

TWIGS

The Garden Club of Greater Lansing



Member of: Michigan Garden Clubs Inc. District 2B,
National Garden Club Central Region,
National Garden Club Inc.

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Editor: Joan Lenhard

JULY 2024

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

This TWIGS is going to be a branch. So much has been going on. Gardening on two sites, going to conference, recruiting new members, planning our summer garden tour, looking into a lavender tour, organizing the summer tea, putting together a workshop for the greens market, finalizing our program book and working on Course 2 of LDS. Let's just say people have been busy. I am amazed at how busy we are without any formal program meetings.

Let's start with our gardeners who have been working so hard at Scott Sunken Garden. They have sent out requests for help with water drops. They have been tending the garden and a new tree without any water. The irrigation system was damaged. This has created lots of creative ways to manage that situation. Some of you have helped by dropping off gallons of water on Fridays. Sherry has stopped a few days a week and I am sure she is tending and watering what she can. I hope the tree survives. If not, we will look into a replacement.

Over at our Blue Star we have had a pleasant surprise. A nice bench has been added along with a new flag. Now you can take a moment to sit, reflect and pause. The team here has had issues with bunnies and deer. It is a never-ending battle. When you are out and about stop at these two beautiful gems and enjoy the moment.

I hope I am not missing anyone when I say thank you to Sue, Sherry, Linda Sue, Beth, John, Sandy, Ellen, Deb, Rick and Carol weekly teams.



(Blue Star Memorial -Frances Park)

We have two gardens we will tour on Monday July 8th. Carpooling is recommended as our travel will be

taking us east into Williamston and Okemos and then lunch or dinner.

More exciting news. In the last month we have recruited four more new members. This is great news when you think about it. In the last two years we have added quite a few new members. The wealth of knowledge and talent they bring to the club is refreshing. These are people with many passions and we were lucky to have them join us for the next year. Our membership team has been busy in the last few years and it looks like we are keeping them busy for our upcoming year.

These new members have already written articles, brought us information on statewide programs, work in our gardens, help us use clean language that defines real usage in our treasury accounting. Another one has a background in graphic arts and design. This talent will begin the process of managing the look in our newsletter. WOW. I am so excited to see what our newest members will bring to our club.

(Content Redacted)

JULY GARDEN TOUR

Join us for a tour of two home gardens on Monday July 8th. One is a recent redo and the other from a seasoned Master Gardener. Both will give us unique looks at design. We will start in Williamston at 4:00

pm. We will then travel west to Okemos for a 5:00 tour. It will take about 15 minutes travel between the two gardens. Afterwards we will stop for dinner -Lucky's or Joes on Jolly. Let's try to carpool. Meet at the Okemos Park and Ride at 3:15.

LAVENDER TOUR

I have scheduled a tour to OCIMEAE in Webberville. Carpooling will work well for this adventure. This garden is just north of Grand River. Tour is at 10:30 on Thursday June 27th. Address: 3123 Gramer Rd., Webberville. This is very easy to get to. Bring your cash to purchase some great smelling products. If you want to see them do stilling, we can arrange to go back in later part of July. RSVP by 6/24 for carpooling. We can depart from the Okemos Park and Ride at 9:45. Email Joan if you plan on coming.

MGC CONFERENCE

Going to conference is always a learning experience. Sitting with other gardeners you hear about the exciting things or challenges they have in their club. You hear about solutions and what they are busy doing in their community. I found a few up north clubs who meet from April-Oct. The summer is the busiest time of the year for their club. They tend gardens, have speakers, put on tours. The rest of the year they have snowbirds and are not around.



(Linda Norwood and Ronalee Polad with design using a noodle -MGC Conference)

Another member told me about how they deal with former members who may have moved away, are now in assisted living or may have severe health problems. These members are now honorary

members and will always be included in the club roster and receive emails to maintain those connections. In the past we have had a few members maintain membership for these folks paying the Associate Membership. In these other groups the membership is paid for by the club at a fee of \$5.00 knowing they are not local but want to maintain connection. They never let anyone off the rolls unless they have passed away or requested to be removed. This inclusion seems like a lovely option for our club.

I started the conference off with lunch meeting Marge and Linda from our club. from up north. I had a wonderful time getting to know Marge. After lunch out to the boat for a lovely, leisurely trip down the river. It was a windy day but the sun was shining brightly and that kept us warm. (Along with coats, sweaters, hats and some were looking for gloves). The return trip kept us out of the wind and it was actually quite warm. Off came the jackets and sweaters.

Another fun event prior to the start of conference was using pool noodles in the design for flower arranging. Afterwards I saw many people walking around with beautiful arrangements that were well designed. People talked about how much fun it was to have something like this to do prior to meetings.



(Deb Johnston and Linda Norwood busy designing)

Our speakers at the conference were fantastic. Learning about our water quality, ground water and the importance of water was so profound. One of the challenges Michigan has, is we are surrounded by the great lakes and everyone thinks we are not in need of ground water. Aquifers don't last forever, climate change has impacted our weather, rains are not soaking into the ground and we have runoff. Farmers use many different sprays for crops,

factories have chemical spills, people leave waste on our lands that leach into the ground waters. The Brownfields, Pfas and other detrimental issues to our landscape creates challenges. Solutions are coming but not quick enough in some areas.

