

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 12 #1
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June 2023
Distribution: Reba Torongo

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

The summer is moving quickly. I hope everyone is finding time for your garden, other gardens and greenhouses. The dry weather has made weeding difficult. I am looking forward to a long dose of steady rain.

The MGC Conference in Grand Rapids was great. Our speakers provided entertainment along with education and design. Neal and Betty Sanders, the husband/wife duo had lots to say about gardening. He shared humorous stories about where plants go, and how there is a three-part process for planting a new plant. Neal had us laughing throughout his presentation. He is also a prolific writer of murder mystery in garden plots. Betty presented information on how to reduce lawns with easy care plants that have low maintenance needs.

Josh Roggenbuck of Walters Gardens spoke about the use of EZ Care planting designs from Proven Winners. This program puts together a design based on plants need of shade, light, water and interest throughout the spring, summer and fall interests.

Natalie Carmolli presented on the use of beautiful and smart looking shrubs that work harder for you. The plants presented were part of the Proven Winner division.

In the evening our speaker, James Lutke made many designs. The largest design sat atop a 5–6-foot glass vase. The weight alone of the design must have been 30-40 lbs. This design would be used for flanking an entrance, or the focal point in

a grand lobby area. The other designs were more manageable. Two of my favorites were quite small and dainty.



(Design by James Lutke)

I want to thank Barb Amundsen for submitting 3 awards to MGC. We placed in all three. Facebook,

Website and TWIGS. Barb does this every year and I truly appreciate her work on these awards. I hope in the fall/winter we will have 2 or 3 members attend the meeting to assist with judging. We can learn what and how the items are evaluated.

A handful of folks made it to Mike Hill's property for a lovely stroll through his gardens. Beauty was all around. Everyone marveled at the uniqueness of his gardens.



(Mike Hill Gardens -Foxglove)

The July Garden Tour is scheduled for Monday July 10th at 10:00 for the Meridian Historical Garden. This is located north of the Meridian Mall in the government buildings area. Use Okemos Rd south to Central Park Drive. At this time the intersection of Marsh Rd and Grand River is closed. It might be open by the time we head out to the tour. Lunch will follow at Lucky's Steakhouse. Please register.

On Monday July 24th at 2:00 pm we are invited to Van Attas to learn about shrubs, pruning and care. Specifically, Hydrangeas. We must have a count as to who will attend as handouts will be available as well as a gift. You will also have time to shop. Then off to dinner at Blue Gill Grill.

The Greens Market mtg will be held at the church as so many people are excited and ready to get involved with decisions and ideas. That meeting is Monday August 7th at 9:30. The Summer Tea has been scheduled for the afternoon of the 7th at Holt Veteran Memorial Gardens 1-4 pm. The September board meeting is Monday August 28th at 9:30 at the church.

MSU added to their recycling program 3 dumpsters for getting rid of your old pots and containers that plants were once in. This program was for a limited time in June. It was well received so I am sure it will be back next year. Each dumpster had a 3D graphic of what could go into each dumpster. Please put it on your calendar for next year.

HORTICULTURE

As I'm writing this, I admit to being a wimp. It may be mid-June, but when the temperatures are in the 40's at night and 60's in the daytime, I run my furnace. By the time you read this, the weather may have changed, but unfortunately, our current cool temperatures and lack of rain are seriously affecting our gardens as well as the gardeners. Unless we have some magical system for heating our plants, even regular watering is not enough to keep them on schedule this year.

I have especially noticed that most of my lilies are way, way, way behind normal. While one early lily bloomed briefly a few weeks ago, most of mine are not even showing buds. Plants that have been blooming (iris, peonies) have had a shorter bloom time this year. For some reason, my roses seem to love this weather and are better than ever this year. Another change that I've noticed is that tomato plants are growing well and look healthy, but there are very few blooms. Tomatoes like cool nights, but they need heat in the daytime. Once the weather warms up, I expect that the buds (and the ripe fruit) will come.

Do you have insects/pollinators in your gardens???

I have seen very few butterflies, hummingbirds or bees, and fewer caterpillars. Admittedly my veggies are in pots on my patio, but perennials and shrubs are throughout the yard. I also have a perennial

area with pollinator plants beside the patio, but even that area lacks the usual pollinator visitors.

The lack of rain has been a serious concern. Even when it's been predicted or actually comes, there has scarcely been enough to measure. Obviously, the lack of moisture is impacting both the growth and health of plants, and of pollinators too. I use hose timers and soaker hoses on most of my perennial areas and shrubs. My patio has a manual hose that has an override on a hose timer. That way I can easily water pots and plants that are along the edge of the patio. While my hose timers are set to water every other day, and I use the manual hose on the alternate days, we know that the natural rain would be so much better.

