

TWIGS

The Garden Club of Greater Lansing Newsletter

Member of: Michigan Garden Clubs Inc.,

National Garden Club Central Region,

National Garden Club Inc.

Volume 38 #2

July 2019

Editor: Joan Lenhard

Distribution: Reba Torongo

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The rain sure came down in buckets the morning of our picnic but stopped as people arrived at the pavilion of Francis Park. We were dry and comfortable, even if the rain had continued. Thank you to the luncheon committee: Linda Norwood, Sandy Oleson and Linda Brownell. The table centerpieces and serving area flowers from your yards and colorful table cloths looked festive. There were even Iris's brought from an Iris farm in Traverse City! Linda Brownell's peonies were lush, survived the rain!

Brett Kaschinske, Director of Lansing Park and Recreation informed us of the plans for enhancements to Frances Park utilizing the trust of former member June Knostman for improvement to the rose garden and the overlook. After lunch, some members explored the rose garden, overlook and blue star memorial garden.

Brett also updated us on the status of the Scott Garden and Cooley Gardens. Hopefully, we will make a trip to view and explore those gardens once construction has been completed. Brett also informed us he was going on a personal tour of the gardens with Beulah.

Members Jenny Bond, Barbara Lowes, Linda Norwood, Ronnie Polad and I attended the 88th MGC Inc conference at Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City. The theme was "*Beauty and Balance, Earth and Water*". There were meetings, installation of officers, speakers,

leadership development sessions, tours, meals and great opportunities to meet garden club members from everywhere. We learned and explored, it was a great opportunity to grow. Our Jenny Bond was a speaker for one of the sessions. She is an Accredited Judge and shared some basic principles of design, gave examples of basic flower designs along with instructions for making them. I wish I could have attended that session. Maybe Jenny can be one of our program speakers soon?



(L to R Sue Kesti, Barb Lowes, Linda Norwood)

I learned more about how local clubs can utilize and benefit from the resources of the Districts, MGC Inc and National. There are knowledgeable people to consult with, schools to attend (that GCG will provide scholarships for) and grants to apply for. I hope many of you will attend, learn and share the opportunities from these resources.

I am looking forward to a great summer. Our next two events are garden tours. Carpooling to some of these sites might be helpful. We have garden tours in July and in Aug. of Mason's Sunflower House Learning Center and Youth Garden! I Hope to see many of you there and at the lunches that follow. Sue Kesti

POLLINATOR WEEK IN MICHIGAN IS JUNE 17 – 23, 2019

You can BEE a part of the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge. The Million Pollinator Garden Challenge (MPGC) is a nationwide call to action to preserve and create gardens and landscapes that help revive the health of bees, butterflies, birds, bats and other pollinators across America.

Register your garden through the Pollinator Partnership and be added to the map in support of the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge. Register at:

<https://www.pollinator.org/mpgcmmap/register>
Pollinators Gardens Should:

use plants that provide nectar and pollen sources

provide a water source,

be situated in sunny areas with wind breaks

create large "pollinator targets" of native or non-invasive plants

establish continuous bloom throughout the growing season

eliminate or minimize the impact of pesticides.



Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. has established a cash award for local garden clubs that register the most pollinator gardens for their size. Register your garden and encourage all of your neighbors to register for our club. Make sure to let President Sue Kesti know that you are registered so she can report to MGC, Inc. You can also purchase a MGC Pollinator

Garden sign for \$20. We have a few available now. Ronie Pollad

JULY GARDEN TOUR

Our July tour starts at 1972 Wembley Way E Lansing of Joyce Haner. Second house is Arloa Mof two spectacular gardens. We will eat at DeLuca's. I must have a number of garden peepers to share with the hosts and the restaurant. Plan on a great time for July 8th starting at 10:00 in E Lansing.



