

The Meridian Gardener



MAY FLOWERS PHOTO BY SUE WITTICK

MAY 2017



VOLUME FIVE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF MERIDIAN GARDEN CLUB, INC.
MEMBER OF MICHIGAN, GARDEN CLUBS, INC., CENTRAL REGION GARDEN CLUBS, INC. AND NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC



The Meridian Gardener



Newsletter of the Meridian Garden Club, Inc.

Editor: Susan Kropschot

Member of Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc., Central Region Garden Clubs, Inc. and National Garden Clubs, Inc.

May 2017

Volume Five

Website - meridiangardenclub.weebly.com

Facebook - www.facebook.com/meridiangardenclub

May 15, 2017 Monthly Meeting Opening the Historical Village Gardens

Agenda

- 9:00** Business Meeting
 Installation of Officers for 2017-2018
 Approval of 2017-2018 Budget
 Club Dues for 2017-2018
- 10:30** Opening Meridian Historical Village Gardens
 Members report to assigned gardens.
 Bring your garden tools.
 Morning snacks and beverages will be provided.

Hostesses: Karen Anderson, Kris BeLonge
Flower Power (8:30a.m.): Shirley Tsai, Elaine High
Design Moment: Sue Wittick

2016-17 dues will be accepted at this meeting



Successful Panera Fundraiser



We have received word from Panera that 53 flyers were turned in during our fundraiser there last week. This allowed for the maximum of 20% to be earned on the \$960.63 that was spent. So \$192.60 was raised while members enjoyed eating and visiting. Thanks to all who participated!

Explore the National Garden Club

website <http://www.gardenclub.org/>
user name: member - password - flight



President's Column

Having had the benefit of great speakers all winter, we are now ready to jump in and do our thing - at home and in the Township gardens, even if it is a bit chilly. Come to our May meeting prepared with tools to "open the gardens". If you are not signed up yet to a particular garden, please see Georgia. For those who are unable to work outdoors, there will be an opportunity to work on pressed flower designs in the Board room.

Although we do not have regular monthly club meetings during the next 3 months, there are plenty of things going on. Besides maintaining the Township gardens, Gallivanting Gardeners has summer trips scheduled, and consider going to the State Convention June 7-8, nearby this time in Ann Arbor. Newsletters will continue to be published as usual and they will keep you up to date with these and other events.

Time flies when you're having fun, and so the last two years have flown by. I will miss being your President which was challenging but definitely rewarding and certainly never boring. Thank you for all your support, cooperation, and participation in this club which is so important to us all. It is a 'Triple Diamond Club of Distinction' because of all of you. I look forward to continuing to participate in it along side all of you. *Madeline*

Brick and Barnes House Gardeners Need Help



When the Barnes House addition was built last year, we knew that it would require expansion of the garden at the front of the house to truly integrate the new space. Actually, it will just about double the size of the Barnes House garden, and more hands are urgently needed to get the new space planted and to maintain it. If you can help by joining our group, please contact garden chair Brigitta Bruning at xxxxxxxxxxxx.



Photo of fox sunning himself in a coil of garden hose on our deck.

How to get your Yard Certified as a Wildlife Habitat by The National Wildlife Federation

Shared by **Marilynn Bezdek**

For those of you who were unable to attend the April meeting, I presented an Environmental Moment. Our President asked me to recap the highlights:

Environment - Webster defines: as the whole complex of factors (as soil, climate, and living things) that influence the form and the ability to survive of a plant of an animal or an ecological community.

A complete checklist and application is provided on the website, for further information click [here](#).

A few detailed packets will be available at our next general meeting.

Can you provide three sources of food? 13 items listed

One source of water? 10 items listed

Two sources of cover or shelter? 12 items listed

Two places to raise young? 10 items listed

Do you use sustainable practices? Do you provide two of the following:

1. Soil & Water Conservation: river, water or stream buffer; capture rainwater; use drip irrigation or soaker hoses; limit water use; reduce erosion; use mulch or ground cover plants?

