

TWIGS

The Garden Club of Greater Lansing Newsletter

Member of: Michigan Garden Clubs Inc.,

National Garden Club Central Region,

National Garden Club Inc.

Volume 40 #1

JUNE 2020

Editor: Joan Lenhard

Distribution: Reba Torongo

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The June GCGC meeting is canceled. The decision, again was made with concern for the safety and health of our membership. The board has been meeting via zoom to address decisions regarding meetings and other important matters for GCGC. Currently we are working on how to have the annual meeting, the election of officers and potentially the garden tour. The yearbook has been proofed several times and will go to the printer in the next few weeks.

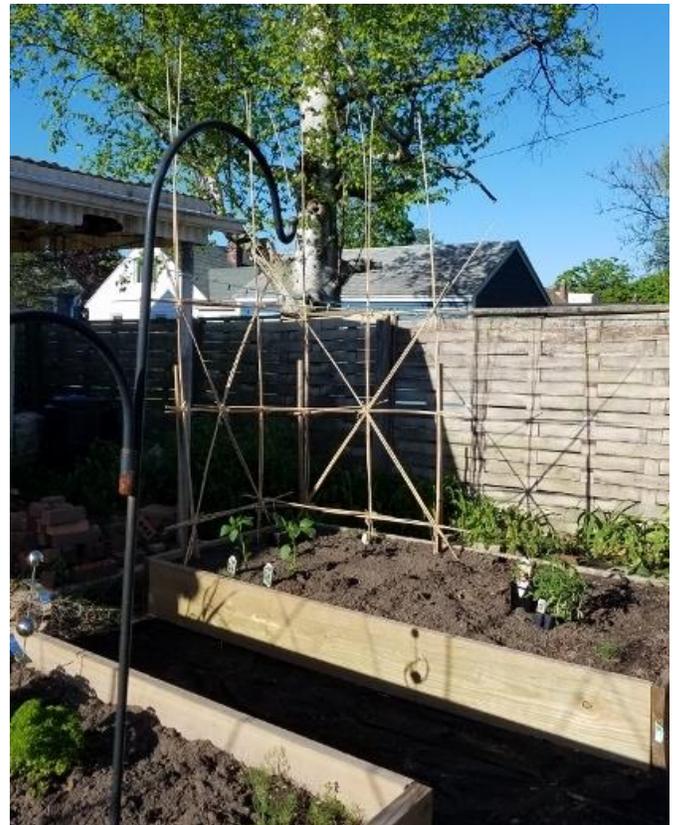
You may not know that there are others besides those listed as current Board members, who are dedicated to providing input and support to the officers who support the GCGC. Thank you to Jennie Bond, Joanne Bauer, Marge Clark, Cheri Rogers as well as Deb Albert. Any member who wishes to attend a board meeting is always welcome. We can add you to attend via Zoom. Just let Ronnie know. Our next meeting is June 8, at 10 AM.

I am looking forward to being together with you all in person before too long. In the mean time, I enjoy my walks, working in the yard, reading and staying in touch with friends, family and you, garden club members. Sue Kesti

HORTICULTURE

A message on FB from one of my neighbors who is an avid gardener provided me with enough material to make some trellises. I stopped and picked up the canes of *Miscanthus Giganteus*. This

cultivar allowed me to build trellises to support the new veggies for the garden.



(Trellis for beans, cucamelons and pickling cukes)

Last year I had three raised beds built. This year I am filling those beds with more veggies than ever. Tomatoes, cukes/pickling, squash, ancho peppers, green and yellow beans, tomatillo, cucamelons, carrots, beets -chioggia & Detroit dark reds, basil, dill, rosemary, oregano, chives, parsley, thyme, sage and lemon verbena. I might be add some items in the next few weeks.

I typically grow peppers, tomatoes, zucchini,

cukes and herbs. I am most excited about the beans, tomatillo, beets and cucamelons.



(Sunburst trellis)

Cucamelons are small grape size fruit that tastes like tangy cucumber. Think of a cross between a cuke and a lime. They are great for pickling. I have not grown tomatillo, beets or squash. The herbs I will dry and have throughout the year.

In addition to the veggies, I ordered gladiolas. I will plant some every two weeks so I have a 4-6 week bloom time. I will experiment and leave the bulbs in the ground and insulate over the winter. Growing up I did this often and it worked. My hope is it will work this year.

