

# 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.

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### PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

This summer we have seen the heat, humidity, rain, not enough rain, or bright blue skies and sunshine with lovely temps breezes and cool nights for sleeping. The last half of that sentence is my ideal summer day. My garden loves those days too.



(Andrea and Scott house 1)

The club has been busy visiting gardens and enjoying all of the differences of each garden. At every garden I hear people ooh and aah. Questions abound as to what plant is that? How big does it get? I want one of those.

We have two more gardens to visit in July and a Tea in Aug. While we have not met for meetings, we sure have been busy.

On Monday July 18<sup>th</sup> we will meet at 6:30 pm for a tour of the Japanese Garden, Shigematsu Memorial Garden Park on the campus of LCC. Park on Capital. The following article is about our member tour. Be sure to **Pink** it Out. Joan Lenhard

### MEMBER GARDEN TOUR

Welcome to my **Pink** Cat Garden filled with **Pink** bubble gum Petunia's trailing along the house with **Pink** cat statues. The side patio is filled with jelly bean petunias, lavender and **Pink** geraniums along with trailing wine cup vines. Linda Brownell is the master behind this adventure. Be sure to make this a **Pink** party and wear something **PINK**.

Tour the garden of Linda Brownell on Monday JULY 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:30. Linda Brownell

### HORTICULTURE

Last summer and the summer before I complained about visiting woodchucks. The year before that it was deer. This summer my nemesis is a little red squirrel. For the past several years I have grown tomatoes, bell peppers, a few herbs, and flowers in large pots on my deck. They are easy access for my walker, and of course easy to maintain and water. They have also become easy targets for a visiting squirrel!



(House 1 Garden Tour)

The naughty squirrel climbs up to my deck rail and runs along the top board. Anything close to the rail is an easy target for him. As the tomatoes grew taller, we placed wire mesh between those pots and the rail. So, he climbed the apple tree and brought onto the deck a small hard ball that would have ripened into a Macintosh. He also decided that he might like bell peppers, so he took a bite to check that out. Yesterday I caught him digging holes in the bell pepper pot.

In addition to the veggie pots I have a patio garden of perennials just beyond the deck. About a week ago I saw “my” squirrel sitting on the deck rail on top of a bent delphinium stalk, with another delphinium stalk in his mouth. He obviously thought that he had discovered something wonderful. Since I knew that delphiniums are poisonous to people and pets, I admit that I hoped that he would at least have a good stomachache or worse. This was reinforced when I didn’t see him again for a couple of days. Now he’s back, quick as ever and just as curious as ever, so apparently delphinium don’t bother rodents.

Squirrels love food and almost anything they find in a garden can tempt them. It was obvious that my deck and patio garden looked like a treasure trove. As I learn more about this issue, there are several possibilities to get rid of squirrels. The first is to add something they dislike enough that they will leave other plants alone. They really do not like hot peppers. Sprinkle cayenne, hot sauce or chili pepper flakes on top of the soil or perhaps next year add a hot pepper plant in my garden mix of patio pots. Peppermint oil can be used in the same way. Again, squirrels really don’t like it. While either hot pepper seasoning or peppermint oil could work, they need replacement after a rain.

There are flowers that squirrels don’t like. These include daffodils, snowdrops, allium, hyacinths, or marigolds. Planting these along with veggies or other ornamental plants may keep squirrels from exploring garden areas.

Another suggested squirrel deterrent is to add mothballs around a plant or in a pot. While this could be used for ornamental plants, it obviously wouldn’t work close to edibles, and would certainly detract from the lovely scents of many flowers.



(Shirley and Al House 3)

There are also some mechanical choices that can discourage squirrels. There are decoys that can scare away squirrels. Plastic or resin owls, or rubber

snakes in the garden can prevent them from getting close to plants. Adding some sort of noisemaker to the decoy could reinforce their use. I admit that while these may work, I'm not sure I want even a plastic snake in my garden.

Row covers or netting can be used to cover plants as well. Other choices are motion sensor lights or sprinklers. There are a variety of choices; some use batteries, some are solar powered. Some have ultrasonic sounds that cannot be heard by humans but are heard by animals.

For this summer, my choice is a solar powered ultrasonic device. I haven't had it long enough, but I believe it will work. It won't harm plants, people or even the squirrels. All it will do is help to set physical boundaries.

Every year there are some new challenges. As I think about it, part of the fun of gardening is that we continue to learn more every year as we face new issues. Think of how dull it would be if everything stayed the same and was totally predictable season by season. Barb Amundsen

#### FIELD TRIP – OUDOLF GARDENS, BELLE ISLE

Mark your calendar for Thursday September 15<sup>th</sup>. 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. 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 29<sup>th</sup>. 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

#### PROGRAM SCHEDULE BOOK MEMBER UPDATES

Corrections and additions: Emails Renee McMillan and Susan Epple.

(Content Redacted)

Gala Kolmsee was a former member of GCGL and is once again a member. Gala and Joanne Bauer have

been friends since their school days. Welcome back Gala.