2. Control Invasive Exotic Species: by reducing lawn areas; use "native plants"; remove "non-native" plants?

3. Organic Practices: Do you compost; eliminate chemical pesticides; eliminate fertilizer?

Your \$20 application fee to certify yard includes: A numbered frame able certificate; e-newsletter "Garden for Wildlife"; one year subscription to NWF Magazine and a 10% discount on merchandise.

There are only two currently known Meridian Garden Club yards certified at this time. Let's make the list long enough to add to our yearbook activities.

Marilynn Bezdek

New Member Information



Lorrie Schartow (12/14) (James Olah)

xxx
xxx
xxx
xxx
xxxxx

Gardening Interests

Composting, Environmental preservation, Floral Design, Garden Crafts, Herbs, Horticulture, House Plants, Landscape Design, Organic Gardening, Soil Improvement / Composting

Interested in Working on the following:
Flower Shows - Youth Education



Sheila Flynn (7/30) (Bill)

xxx
xxx
xxx
xxxx

Gardening Interests

Floral Design, Herbs, Horticulture, House Plants, Landscape Design, Soil Improvement

Learned about Meridian GC from Melody Potter

Update Year Book

Mary Ballard

New email address - xxxxxx

Youth Activities Report

Simar K Pawar



The Youth Education Committee donated three 'Frightened Frog' books to the elementary schools in Haslett to mark Earth Day. Ralya Elementary took us up on our offer to come and read the book to the children. Member Melody Potter took the task on and delivered the message very passionately! I heard she was so popular with the class that we have been invited for the next year. The messages of preventing wildfires and Woodsy Owl's message via pencil and ruler giveaways were reinforced.

Check it out! Our club made it on Haslett public schools page. Click [here](#) to see that information.

One of the classes upon return decided to do Arbor day posters to reflect their learning and will submit posters for evaluation and a fun food prize. We are still hoping for a planting day for annuals before June at the Haslett Library or Chapel at the Historical Village. The next few weeks and months will be busy, busy...

The Backdoor Gardeners group hosted close to 100 kindergarteners over the last two Fridays as it was close to both Earth day and Arbor day. What an opportunity to teach our youth! Backdoor Gardeners, shared the Earth/Arbor Day message along with a Spring celebration. The children learned how to tell spring is here, how to safely use some of the hand tools, stretch exercises to prep for garden work, and how and why to plant earthworms. All participants potted Michigan White Pine seedlings in a pot to take home. Demonstrations on how to care for roots and pot a plant were done for the children.

In addition, Backdoor Gardeners decorated a beautiful May pole. The children frolicked around it, singing and dancing. The youth also participated in pioneer style hand washing. One of the outstanding remarks from one of the young ladies was, "Mom, they are using cheese to wash their hands." I guess the old soap does look like cheddar. Their hard work was rewarded by refreshments.

2017 Newsletter Deadlines

Month	Articles Due	Print Date
June	June 8	June 11-12

Wine & Canvas Benefit Night

For the Meridian Garden Club

Saturday, May 20th | 5:00 pm

Wine & Canvas Instructed Painting | 5:30pm – 8:30pm

Hosted by: Frames Unlimited | 1929 W Grand River Ave, Okemos

On Saturday, May 20th Frames Unlimited hosts an evening dedicated to the arts, culture and beauty of Meridian gardening provided by the Meridian Garden Club. On display and available for purchase will be hand crafted pressed flower art, each uniquely crafted by Meridian Garden Club members. No two designs are alike.

During the event, non-ticket holders can browse around the store and purchase one of many artistic or Garden Club designs on display. Wine and Canvas ticket holders will enjoy light jazz in the background and wine sampling, all while creating their own floral themed canvas masterpiece, step by step. Space is limited. Tickets for painting are \$40 each with all proceeds from the event supporting the Meridian Garden Club. The Meridian Garden Club was organized in 1970 and currently has over 80 active members. Flyer is attached to newsletter.

