

TWIGS

The Garden Club of Greater Lansing Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am still smiling after The GCGL's first successful Zoom membership meeting. We had 19 people attend and later Raynika Battle joined us for *Do One Thing* presentation complete with power point. Thank you to Ronnie for making technology help us stay connected. Thank you to the members who stuck with the zoom effort and somehow seemed to connect, overcoming Zoom insecurity. Maybe persistence and tenacity pays off again!

We are a determined and resilient group. We continue to move forward and climb above the obstacles placed in our path by this pandemic. While this sad time is temporary it has provided an opportunity to be strong and supportive.

Staying connected is one of our strengths. Thank you for all the phone calls and notes sent and thank you for sharing news of members who have

moved away or who have been out of touch. Thank you for continuing to share the wonderful news about events, opportunities, photos and progress on the two gardens we support.

Please stay in touch with each other and communicate with the Board. At this time, the board will continue to meet via zoom. If you would like to participate contact Ronnie so she can include you in the zoom invitation. Future membership meetings will be decided on a month by month basis and the health and safety of the membership is a priority. Sue Kesti

(Mums, lady's mantle, black-eyed susan, liatris seeds, soft orange gladiola, sedum, asparagus fern, joe pyed weed and worm wood. Hiding behind the jpw is my peacock)

HORTICULTURE

My garden has been visited by numerous pollinators and other wildlife this year. I have especially enjoyed the monarchs and hummingbirds as they carefully visit each flower and cluster. There continue to be many bees, and of course the robins especially like to find worms under the mulch. As the summer has gone on, the yellow finches spend hours on the coneflower heads. The dry coneflowers stay out all winter so that the finches can continue to pick every seed.

Not all of my visitors have been so welcome. My nemesis this summer has been the chipmunk. At first I thought he was cute as long as he stayed out of the garage. Then I saw him run along my deck rail with a cherry tomato in his mouth!!!!



Apparently he likes fruit with small seeds, ripe or green. Every day I would find one or more cherry tomatoes which had been bitten open and left on the deck. When I noticed that he came back to finish his lunch, I first added red pepper flakes to the open tomato. That didn't faze him. He still ate every bite. I added various unsavory drops (tabasco, liquid soap etc.) to half bitten tomatoes with no results. My own conclusion is that chipmunks must like texture and seeds, and not be attracted by scent or taste.

In general, controlling wildlife involves removing access to habitat, cleaning debris, removing the food source, making conditions inhospitable, or removing the wildlife. Since I use a walker and need to stay level, my veggies are in large containers on my patio. When my few plants are attacked, I feel personally affronted. There are numerous types of traps, mouse traps, and poisons. None of those appeal to me as I honestly don't want to dispose of either a live trapped critter or a dead one. I even saw an ad for an ultrasonic chipmunk deterrent which I haven't tried.

For this year my solution has been very unscientific and certainly not at all "acceptable". One day when I picked a ripe tomato, a green slicing tomato fell off and rolled part way behind a pot. It split open and I couldn't reach to remove it. So it stayed on the patio. It took at least a week of chewing for the chipmunk to eat it down to the good last bite and during this time he left all of my other tomatoes alone. When I saw that, I intentionally dropped a second tomato. The fruit is ripening faster than I can use and give it away, so sacrificing a couple to save the rest has been a decent temporary solution. Of course it's exactly against what we learn; I was feeding the critter I wanted to remove. However, intentionally selecting what he could eat continued to keep him out of the plants enough so that the rest of the fruit wasn't damaged.

For next year we will start at the beginning of the season before the plants are so large. We currently use cages and extra stakes to tie the tomato

plants and to hold the fruit as it becomes heavy on the stems. Next year we will add a layer of fine wire mesh between the plants and the deck rail. I'm pretty sure that my chipmunk was accessing the fruit from the deck rail and don't think that he can climb up sloping sides of large glazed pots. Sometimes we just need to be creative to match our solution to the situation.

Barb Amundsen



(Marge with her double bloom)

NIGHT BLOOMING CERIUS PARTY

This July I decided to have a Night Blooming Cerius Party on my patio. The first night I had two blossoms opened right before our eyes. It takes about 30 minutes for them to unfold. Those in attendance over the course of three nights were very amazed!

Deb Albert from the garden club was a witness to this flower blooming. I also had a neighbor (master gardener) came to watch along with her daughter. Some of my friends from another group also came out to watch. The waiting and watching unfolded over the course

of 3 nights. This was very exciting as this is the first time I had many blooms on the plant. The blossoms were over 8 inches across! It was a unusually fun party! Marge Clarke



(Cereus in bloom)

AWARDS

GCGL does not plan our programs or activities in order to receive awards, however we always appreciate recognition for what we do. Each year awards are given by District IIB, MGC, Central Region, and NGC. Depending on the award, applications are submitted to the District, the State, or the Region. First place recipients are forwarded from the District to the State and the State to the Region or National for further consideration. Most applications were sent last October 2019, based on the previous year's work. Usually the results are given to each club at the District IIB Spring meeting. Since that was canceled last April, the information was recently sent to club presidents.

All District IIB clubs received a refund of their membership dues for this past year. This was based on a District surplus of money, so is not technically an award, but a very nice, very

unexpected bonus.

