

# TWIGS

## The Garden Club of Greater Lansing Newsletter

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you to Marge Clark and Cheryl Rogers for the new member orientation/member update program. That took much planning and organization. They did a great job but they were not alone in the success of this program. Like all we do as a club, it was a success because of the contributions and efforts of many. There were planning and brainstorming sessions, suggestions, old information to be combed through, archived or purged.

Committee chairs compiled descriptions and submitted for proofing to the orientation committee. Because of active teamwork and dedication the program was valuable and we will be well prepared for future orientations.

Working with a committee is another uplifting and worthwhile opportunity. Recently Ellen Bloomer, Sharon Drake, Deb Albert and I dug up and thinned the daisies at the Blue Star Memorial Garden for members of the GCGL. It was an uplifting feeling to complete that much need task for the benefit of a public garden for the community to view.

The upcoming workshops for Greens Market is a great opportunity to experience the same teamwork and dedication but on a larger scale beyond members of one committee. Active participation by all members makes Greens Market a success. This is also a wonderful opportunity to get to know club members better. I always felt uplifted working on Greens Market activities. Active participation, that makes us successful

and enriches our club!

### HORTICULTURE

My tomatoes are just starting to ripen, so I'm hardly ready to put my garden to bed. However, looking at the calendar, the days are numbered until the first frost.



(Coleus on the front porch of Barb Amundsen)

While enjoying the beauty of asters, mums, hydrangeas with their changing colors, sedum, and so very much more, we are reaping and eating, sharing and preserving veggies, and drying herbs. There is always so much to do this time of year.

We can start by shredding leaves and cleaning our gardens. Remember to weed well: most weeds are perennials and they will come back next year if you let them. Clear away dead foliage and cut off dry stalks. Leave in-

interesting seed heads for the birds. Clean garden debris and extra shredded leaves can be added to the compost pile. Be sure to discard plants that are diseased. The cleaned gardens can be covered with straw, shredded leaves or mulch..

It's time to take care of tender plants. Bulbs such as gladiolus, freesia, calla and cannas are ready to be collected and stored after the tops have frozen. Cut back tender roses to 10-12 inches and remove all foliage so insects and diseases can't winter over. Cover the plants with leaves, straw or cones to protect against winter temperature changes.

As we're taking care of plants, this is the time to dry and save seeds, take cuttings of plants we want to save or divide for future use, and to dry or freeze herbs for use during the winter. It also is time to be sure that our records are very clear for our use next season. If you didn't take pictures when plants were in bloom, at least make careful notes before you clean out garden surfaces so that you will know what to look for in spring and where it was planted. I am surprised at how the birds and the wind continue to rearrange a few plants in my garden as they eat the seeds and add them to new areas in the gardens.

There is still time to add a few select plants for next spring and beyond. Spring flowering bulbs can be planted now. Trees and shrubs can still be planted as long as they are kept well-watered through the winter as needed (depending on the snow). Garlic also can be planted this time of year to be available for use next spring.

Make sure all houseplants are brought back inside. Check for insects or disease to be sure they are clean. Also bring in any tender flowering plants or herbs you may want to try to keep them indoors for the winter. Geraniums can sometimes be wintered in the house. I never have much luck with basil, but rosemary always will continue to grow. Since house plants start to slow down as the days get shorter, cut back on watering and feeding until next spring. Winter feeding can result in weak growth.

This is the time to harvest more of our fall

crops like beets, brussel sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, kale, and leeks. Tomatoes that are threatened by frost can be ripened in a brown paper bag or lift the entire plant and hang it upside down in a warm spot, to ripen. Winter squash can be picked after the vines die back, but before a hard freeze.

We may think we're finished, but we still need to be sure to clean and put away empty containers, garden tools and garden ornaments. Some containers can't take a freeze, such as terra-cotta, ceramic, and many plastic pots. They need to be stored indoors. Clean your bird feeders to be ready for winter. Also consider adding a de-icer for the birdbath. If you don't have a de-icer, turn your birdbath over to keep it from cracking.

Now that we're ready for winter it's time to enjoy the beauty of fall both in our gardens and in our environment. We also can do that while we're still working on our task list for fall.  
Barb Amundsen

## **ENVIRONMENT**

PFA'S = Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid. What the heck is that? PFA's are found in drinking water, fresh and salt water. There is an estimated 6 million U.S. residents with drink water supplies containing PFAS above safety levels set by EPA.

Ground water in Michigan has been in remediation and checked wastewater since 1985. PFA's have been found in Wurtsmith Air Force Base water wells. It can build up in crops, fish, livestock, air, dust and clothing. PFA's have been found in many other products such as Teflon cookware, dental floss, cosmetics, nail polish and facial moisturizers, microwave popcorn bags & fast food wrappers. It is a key ingredient in Scotchguard, a stain repellent by 3M company and other stain repellents and fire retardants.

It can remain in the human body for years. It results in cancer, hormone disruption, liver and kidney toxicity and affect the immune system. In 2018 Washington State banned PFA's in food packaging and firefighting foam. San Francisco, New Jersey, Minnesota and

Michigan set new drinking water standards to protect people. There is a site online to view the areas affected by PFAS in Michigan.

PFA's can be removed from water with "nano" filtration or reverse osmosis. This is one more step in safety and protection in drinking water.

It is good to see Michigan doing something about this. There is more information on line if interested.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Oct 15<sup>th</sup> IIB Fall District Mtg @ AgroLiquid Conference Center in St. Johns. It is sure to be educational and most of all lots of fun. Your check is made out to GCGL for \$25. Barb Lowes will be collecting.

**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.

Oct 28-29 Landscape Designer School  
**Check your book for upcoming events.**

### **CARPOOLING FALL DISTRICT MTG**

If you are going to the District mtg in St Johns and would like to carpool please email Joan Lenhard. The group will meet in Frandor behind Sears at the water tower. Departure will be at 7:45. The conference center is in St Johns (The AgroLiquid Center) at M21 and S DeWitt Rd. Registration, light breakfast and coffee is 8-9. Joan Lenhard

### **SCOTT SUNKEN GARDEN**

At the September membership meeting it was voted and approved to have Scott Sunken Garden a recognized garden project as long as there were at least 5 members commit to volunteer. Since some members were not

present at this meeting and did not have the opportunity to volunteer, please contact Sue Kesti. Daiva Devereaux will be chair of this committee. Details to follow soon.

### **SUBMITTING AN ARTICLE**

Here are examples of formatting:  
Arial font size 12. *Italicized* **BOLD** Times New Roman. You find this information on the **Tab Bars of your computer** or under the Format or Edit Tab. I am **looking to receive articles** in Arial 12 Font Size. If you need help please contact me and I will try to walk you through the process. This paragraph provides you examples of different formatting options. Joan Lenhard.

### **FIELD TRIP**

Tuesday Oct 1<sup>st</sup> a trip to Parchallville Cider Mill <http://parshallvillecidermill.com> is our first stop and then onto Heavenly Scent Herb Farm [www.heavenlyscentherbfarm.com](http://www.heavenlyscentherbfarm.com) at 13730 White Lake Rd Fenton. A Mid-afternoon lunch at the Red Olive in Hartland will wind down our day as we head back to home. Carpooling from the Okemos P&R at 9:00 am with return around 4:00 pm. If you are interested contact Joan immediately. Looking for drivers and how many can comfortably ride with you. Joan Lenhard

### **OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**

Sheryl Smith            Marty McCulloch  
Beulah Voorheis      Sally Grady



(Picture by Joan Lenhard Dow Gardens)