On another trellis I will grow flowers. I planted potato vine in purple and lime green. I will add seeds of either Morning Glories and/or Moon Flowers. This trellis will sit along my garage and make a focal point as you drive in. Well I must be crazy or have a lot of time on my hands. Probably

a little of both. Check back with me and see how my garden is growing. Joan Lenhard

BOARD MEETING MAY 11

Eleven members of the GCGL Board met via Zoom on Monday, May 11. It is a fantastic and fun way to meet up in this age of computers. It was suggested that the Recording Secretary send a few highlights of the business taking place during the Board meetings. The discussion of having the regular June meeting ended in the vote of all to cancel; also, the church is not open yet. For the immediate future, meetings and tours will be discussed on a month-by-month, one-by-one basis and the membership will be informed. The flower show this summer has been postponed until 2021. There will be more discussion in June regarding the question of Greens Market. We request from the members: if you know of someone who is ill or maybe just needs a little ray of sunshine, please call Ann Lenhard. In keeping in touch with our membership our co-chairs and some members of the board will be making calls to see how you are. If you would like the membership to know how you are keeping connected while managing this pandemic please let your caller know. Reba Torongo

GARDENING WITH NATIVE PLANTS

I watched a webinar from [The Conservation Foundation](#) in Northeastern Illinois. The speaker was Kelsey Shaw from [PossibilityPlace](#). He is a landscape designer that uses native plants. He talked about the different plants available and how to choose them. The idea that made the most sense to me was to choose plants to fit your location rather than making the location fit the plants you select. You can watch the presentation on YouTube [here](#):

Wildtype Native Plant Nursery near Mason sells natives. Deb Albert told me about a nursery in western Kalamazoo County that specializes in native plants, Hidden Savannah Nursery. You can also purchase native plants seeds from the Michigan Wildflower Farm in Portland. Ronalee Polad

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

Don't be surprised if you get a call from Marge Clarke or Cheryl Rogers, our co-membership chairs. The board asked that calls be made to our members. We are not seeing each other and it was thought that it might be nice to check in with everyone. Marge made a number of calls. Everyone she talked to thought this was so nice. They loved the call. Look what is going on with our members.

Sally Grady has limited her gardening. She and her husband hope to go to north to stay in their condo where they watch the canoes and kayaks go by from their balcony. She has spent time Face timing with family.

Sue Epple is busy keeping an eye on family. She keeps busy weeding her garden and the church gardens. She is de-cluttering where ever she can. Sue is finding it challenging to cook for one all the time.

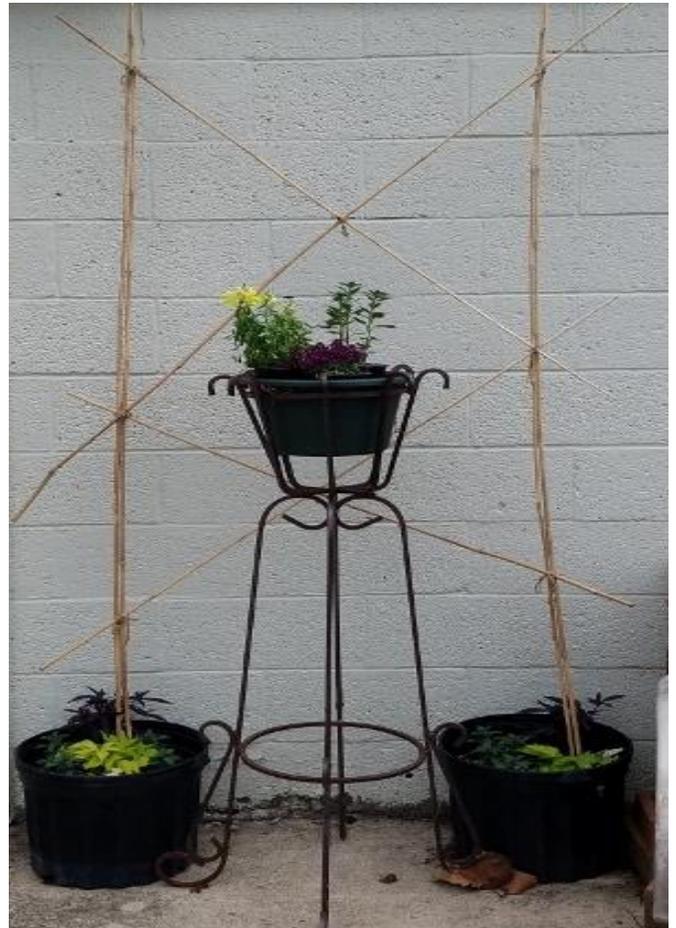
Martha Brick is doing her gardening in pots on her patio. She has some herbs and lettuce growing nicely! She spends her indoor time watching Netflix and reading. She is learning and playing Bridge on Zoom with friends. She also likes to dance to Zoom videos.

Barb Jones' husband Joe is in Burcham and is doing well! She is sad because she can't see him. Her brother lives In Utah near Zion and he loves to hike there. He then tells Barb all about it!

