

over the picket fence



Fall, 2026

September, October, November

The Mason County Garden Club
Quarterly Newsletter
(Since 1926-our 100th year)

www.masoncountygardenclub.org

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





Letter from the President:

Hello fellow gardeners!

Well, our gardens are starting to wind down. I still have deer coming to munch on any flowers that are left. And they wipe out my bird feeders on a daily basis.

It has been a busy year with all our 100th Anniversary activities. The rocks have all been hidden around town. The dinner at the Country Club was a huge success. Thanks to everyone for making all this happen. 100 years! Wow and congratulations to us.

Earlier I said I was going to try the gallon jug method of starting plants in my garden and would give you an update. Well, not so good. Our winter seemed to last forever. Maybe my seeds were old or there wasn't enough sunshine but nothing grew in the jugs for me. Not sure if I would try this again or will just be patient and buy plants when the weather cooperates. These are all doing well.

The Garden Club's U DIG IT garden has been doing well. I'm getting about a pound of yellow green beans a week and a second planting of green beans has tons of flowers which will be ready in another week or so. And the tomatoes are getting big and will be ready to pick when they turn red. I took about 1 lb. of lettuce from my garden to the Food Pantry as that went totally crazy. This is such a good program for those in our community who need assistance with food.

Gail



September

9 Carol Copeland
17 Bonnie Henretty
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

November

3 Vicki Houk
14 Gig Rose
18 Sandra Luxford
18 Sandra Zwygluizen
20 Diane Davis
20 Dianne Portwine
22 Julie Haselhuhn
26 Roxanne Antczak



Featured Member – Gig Rose:

Gig Rose has been a member of the Garden Club for 30 years and is a Life Member. She is the widow of Dr. Scott Rose, a local dentist. She has four children and eleven grandchildren, one of whom is married. She was originally from the Grand Rapids area and moved to Ludington in 1973. She was a teacher and proud mom. She was President from 2000-2002, Garden Walk Co-chair, Landscape Design Awards, Class Proctor for Landscape Design Class, Garden of the Month and most recently, Publicity. She thinks the Garden Club is an awesome group and enjoys our programs, classes and field trips. Something we'd be surprised to learn about Gig is that she went sky diving and loved it. Her favorite flower is the Daffodil or roses, if the deer can't get them. (Submitted by Gail Burkhart).



Upcoming Mason County Garden Club Events:

September:

Saturday – September 5 – 9:00 am to 1:00 pm: Fall Plant Sale ad White Elephant Sale: Rotary Park, Ludington,

Thursday: September 24 – 1:00 pm: **Field Trip** -Dahlia Tour: Manistee Dahlia Farms: Brief meeting followed by Dahlia Presentations –Hosted by Jennifer Dontz and Theresa Taylor.

October:

Thursday, October 22 – 1:00 pm: United Methodist Church: Landscape Design & Civic Beautification Awards: Meeting and Program: **Autumn Workshop: “Let’s Get Crafting”** – Julie Tews, MCGC Member. We will create a fall project that includes a Scarecrow and/or sunflowers.

November:

Thursday, November 19 – 1:00 pm: United Methodist Church: Meeting and Program: **“Pere Marquette Conservation Park”** by Kelly Smith, Pere Marquette Charter Township Supervisor. (Food Pantry Donations).

December:

Thursday, December 10 – 1:00 pm: United Methodist Church: **Holiday Luncheon: “Good Friends, Good Food, Great Season.”** Potluck and Table Hostesses and Christmas Bag Raffle.

Upcoming Local Events:

September:

Saturday, September 12: Ludington Petunia Parade removal day. (pull petunias).

Saturday, September 19, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm: AFFEW International Beach Sweep. Beach clean-up at Sterns Park.

Saturday, September 25, 6-10 pm: Mason County Historical Society Gala – Stearns Hotel.

October:

Friday, 2nd – Sunday, 4th: Ludington Lumber Days.

Sunday, October 11, 2:00 pm: Final sailing of the season for the Badger.

Saturday, October 17, 2-5:00 pm: White Pine Village Trick or Treat.

Sunday, October 18: Maritime Museum and White Pine Village close for the season.

Michigan Garden Club Upcoming Events:

September:

Thursday, September 10: District 5 Fall Meeting – Petoskey Garden Club – Great Lakes Center for the Arts – Petoskey.

Michigan Garden Club Awards:

MGC Award Incentives:

All 1st Place Club Awards in each size category will receive \$50. All 1st Place Individual Awards will receive \$25.

All 1st Place Club Awards in each size category will receive \$25. Second place individual awards do not receive a monetary award.

MGC Award Directions:

Note: All general awards are due to MGC State Awards Chair no later than October 1st.

Submit application electronically whenever possible to General Awards Chairman:

Kathy Wolverton

(616) 460-5957

kwolverton@migardenclub.org

Further instructions can be found on the Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. website.





Julie's Tips and Tricks

Perennials

Consider adding some fall color to spruce up the beds. Mums are great, as well as asters and anemones. Perennials planted in the fall get a much larger root system and yield larger plants next year.

September is a great month to divide perennials that are crowding your beds. Perennials need to be divided to help rejuvenate them, and control their size. You may want to get together with your gardening friends and have your own perennial exchange. FALL PLANT SALE!!

There are more perennials for fall color than you may know. Sedums and mums are the most popular, but for flowers also consider aster, toad lily, turtle-head and Christmas rose. For foliage, coral bells, sage, euphorbia and grasses provide great interest. There are also evergreen fern varieties for an unexpected green in a shady place all winter long.

The question is: "To cut down or not to cut down?" I do not cut down in the fall. I do dead head any perennial flower heads that will send out seeds that might take over an area. Examples would be phlox, black-eye susans, bronze funnel, just to mention a few. I leave interesting seed pods that have developed, they are a food source for birds and other animals. Many insects lay their eggs, or over winter in the perennial beds on stems and in the plants so a tidy bed in the fall isn't a good idea.

