

TWIGS

The Garden Club of Greater Lansing



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

Presidents Message

This summer our membership committee has been busy. We have 9 brand new members and within the last year added 4 members and we have one member who has rejoined. In addition to this we have 1 more prospective member. This growth is fantastic but it comes with growing pains. We must have a mentorship program. I have asked a few members to assist with this new venture. If you are interested in teaming up with a member to help, bring together our newest and most recent members please reach out. I am requesting 1–2 hours a month going over material, answering questions, giving suggestions, explaining our activities and be a listening ear. You could meet in the library, go for a beverage, get together over zoom. I am suggesting you team with another seasoned member and together you will team with 2 or 3 new members. I would like for you to meet Oct., Nov., Dec., and we can evaluate what pieces are missing or how successful we were. Each month we would look at one area of emphasis. Themes or suggestions are welcomed.

Our Sept. presenter, **Alysia**, provided us with food for thought. Many of the plants she mentioned that we love can be invasive and some more than others. I was not surprised when she mentioned Lily of the Valley and many others. I know this but for nostalgic reasons I have some. I guess I may be digging it up and finding a replacement for them. I

have carried this flower around for over 30 years. I guess that does say something about their longevity and how prolific they maybe if left unchecked.

Alysia gave us so much information about the plants that were invasive and how we can look at other plants to use for replacements. I started that process a few years ago when I pulled my Butterfly plant. I replaced with a Butterfly Weed. That is just one of my examples.



Horticulture Meridian Garden Club Show

Ann Schoals is chairing our upcoming Flower Show. She is looking for members who will lead and assist with this venture. A show has many moving parts and many members are needed to help. We will need a site, a schedule, a theme, hosts and many more parts to be identified. You may not know much about shows but your support and help on a committee will be needed. This is a super opportunity to learn about shows and get hands on experience.



Quilt patch small Meridian Garden Club Flower Show

Club Meeting

Our next club meeting is Mon., Oct. 14 at 5:00 pm at the church. This is a brown-bag dinner. The business meeting and dinner will be first. Our presenter, **Lois Hanson-Snover** will start between 6:00–6:15, ending by 7:30. Everyone should be out of the building by 7:45.

This hands-on presentation requires you to forge your yard for colored leaves, branches, greens, pachysandra, ferns and other fillers. There may even be some flowers still in reasonable shape or buy a bunch of flowers from a Kroger, etc. Lois will bring an example of one-sided and all-around arrangement. Member can decide which they want to create.

Size of container could be a cottage cheese container, to be placed in home container later. We are looking into the need for oasis and wired pics. Members can use a frog or other mechanics. She will bring skewers to use for arranging smaller vegetables. Don't forget your vegetables or fruit. They are part of the design too. A reminder and details again will be sent prior to the Oct. meeting. If you have questions please ask.

Regional /District Information

Fall District 2B

It's exciting to attend our Fall District 2B event. We have about 16 members who have signed up. **Joan** has made a deposit of checks and cash from our meeting. **John** will be sending one check to District for this meeting. If you signed up at our Sept. meeting mark your calendar for Tuesday October 22, 8 a.m.–4 p.m. The Mason Sycamore Creek Club is our host. The theme is **GOODNIGHT GARDEN**.



The committee has been hard at work. Plan for a whole day of fun and socializing. The building is located at the Ingham County Fairgrounds, on (M36) W Michigan, next to the County Park. (White fence is in front of the building)

Program Yearbook – Member Updates

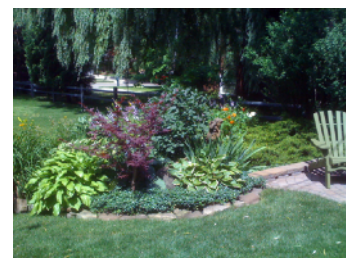
The book is completed. When you review the information and see a typo please let Joan and Ronalee know. They will start the process of corrections for next year's printing.

Board Meeting

Our next board meeting will be Mon., Oct 7 at 9:30 a.m. at the church.

Landscape Design School

Course 2 has a full enrollment with a waiting list. This is exciting. The team is amazing and I couldn't be prouder of how hard they have worked. Thank you.



The team is starting on the logistics of Courses 3 and 4 which takes place in 2025. Dates will be confirmed in January 2025.

