

TWIGS

The Garden Club of Greater Lansing Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer brings a lot of activity, so much to enjoy and the week of July 8th was truly busy! Monday brought perfect weather to enjoy the two gardens we toured for the annual Neighborhood Beautification Tour. We had a relaxed and enjoyable time learning and exploring the colorful and meticulous gardens. It was a wonderful turn out of approximately 30 members and guests who also joined us for lunch at DeLuca's Restaurant. They always provide great food and service! Be sure and keep your eyes open for future potential sites and email or send a note to Joan Lenhard or Sharon Drake for those leads. This is the time to preview gardens for future visits.



(Garden of Joyce Haner -1st garden)

The city of Lansing and Board of Water and Light held a unveiling for the new substation and the reopening of Scott Sunken Garden on Wednesday that same week. The Garden Club of Greater Lansing members were specifically invited to attend. The club was well represented and impressed by the public art,

historical signs, the live walls on the sub station and the restoration of Scott Garden. There is a \$40,000 endowment to help maintain the garden. New sod, some of the old plants and a sprinkler system have been installed. Because this is a sun garden now, different plants will be added. All the stone work was meticulously removed, cataloged and reinstalled. If you did not attend the unveiling, please go take a look, it is very impressive. Folks who may be interested in volunteering in the garden can form a committee and decide on how to move forward. I am interested in helping in the garden but I will not be able to chair it.

There were more gardens to tour in Mason and Marshall the weekend of July 13 and looking at our Facebook posting, looks like several members explored Marshall.



(Pic by Ronnie Polad -Marshall MI)

I enjoyed Ronnie's pictures of all the gardens and the substation unveiling. Those pictures are valuable for getting our club recognized,

thank you Ronnie!

Hope to see many of you at the tour of the Sunflower House Learning Center and Youth Garden in Mason on August 12. Please see your yearbook for more details of upcoming events. There is so much going on and we are a fun and active club! Sue Kesti

MILLION POLLINATOR CHALLENGE

I registered the Blue Star Memorial Garden for our first entry in the Million Pollinator Challenge for GCGL. The next gardens to be entered (with the garden owners permission) will be the two gardens we had on our garden tour. I will also enter my own garden. Information and details were mentioned in the June Twigs by Ronnie Polad. If you enter your garden, please let me know so we can have a record when we apply for GCGL award. If you are interested in registering your garden go to <https://www.pollinator.org/mpgcmmap/register>; use the Nation Garden Club as referring organization in the drop down menu. Sue Kesti



(Garden of Arloa Marmion 2nd garden)

JULY GARDEN TOUR

WOW! BEAUTIFUL! FANTASTIC! These were just a few words used to describe the two gardens and gracious hosts for our July tour. The weather cooperated with us and lunch was fun. Thank you everyone. Joan Lenhard

SCOTT SUNKEN GARDEN DEDICATION

On July 10, 2019 Many member of the Greater Lansing attended the new dedication of the rebuilt Scott Sunken Garden.

The Italian style sunken garden is a visually beautiful reminder of Lansing's history. It was created by the prominent Lansing businessman and philanthropist, Richard H. Scott, as a showplace for beautiful plants in the early 1900s. It was restored in the 1980s by the Garden Club of Greater Lansing, and since its restoration, the Sunken Garden had



been maintained by the Garden Club.

(Pic of the relocated Scott Sunken Garden)

In 2017 the City of Lansing approved the construction of a Board of Water and Light substation on the site of the garden. The garden has been rebuilt between Cooley Gardens and the new substation.

It was dedicated on July 10, 2019 along with the new BWL substation. The garden was rebuilt exactly as it was at the old location with many of the same plants. The plants were stored in the Cooley Gardens through the construction period. Ronnie Polad

HUMMINGBIRDS & FLOWERS

Hummingbirds register the color red very well,

which is why they are drawn to bright red flowers. But hummingbirds are just as likely to visit other colors as long as they're vibrant, tube-shaped and easily accessible. According to Birds and Blooms magazine the top ten plants to attract hummingbirds are: 1. Salvia 2. Hummingbird mint 3. Bee balm 4. Beard tongue 5. Foxglove 6. Aster 7. Columbine 8. Petunia 9. Butterfly bush 10. Rose of Sharon, Sharon Drake



(Picture by Kelly Carpenter via Sharon Drake)

HORTICULTURE

Suddenly we have gone from the high humidity and daily rains of spring into the heat of summer. For the next couple of months we can expect less rain and more heat for our gardens.

