latest scholarship recipient, Bayden Webster. He is studying at West Shore Community College and plans on going into Environmental Sciences and Research. Congratulations Bayden and good luck with your education!



#### **Submitted by Sharon Morman**







# Meet the Pollinators

From the near-microscopic files to the winds of weather, pollinators come in all shapes, colors and sizes. About 80% of all plant pollination is by animals with the remaining 20% by wind and water. The world is well populated with animals that covet nectar and pollen, and help transfer that pollen from flower to flower in the process. In addition to their contribution to plant reproduction, pollinators worldwide play a crucial role in ecological food webs, the human food supply, and the global economy. Here's a quick look at some of the common Michigan pollinators and some interesting facts.







FLIES





Goldenrod Soldier

Lady Jug

Labust Barer Boot e

Rectles are often overlooked as pollinators as they are far less elegant. Through each individual beetle does not transfer a significant amount of pallen to flowering plants, they are significant hecause of their abundance in the landscape. Pollinating heetles are not searching for rectar; for them the reward is pollen - a protein source of food All told, beetles contribute to the pollination of 88% of the world's flowering plants.

Files are among the most frequent visitors to flowers and important pollinators of a wide range of planes. They are not only important as pollinators, but many larvae eat aphids, scales, and other soft-bodied posts. The Hever Flies are the second most common pollinator after bees and considered the workhorse of the orchard. No chorolate without flies: for the cocoa tree fly pollination is essential for truit production.









Butterflies are very active during the day and visit a variety of flowers. Butterflies are less efficient than bees at moving pollen between plants. Highly perched on their long thin legs and less hairy bodies, they do not pick up much pollen on their hodies and lack specialized structures for collecting it. Even without the best body parts they are very effective pollinators. Do not freget to encourage the larvae with host plants.

There are 9 but species found in Michigan and feed almost exclusively on insects. Not much is known about their pollinating activities here, it's believed they probably payride some pollinating services including fruit trees and night blooming flowers. It's desirable to encourage their activity in our gardens for their insect easting abilities. Buts are the sale pollinator of the agave plant in the coultwest, so without Bats there would be no Tequila.



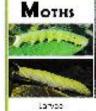


WASPS



Politinated plants that rely on hirds adapt themselves to encourage feeding.
For Humaninghirds they hide the thick nectar in tubular formed flowers. For other birds they produce copious amounts of dilute nectar and fruit to attract them. While enjoying the nectar the large and very sticky pollen clings to the feathers of the hird and are certical to the next flower.

While bees and wasps are closely related, they differ greatly in what they eat Wasps are almost enclusively carnivores, but do feed on flower nector as a "picx me up". Wasps are avid hunters and will stalk their prey among the leaves and flowers of your garden eliminating many garden pests. While hunting they stumble and buzz around enough to pollinate flowers on their quest for a meal. Brimary pollinator of Figs.





Hummingbird Moth







Moths are more important than butterflies to Mithigan's ecology because they do more than pollimate flowers. They're food for birds and bats, they feed on weedy plants and belp keep then under control. The most fastinating and little known are the family of "Flawk Moths" - two are shown above. They look like a cross between and hypomorphic and a moth.

ered the most important pollinators because they are uniquely adapted to gather and tonisport pollen. Beet hizzy badies and branched bairs help famale bees collect polled into special structures, such as pollen baskets on the bind legs or long bairs on the thorax or abdomen. The European House, Bee is the most famous and the only pollinator to produce food for man

There are more than 150 native bee species in Michigan. Bots are consid-

Produced by Melody (Meme) Williamson



I hope you have enjoyed this Summer 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