There is nothing to do about the low temperatures except to cheer when the sun comes out and stays a while. We know that this year our atmosphere has been impacted by the fires in northern Michigan and in Canada. As these are more and more controlled, we should expect a return to normal for our summer sun to give us the warmth and light that our plants need. Barb Amundsen

Article 2. Last year I brought home some greens from our market and made a wreath that was small and would sit on a planter on my porch. The small ring wreath was to soften the edges of the planter and hide the black container top which still had soil in it. I then added lots of greens and some red embellishments. To further accent the design, I cut some of my Red Twig Dogwood. I just stuck them in the pot to add height. This spring I went to clean out the dried greens, and noticed the Red Twig Dogwood had rooted and was blooming. What a shocking and wonderful surprise. I transplanted it to a bigger black container and will transplant into my garden bed in the back sometime later this summer. I am so happy that this was an unintended new plant. Joan Lenhard

PROGRAM SCHEDULE BOOK

July *Garden Tour*, Mon July 10th at 10:00 -12:15, at Meridian Historical Gardens and Buildings. Lunch 12:30 at Lucky's Steakhouse. Members of the Meridian Garden Club and the Historical team will provide us a tour.

VanAtta's Mon July 24 at 2:00 pm. Topic: Hydrangea Care. **RESERVATION is REQUIRED** Dinner follows at Blue Gill Grill.

August *Greens Market mtg*, Mon Aug 7th at 9:30 at the church.

Summer Tea Mon Aug 7th 1:00-4:00 @ Holt Veterans Memorial Garden Pavilion. I will have a sign-up list with specific needs for this activity. We will also need for people to sign-up for this activity.

Board Mtg Mon Aug 28th at 9:30 at the church.

September *Club Mtg* Mon Sept 11th at 5:00 at the church. 5:00-5:45 mtg., 6:00-6:45 dinner, 6:45-7:45 presentation by Shane from Vets Ace Hardware.

October a fall excursion to see the smoke trees and other beauties at Mike's place. Date TBA



(James Lutke)

CONFERENCES

D2B Fall Oct 4 8:30-3:30 DeWitt. Registration will be in September. Cost is \$30.00 -bring your checkbook. The group is working on this event and like all District meetings I am sure it will be fantastic.

MGC Flower Show School Course 1, Oct 5-7 in Ann Arbor. Online Registration taking place now.

MEMBER UPDATES & FRIENDS

Please remember Nanette Mathe. Her sister was in hospice and passed away.

Deb Plichta is with the Looking Glass Club and is very active in MGC and 2B. She recently lost her husband after an extended illness.

Lynne O'Shaughnessy from the Brighton Garden Club recently lost her husband. Lynne has presented to us her Circle Garden. Many of us have had the pleasure of going to her home and view this beauty.

Our new Corresponding Secretary is Reba Torongo. Many of you have received notes from Reba in the past. Ann Lenhard has kept on top of correspondences and cards the past few years. Thank you very much. Joan Lenhard

GARDEN NEWS

A few weeks ago, I stopped at Scott Gardens to see how everything was coming along. It was taking shape and looked pretty good. I stopped by this past week and the garden is filling in, the roses are spectacular. Sue and John were the only two working hard in the garden. This really is a beautiful spot but it needs volunteers. **PLEASE** keep Sherry up to date on your availability. Joan Lenhard



(Picture by Sue Kesti)

SCOTT GARDEN

The Scott Sunken Garden is looking fabulous! The roses can be seen from the parking lot! See the photo! Many plants are extra lush and may need to be thinned this fall. No new plants installed due to irrigation issues continuing to be monitored. Many of the crew have been visiting family or vacationing and we look forward to when we all can reunite in the garden again. Hopeful to see photos and hear of their adventures. We continue to have primary work day at Scott on Fridays at 9 AM. Other work days can be arranged by contacting via text or email.

THE BLUE STAR MEMORIAL

The GCGL gardeners have been happy and busy this past month. Not much weeding required at Blue Star Memorial thanks to park staff who installed more than enough mulch! That also helped plants survive the previous heat wave. More poppies were installed a few weeks ago and the daisies are budding and ready to bloom. Sending well wishes to Ellen Bloomer and Linda Brownell as they continue post op recovery. Looking forward to seeing you soon! Sue Kesti



(Blue Star picture by Sue Kesti)

REGISTRATIONS

The following have registered for the July Garden Tour at the Meridian Historical Garden area: Joan, Renee, Ronnie, Gala, Marge, Joanne, Kay.

The following have registered for Van Atta's: Joan, Ronnie, Renee, Sandy, Carol M, Marge, Nanette, Reba, Tootsie, Ann Le, Gala, Kay, Deb and Beth.

Please email Joan Lenhard to get registered for these tours/education. It is important to know how many to make a reservation for at lunch (Lucky's) or dinner (Blue Gill Grill).

(Content Redacted)

BOARD MTG

Monday August 28th at 9:30 at the church.

CLUB MEETING

Club Mtg Mon Sept 11th at 5:00 at the church.

DISTRICT 2B & MGC

D2B Fall Oct 4, 9:00-3:30 DeWitt. Registration will be in September -bring your checkbook. Cost is \$30.00. Fall district meetings are filled with fun.

Great News. Michigan House Bill 4159 (Black Swallowtail Butterfly) has passed! 67 to 42. Let's talk with our Senators now. This is the time to get this through our legislative process. Check the MGC website for current updates.

FLOWER SHOW

Horticulture, Design and Botanical Arts including Photography

This event was canceled but we will have more information for something next year.

FB HUMOR

A recent posting in FB with gardeners in mind stated, "Don't tell secrets in the garden. Potatoes have eyes, the corn has ears, the beanstalk, and they saw the lettuce turnup and pea."

Plants that Suzanne Dudley would love to pass on to any member.