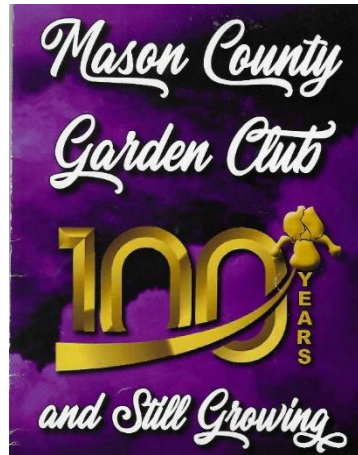
Bulbs: Spring-Flowering

Remember fall is the time to plant for spring. Tulips are the most popular, but they are also the favorite of squirrels and rabbits. Try planting other varieties instead, such as alliums, crocus, daffodils, fritillaria, grape hyacinth, scilla, or snowdrops. No plant is totally safe if the critters are hungry enough, but these should last the longest. When planting, mix bone meal into the bulb hole to help get plants off to a healthy start.

Fall is a beautiful time of year, the colors and cooler temps, but remember to keep watering! It can be detrimental to plants going into winter under stress from being dried out. **Happy Fall, Enjoy It**



As our 100th year is coming to an end. I am featuring pictures of the events which made this a memorable year. Thank you to all of the Garden Club members who worked so hard to make this year special. Lets keep on “celebrating and growing.”



The Club’s first project for the Celebraion was the building of a float to be part of the Ludington Fourth of July Freedom Festival parade. Designer, Julie Tews (along with her husband, Doug), and members of the Garden Club, constructed the float on a trailer donated by member, Julie Haselhuhn and her husband, Mike in member, Sue Ann Hanson’s barn. Finishing touches were done by Julie Tews on the day of the parade.

Float Construction:



The Mason County Garden Club was proud to be a part of the Ludington Jaycee 4th of July Parade. What great fun! Many organizations and local companies participated! We handed out "flower pens" and they were quite a hit! Thanks to all the Garden Club members who helped to make this happen: designers, painters, carpenters, parade drivers, parade walkers.

The float won "Most Original" and was presented an award of \$750 by sponsor, Thomas Construction Company.

Fourth of July Parade:



Presentation of award.

On Sunday, July 19 (a hot and smoky day, due to the Canadian wild fires) the Community was invited to attend our 24th Garden Walk to commemorate our 100th year celebration. They were invited to tour the Gardens of Sharon Edgar, Julie Wormhoudt and Connie and Jim Clarey, and visit the community gardens which the Garden Club maintains. These included Blue Star Memorial, Rotary Park and Leveaux Park. They were also invited to create Cups of Cheer at Legacy Plaza. At the end of the day, club members and guests met at member Gloria Merchant's home for an evening of socializing and good food.

Garden Walk:



Leveaux Park:



War Memorials:



Cups of Cheer:



Afterglow At Gloria Merchant's:



The Mason County Garden Club was honored to be included by the Western Michigan Fair in the Horticulture venue. Not only did we get a chance to highlight the Club's 100 year anniversary, many of our members submitted entries, and placed in the horticultural division

Western Michigan Fair:.



Banquet at Lincoln Hills Country Club

The Mason County Garden Club culminated a year of events which celebrated our 100-year anniversary with a banquet at the Lincoln Hills Country Club here in Ludington. In addition to our Club's leaders, members and spouses, we were joined by Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. president Lisa Robinson, 1st VP Ronnie Dush, MGC Past President Nancy Ryan and Michigan Garden Clubs District 5 director Dorothy Sandoval. We were also delighted to have local dignitaries, including State Rep. Curt VanderWall, Ludington Mayor Mark Barnett, and Janet Andersen, Chair of Mason County Board of Commissioners.

The Club was presented several proclamations, resolutions and letters of THANKS from the State of Michigan, City of Ludington, Mason County and the Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. We are overwhelmed at these documents and the heart-felt presentations by our representatives. They all mentioned how much the Club does for our community and noted how that makes Ludington/Mason County a better, nicer place to live.



Introduction of Speakers by Gig Rose: (State Representative Curt VanderWall; Mason County Board of Commissioners Chairman Janet Anderson; Ludington Mayor, Mark Barnett; Michigan Garden Club, Inc. President, Lisa Robinson.





Recipes Submitted by Members:

Pasta with Fresh Tomato-Herb Sauce: (Submitted by Deb Gundersen):

- 2 large tomatoes or 4 to 6 roma tomatoes
Chopped (2 cups)
- 1 tablespoon snipped basil and/or organo
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 6 ounces angel hair, linguine or spaghetti
- ¼ teaspoon grated Parmesan cheese (optional)
- Fresh basil (optional)

*In a medium mixing bowl, gently toss together the tomatoes, desired herb, garlic, and pepper. Cover and let mixture stand at room temperature for 30 minutes to allow the flavors to blend. Meanwhile, cook pasta according to package directions, except omit any salt or oil. Drain. Add the hot pasta to the tomato mixture. If desired, sprinkle with Parmesan cheese and garish with fresh basil. Makes 3 servings.

Crockpot Chunky Applesauce (Submitted by Diane Davis):

(Makes 8-10 servings)

- 8 apples, peeled, cored, and cut into chunks or slices (6 cups)
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 to 1 cup sugar or cinnamon

1. Combine all ingredients in a slow cooker
2. Cook on Low 8-10 hours, or High 3-4 hours





I hope you have enjoyed this Fall edition of “over the picket fence” dedicated to the celebration of our “100 Years and Still Growing” events. I hope you enjoy all the pictures. 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.
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