Your monetary contribution may be tax-deductible and can help continue to provide community beautification, education and youth educational activities in Meridian Township.



April Speaker Information



For those of us who wanted to refresh our memories with the information that Jon Nash, our April speaker shared on small trees and shrubs, you can do so by clicking on the following link:

[Small Trees & Shrubs For The Michigan Landscape](#)

The link can also be found on our Face book page and on our website.

2017-18 Budget and Year-End Reminders

Peggy Bryson



1. The proposed club budget for the coming fiscal year is conveyed as an attachment with this newsletter. Club members will be asked to vote on the proposed budget at the May, 2017 meeting. If approved, the budget would take effect June 1. Please review it in advance of the meeting and direct any questions you may have about it to me.

2. Dues (\$25) may be paid at the May meeting or sent to the Treasurer. They must be received by May 26 in order to assure the state organization receives your state dues and the club's 2017-18 member list by June 1.

3. If you have club assets in your possession (or are otherwise responsible for a club asset), please let the Treasurer know what asset(s) you have and its/their approximate value. The club must file annual financial reports with the State of Michigan. Asset information is needed to prepare an accurate balance sheet at the close of the fiscal year.

4. Please submit receipts (for club expenses incurred this fiscal year - 6/1/2016 - 5/31/2017) for reimbursement ASAP. These are necessary to produce a complete and accurate statement of revenue and expense for the year (another of the financial reports the club files annually with the state).

5. If you haven't already done so, remember to check at the May meeting that the contact information that the Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. has for you is correct. [That information is used, among other things, to send you the state organization's newsletter.] There will be a clipboard at the Treasurer's table with your information. **If your contact information is correct, please initial it so that I know it's been checked.** (If you checked your information at the April meeting but didn't initial it, please do so at the May meeting.)

Questions Answered ???

Mary Lou Hatfield

The weed found in Mary Lou Hatfield's garden on 4/28 may be one of these 4. Please Google and let me know hatfield@msu.edu. Shepard's Purse *Capsella bursa-pastoris*, Rocksand Wort *Arenaria stricta*, Pennsylvania Bittercress *Cardamine pennsylvanica*, Lyre-leaved Rock Cress *Arabis lyrata*.

Also on the tour was the shrub which people asked about but I couldn't spell, it is *Kolkwitzia amabilis* "Dream Catcher". The Dream Catcher cultivar is the one to get as it has pretty orange green leaves in Spring + pink flowers and the leaves change color in the fall. Daffodil names: white Thalia, short yellow Hawera. From John Scheepers catalog Thanks for touring!



"Digging in the Dells"



Save the Date! Central Region Convention October 4-5, 2017 Chula Vista Resort Wisconsin Dells

Convention Brochure and Registration
Workshops, Seminars and Registration



Michigan Garden Clubs
86th Annual State Convention
June 7-8, 2017
Holiday Inn,
3600 Plymouth Road
Ann Arbor



Click -> [here](#) for more information

Plant Sale Final Reminder

Jean Goetz

Our sale on Friday, May 19th, is just two weeks away! Hopefully we will have 600 plus plants to sell as in recent years. Give them time in their pots to recuperate from transplant shock, so they look beautiful for sale day. Also, watch the evening weather report for our unpredictable May weather. Beware of frost warnings which might warrant covering plants or moving them inside the garage.

Thank you to all the members signed up to staff 64 various jobs on Thursday set-up day and Friday sale day. You are terrific! We could not have this sale without you. The schedule sheet is included for your convenience.

If you need more empty plant pots, you may get a supply of one and two gallon pots from Tress McAllister's front porch at 1275 Harbor Cut - (south on Cornell, past Hatch, right on Harbor Cut).

Please phone co-chairs Debbie Angell xxxxxxxxxx or Jean Goetz (xxxxxxx) if you have questions or concerns.