Miniatures Meridian Garden Club Flower Show

Horticulture

The Goldenrod is yellow, and the leaves are beginning to turn. In this beautiful season we watch the natural changes in our gardens and our environment as we put our plants to bed. As the temperatures drop, and the days grow shorter, deciduous trees and shrubs begin to prepare for the winter by losing their leaves. The name “deciduous” means the “dropping of a part that is no longer needed or useful”, and the “falling away after its purpose is finished.” As the weather gets cooler the tree forms a cork-like layer called “abscission cells” between the branch and the leaf stem. This barrier helps to keep the tree free from disease, and it also allows the leaves to fall easily in any mild breeze.



Trees in Gaylord

This loss of leaves causes the tree to spend less energy through the winter. This is especially important when the weather is harsh but is always necessary for the on-going health of the tree.

Without leaves a wind can easily blow through the branches, and the branches hold less snow which makes them less likely to break under that weight. In general, this puts less strain on trees and helps as they adjust to weather storms and heavy winds.

The process of losing leaves occurs as the weather becomes colder. Deciduous trees shut down the veins and capillaries that carry water and nutrients by forming the abscission cells at the stem of each leaf. This barrier prevents the leaf from being nourished. Eventually, like scissors, the abscission cells close the connection between the leaf and the branch and the leaf falls.

The loss of leaves actually protects trees from drying out. When the ground is frozen, trees are not able to soak up any water. If the tree had leaves, then water would evaporate through the leaves' pores, but the tree would not be able to draw more water from the ground. The result would be that the tree's veins would freeze, and the tree would dry out, killing the tree. Instead as a tree slowly removes chlorophyll and its green color from each leaf, the sugar produced by photosynthesis is stored in the trunk. This ensures that the cells don't crack so quickly with the cold and gives the tree nutrients to survive the winter.

The fallen leaves continue to benefit the tree through winter, spring and summer by creating a humus on the ground to insulate roots from winter cold and summer heat, collecting dew and rainfall, and decomposing to enrich the soil. In our yards, either fallen leaves or mulch serve this purpose.

In contrast, the leaves of evergreen trees have a waxy coating that helps

to reduce water loss. The leaves of most evergreen trees are needles although some broadleaf trees and shrubs are evergreen. The thin needles and waxy coating both reduce water loss. Also, the outer bark of evergreen trees contains many air pockets, rather than living cells filled with liquid that can freeze. The air pockets in the bark help to provide insulation and protection against freezing and cracking during the winter cold. In winter, trees also convert starches to sugars, which have a lower freezing point and the liquid contents of the cells become more viscous.

Whether our trees and shrubs are deciduous or evergreen, they adapt through the winter. Then in spring as the weather becomes warmer, evergreen trees take up more water and nutrients as they continue their growth; deciduous trees are again ready to form new leaves and start the cycle over again. Whatever we have in our yards and gardens, let's enjoy the awesome, ever-changing beauty of fall. —**Barb Amundsen**

Meridian Garden Club Show

What a fantastic day for an outdoor show. Once past the fog everything came into sight. I am so glad that the following members took time to support this venture that included some of our members' exhibits. **Ronalee, Deb, Ann S., Ann L., Kirsten, Jenny, Barb L., Mary H., Leigh, Andrea, and Joan.**

The Meridian Club did an outstanding job of organizing, getting each building set up for display, and people to volunteer throughout the day. Thanks to this organizational skill the flower show ran smoothly. Many people provided help and this made a difference for all people attending.

In the Historical Village you could wander from building to building to see all of the unique displays of historical significance *PLUS* the exhibits in the flower show.

Jenny, Ann S, Ronnie and Joan had exhibits in the show. **Ronnie, Ann S, Jenny and Joan** were at the show throughout the day. There was always something going. **Ann** is working towards her challenge to become a judge. I know this is a hard endeavor. Keep going Ann. We are cheering you on!

For those who have never attended a flower show or have had limited access to a flower show, this was an opportunity to see a small-scale show. It helps you to understand what we will be



Photo Interpretation Meridian Garden Club Flower Show



Garden Implements Meridian Garden Flower Show

involved in for 2025 planning for a 2026 show.

Themes, ideas, overall cohesiveness, photography, horticulture, schedule of entrees and design and so much more goes into a show. Ann will be looking for your commitment to help pull off our show. It is time to put our hands together and get on teams for pulling this show together. Be sure to talk with other members who have participated in shows to get a better idea of what we have in mind.

Ann will be looking for teams: Facility and contract; Judges; Schedule writing; publicity; equipment and supplies; ribbons; and entrée tags. These are just a few of the things that we will be assisting on. Get ready for a fun year.