

TWIGS

The Garden Club of Greater Lansing Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer brings a lot of activity. The yards keep us busy, there are events, reunions, vacations and time to savor the season. Taking an annual trip to the UP allowed me time to explore beyond my yard, mid Michigan and our climate zone.

Exploring and watching nature beyond my yard made me more aware of pollinators and their resources for sustainability. Part of August was spent exploring and visiting with family and making new friends in the Upper Peninsula. In spite of the biting bugs, we still were able to enjoy the outdoors. This year it



(Caterpillar by Sue Kesti)

seemed that nature sure awakened my senses and curiosity. The folks in the UP are zone 4 and they had a harsher winter, more snow than in past years and they always have

a shorter growing season. There are more green houses as they are challenged to extend the short northern growing season. In spite of the shorted season, pollinator gardens flourished.

We had opportunity to stay at Baraga State Park on beautiful, peaceful Keweenaw Bay twice during our stay and enjoyed exploring and watching a designated pollinator garden. It is approximately 4 by 12 foot size site with common Milk Weed and Black Eye Susan and native Goldenrod close by.

The Garden was busy with bees, insects and Monarchs. I visited this garden several times a day. Sometimes parents with children could help identify butterfly eggs, tiny caterpillars and once we discovered a Chrysalis.



(Red Thimbleberry at the JamPot Sue Kesti)

Another area to explore was a visit to the Jampot close to Eagle River. This destination is known for their tasty jams, jellies and baked goods and I was sure eager to arrive. What a surprise to find they were closed on Monday! This small area along Lake Superior soon turned disappointment to enjoyment. They have a diverse pollinator area I had never known before. There were native wildflowers growing near the small shop and potted roses were also attracting bees. Close to the parking lot, the thimble berries were abundant but not ripe enough to pick yet. I did see one ripe berry, took a picture and left it for someone else to enjoy the one lone red beauty. Jacobs Falls are close by so water was abundant. Across the road, there were neat raised beds of various vegetables and more potted roses! A pollinator paradise, all the critical elements were there: a variety of native plants, bare soil, water and we were able to enjoy it almost exclusively, a true joy. Exploring this area sure makes one appreciate that the pollinators survive in a short season with harsh conditions. Sue Kesti

HORTICULTURE

My gardens were created because of my passion for plants. We moved to an acre of land on a country road north of Mason 47 years ago. We proceeded to create and plant many gardens over the years. I realize with hindsight that my love of plants has resulted in a very demanding taskmaster, requiring energetic input almost every week.

In the last few years I have realized I would rather do other things besides weed and do yard work. Contrary to what I have read, it is much easier to ride the lawn mower to mow the lawn than it is to hand weed the gardens. So I have downsized my gardens and or added larger plants such as shrubs, to reduce the maintenance.

I still enjoy my gardens, and my kitchen window overlooks our backyard, so each time I am at the kitchen sink or sitting at our dinner table, I enjoy the view of our yard and gardens. What I have done is try to choose low maintenance plants, such as hostas,

hellebores, Russian sage, several varieties of hydrangeas, spireas, viburnums, etc. Even the bulbs are those that multiply and are not attractive to squirrels and chipmunks, such as daffodils and fall blooming crocus.



(Garden of Suzanne Dudley)

Mulch is a very good addition to the gardens and helps reduce maintenance. I add a fairly thick layer of mulch every few years. Mulch helps keep the weeds down, keeps the soil cool, retains moisture and feeds the soil. We had a berm installed in our backyard 10 years ago which had a thin layer of topsoil on top of a base of clay soil. But, with the addition of mulch over the years, the berm now has a thick layer of top soil.

My gardens are a big part of my life. However, in my later years, I have found that less maintenance does not detract from my gardens, but it adds to the joy I receive from them. Suzanne Dudley

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct 15th 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.

MEMBER NEWS

Barbara Lowes has moved.

Welcome new members Daiva Devereaux and Anita Beavers.

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 very important to bring your **GREEN Binder and GREEN Program Book.**

It is important to submit information early to Joan Lenhard. 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.

PLANT EXCHANGE

We will be having one of our wonderful Plant Exchanges on **9-09-19**. The general guideline is that you may adopt one plant in exchange for each plant that you contribute. If there are plants remaining after all contributors have chosen theirs. Other members may adopt some of those. Usually I bring plants, but rarely take plants because I'm trying to cut back. So, there should be some extras.

Please be sure each plant donated is clearly labeled with its name and growing requirements. If the donor includes their own name the adopter will know who to ask if they need additional information.

HISTORIAN

The Capital Area District Library maintains a huge collection of local history at the downtown location. You can access the information there online here

<https://cadl.pastperfectonline.com/search>.

Once you locate what you are looking for the website will tell you the location and you can go to the library and see the actual documents and pictures. The entire document history of The Garden Club of Greater Lansing is located at the library and you are able to look at anything you want.

If you have old photographs, audio & video recordings, personal papers, business or organization records, poster, flyer, etc. that you think the library would be interested in preserving for the community you can contact the Local History Specialist at the library. The library focus's on "Ingham County and Greater Lansing and are particularly interested in material that documents rural communities, marginalized groups, subcultures and other non-mainstream subjects." Ronalee Polad

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Martha Brick

Jenny Bond

Linda Norwood

Joanne Bauer

Marge Clarke

Suzanne Dudley