

# TWIGS

## The Garden Club of Greater Lansing Newsletter

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We had another great Zoom membership gathering for October! Thank you to the 14 members who asked questions, participated and shared. We were updated not just on activities and financial matters but member updates as well. The pandemic may have thrown us a curve but it inspired everyone on so many levels. Please continue to stay in touch and pass on suggestions to Ann Lenhard for members who may appreciate a card. If you have other ideas on how we can stay connected, please email or call anyone on the board.

One request was to have Zoom in addition to the meetings, perhaps just for socializing. There are many who miss that part of our gatherings. Stay tuned for an update on that suggestion. Unfortunately Wayne Pope was unable to present his program on photos with cell phones via zoom. We will certainly keep him in mind for a future program. The Board brainstormed for programs not just for October, but November too!

Thank you to Ronnie for the pictures from 2020 Distinct IIB Flower Show which the public was unable to attend. Fortunately we were able to submit entries and exhibits for judging and Ronnie capture it all. Joan Lenhard shared her journey of her designs and experiences of the Flower Show. Ronnie and Joan also gave us an overview of the photo entries. Hopefully more members will venture to enter the Flower Show in 2021. The consultants will provide encouragement and

support. Try it, you will like it! You will learn and grow from the experience. Contact Joan Lenhard if you would like information. Sue Kesti



(Visiting bee on my dill)

### HORTICULTURE

By the time you read this, we will most likely have had several nights with killing frosts. That seems a lot later than in the last few years, which means that we have been enjoying a beautiful, colorful, comfortable fall. In this year of upset and

limitations due to Covid, we have the time to especially appreciate the wonders of the changing seasons and to reflect on how much the same signs and events signal their emergence each year.

My thoughts today are not strictly on horticulture, however they are focused on the seasonal changes that we all are enjoying. While I have assumed that the word fall refers to the falling temperatures and falling leaves, I decided to explore whether I was correct and why we also call this season autumn.

What I have learned is that several centuries ago the third season of the year was called "harvest". This term was used in England and obviously referred to the time of year for gathering or reaping crops and storing food for winter. The term "harvest" actually came from an old Norse word *haust*, which means "to gather or to pluck".

During the 1600's, in England more people began moving from farms into towns. Without farming, the term harvest seemed less appropriate, and both the terms fall and autumn started to be used. People began referring to the seasons between winter and summer as either the "fall of the leaf" or the "spring of the leaf", or fall and spring, for short. The word fall came from Old English words, *fiaell* and *feallan*, both of which mean "to fall from a height." This apparently referred to the falling leaves and/or falling temperatures.

Somehow the word "spring" stuck, but by the end of the 1600's the word fall began to be replaced with the word autumn in England. Autumn comes from a French word, *autompne*, and a Latin word *autumnus* and refers to the passing of the year.

While both fall and autumn were used in England, the words also came to America with early settlers. Somehow over time the word fall has become more commonly used in America, while the word autumn is more commonly used in Britain. The interchangeable use of both words, fall and autumn, to describe this beautiful season is uniquely American.

By whatever name, this is a season to treasure.

There is always much too much to do as we look at our fall chores list, but the beautiful colors of fall are unique to this season and we need to enjoy them before they all fall down!!! Barb Amundsen

## MEMBERSHIP

Recently Cheryl was working on organizing the membership files. In the process of organization, she remembered that we typically identify and recognize people who have been active with the club for years of membership.

It would be nice to send a card, make a call and say thank you to the following people. Ann Lenhard and Ann Lipkowitz, are celebrating 5 years and Susan Epple, 15 years. Thank you ladies. Cheryl Rogers

## MGC NEWS

I attended a Monday morning Michigan Garden Club member meeting on October 19, 2020. These meetings are held every Monday with a speaker. The speaker on that day was Nancy Smith and she talked on Native plants in Michigan. I heard this talk at the State Convention in Traverse City and it was helpful to be reminded again of why native plants are important. It was also a refresher on the native plants of Michigan. For example, Native Plants have adapted to local soils, climate and they grow well without use of fertilizer, etc. They require minimal maintenance. Nancy also reminded us of the right plant to the the soil and site conditions. Plants that thrive in sand will not adapt to clay.