Following is a list of awards that we applied for and our results. Congratulations to all of our members who worked hard on so many good projects.

The Carolyn Gray award is an award for a garden club participating in an outstanding project with school-age children in the area of horticulture, or other relevant areas of youth gardening. The Corn Project received District 1st place, and MGC Honorable Mention.

The Best Decorated Holiday Tree award is for a decorated tree with a theme that furthers NGC/MGC goals and objectives and is displayed in public for community awareness. The GCGL entry in the Greater Lansing Festival of Trees had a pollinator theme and message. It received District 1st place, and MGC \$25 for 1st place.

The 2018-19 Yearbook was awarded District 2nd place.

Tommy Dolan awards are given in a number of categories for publications. We qualify for newsletters of 3-12 pages that are published at least three times per year. Twigs received District 1st place, \$25 for MGC 1st place, and NGC Certificate of Appreciation.

Each year the President submits a Club of Distinction Award Application in early February. The 3-4 page application includes a series of possible events, activities and levels of club involvement for different sized clubs. Award levels are: Club of Distinction, Silver Club of Distinction, Gold, Platinum, Diamond, Double Diamond, and Triple Diamond. We received an MGC Diamond Club of Distinction Award.

As we look ahead, please know that your work is appreciated. Club members can help by reviewing award categories and criteria on the websites for District IIB, MGC, Central Region, and NGC. You know what you are doing better than I do. If you see something that fits any of your GCGL activities, please let me know.

Awards are one way to share our work with potential members, other garden clubs and organizations. Barb Amundsen

UPDATE ON HOME GARDEN



(My picks before the frost)

The threat of frost and freezing temps sent me scrambling for sheets to cover the 3 vegetable raised beds. I wanted to keep the tomatoes growing and the basil from going black.

I continue to learn about veg gardening this summer. I only need 1 tomatillo plant, tomatoes need to be moved next year, beets, carrots, garlic need to be closer to the front and side. This makes better sense from the passing of the sun and keeping all tall plants to the back of each bed.

My trellises while fun to build were to high. It is hard to get the beans off the trellises. I am still picking the garden clean but the produce is smaller and less abundant.

On the flower side I have indulged in getting more mums. I look for hardy mums. Not all nurseries sell this type. Having found one I have purchased burnt oranges, ruby reds and purples. Along with the mums, sedum, joe pie weed, iron weed, black eyed susans, hydrangea, lady's mantle, asters and grasses, color abounds in the yard. Joan Lenhard

OCTOBER MEETING

Our speaker is not able to present. Don't worry will keep this topic available to us in the future as many of us use our phones to take pictures.

The board is looking to identify different topics and options for a presentation. Stay tuned.

Come join us on our zoom presentations. Many members of the group are getting more proficient at using this technology. We hope you will consider this option. Joan Lenhard

SEPT RECAP

Raynika Brown from Emergency Management presented a program about preparing for emergencies. Each month you learn more about preparing and what you can do to be prepared. Preparing reduces anxiety and creates resilience. You can sign up to receive a newsletter each month. Enclosed are the websites for sign up to newsletter and emergency notices. Joan Lenhard
<https://www.lansingmi.gov/452/Lansing-Alert>
<https://www.eatoncounty.org/601/Rave-Alerts>
<https://do1thing.com/>

GREENS MARKET NEWS

The GCGL Board has decided to order greens for our members personal use. Members can order 1 or 2 bags of greens. We also have containers, oasis, tape, etc for members to buy for their personal use. We need this info by Sept 28 so we can place orders for everything in October. We expect greens to be available during the week before Thanksgiving. The price per bag for greens will depend on the cost of greens we order.

Any members who wish to donate greens from their own property are welcome to do so. That will help keep costs down. Please let us know what kind of greens and how much you plan to donate. Those will be needed early the week of Nov 15.

Ellen Bloomer will be ordering Cedar Roping in 75 foot bundles at \$105 for the full bundle. Shorter lengths will be \$1.70 per foot. Call Ellen on her cell phone and leave a message. She will return your call. The# is 517-256-5360. Roping orders must also be placed by Sept 28. Joanne Bauer

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Cheryl Smith
Sally Grady

Mary McCulloch
Beulah Voorheis

Let's Garden Lansing – letsyardenlansing.org

Allen Neighborhood Center –
www.allenneighborhoodcenter.org/exchange/

Michigan State University Horticulture Gardens -
https://www.canr.msu.edu/hrt/our_gardens/

Michigan Volunteer Management System –
www.michigan.volunteersystem.org

Sixteen Sprigs Lavender Farm call 803-3081
<http://www.sixteensprigs.org>
Facebook Sixteen Sprigs Lavender Farm

MEMBER UPDATE

Deb Johnston

IIB UPDATE

The committee for the flower show in March 2021 is proceeding with development of the program. This years' theme is National Parks. Start thinking about putting together an arrangement. Typically we get the programs in October at our meeting but that is not going to play out. Be sure to check the IIB website and stay in touch with the board and group. We will keep you updated. Joan Lenhard

WEBSITES

Websites/Calendars to check for gardening events
Capital Area Master Gardeners –
www.mgacac.wordpress.com

Michigan Master Gardener Association –
www.michiganmastergardener.org