Once again Barb Amundsen sent in for awards. Our Club was recognized for 2nd place for our Yearbook, 1st in Newsletter District & MGC., 1st in Social Media (Website) District & MGC., Social Media-Facebook District & MGC., Publications NGC. This has resulted in a check for \$50.00. Our group has talent everywhere. I am very thankful.

GREENS MARKET DAY

Pack a lunch and plan to learn a few tricks of the trade prior to Nov. Learn about bows, pine cone tying, and make the picks for the trees. Please email Joanne or Renee with your intentions to come. Jean Veile will give direction and demonstrate the bow making. A small summer get together is brewing. On Mon 6/24 bring your creative self to the church for a Greens Workshop. The workshop is from 9:30-3:30. I hope you can stop by at the church for this fun event. Address: Grace United Methodist, 1900 Boston BLVD. Lansing. Corner of Boston & Mt Hope.

SUMMER TEA

"At first it seemed that green things would never cease pushing their way through the earth, in the grass, in the beds, even in the crevices of the walls. Then the green things began to show Buds and the buds began to unfurl and show color, every shade of blue, every shade of purple, every tint and hue of crimson." Quote from *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgkin Burnett.

A LITERARY TEA IN THE GARDEN will be held on Monday, August 12, 2024, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the home of Deb Johnston. Please bring a favorite book with a passage marked relating to gardens or tea. A \$5.00 donation toward the music is suggested. You will receive an email to RSVP and sign up for a dish to pass from Ronnie Polad. Please do so by August 8th.

In conjunction with the Michigan Garden Clubs partnership with local food pantries, we will be collecting canned good donations at this event. For

more information on this program click on the link giving@glfoodbank.org In event of extreme heat or rain, the tea will be held on the same day, at the same time, in the Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St., Grand Ledge, on the second floor. There is an elevator for your convenience.

Don your favorite hat, wear your lacy white gloves, and even dress as a favorite character if you like. We look forward to sharing a relaxing tea party with you! Click on the registration link. You will be able to sign-up and identify what you are bringing.

(Content Redacted)

Directions Library: Saginaw St west towards Grand Ledge to Jefferson St (M110) light and turn right. Turn right at Taylor St area to parking in the back of the Library.

HORTICULTURE

If your garden is like mine, this spring has seemed to turn upside down some things that I thought I knew about plants. I have had an amazing number of plants that have been in my garden for years, but that suddenly have decided to run amok and take over areas where they have never grown before. For years I have gardened with the adage that, “a weed is a plant out of place”. If it pops up in a new place where it doesn’t belong – either move it or remove it!!! This summer we have spent a huge amount of time removing unwanted extras. While I think we can attribute this to the unusually warm early spring, I admit that I know enough to be sure.

My garden problems started with Ostrich Fern that was planted at least 10-12 years ago. It had always stayed in the same space with a few fronds just in front of an old stump until this spring. This year it decided to take over a full half of my perennial garden and was smothering everything around it until we removed it. The residual plants are still

coming back – so we continue to remove more every week.

Another very insistent grower is a native, green-centered cone flower. It must have had some help from the birds or the wind as it has popped up in several places in my front yard when it has been growing for years along the fence in the back yard. It is a very tall plant so this “plant out of place” is very obvious.



(Arrangement by Ann Schoals-MGC Conference)

My patio garden has had Bee Balm for years. I have enjoyed the lovely shades of purples and reds and the pollinators that they bring. This year these plants also have spread to take over that entire garden. Since the plants are all over but it’s too

early for blooms, we are removing the out of place plants without regard for which of their several colors are being taken out or kept. We don't want it to smother everything else.

Every year we cope with extra Violets, and of course this year they're back!! I planted some many years ago in a rock garden area. Of course, they didn't stay there but have moved throughout the gardens. I always love to see them as one of the earliest plants in spring. Every year we remove and discard a few violets that are out of place. This is an ongoing issue that I can't attribute to our early spring, however now there are so many more growing in new "out of place" locations.

We always see ground covers try to keep spreading. Usually, they are easy to control and to keep in their place. This year both Lamium and Vinca are running wild. We planted Lamium as a pretty pink base around a tree where there were no other plants. Now it is popping up along the whole south side of my house and trying to run into the back yard. Vinca is taking over a section of my Hosta bed.