New knowledge from this talk: I knew Lupine was native but did not know the wild blue lupine (*Lupine perennis*) is the only plant food for the caterpillar of the endangered Karner Blue butterfly. Without the food for the caterpillar, the butterfly will not survive. Loss of habitat is the primary reason these butterflies are endangered. Other native plants for Michigan are goldenrod, swamp milkweed, nine bark, cat tails and morning glory. There are so many others like Trillium, Black eye Susan and Bee Balm too.

Nancy also mentioned invasive species such as

Bindweed, Spotted Dead Nettle, Japanese Stiltgrass and the hazardous Hogweed. The DNR should be contacted to remove Hogweed since it causes a severe skin reaction, worse than poison ivy.

If you are interested in books on native plants Nancy recommended two by Doug Tallamy : *Bringing Nature Home; Nature's Best Hope.*

More things learned during this session: The Michigan Garden Club has a native plant group on Facebook, Growing Native Plants In Michigan. I went to the site and joined. There is a lot of good information shared on that site.

The new website name for Michigan Garden Clubs is: [www.migardenclubs.org](http://www.migardenclubs.org) the log in is the same (member) and the password is the same (mgcgrow) Go to the website and get more information about the Monday Morning Member Meetings on zoom. The next one will be " Early Years of Garden Clubs." This is an example of how our Michigan Garden Club is helping us grow and bringing us together. Give it a try! Sue Kesti

### OCT RECAP

Ronnie put together a slide presentation on how members put together entries for the Spring Show at the Pavilion. Members would then talk about how they developed their design based upon the description in the program schedule. The slide show included all entries into the show. While the show was closing the day of opening Ronnie stayed to get pictures so we would have an opportunity to view the show.

Another part of this presentation was information on the schedule. This helps to explain themes, requirements and descriptions for entries. For those interested in next years show the schedules are out and available for distribution. Please let me know. Joan Lenhard

### GREENS MARKET NEWS

The committee ordered a small amount of greens needed for the funeral home wreaths and for our November demonstrate. Members who ordered a

bag of greens or roping check with Joanne for greens and Ellen for roping for pick-up. Joanne Bauer

### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Tootsie Lambo	Leigh Kussro
Kaye Lani Walters	Deb Albert
Ann Lenhard	Barb Lowes

### IIB UPDATE

This group is working to make a one day session of education and meeting for members. Please look at the attached flier and register. This looks to be a great opportunity to learn and maybe see a friendly face from another club. It will give consultants for the upcoming show an opportunity to fill spots. Joan Lenhard



The flier is for a virtual fall district conference. It features the Michigan Garden Clubs logo and a group of people gardening. The text includes the date and time, the featured speaker Brie Arthur, the cost, and the registration deadline.

**VIRTUAL FALL DISTRICT CONFERENCE**  
November 12, 2020  
10:30 - 3:30 PM  
Featuring  
**Brie Arthur**  
"Foodscaping for the Future"  
YouTube Brie Grows  
**Cost \$10**  
Online Registration Deadline  
Friday, November 9th  
<https://migardenclubs.org/state-wide-fall-district-conference/>

### NOVEMBER MEETING

The November mtg will be via zoom and demonstrate how to build a wreath. While many of us are familiar with this activity we have many new members who can learn this process. Besides it is a great refresher for many of us. Members have purchased some greens and might cut some from their yards to make these wreaths. Please join us. Joan Lenhard

### UPDATE ON HOME GARDEN

I have worked to clear my three raised beds. What remains are the beets, lemon verbena and marigolds. I collected 5 butternut squash. The bunnies ate 5-10 blossoms. I have my green tomatoes wrapped in paper in the garage. I check them every other day. The only thing remaining for these beds are to cover with mulch. I will mulch leaves and cover the beds.

The flower beds still needs some work. I have cut the ironweed and plan on making a fence for the drive to help with snow. I will also use it for designing winter interest in the garden. I have cut and weeded plants, leaves and flowers. Some of the flowers that I cut are being dried. I saved the seeds from zinnias, marigolds and snapdragons.

