

TWIGS

The Garden Club of Greater Lansing Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Is Fall arriving yet? There sure are signs that it is coming, some cooler days and those glorious nights we can sleep with our open windows. But summer is trying to hang on, giving more bounties of produce and butterflies visiting the gardens. What a joy this time of year brings!

Just as nature is showing change is on the way, we as a garden club are adjusting to the changes of this pandemic time. Gardeners have always been a resilient and resourceful group. We have been enjoying gardens, maybe our own, volunteering, or going to offered tours. We as humans, strive to stay connected. Staying in touch nurtures the soul. The changes of seasons as well as the pandemic will challenge how we stay connected. An example is that the GCGL September 14 meeting will be through Zoom. Our speaker that day will also join us via Zoom.

More opportunities are available using the Zoom format. There are meetings, book discussions and classes happening with Zoom. You can use a mobile phone, tablet or computer to participate. Many senior programs offer Zoom training sessions. My local senior program published a beginners guide to Zoom in the recent newsletter. The newsletter can be accessed at www.ELPrimeTime.com, go to page 4 for the guide. "AARP how to zoom" has videos that can be helpful too.

Please let me or Ronnie know if you need help. It

would be best if you learn about Zoom, download the app and be familiar with it before the meeting. We will have a full agenda and limited time to have the meeting. Hope you are all well and safe, see you soon on Zoom! Sue Kesti

HORTICULTURE – Designing a Bird Friendly Garden

To me, birds are as indispensable to a garden as plants. Birds provide a soundtrack for the garden. Even elusive birds that I can't see, liven things up with their twittering, scolding, singing and other vocal variations. We have planted many trees and shrubs over the years, to provide nesting and hiding places. But there are other ways to make birds feel more welcome, even if there are no large trees in place. One of the most important



(Red Salvia -Suzanne Dudley)

techniques is to grow plants that will provide birds with different kinds of food and shelter for every season of the year.

Seeds- Do not deadhead plants after they flower. Let them set seed that the birds will feed on. Some plants that provide seeds for birds are: various ornamental grasses including feather reed grass and miscanthus grass, also perennials such as purple coneflower, rudbeckia, and coreopsis among many others.

Berries- I like to plant shrubs and small trees in my yard that produce fruit for the birds as well as showy blossoms. Small fruits and berries can be especially attractive to birds. Red berries of the Juneberry are particularly attractive to birds. We have crab apples planted on a berm in front of our house that robins and cedar waxwings especially enjoy in the early spring, eating fruits that matured the previous fall. Some other berry producing plants that I have are viburnum, redbird and silky dogwood. I have Michigan hollies planted in a damp area of our yard. They produce brilliant red berries. They grow to about 8 feet by 8 feet.

Nectar- Planting flowers that provide nectar will attract hummingbirds, butterflies, and bees. I plant giant red salvia (see attached photo), an annual, to attract hummingbirds all summer long. Other nectar plants are bee balm, columbine and foxglove.

Shelter- Birds will readily visit your garden if you provide lots of food plants or put food into a feeder. But you can enjoy them even more if they stay close by to roost and nest. Some birds nest on the ground and others will find a spot in a large tree or shrub. Evergreen trees such as spruce and yew provide a dense protective cover for nesting and taking shelter from icy winds.

Water is an important ingredient for birds. I keep a bird bath filled all summer. I try to clean and empty it once a week to prevent mosquitoes from breeding. In the winter you can still provide water,

with a heating coil to keep the water from freezing. I used a metal garbage can lid as a bird bath. I turned it upside down and set it on bricks.

I hope you will think about the birds when you put your garden to rest at the end of the season. And if you are considering planting a shrub or tree, plant those that will also encourage birds in your garden by producing seeds, berries and/or shelter for the birds. Suzanne Dudley

UPDATE ON HOME GARDEN

The saga continues. I have a raccoon that must be getting into the garden and recycle bin. If I do not secure the bin lid tightly every night it is off in the morning. The fencing has helped immensely but I still have some gnawing on flowering squash and beans. I must have a deer or two making this yard a stop on the gravy train. My redbird dogwood which sits on a berm has shown signs of



being eaten.

(Butternut Squash)

I have harvested 4-5 quarts of smaller tomatoes. The larger tomatoes are on the vine a bit longer but I have been able to share with many family and friends. I have harvested beans 3 times and my beets are slowly coming along. The garlic is drying. I will replant in the fall for more garlic next year.

This year I have learned so much about gardening. I need to label, increase space, supports and fencing. My plans for next year are already

twirling around in my mind. Joan Lenhard



(Tomatillo, tomatoes-zebra, yellow, sun golds, brandywine, rutgers, green and wax beans, ancho and green peppers. Part of this mornings harvest)

SEPTEMBER MEETING

We are in the process of setting up a zoom meeting for our speaker Raynika Brown on the topic of Do 1 Thing. This presentation speaks to preparing for emergencies/crisis's. Hopefully we will learn more about what we can do to manage our current situation. Joan Lenhard

GREENS MARKET NEWS

The team that works with Joanne has made a decision to cancel the greens market this year. The plan this year is to purchase greens if members would like for their own personal arrangements, swags or wreaths. No more then 2 bags per person. They are investigating making wreaths for the funeral homes that we have supplied in previous years. Ellen has taken a role in keeping the roping available as people will order and it will be cut and available for pick-up. I am sure Joanne will have more news at our upcoming meeting. Hang on the ride is still going. Joanne Bauer

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Martha Brick | Jenny Bond |
| Linda Norwood | Joanne Bauer |
| Marge Clarke | Suzanne Dudley |

MEMBER UPDATE

Ann Lipkowitz greatly appreciates the donation from the garden club to IWMF in memory of her husband Jim.

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

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