Each year we face new challenges in our gardens and each year we learn more. Perhaps our early warm spring was a forerunner for more years ahead or perhaps this is just a break in our normal pattern. Either way the challenges are part of what makes gardening so interesting. Barb Amundsen

GARDENS

The team at Scott Sunken Garden is always looking for additional assistance. This team works hard weeding, shaping, trimming, mulching, watering

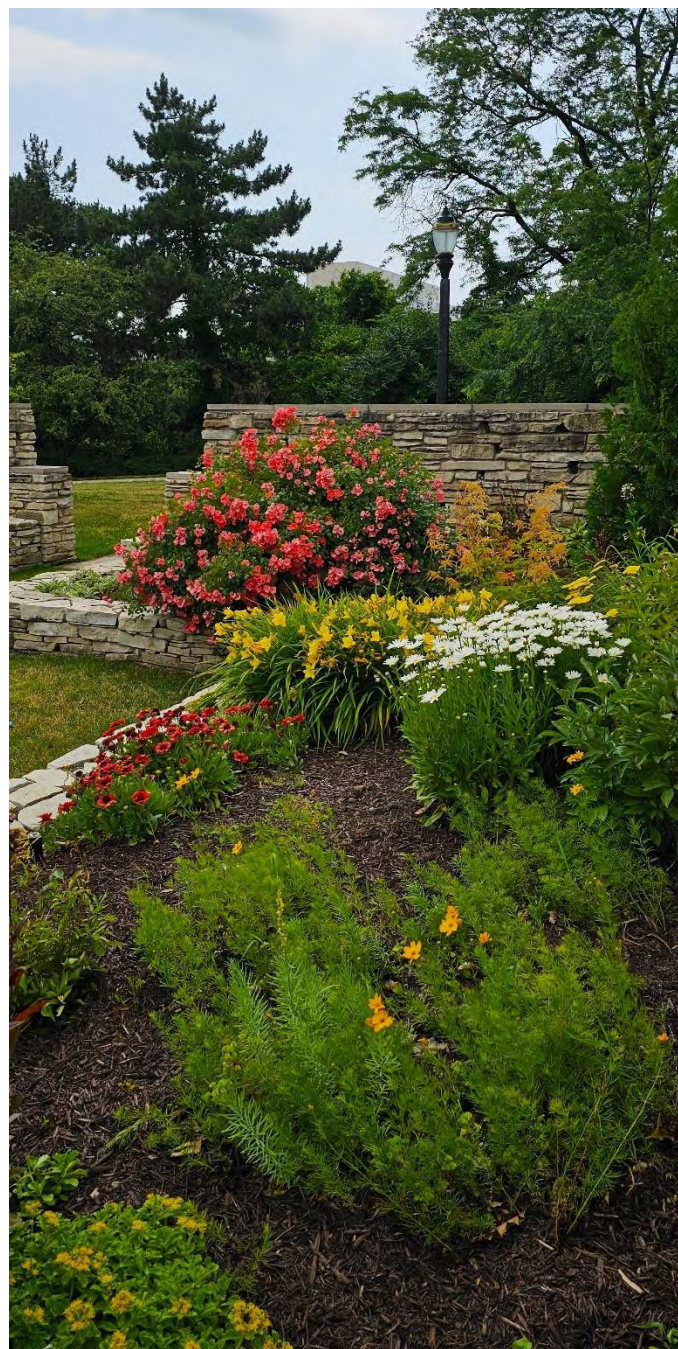
and then walk away with great satisfaction how their one hour a week makes a huge difference in this community garden. Please help. Contact Sherry to be included in her weekly message.

The Blue Star Memorial Garden provides you a place to think about how our country came to be. Many women and men sacrificed for freedom. We have six times a year in which we designate as something military in which we might celebrate or remember a loved one. Memorial Day, (Decoration Day), DDay, Flag Day, Independence Day (4th of July), Veterans

Day and Pearl Harbor Day. I challenge you to find more time to remember and visit this wonderful garden.

REGIONAL INFORMATION

NGC Project Pathway of Success and how clubs, the district and the state can participate. Central Region Convention is at O'Fallon, IL October 17-19, 2024



(Beautiful rose bush with great contrast of soft orange and yellow blooms-Scott Gardens)

BOARD MTG

Our next board meeting will be in Aug. Look for updates throughout the summer.

CLUB MTG

Our next club meeting is Sept. Look for updates throughout the summer.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL

It was a quick month off before the team started back to work communicating with attendees, getting speakers lined up, reviewing menus and starting to plan for Sept and year 2025. This team is truly a great team to work with. Our LDS State Chair Deb Plichta has really found her groove on getting the schedule and speakers all lined up. Ann is looking into the menu and catering; Ronnie is busy with the brochure and all the technical/registration stuff for the school. Sue is helping us look at sites for our 2025 school. Joan has been looking to find the one missing speaker we need for the school and site planning for 2025. YOWSER for this team.

Two pictures of our **Worker Bees**. These folks got together in the month of May to get the flowers in, intensive weeding and watering at Scott Garden. I love the team work. There are others who tend the gardens and just didn't make it into the picture.



(Linda Sue, Sue, Carol M)

UPCOMING FLOWER SHOWS

July 18-20 The Garden Olympics, Spring Lake.
Sept 21 YesterYear - Meridian Garden Club.
<https://meridiangardenclub.weebly.com>

PRESSING FLOWERS

During one of our winter meetings we will be making greeting cards. Please start pressing and drying your flowers, leaves, petals etc. It is never to early to start that process but it can be late and not have what you would like.

Ronalee and Reba will be sharing their talents and knowledge about card making. Everyone should be able to make two cards maybe more. This will be a fun make and take to share later.



(Carol O, Rick, Beth)