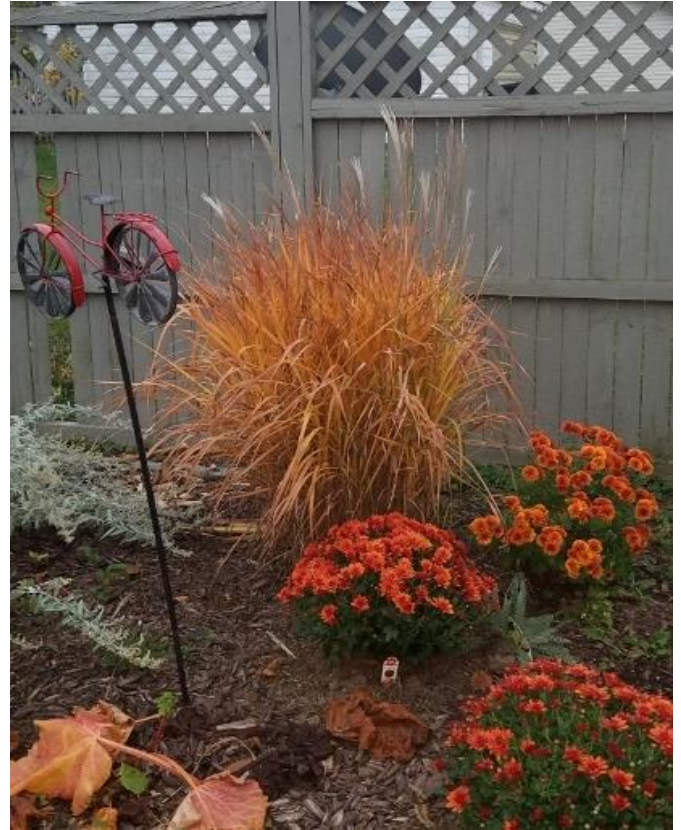


(Later in the morning the depth of color not as intense.)

I have cut flowers from mums, hydrangea, ironweed -the stalk, leaves and flowers, sedum, wormwood artemesia, lemon verbena, and a few others. These are being dried so I can use in arrangements. I hang these in bundles in the garage.

I am drying or freezing the following herbs: thyme, basil, lemon verbena, oregano, sage, garlic dill, and rosemary.

I planted 8 more mums. I shop at River City Farms in Grand Ledge as he gets perennial mums. I will lose a few but I have had them return for the last 3 years. Mums for the most part are being hybridized for size and color. In a month I will cut down the mums and put lots of mulch on them. This helps with winterizing.



(Early morning hours depth of color more intense).

I found when I was out taking pictures this autumn that light made a huge difference. I knew this but I actually was able to take a picture that shows intense color on my grasses and mums. A few hours later the intensity was diminished. My advice for picture taking is dawn/sunrise or close to sunset/dusk. Joan Lenhard

## **WEBSITES**

Websites/Calendars to check for gardening events

Capital Area Master Gardeners –

[www.mgacac.wordpress.com](http://www.mgacac.wordpress.com)

Michigan Master Gardener Association –

[www.michiganmastergardener.org](http://www.michiganmastergardener.org)

Let's Garden Lansing – [letsgardenlansing.org](http://letsgardenlansing.org)

Allen Neighborhood Center –

[www.allenneighborhoodcenter.org/exchange/](http://www.allenneighborhoodcenter.org/exchange/)

Michigan State University Horticulture Gardens -

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/hrt/our\\_gardens/](https://www.canr.msu.edu/hrt/our_gardens/)

Michigan Volunteer Management System –

[www.michigan.volunteersystem.org](http://www.michigan.volunteersystem.org)

Sixteen Sprigs Lavender Farm call 803-3081

<http://www.sixteensprigs.org>

*Facebook Sixteen Sprigs Lavender Farm*

*National Garden Club*

*[www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)*

*username: member Password: conserve*

*Michigan Garden Club*

*[www.migardenclubs.org](http://www.migardenclubs.org)*

*username: Member Password: mgcgrow*

*District IIB*

*<https://mgcdistrict2b.weebly.com/>*

*password: 2bgardeners*