(Member Jon House 2)

#### Greens Market

Meet at JoAnne's home at 9:30 a.m. on Mon. Aug. 1. This meeting is extremely important as many decisions are made. Come prepared and get informed. A review and update of publicity for past, present and future buyers. Price lists and Sales Slips will be updated. Decisions are made regarding what products to purchase, make, and the number of different products. Discussion about how workshops operate, and how the actual Greens Market functions. Any member with input is welcome. JoAnne Bauer

#### SUMMER TEA

The Garden Club of Greater Lansing Summer Tea will be in the garden of Deb Johnston on Mon., Aug. 8, between 11:00-2:00 pm. Sign-up sheets for the Tea will be at all July Events. If you don't make it to one of the July Events to sign up, please call Sherry to RSVP and choose what you plan to bring to share: cold soup, tea sandwiches, fruit, veggies or dessert. Beverages, scones and Devonshire Cream will be supplied by the Committee. Please arrange

carpooling as there is only street parking available.  
Ronalee Polad

### BEAUTIFICATION SUMMER GARDEN TOUR

A wonderful turnout for our garden tour. Twenty-six people joined the group to visit three homes. Each garden offered fabulous content, views and plants. The weather was fantastic and this enhanced the tour. We saw all types of flowers, vegetables, hardscaping and design.

A warm thank you goes out to Andrea and Scott (might be future members), Jon (who is a member) and Shirley and Al. Andrea and Scott have been working on their garden for a very short time and making huge progress. Jon has been developing his garden over the course of a few years. Shirley and Al have been gardening this property for over 30 years. Thanks again folks. Sharon Drake

### PREPPING FOR DRY FLOWER ARRANGEMENT

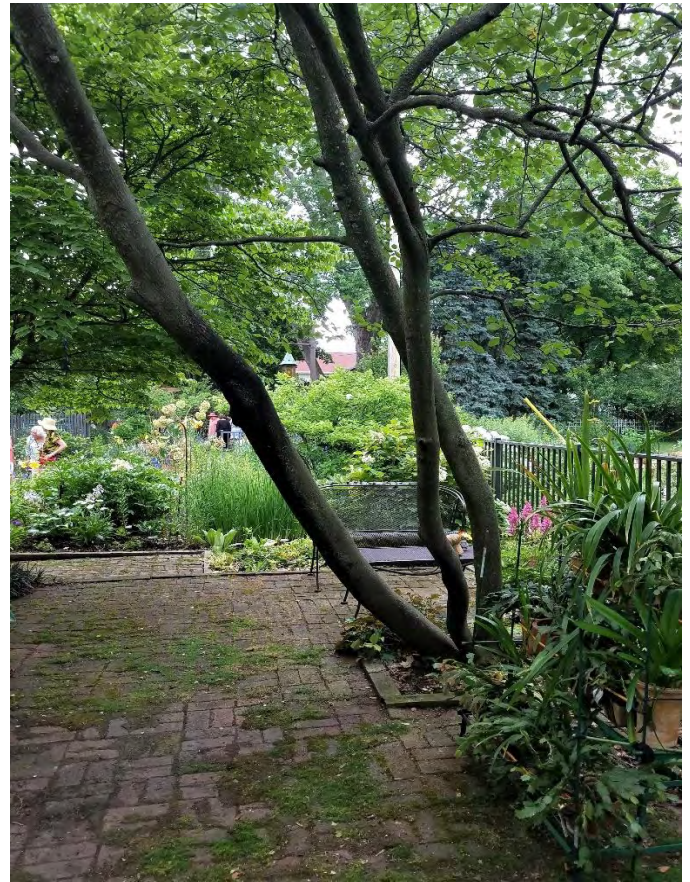
"How to Press Flowers" by Debbie Wolfe, February 16, 2022, HGTV Newsletter

Pressing flowers is a time-honored method of preservation. Budding botanists and flower lovers have been using this method for centuries. Pressing flowers can be done in a few different ways depending on the materials on hand and how many flowers you want to preserve.

If you press a lot of flowers, consider making or purchasing a flower press. Otherwise, you can just use a heavy book. Pressed flowers are perfect for adding to cards or for your own DIY botanical prints.

- **Remove any unwanted leaves. Or just remove the flowers and press the leaves separately.**
- Open the book about a quarter to halfway.
- Place absorbent sheets of paper (such as watercolor sheet or cardstock) on the book's pages.
- Position the blooms face down on parchment paper and lay the parchment paper on top of the absorbent paper. Place another sheet of absorbent paper on top of the flowers. Carefully close the book.
- Place more books on top of the book with the flowers.
- Place the books in a safe place for 3 to 4 weeks.
- Tip: Heavy books like dictionaries work best.

Article found by Ronalee Polad



(House 3)



Reba is challenging our members who press the most useable material for the pressed flower design program next year. The winner will receive a microwavable flower press by Reba Torongo.



(Pond house 2)