

TWIGS

The Garden Club of Greater Lansing Newsletter Member of: Michigan Garden Clubs Inc. IIB Division, National Garden Club Central Region, National Garden Club Inc.

Volume 11 #2

EDITOR: Joan Lenhard

July 2022

Distribution: Reba Torongo

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

The weather has created some challenges in the garden. Lots of hot and humid weather early, creates fast and furious weed growth. I have been weeding and now have to very large dried out bags of weeds to be picked up by the City. I lay them out and dry them. This lightens the load and means I can stuff more into the bags and still be lightweight.

During the cool down I cleaned out my raised beds of weeds, made trellis's for climbing vines (zucchini, peas, squash), and staked out the tomato plants. I also weeded 4 flower beds, nipped the buds on the peonys, geraniums, and marigolds. I will be back to very early garden time when the weather heats up.

I continue to read books and articles about how to keep my garden healthy without using chemicals. I put straw down to hold in the moisture and reduce my use of watering. I inspect plants every other day for insect damage. I have cut low lying leaves so they do not get wet. So important for tomatoes. I planted a flat of marigold in and around tomatoes and the vegetable beds. This is to help with nematodes. It also keeps the skeeters away.

I have put a deposit on a bus and found an exciting restaurant for us to enjoy after our trip to the Oudolf Gardens on Belle Isle. Our initial sign up produced about 26 people interested in this trip. More info on the trip in the newsletter.

The trip to Mike Hill's place in Leslie was fantastic. I think everyone who went would agree it is a place to wonder thru and see beauty all around.



(Garden at Mike's place)

HORTICULTURE

I feel immersed in gardening and good ideas this summer. We were so fortunate that the Michigan Garden Clubs annual conference was in Lansing this year. The following week we had the state Master Gardeners Conference (Master Gardener College) at MSU. There were so many good programs and so much information to absorb, good friends to see, new friends to meet, and all with the common love of gardening and learning. I hope that most of you

were able to participate in at least some of these opportunities.

With all of this it would have been easy to avoid some garden chores. Instead, the weather has continued to cooperate and many of our plants seem ahead of schedule. The iris and peonies are over, delphinium are gorgeous and cone flowers are budding. In my garden I feel that the lilies are late, but once they bloom, that will continue for several weeks.

As I look to the next several weeks, there are some plants that just seem to be happiest in the heat and humidity of summer. Following are a few of my favorite perennials that thrive in the sun. I'm sure that each of you could add to my list.

Coneflowers, or Echinacea, just keep blooming from summer into fall. A few years ago, we could choose from purple or white blossoms. Now there are so many beautiful colors- pinks, lavenders, reds, oranges, two-tones, and each year it seems like more choices. There is a native green centered cone flower that is about 6+feet tall, and there are some with heights of just a few inches. I love the double scoop echinacea with center cushions covered by short petals, and longer outer petals. In turn, the bees and butterflies are better served with the visible centers that they can reach more easily. My garden has some of both.

Monarda, or Bee Balm, or Bergamot, has many choices of colors. The native plant has light lavender blossoms, and newer cultivars include deeper purple, reds, magenta, and more. The pollinators visit them all and the long bloom season is another plus. Blazing Star, or Liatris, grows spikes covered with small purple or white flowers. They are very adaptable to the summer heat, attract pollinators and have few issues. Lanceleaf Coreopsis has prolific yellow blooms throughout the summer. The bright flowers have yellow-orange centers, attract pollinators, and are tough while appearing to be delicate. The fern-like leaves provide a lovely texture contrast with other foliage. Clustered Bellflower or Campanula Glomarata, has deep purple-blue flowers in clusters on sturdy stems. The blooms last for several weeks and are about two feet tall. While this is not a native plant, it is still a

personal favorite because of the punch of color and the texture and shape it provides. It's also a favorite for hummingbirds and bees.

Joe Pye Weed or Eupatorium, will bloom a little later in summer, but is low maintenance, with large flower heads that last until frost. My garden has Chocolate Joe Pye Weed and Purple Joe Pye Weed. The Chocolate is about 4' tall with dark burgundy foliage and white flower heads. I have just added Purple Joe Pye Weed (thanks to Joanne). It will be taller with the large, mauve flower heads. Both plants are beautiful, native and attract many pollinators. Their only special care will be staking some of the heavy blossoms.