With fewer rains, comes the task of hauling hoses, moving sprinklers, and being sure that all of our plants are watered. A couple of years ago I learned about Orbit, a watering timer that's relatively inexpensive and provides automatic watering without the need for a costly in-ground water system. There are other brand names on the market and I have not explored those, so it would be inappropriate for me to say that this is the best. However my Orbit continues to save me a lot of time and effort. I have two units, one for each of my outdoor water faucets. My units were purchased on Amazon, and they cost under \$50 each. They take several batteries (mine each use 6 C batteries), but so far they have lasted all season. I start with new batteries each spring.

I admit that with a cane, and now using a walker, hauling a hose has been not only

cumbersome, but often a potential tripping hazard. When I first started with the Orbit automatic timers, I mentioned it to other people and learned that it was being used in some research fields and also by some lawn care professionals. Given this, and my own satisfaction I am sharing the information with you.

There are several choices in Orbit configurations, but in writing this, I'm referring mostly to what has worked for my gardens and also my faucets. The Orbit units screw onto outdoor faucets and can be programmed to provide automatic release of water into hoses. One of my Orbit units has two outlets for hoses, the other has three. One of the outlets on each unit is manual so that it can be attached to a hose or sprinkler without stopping the automatic programming of the other hoses. For me the manual hose is especially useful for pots on the patio. My manual hose is turned on by flipping a switch on the system. Some Orbit units also have a button that needs to be pushed. For me this solved a problem as it has been hard to turn faucets tightly enough to keep them from dripping.

The automatic hoses can be either soaker hoses or sprinklers. I use both in different areas of my gardens. The hoses are programmed individually for automatic watering. For each hose you can set the time of day, how long you want the hose to run, and how frequently you want it to run (every two days, three days, etc.). In addition for each hose on the automatic settings, you can program a rain delay, so that the system can be set to delay the release of water for a set period of time (one, two or three days). Once the system is set to Auto it continues to follow the program and releases the water all season. There is also a way to override the system if you want a temporary change in the watering pattern.

The only other need is to remove the Orbit units and storing them indoors for the winter to keep them from freezing. Other than that, you can enjoy summer with one outdoor task well

managed. Barb Amundsen

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our meeting on August 12 starts at 10 am. at the Pink School House in Mason. The address is: 707 West Ash Street, Mason, MI

We will learn about Mason Sycamore Creek Garden Club's Youth Gardening program and take a tour of their Sunflower House Learning Center. It should be an exciting meeting.

Lunch follows around 12 or 12:30 at Lucky's Steakhouse, 3554 Okemos Road, Okemos, MI (located on Okemos Road, north of Jolly Road). If you are going to lunch at Lucky's please RSVP to Suzanne Dudley.

Check your book for upcoming events.

Aug 3rd MSU Days

Aug 5th Greens Mrkt Mtg @ 9:30 @ Joanne Bauer's home

Aug. 15 Twig Deadline for Sept.

Aug 26 Board Mtg for Sept.

Oct 15th IIB Fall District Mtg

Wednesday, October 16, 2019 "Low Rider"

10:00-12:00

Design Project: Low Profile – Handbook page 78 – Advanced Design Types. A three-dimensional design incorporating three or more design techniques. See pages 81-83. Techniques used must be listed on your 3x5 card. This information has been condensed by Joan Lenhard. The original information was sent to people who already participate in the Designer's Group by Kathi Dominguez.

MEMBER NEWS

Long time member Marian Bischoff passed away on July 12th. Marian served as president for our garden club at one time. Marian was very active and supportive of the GCGL. Her daughter Debbie Murray also a member was active in the club.

Welcome new member Daiva Devereaux and Anita Beavers email is aobeavs@yahoo.com

SEPT ORIENTATION

Our meeting in Sept is going to cover an

orientation to the club, the positions within the club, duties and responsibilities. Marge Clarke has asked that ALL chairs put together a description/explanation of what they do in their role as a chair. This information will be in your manual and it may help to clarify how the group operates.

It is important to submit information early. This can include information on other topics ie chair for garden flower show, etc. To make the information consistent in the book type everything in Arial font size 12. If you have a problem please contact Marge Clarke or Joan Lenhard.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Barbara Church

PLEASE SAVE. CUT AND POST BY YOUR COMPUTER

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