(Sandy Oleson, Linda Brownell, Jenny Bond at Frances Park, June meeting)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, July 17, 2019 Discussion on "Mechanical Deconstruction" 10:00-12:00

Design Project – Bring a completed design of your choice. Each design will be deconstructed to learn from each other's choice of mechanics/techniques. Mechanic: Device used to hold and control direction of plant material and non-plant material; Handbook page 147 and pages. Also, see pages 81-83 on techniques. Discussion will be followed by a potluck lunch and continue with the 2020 Flower Show Schedule Meeting.

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.

HORTICULTURE

As I look at my garden and others it is easy to see the effects of this spring's extra rain and humidity. The plants are thriving, although this year many gardeners have had less time without literally playing in the mud. Summer always brings new plants and old favorites for all of us. Following are a few of my favorite shade perennials. In no way is this intended as a comprehensive list. I chose the plants on my list because of their reliability, lack of problems, as well as their overall contributions and appearance. I'm quite sure that each of you could add your own choices to expand this list. I used to find shade planting really daunting, and now it's a challenge to fit in all of the exciting possibilities.

My first "favorite" is corydalis, *corydalis lutea*. This little plant forms a round mound, about a foot in each direction. It is covered with small bright yellow or deep blue flowers and blooms from early spring until the first frost of fall. I prefer the yellow flowers because they help to brighten up shade. They like moist, well-drained soil that has added compost or is rich in organic material. The only grooming that is sometimes recommended is to cut off spent blooms to prevent self-seeding. That has not been a problem in my garden, but may be for



some.

(Barb Amundsen -Corydalis)

The next summer shade plant on my personal list is Jacob's Ladder, *Polemonium caeruleum*. One of the best features of Jacob's ladder is its foliage. Each leaf stem has small leaflets along the stem that are close together and rise in a pinnate formation along the stem like a fern, or a ladder. Each plant forms a mound, approximately 1.5 feet in diameter. Flowers are small, blue or purple and bell-like; in spring and summer they hang in loose clusters along the stems. Some cultivars have green foliage; mine is a fine textured. The green leaves are edged in white and look like a light silver-gray.. Jacob's Ladder grows best in well-drained soil that is rich in organic content. It is resistant to deer and drought tolerant.

A third plant is Lady's Mantle, *Alchemilla mollis*. Again this has become a basic in my garden, blooming mostly in spring, and somewhat throughout the summer. The flowers are a lovely yellow-green and stand up above the leaves. It is relatively low maintenance, has few complaints, and has a neat appearance whether it is blooming or not. It stands approximately 1.5 feet high, tolerates sun in cool weather, but needs shade and prefers to be watered when the weather is hot to keep the leaves from scorching. It will spread to available space but is not aggressive, although it can self-seed. Lady's Mantle makes a nice ground cover or it can hold its own in the garden.

Plants like these and careful selections from the myriad of sizes, leaf colors, and patterns of hostas, heuchera, and ferns, and the shade garden is ready for a few special plants to add punch and interest. I especially like the seasonal color added by astilbe, pulmonaria, bleeding heart, brunnera and hellebores. There are so many more possibilities, and as I write I'm not even sure that my choice of "preferences" is appropriate. It was really hard to choose the plants to feature here. The main idea is to continue to enjoy new and old plants, decide what works best for your space, understand the needs and care for each plant, and of course try to add a few new ones each year. Barb Amundsen

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Barbara Jones Marjorie Melville
Linda Brownell Barb Amundsen
Cheryl Rogers

PLEASE SAVE. CUT AND POST BY YOUR COMPUTER

National Garden Clubs Inc.,
www.gardenclub.org

Central Region NGC
www.ngcentralregion.org

MGC District 2II B
<https://mgcdistricts2b.weebly.com/>

Michigan Garden Clubs
www.michigangardenclubs.org

Facebook: The Garden Club of Greater Lansing
The Garden Club of Greater Lansing
www.gardenclubofgreaterlansing.org

Notice the corrected password for National.
The MGC password is correct.



(Frances Park close up of The Blue Star Memorial)

Reba found this quote but no author listed.
“Out of gardens grow fleeting flowers, but
lasting friendships.”