I could add more favorites, as I'm sure you can too. As we enjoy our gardens this summer, we can all appreciate the beauty and pleasure that our gardens give us even as they also require our care and love. Barb Amundsen



(Mike's place Dogwood Blossom)

MGC STATE CONFERENCE

I can not say enough about how hard Ann Schoals and Ronalee Polad worked on this conference. These two were very involved and true worker bees. I thank you both so much for helping 2B flourish but more so for showing how you lead quietly and adapted on the fly. All puns intended.

Many other people from our club and from the 2B district helped throughout the two days.



(MGC MSU evening event)

JULY MEETING

NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION TOUR

On Monday July 11th we will start the tour at 9:30 just down the road from the church. We've had fun planning this tour and think you'll share our excitement after you see these three "hidden gems" in Lansing. (Granted John's Garden is not that "hidden" of a gem 😊.) Anyway, here's where we'll be going. Bring your own coffee/beverage and enjoy a breakfast treat that we'll be providing at: Andrea Terry. (Carol Miller's cloned daughter/wait until you meet her). House 2 is John McCarthy's for an updated tour of his property (and bathroom, if necessary). House 3 is across the street from John's home. Come see the beautiful plant collection belonging to Shirley and Al Sander.

Lunch at the neighborhood El Azteco. I'll get a head count when we start. Glad these tours are on a Monday so eating spots have room for us. Let me know if you have questions or have baked goods you might want to bring. . . See you soon. Daiva



(Press Flowers from Meridian Show)

APRIL 2023

That is correct. This headline is important because you **MUST** start drying flowers, leaves and grasses for a program on pressed flower arranging. This should be a wonderful session.

To press flowers put between 2 sheets of clean paper and many heavy books. Add to you collection every month. Before you know it, you will have a garden of flat flowers waiting to turn into a work of beauty. Ronalee Polad

BLUE STAR MEMORIAL & SCOTT SUNKEN GARDEN

Blue Star Memorial Garden was ready for Memorial Day! Thank you to Robyn Carlson for the flags and beautiful wreath! We had a work bee to remove the blocks around the garden and bring them up to ground level a huge improvement.

A few weeks later the wreath was removed and the flags were replanted because the day lilies were getting lush. The park staff watered during the recent heat wave and added some color with orange canna lilies. Shasta daisies look ready to bloom. We will keep tabs on the poppies, one looks like it is struggling and no buds on the others.



The Nepeta is happily blooming and attracting bees! The Bee Balm is waiting to bloom. Many compliments have been offered from park visitors during this season of graduation parties and picnics. Thank you to the committee! Sue Kesti

FIELD TRIP – OUDOLF GARDENS, BELLE ISLE

Mark your calendar for Thursday September 15th. The bus has been booked, the tour guide has been secured and the restaurant is ready for us.

Meet at church at 8:00 for an 8:15 departure. Stop at Park and Ride Okemos for 8:30 for pick-up. Tour at 10:00. Possible stops at the Conservatory and Aquarium. Lunch is at McShane's Irish Pub at Trumbull and Michigan Ave. (I can hear the ROAR and Crack of the Bat). You can invite a guest.

Secure your reservation by Friday July 29th. After this date we will open to members of 2B. **YOU** must do two things: 1. **Email** Joan with reservation of names for the trip. 2. **Send a check** to Suz Burger,

payment to GCGL for \$40.00. This is your transportation and water. Lunch is on your OWN. We should be back in Lansing by 4:00. Joan Lenhard

Greens Market

A preliminary meeting to help identify resources has taken place. More news to follow.

BASKETS FOR MGC

Michigan Garden Club sent a thank you for the "Pollinator & Gourmet Baskets" donated by our club for the Michigan Garden Club's Annual Conference held on June 8 and 9 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Thank you to members who donated the following items. The items in the Pollinator Basket: a jar of natural honey, pollinator seeds, flavorful floral teas, birdhouse, crystal vase, wild honey almond soap, garden labels, garden gloves, decorative hand towels, lavender vanilla candle, "Bloom" garden sign, and Prairies and Savannah's in Michigan book. The Gourmet Basket was filled with English teas, olive and truffle oil, a stylish apron and a gift certificate to Le Chat Gourmet. The sale of the auction baskets raised over \$2500 .

Any surplus funds from the conference will be split between MGC, District 2B and the clubs of 2B that participated in the conference. Thank you for your participation. Ann Lenhard



(MGC Crowne Plaza, Lansing MI June 2022)

PROGRAM SCHEDULE BOOKS

The positive feedback about our new schedule program book is great. Ronnie reworked our previous layout and saved us money, Thanks. We have to mail some out and that will take place soon.