Plant Sale Reminder and Update May-2017



Just a reminder that our Plant Sale on Friday, May 19, 2017, is approaching quickly. **Thank you** to all the members who volunteered to work setting up and on sale day. Call Jean Goetz if you can help and are not on this schedule. (xxxxxxx)

Here is the schedule:

Thurs, May 18th, set up and plant delivery from 2-5 pm

Pre-Publicity: media outlets: Cindy Chalou

Printing forms etc: Georgia Styka

Arranging tables and table signage: Sharon Theroux, Colleen Hyslop Debbie Angell and Jean Goetz

Street Signage: Maria Struck, Jo Elyn Roe, Debbie Angell

Put up pavilion banner (Township) and hillside sign:

Anne Davich and Cathy Claypool

Pricing: Madeline Masterson, Tress McAllister, Peggy Bryson

Helpers to unload plants: Char Sulin, Patti Cotter, Anne Davich

Checking plant labels: Larry Aronson, Mary Lou Hatfield

Placing plants on proper tables: Peggy Fankhauser, Sharon Frucci, JoAnn Peterson
(continued in next column)

Friday Sale, May 15th (9-2 pm)

Shift 1 (8:30-10am)

Greeters: Sheila Flynn, Lorrie Schartow

Garden Specialists: Jodie Szalankiewicz

Garden Goodies: Sue Lohman, Merry Warner, JoAnn Peterson...**Certificates:** Anne Davich

Holding area: Karen Anderson, Miriam Minshall

Prepay Totaling: Georgia Styka, Gail Meadows

Cashiers: Sue Kropschot, Sue Wittick

Shift 2 (10-12 noon)

Greeters: Jodi Szalankiewicz, Elaine High

Garden Specialists: Larry Aronson

Garden Goodies: Diane Robinson, Kay Pyciak

Certificates: Dixie Lahti

Holding: Brigitta Bruning, Colleen Hyslop, Shirley Tsai

Prepay Totaling: JoAnne Tuttle, Terrie Kenaga

Cashiers: Georgia Styka, Bev Johnson

Shift 3 (12-2 pm)

Greeters: Colleen Hyslop , Luann Nelson

Garden Specialists: Mary Lou Hatfield

Garden Goodies: Kathy Denisi, Sue Lohman, Katie Steinacker ...**Certificates:** Sue Leahy

Holding: Shirley Tsai, Veneta Stoyanova, Sue Knapp

Prepay Totaling: Toni Santone, Emma Reardon, Jean Goetz

Cashiers: Georgia Styka, Peggy Bryson

Clean up: Elaine High, Sue Leahy, Katie Steinacker

Remember: Anyone bringing 25+ plants on Thursday may take home one free plant of choice.

Holding and buying is for the **community only** from 9-11 (so they get a variety of choices).

After 11, members please buy. We are our own best customers!

Plants are half price (except for Vern's natives) **after 12:30pm.**

Leftover plants are donated to other township gardens.

Leftover Garden Goodies go to Goodwill, unless you reclaim them from Sue Lohman.

15 Deer-Resistant Plants

Fine Gardening issue 88

Shared by Peggy Bryson



John Van Etten, recommends 15 plants that deer won't eat; your experience, of course, may differ. For a list of deer-resistant plants in your area, contact your local extension agent.

Click [here](#) for information on this subject.

Gallivanting Gardeners 2017

JoAnn Peterson



Tuesday, June 20, 2017. We will be visiting the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House, Gardens and Grounds located in Grosse Pointe Shores (90 miles, 1 hr 25 min drive.)

The visit includes a 5-minute video of the Ford family, a guided tour of the house and grounds which includes the pool, the rose garden, other informal gardens and the gift shop. We are scheduling approximately 2 hours for the tour. The docent lead tour includes a look at the landscape planner Jens Jensen and how he and Edsel Ford worked together to plan the grounds. (Cost \$7.00.)