Margie Melville is 90 years old and is still keeps busy. She plays the piano and plants flowers in pots. Her grandson helps keep her garden going. Her family helps her out a lot. She has 2 great grandchildren and lots of grandchildren who visit often. She also has been sorting out stuff and found a lot of GCGL things if anyone wants them.

Jean Viele and her husband have been busy redoing their kitchen. The wooden floor went in before the shut down. They painted the walls and molding. She has been outside starting seedlings in the garden. She is doing permaculture gardening (see the following article). It is now 3

years old and she is planting perennials in it! The soil is rich and the plants are doing well. Marge Clarke



(Potato vines and coleus for the trellis. Snapdragons and alyssum for the wrought iron at the garage).

Sandra needs prayers. She has been admitted to McLaren with pneumonia which has same symptoms as covid19. Sandra wanted to be tested for C19. Test administered and will take 24 hours for results. Sandra is looking for someone to take care of her small dog Callie. Joanne Bauer

If you are interested in drying flowers contact Reba. She has several containers of Silica Gel to dry garden flowers. This is one more way to preserve their loveliness. Please call 484-7371 and leave a message. Free, of course. Reba Torongo

It was such a fun day to call and chat with Mary McCulloch, Carol Miller, Karilyn Mull and Linda Norwood! All are well and healthy, staying home and staying busy. Most go for walks when the weather permits. Some have been able to work in

their yards, pull weeds in the rain and plant gardens. One even planted peas and now she is hoping all the rain did not wash them away. Some ladies have family members shop for their groceries. One member has no family in the state but her son has a meal plan delivered and sends special orders of fruit. Her neighbors and friends keep in touch. Some ladies have mastered the art to record favorite shows to watch, some read magazines or books. I enjoyed visiting with everyone and hope they did too! Sue Kesti

DESCRIPTION PERMACULTURE

Hügelkultur is a horticultural technique where a mound constructed from decaying wood debris and other compostable biomass plant materials is later planted as a raised bed. I was inspired to make this garden bed. It is a project in the works. It has taken about 3 years and I am beginning to see the bed reduce in height. That is probably a good sign that things are decaying under ground and creating lots of good plant nutrients. Jean Viele

WEBSITES

Websites/Calendars to check for gardening events
Capital Area Master Gardeners –
www.mgacac.wordpress.com

Michigan Master Gardener Association –
www.michiganmastergardener.org

Let's Garden Lansing - letsgardenlansing.org
Allen Neighborhood Center –
www.allenneighborhoodcenter.org/exchange/

Michigan State University Horticulture Gardens -
https://www.canr.msu.edu/hrt/our_gardens/

Michigan Volunteer Management System –
www.michigan.volunteersystem.org

Conservation Foundation
<https://www.theconservationfoundation.org>

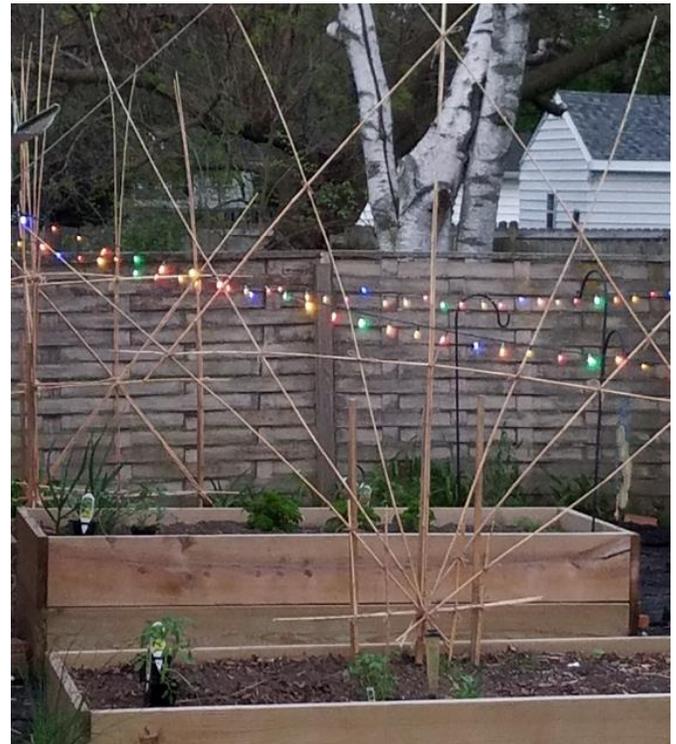
PossibilityPlace
<https://www.possibilityplace.com/>

YouTube webinar
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLgPu1rC1OgWE3lc1Vv6GLLiESUqWepd_o

Wildtype <https://www.wildtypeplants.com/>

Hidden Savannah
<http://www.hiddensavanna.com/plants.php>

Michigan Wildflower Farm
<https://www.michiganwildflowerfarm.com/>



Links to article by Ronalee: