

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 #2

AUGUST 2020

Editor: Joan Lenhard

Distribution: Reba Torongo

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It has been a beautiful, busy summer in spite of the limitations during this pandemic. Gardeners are a resourceful group!

Being involved with the Blue Star Memorial Garden and Scott Sunken Garden provides members opportunities to be involved with our garden club while providing enjoyment for the community. I always feel rejuvenated after participating in one of the gardens. Usually an hour with 3 or 4 gardeners, we can accomplish a lot. Being part of a team also helps me grow as we share ideas and learn from each other. If you would like to be involved in either of these groups, please contact the chairperson; Ellen Bloomer for Blue Star Memorial, or Daiva Devereaux for Scott Sunken Garden.

The good bad and ugly garden tours were inspirational. First, enjoying the lovely gardens of members, so many colors, plants and different ways of gardening. It would be impossible to pick a favorite site. The second inspiration was visiting with, seeing members, which is emotionally rewarding. Thank you to Deb Albert for creating, organizing and coordinating this event. Your energy is admirable. Thank you to Sherry McCue for calculation timing and distance to get us to the gardens. Ronnie Polad and your helpers who put out balloons signs and our garden club signs to identify the garden locations. Thank you to the hostesses for sharing your gardens and inspiring me to try new plants and methods.

Your Board of GCGL will continue to meet through Zoom to attend to the business of the club and anticipate ways to continue to keep our members engaged and connected. Please feel free to contact any Board member with concerns or suggestions.

Thank you to Ronnie Polad and Joan Lenhard for your many hours of work on the 2020-2021 yearbook. Barbara Amundson, thank you for helping proof our final view! If you have not received your yearbook, please contact Ronnie.

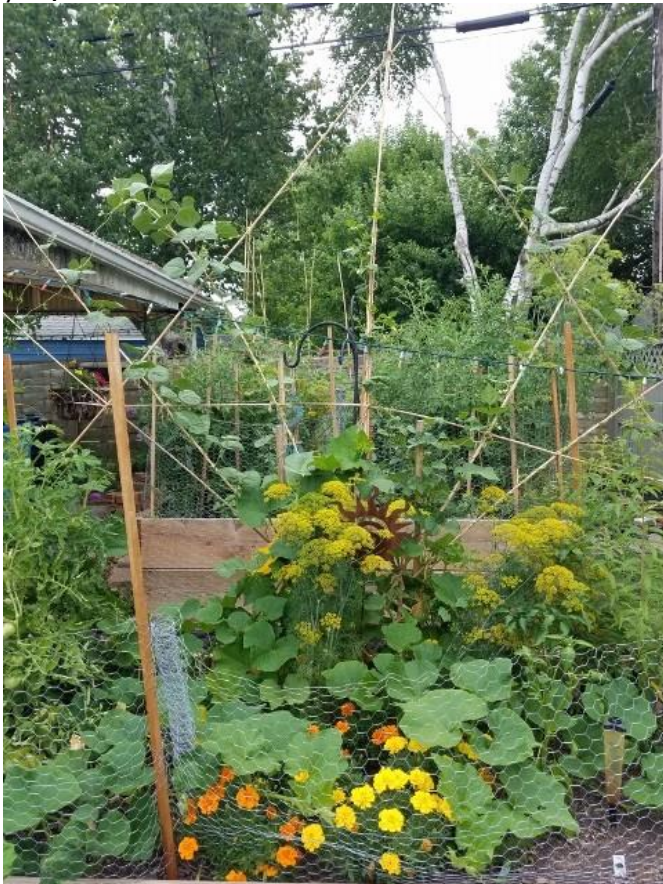
Lots of helpful hands and involvement will continue to bring enjoyment and vitality to your garden club! Sue Kesti



(Frances Park Blue Star Memorial)

BLUE STAR MEMORIAL GARDEN

Greeting friends. Ellen and her elves here with an update on Blue Star Memorial Garden. This year has taught us to be flexible in our everyday tasks as we learn to adapt to changing times. I was notified on June 10th that as a worker, I could get into Frances Park to check on BSM Garden. Up until this date, the park gates were locked. Actually, I was surprised on the condition of the garden as it looked darn good for not being tended to since last Oct. Our ability to work there time wise was reduced by the city as the park was still closed to the public. After the usual cleanup of garden, sun loving red impatiens were planted in place of red geraniums for a different look. These plants and the mulch were donated by the city. City employees, Jason and Ray, have assured me they will take care of the watering of plants and in this heat, we appreciate that task!!! Daisies aren't as tall this year as last year but still have big blooms and look beautiful with the Blue Salvia and lavender plants. Frances Park officially opened July 6th, so stop by and enjoy !! Thank you, Ellen Bloomer



(Tomato, squash, dill, lemon verbena, peppers, vine, marigolds-Joan)

SCOTT SUNKEN GARDENS

Daiva has been working with Jason and Brett along with the representative assigned to the gardens to make sure all of us are on the same page. Daiva looked over the plans, asked questions about plants, mulch, watering and care. Answers have been given and she and team are meeting to get some gardening completed.

The garden is on a watering schedule, the grass is mowed, something not previously provided. She is asking questions about the endowment, how it can be spent and what are the procedures she must follow to keep all parties happy. Daiva Deveraux

HORTICULTURE

At this time of the summer my attention is on heat, rain, dry days, more heat, humidity, and how early I have to get up to do any outdoor work. Given the season, these notes are intended to help us think through what is necessary to get us through these days.

My first thought is always hydrate!!!. Both the gardeners and our gardens need extra water these days. I find a rain gauge very helpful to determine how much rain my garden receives (as opposed to what the weather report says we have had. The actual amount of rain does vary even in areas that are fairly close to each other.) Some drought tolerant plants are able to draw more of their moisture from humidity in the air, and also survive on much less water than others. All types of plants need at least a minimum amount of water. Most plants need to receive a sufficient amount of water on a somewhat regular schedule to stay healthy.

In general, yards need about 1 ½ inches of water per week. I admit that I don't water my grass. Except in extreme drought, grass will come back and spending my water on the lawn seems like an unnecessary waste of a valuable resource. That's my preference, and of course is a matter of individual choice. Most perennials need ½-1 inch of water a week. Of course this varies by the type of plant. Some are much more drought tolerant, while others are very thirsty.

Remember that containers have no extra soil to draw from except their own contents. Smaller containers dry out much faster. Most containers need water at least once a day, and sometimes twice, especially in high heat. The mulch that you added to pots and gardens earlier is especially helpful now as it helps to keep roots cool and keeps soil moist. If your mulch has thinned, add some more.

One old fashioned way to check soil dryness is to stick your finger under the mulch to feel the soil. You can also try to make a ball with soil. If a ball forms, the plant is wet enough; If the ball falls apart, the soil is too dry.

A second thought of summer for me is to keep it clean. This goes for deadheading, and also for weeding. The cleaner a garden is, the better you can see and enjoy fresh blooms. For some plants, deadheading also encourages additional flowers. In addition (and very important) the cleaner your garden, the less likely that you will have disease or attract unwanted pests. A clean garden just looks so much better!!

My third summer thought is to keep plants upright. Use stakes or dry plant stalks as needed to tie up plants that are too top heavy. Of course I think of tomatoes, but there are many others. For some perennials especially, flower heads may be long enough or heavy enough to bend their stems. In my yard delphinium, peonies, and this year a tall butterfly bush have been especially in need of help. Unless the plant is intended to weep or "flop", give the stem some support. This not only helps to make the blooms more visible; it also keeps stems from breaking in wind or having plants encroach on the space of their neighbors.

Last and not least, ENJOY. This is a gorgeous season and we see the culmination of our work each year. It's just easier to relax when we know that our plants are happy and healthy. Barb Amundsen

GARDEN BEAUTIFICATION TOUR

This year we had one garden on the west side of Lansing to tour. Sharon was the go to person for this tour as I was not able to attend. The garden offered a place of tranquility with a pond to rest your eyes on. Ronnie provided a video for those unable to attend. Joan Lenhard
https://youtu.be/7zZw_guhbeQ



(West side garden view of the pond, day lilies and grasses)

GARDEN ATTACK TURNED TOUR

Thank you for your unselfish support for our Garden Tour. Your gift of time and hospitality speaks welcome and an open hand of friendship louder than any words spoken.

Those of you who offered your gardens and those of you who attended gave that gift to each other. I believe we had twenty-two participants. Amazing!

The rest and best of the story is Ronnie Polad's photo tour which really is the perfect partnership for this endeavor; she gave the tour to a much bigger audience. There are many who simply could not come and Ronnie's gift bridged the gap and beyond. It was delightful to be in your gardens and it was visually reinforcing and awakening to be in your gardens through Ronnie's filter. Click on 1 link at a time to see the gardens.
https://youtu.be/ADS_iyvYk0
<https://youtu.be/6kaww4cqsak>

The comment I heard from gardeners was: "I am so glad we did this, I love the way my garden looks

and needed this milestone to make it happen" – Amen. The comment from guests: "It was so good to be together outdoors and sharing". paraphrased.

Cuddos to our extraordinary club and commendations for a remarkable moment and memories. Deb Albert

MEMBER UPDATE

The Aug. meeting has been canceled. We are not able to meet at Van Atta's. However, we are looking to reschedule this for next year.

The Board will be holding a meeting on Aug 31st. This will be a Zoom mtg. If you are interested in attending you must contact Ronnie to be put on the email list for that meeting. This meeting starts at 10:00.

I am checking on a zoom meeting for Sept. Again, we would hold a membership meeting at 9:30 and our speaker would start at 10:30-10:45. This is not confirmed. You will have confirmation of our plan in the Sept. newsletter.

Joan Lenhard

IIB GARDEN MEETING

The design team met this month outdoors at a pavilion. The team is planning that we will be open next year. Let us all hope so. It looks like the theme will be National Parks. Get your thinking cap on and be creative. Joan Lenhard

GREENS MARKET NEWS

The Greens Market planning meeting on 8/3/20 is for all department heads and any other GCGL members with ideas and suggestions. The meeting will be on my sun porch, as usual. There isn't a lot of space for social distancing so wearing face masks is required. If you will not be there please send any plans, shopping lists, ideas, etc to me via email or snail mail asap.

The pick making workshop 8/5/20 at Ronnie Polad's home. We need lots of workers. If you are able to come, please wear a mask, bring your own lunch and your ribbon cutting shears. We will have supplies and instructions for pick by those who prefer to work at home. Call or email Joanne if you have questions. Please be aware that things might change and you should always check with the host or your email. Joanne Bauer

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Barbara Church

UPDATE ON HOME GARDEN

I was forced to fence in the garden. I had visits from Rocky Raccoon and the family, Bunny Foo Foo and the family and possible Bambi. I know the fencing has kept critters out because the noshing is done. The fencing has made it challenging for me to garden but I am finding ways. Getting the fencing was challenging as everyone was out of chicken wire. I am already rethinking how to fence for next year.



(Tomatillo, Tomato, pepper, dill, pickles and beans)

C19 has left me many hours to tend to gardening duties. I know many of you are tending gardens as evident by the tour and videos by Ronnie.

I have so much dill that I could start selling. My pickling is done for now (Mary). I think with the tomatoes coming on, I might have enough for one canner. I have shared basil, dill, radishes, tomatoes and peppers.

I have walked my gardens around the house taking numerous pictures so I have a plan for next year. I think I will do a drawing and try to get it to scale. I will go out on a cooler morning and take measurements. Wish me luck. That will be the winter project.



(Tomatoes, dill, radishes, dill, carrots, garlic)

I think many of us are finding that our gardens provide beauty, health, escape and provide places of solitude and healing. Keep greening away the hours of the day. Joan Lenhard

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 – lets gardenlansing.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

Sixteen Sprigs Lavender Farm call 803-3081
<http://www.sixteensprigs.org>
Facebook Sixteen Sprigs Lavender Farm