Lunch will be at the Watermark. Lunch Choices (\$5.00 - Mini Maurice Salad **or** Two Beef **or** Chicken Tacos **or** Two Sliders **or** Veggie Wrap.) (\$7.00 - ½ order of Perch **or** Fish and Chips **or** Two Chicken Sliders.) (\$9.00 - Mini Lobster Mac & Cheese **or** Mini Stir Fry [Steak, Chicken or Shrimp]). Sandwiches come with waffle chips. Drinks extra.

We will meet to car pool at the Meridian Mall, behind Younkers for the Home at 8:30 am and leave promptly at 9:00 am.

Lunch choice and \$7.00 payment due at May 15 meeting or by contacting JoAnn Peterson.

Free Garden App To Help Identify Plant Sale Plants

Shared by Katie Steinacker

Free garden app

You can take a picture of your plant with your cell phone or iPad and send it and the app sends back a picture of what it looks similar to and says "Is this it"? If not, it will keep searching until it finds it. I have found it very helpful and very **easy**. It also has answers to your questions and a place to ask a Horticulturist questions. You can also search by the name of the plant. It is a free app and I do know it is available on **Google play** on your computer or cell phone and the **app store** on the Apple phone. I have used it many times and love the instant answers!

Name of App
myGardenAnswers

What it does:
Instant answers to questions

Gallivanting Gardeners 2017

JoAnn Peterson



Monday, July 17, 2017. Home of Lynn O'Shaughnessy and Specialty Growers.

We will travel to Howell (40 miles) to the home of Lynn O'Shaughnessy visiting her green house and garden and then we will take a 15- minute drive to Specialty Growers.

Lynn, a member of the Howell Garden Club has been an orchid judge for 26 years and specializes in Pleurothallid orchids. Her garden has about 275 different varieties of Hostas along with annuals, perennials and bulbs.

At Specialty Growers' we will tour the nursery and display gardens. They have an unusual and large variety of perennial, annuals, herbs, native plants and veggies for sale. Our visit, is in the middle of Daylily Season and one of the absolute prettiest times of the year at Specialty Growers. No cost.

We will have lunch at Tomato Brothers Restaurant. Lunch will be from the menu.

We will meet at the Meridian Mall, behind Younkers for the Home, leaving promptly at 9:00 am.

If you have not signed-up, Sign-up will be at the May 15 meeting or by contacting JoAnn Peterson.

May and June Birthdays



Harsha Patel	May 4
Suzanne Rock	May 5
Luann Nelson	May 10
Sue Nieland	May 10
Melody Potter	May 10
Maria Struck	May 11
Anne Davich	May 17
Joanne Tuttle	May 27
Janet Metzelaar	June 2
Margaret Jahnke	June 15
Dixie Lahti	June 25
Madeline Masterson	June 26



Plant It Pink!!

On the last weekend in April, CALNA volunteers (led by President Dick VonTersch and his spouse) and Meridian Garden Club members planted two trees and most of the shrubs for the garden. We were delighted with the rains that came after and hope that we won't be dragging hoses until our irrigation is installed. It looks lovely and there is

more to come. If you wish to order a memorial brick, there is still time before we begin the engraving process next month.

For the committee, Sue Nieland



Plant it Pink Garden -

Great Garden Centers in Michigan

Shared by Patty Cotter



Click [here](#) to discover some great garden centers located around Michigan. Plan your next road trip....

**Celebration of Spring
With the Backdoor Gardeners**

Cathy Claypool.
Photos - Patty Cotter

At the end of April, over a two day period, one hundred kindergarteners from Mason elementary school, celebrated May Day and Arbor Day. They danced and sang around a May Pole, planted small pine trees to be taken home, pulled weeds and planted earth worms. The weather was cool but all had a grand time welcoming Spring. A big thank you to the Back Door gardeners who made it all happen: Carole Armstrong, Cindy Chalou, Patty Cotter, Colleen Hyslop, Sue Knapp, Simar Pawar, Veneta Stoyanova, Joanne Tuttle and Cathy Claypool - Chair.



May Pole -



Planting Worms



Planting Trees



Trees and Spring Flooding

Shared by Patty Cotter



Click [here](#) for information on this subject