

# TWIGS

## The Garden Club of Greater Lansing



Member of: Michigan Garden Clubs Inc. District 2B,  
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### **PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**

Members have been busy in two gardens weeding and cutting back when necessary. Mulch has been added and now the gardens are in maintenance mode.



(July Garden Tour – Meridian Historical Village & Garden)

Throughout the summer many members have visited a variety of gardens, walked through rows and rows of plants. Some are going on the trip to Walters Gardens. That should be fantastic. The summer goes by so quickly with all of these activities. Before long we will be back with in person meetings. Our schedule is filling out and program books we hope will be available at the tea.

The tour of Meridian Historical Village and Gardens were educational. Members of the Meridian Garden Club walked us through the gardens in the Village. We learned about the development of the gardens, plantings, and history of founding

members. Many GCGI members have never toured these gardens. Thank you, Meridian Garden Club, what a peaceful garden our on a beautiful morning.

Larry Kane at VanAtta's is planning a presentation on hydrangea on Mon 7/24 @ 2-4. We will learn care and maintenance of these beautiful plants. Discussion on the three types / varieties - when and how to prune and overall care and placement of these plants. We will also have time to shop plants and other items for the garden.

We will be in a classroom and have time out in the field. Come prepared to move around. Water, hat, maybe even a chair. Afterwards we will meet at Blue Gill Grill on Lake Lansing, east off of Marsh Rd.



(July Garden Tour – Meridian Historical Village & Garden)

### **AUGUST MEETINGS**

We start the month off with a planning meeting for the Greens Market. This meeting will be held at

the church at 9:30 on Mon 7<sup>th</sup>. It is important that **ALL** members who are on this committee make the meeting. Discussion and plans will be made for our upcoming year. Your voice and ideas contribute to the success of this event.

The Summer Tea is scheduled for Monday the 7<sup>th</sup> at Veterans Memorial Park, behind the Delhi Township offices on Aurelius Rd. We had one meeting at this facility. Tea is between 2-4 pm. at the Pavilion.

As chair of the Tea Committee Ronnie is in the process of getting information of what people will bring and who is coming. Please sign up in person with what you intend to bring - cold soup; fruit, veggies, sandwiches or email Ronnie with your intentions. This is a fun event at a beautiful garden.

Our club will put together a basket for the Oct D2B mtg. We are looking for small items for the basket. Please bring items in to the Sept mtg. Ann L is putting the basket together. Joanne if you still have a basket or two can you bring to the meeting?

Board meeting is Mon 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 at the church.

## **HORTICULTURE**

Sometimes what's old again is new again. I never thought that I would be writing an article about hollyhocks. To me they were in my mother's garden and my grandmother's too. They somehow seemed to belong in an old-fashioned English country garden and not in my yard today. Not only that but my recollection was that they were always full of insects.

Times change and so do plants. A friend who helps in my gardens brought a couple of hollyhocks to add in an area that needed tall plants. I tried to be polite, said thank you, and she planted them for me. I admit that my first thoughts were so very wrong!!

The newer cultivars are gorgeous. The blossoms are about the size of hibiscus flowers; they totally cover the sturdy, tall stems above large green leaves. My favorite hollyhock has blossoms that are nearly black. A second plant has bright red blossoms, and a third is pink.

Hollyhocks are native to East Asia. Over the years, they spread to the Middle East, where the English discovered them during the Crusades. The plants were used to make a salve that was used on the hind legs, or "hocks" of the Crusaders' horses. The name apparently comes from – holly, or holy (as in Holy Land) and hock, as in the part of the horse the plant was used to treat. Hollyhocks belong to the plant genus, *Alcea*, which includes the Mallow family. Other related plants are okra, cotton and hibiscus.

They need full sun, plenty of water and good drainage. They also need space to grow and to keep the plants from being invaded by insects or disease. Two of my plants are about 6-7' tall, and 2' in diameter. A third plant in my garden is 9' tall. Although I don't have any, there are now miniature hollyhocks that grow to only about 3' in height.

They all are re-bloomers and continue to form buds and blossoms all summer. As they grow, they also need to be staked. The stems are sturdy, but still need help to stay upright.

The large bright blossoms of Hollyhocks attract hummingbirds and bees. You will seldom see a plant that doesn't have visiting pollinators.

Although they are perennials, hollyhocks only last for 2-3 years. The good news is that they self-seed, so they can continue to grow in the same area as where they were planted. To encourage the self-seeding, when the plants are blooming close to the end of the season, keep the last blooms on the stems, rather than deadheading. That way the plants can form seeds for next year. Barb Amundsen

## **GARDEN NEWS**

A special thank you to Tressa McAllister, Patty Cotter, Joanne Petterson, Simar Pawar and Brigitta Bruning from Meridian Garden Club who hosted our group as we toured the Historical Village and Gardens. The ladies kept us moving from garden to garden.

We saw where new gardens were developed to incorporate youth programming. These gardens are up by the government buildings. The plan was to have support and interaction with members of the

police dept., and support from the gardeners. They repeated this concept at the gardens at the fire station with the same support and interaction with fire fighters.



(Joanne Petterson, Simar Pawar, Brigitta Bruning, Tressa McAllister)

Other gardens were developed and dedicated to previous members who were instrumental in the development of the gardens. A vegetable garden is being developed keeping youth in mind to be part of the expansion. GCGL members took time to learn about the development and design of a number of gardens. Thank you for a wonderful tour.

(Content Redacted)

### **BOARD MTG**

Monday Aug 28<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30 @ the church.

### **CLUB MTG**

Sept 11<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00 pm @ the church. This is a Salad & Sandwich Dinner. Our speaker is Shane Perdue from Vets Ace Hardware in north Lansing. He will present on tool care.

Meeting is 5-5:45, dinner 5:45-6:30, speaker 6:45-7:45. Marge is dinner chair, committee is Carol, M., Carol O., and Mary S. Please communicate

with Marge on the meal. Members should bring a sandwich, dinner ware. Chair of the Day is Joan. Centerpieces for tables will come from the Design team. Remember to be early if you are on the Hospitality team, Ann Schoals will be in touch. Please check last years book and soon this year's book.

### **MEMBER UPDATES**

Long time member Marjorie Melville passed away. Marjorie had been an active member many years. Marjorie continued to receive the newsletter over the past few years. We hope to get details of final arrangements.

Suzanne Dudley is moving and her new address will be in the new program book.

### **Greens Market**

Planning meeting is Mon 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 at the church.

### **BLUE STAR MEMORIAL**



(Blues Star- Daisy, Monarda and Cat Mint)

Amazing transformation in this tiny but prolific garden! The Monarda are in full bloom along with the daisies and salvia. We even have a blossom on

the hydrangea bush, so we have hope it will flourish. A few black eye Susan's were added recently. The bees are keeping busy visiting the Nepata (cat mint). Thank you, Ellen Bloomer for keeping a close eye on Blue Star and the occasional weed. Sue Kesti

### SCOTT SUNKEN GARDEN

Recently we had a video taken of our working crew at Scott Sunken Gardens. Take a peek.

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/254412977307348>



(A few days after the heavy rains – a full flow of water and a beautiful statue with a lovely arrangement)

### MY GARDEN

This year I limited my garden. I have been having back problems and needed to make some decisions on what I would plant.

My tomatoes are coming along. I have pinched the extra sprouts and they are trellised. I have a few Ancho peppers, also known as Poblanos. I like these peppers as they add heat without burning my tongue or lips. I had to hunt for Lemon Verbena. It is a favorite of mine. The smell when you rub the

leaves or add to water is like a breath of fresh air. My sage and thyme will take over a raised bed that is 8 x 4 if I don't transplant soon. The blossoms for my squash and zucchini are all over the raised beds and flowing out. I hope this means good news. I am looking forward to using my dill for pickles and adding to my zucchini pancakes. I just love fresh goods from the garden. Joan Lenhard

### BASKETS FOR MGC D2B FALL MTG

We will put together a basket to D2B Fall mtg. You may have a nice item to donate or find something while looking at estate or garage sales. Bring your item to the Sept. mtg

### DIRECTIONS & ADDRESS

Van ATTA's Monday July 24 @ 2-4. 9008 Old M-78, Haslett. Saginaw east to Old M78, proceed east about 3 miles. It is on the right at the barn.

Blue Gill Grill 1591 Lake Lansing Rd., Haslett. From VanAtta's go west on Old M78. Turn left onto Saginaw, to Marsh Rd. turn left. Proceed to Lake Lansing turn left. It is on the right.

Veterans Memorial Garden 2074 N Aurelius Rd., Holt. Use Aurelius, Pennsylvania or Cedar and proceed south. From Cedar turn left onto Aurelius. Turn left into the Delhi Township offices and park around back.

### EDUCATION & CONFERENCE

D2B Fall meeting, Wed., Oct 4 at St Jude's in DeWitt. Check the District 2 B website for details. Bring your check book to register in Sept. These meetings are fun, interactive and a great opportunity to meet people in the district in other clubs. You learn about each other's club activities. Let's have **FUN**.

At this meeting a few minutes will be spent talking about the upcoming Landscape School. A team is pulling together the details. This will be local so I hope we have a good registration for the school.

MGC Flower Show School, Course 1 Oct 5-6-7, 2023 in Ann Arbor, Zion Lutheran Church Piper Hall— Lower Level, 1501 W. Liberty Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103. Check the MGC website for details.