

TWIGS

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Editor: Joan Lenhard

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hard to believe summer is soon to be a memory. I hope everyone had a great one. Mine was much too short and hot! I am here to report at the time of this message I have plucked 16, yes 16 tomato horn worms off of my 3 tomato plants. Eeeekkk! For some reason my heirloom tomato hasn't had one on it. Knock on wood. I hope the blue jays appreciate what I did for them.



(Big reds from Kathy's garden -Garden Tour)

I don't know about you but my yard has been vacant of the Chinese Garlic Mustard. I pulled a few little ones early in the year and that's been it. I have enjoyed seeing more butterfly's this year.

I did attend the field trip to the Wild Flower Farm. Interesting farm and owner! Quite a character. Lunch at Tammy's in Laingsburg

was great. Highly recommend it.

September should be an interesting day. Jenny Bond has included information concerning the day. Don't forget we start at 9:30. It will be a sandwich luncheon so please bring a sandwich to share as well as your table service.

There will be a plant exchange. Bring your divided perennials well marked as to what they are This will be after the meeting. If you bring one you may take one. Didn't bring one? A donation is requested to the club.



(Large hosta and garden art- July Garden walk)

The spring IIB Flower Show theme "*Gourmet Gardening*" sounds interesting. It makes your mind work, anxious to see the schedule!

We are still searching for a secretary to take minutes at the board meetings and the member meetings. If you would consider this please let me know. VERY important job. I would be so grateful for your consideration.

IIB is looking to the next year and looking for people to step up and chair a position on the board. I will bring a few extra copies of the newsletter if you haven't received a copy via email.

Very glad to see 2 more ladies have joined our ranks. Welcome!! Thank you. Ann Schoals

SEPTEMBER DESIGN PROGRAM

As a result of feedback from members after the last design program, Lois Snover-Hansen will work with us at this meeting. She is a National Garden Club Flower Show Judge, has been in charge of Flower Show School and just won the top design award at the Muskegeon Standard Flower Show. She is recognized as an excellent teacher. The focus will be Back to Basics of Design.

Each member is to bring one or more containers with frogs or pinholders or oasis will be available at the meeting. Bring your toolbox or at least clippers and a container of water. Green round plastic containers will be available if needed. A towel would also be useful.

Plant Material: There are several options.

1. Check your yard for flowers, grasses, weeds, pods, etc. that could be used. Or you may want to use dried and/or silk flowers if you wish. Silk flowers are a definite no-no in a Standard Flower Show but may be very useful for home/church arrangements. This is especially true during Michigan winters. Think creatively. For a recent flower show design, I did not purchase flowers but used juniper, iris pods, pachysandra, crocosmia leaves, hosta leaves, grasses, and dried poppy and iris pods from my yard and planters.

2. Pick up flowers from the grocery store, Horrocks, etc.

3. Lois will also bring some flowers and greens that can be used.

4. If you have extra plant material, you may wish to share with others.

5. The day should be fun. If you plan to bring a guest, let the hospitality committee know or bring a sandwich for them. If you definitely do not want to do a design, come and enjoy the fun and cheer the other members.
Jenny Bond

HORTICULTURE



Our daffodils and delphinium have given way to mums and asters, local strawberries to peaches and melons. As we look back and wonder where the summer has gone, it's also time to look ahead.

(Fairy Garden at Miller's home)

It feels as though this entire summer has been a race with hoses, deadheading, heat, dry spells, and too many gray skies with predicted rain that didn't come. Now we need to face this next busy season. In many ways autumn is the busiest season because our gardens are in so much transition. Following are a few thoughts that we can do to be prepared while we're also enjoying the beautiful colors of fall.

- Be sure to continue to weed and deadhead to limit carryover of weed seeds and plant roots, as well as to maintain a neat appearance in our gardens.
- Cut back perennials that have finished blooming.
- Be sure to remove and dispose of any diseased plants or plant debris by bagging and throwing it into the trash. Do not compost anything that is diseased.
- Water, especially for fall blooming

plants and to help all plants overwinter.

- Stop fertilizing as the weather cools.
- Dig and store tender bulbs like dahlias, cannas and tuberous begonias.
- Divide perennials that have finished blooming. Use extra plants to fill in empty spaces in the garden or pot them for plant exchanges. Sink pots into soil to hold extra plants until spring if needed.
- Bring houseplants back indoors while the windows are still open. Be sure to check and treat them for any pests or disease.
- Be sure that your records of this summer are complete. Take pictures, make notes (or draw maps) so that you'll remember plants that have grown especially well and those that need to be moved in spring or replaced.
- Label any plants that were new this year so that you can locate them next spring.
- Plant trees and shrubs. Be sure to keep the roots well-watered.
- Add compost to amend the soil and protect the roots as the weather cools and plants die down.
- Plant spring-flowering bulbs.
- Pick herbs for drying or freezing.
- Sharpen and clean tools as you are finished with them for the season.
- Most of all enjoy the flowers and foliage of fall

Don't forget to use tip sheets that are online www.migarden.msu.edu. Barb Amundsen

JULY GARDEN TOUR



(Sue Kesti, Carol Miller)

Three beautiful gardens on this tour. Our first stop was at the Miller home. This corner lot gave us many gardens to view. It included a fairy, vegetable, memory garden and a fantastic shed beside the water garden.

The second house was designed using artifacts from Lansing. The Frassetto's garden used reclaimed street bricks from north Lansing

and bricks from Fisher Body. Both of these were used in the garden. They hold a piece of history in their garden. They also shared seeds for a plant that grows vertically and attracts butterflies and hummingbirds.



(The Frassetto's)

The last stop just kitty corner from the Frassetto's was the Warren garden. Kathy started her tour in front and we wound around to an extensive garden in the back. Kathy had a wide range of plants in her yard. She told us she loves to go out and try something new all the time. She experiments each year with new plants and moving old plants. A unique neighbor is the wooded and grassland landlocked property behind her home. She told us you can see lots of wildlife behind her yard.



(Kathy Warren, Sharon Drake)

TRAVEL BUG

Sharon Drake, her daughter, Linda Brownell, Deb Albert and I had a wonderful trip to Cranbrook. Our first surprise on the trip was a field of beautiful big sunflowers along 69.



(Formal Sunken Garden at Cranbrook)

The gardens we toured were lovely and offered different vistas and views. We also did a tour of the home. It was beautiful. Then off to lunch.

Driving home we decided to stop and see the controversial Blue Garden Walk in Bath. We stopped at the quaint dairy on the lake and talked to the owner to gather information. The house was just across the street. Deb, Linda and I walked across and tried to see the BLUE. We did see artwork in the yard and along the driveway. However, we did not venture onto the property and take the walk.

The next day more news in the paper regarding this artist and his walk. He will be able to keep things as is but asked to clean up the more public area that is an entrance into a newer development. Joan Lenhard

THINKING AHEAD

Don't forget to dry some herbs from your gardens this summer for the Tussie Mussie workshop in April, 2019. Some of the easiest to dry are lavender and rosemary and they hold their fragrance for a long time. Sue Kesti



(Red flowering plant)

OPEN POSITIONS

We are still looking for people to help in many positions. A secretary is crucial for keeping minutes of our board meeting and our club meeting.

Our newest member Ronnie has taken over our Website / Facebook page. I am so excited about this. Everyone on FB should look us up and Like Us.

We still need an official photographer. I do take pictures when I attend but I am not always available to take pictures.

Membership is in need of a co-chair who can learn the ropes and possibly take more of a leadership role next year. Our current chair does extensive travel.

The Historian compiles information from the club and ensures that the information is submitted to the downtown library. Sharon our previous Historian did a very thorough job of

this in the past few years that upcoming history will be much easier to compile and file.

Sandy Oleson has agreed to help on publicity. So you see we have openings and people are willing to learn and do their very best. Please consider stepping into one of these positions.

WE NEED YOU. Joan Lenhard



(Fountain at Cranbrook Gardens)

UPCOMING DATES

Aug 27 Board Mtg @ 9:30 @ GUMC

Sept 10 Garden Mtg @9:30 @ GUMC