

Garden Club Journal

Editor: Suzanne Singleton

October, 2016

Changing Colors Signal Autumn Activities

With the arrival of Autumn on September 21, Garden Club members have started their fall activities. **Pat Knoop** and the 'Enabling Gardeners' have put the Garden "to bed." In addition, **Jo West** and **Carol Chrzastek** have cleaned up the 'Children's Garden' at the Henry Ford Centennial Library, just in time for the dedication of the new **Veteran's Memorial Plaza** on **September 24**.

Thank you to **Mary Lou Herrst** for coordinating the "Welcome Back" Tea at our September 12 meeting. Also, thanks to **Suzanne Singleton** for sharing her photos and memories of her visits to Longwood Gardens, and encouraging us to travel to view them. **Marge Rombach** displayed the charming floral arrangement that she and the **Horticulture Therapy** volunteers proposed to use as a craft project for residents at Oakwood Common. By the way, she is looking for a few more helpers, so call her, if you can spare a day. (See *Member News* for more information about HT Group)

We now realize all the tasks and many responsibilities that dear **Marjory Cooper** performed for our members. With her passing in September, two members have stepped forward to fill the void. **Janice Gardner** will handle **Hospitality** and **Christine Nowak** will handle **Ways & Means**. Let's all help them in their new duties.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the **MGC District I, Fall Conference to be held at Taylor Meadows Golf and Banquet Center, on October 12**. If you still need to make reservation, call **Rose Wiggle** 313-278-3417. Submit payment of \$25 to our club and then one check will be written to District I.

Pat Knoop and I attended a planning meeting for the **MGC Convention to be held in Ann Arbor next June 7 and 8**. District I and IIA will be the sponsors, and each club in this area is expected to participate in hosting it. More later, but please mark your calendars to attend since it will be here before you know it.

Ready, set, go to plan for our **20th Holly Berry Brunch**. I hope each of you is thinking about what kind of item you can donate for the gift raffle. **Laurine Griffin** has offered to store items, so call her to arrange a time to deliver them. 313-274-8930. I have lunch tickets, which are priced at \$30 until November 1, \$35 thereafter. Call me 313-562-7524. if you wish to add \$5 to include your name in the program.

Mary Bugeia, President



KEY MEETING DATES

Board Meeting -
Wed., Oct 5, 9:00 am
McFadden Ross House
Brady St., Dearborn

General Meeting
Mon., Oct 10, Noon
1st Presbyterian Church
Brady St., Dearborn

Hostesses: Paulette Baumgart, Donna Behm

Program: Brian Hintz, Backyard Birds

*Clump Sale: Bring plants from your garden for sale to Members and Guests**

Horticulture Therapy
Wed, Oct 12, 10:00 am
Oakwood Common
Assisted Living Activities Room

Member News: Study Groups Meet to Kick Off New Year

On Thursday, September 15, members of the Garden Club study groups toured the gardens of **Meredith Scharf, a 43 year member of the Garden Club**. Nine members, including President, *Mary Bugeia, Sharon Snider, Helen Ross, Judy Henn, Pat Knoop, Laurine Griffin, Barbara Hayes, Marie Chapman and her daughter, and Mindy Delano* attended the tour, followed by a luncheon and "sandwich swap."

Meredith and husband, John are "all in" with their passion and horticultural talent. Utilizing every spare section on their large lot in Rochester Hills, the Scharf gardens brings vivid colors to the front, side and back of their home, Creativity abounds among patio, lawn, and gardens. One enormous flower bed with multi-colored dahlias, flanks the front driveway. Most dahlias reach five feet and more, in every color, and shape. Dinner plate dahlias tower with spiked flower heads or poms.



Meredith Scharf, a 43-year member of the Garden Club, has a passion for dahlias in one of many fabulous gardens around her Rochester Hills home.



Happy Birthday!

Carol McGarvey,	October 7
Donna Behm	October 12
Marie Komnenc	October 19
Shirley Painter	October 19
Suzanne Van Ranst	October 25
Barbara Hayes	October 27

Meredith explained the labor intensive chores with dahlias, describing *digging them up after the first frost, storing the tubers in vermiculite in the basement, then sorting them in Spring, breaking off extra tubers for more flowers, and planting once again.*

Other beauties included in her garden included: Cleome, Asters more like shrubs with masses of purple flowers, and Coneflowers, among many others on display. Whimsy complimented the beds with grace and style. Wind whimsy was extraordinary. Nothing cheesy in these gardens!

Contributed by Mindy Delano, guest writer for the "Potting Shed" featured in the Dearborn Press and

IN MEMORIAM: Marjory Cooper
Garden Club of Dearborn Member since 2006

Leaves, Leaves and More Leaves - repeat of article contributed by Jane Geisler, former Garden Club of Dearborn Member

Mother Nature alerts us that winter is coming by providing brilliant colors of tree leaves adorning the environment with masses of red, orange and yellow color. Actually, the colors were always in the leaves but just masked by the green chlorophyll which is busy making food by photosynthesis while the sun shines.

With the shorter days and cooler temperatures in autumn the trees will switch into their energy-storage mode and stop producing chlorophyll. Prior to the time of the leaves falling, they are colored only by their natural pigments. They are reducing the amount of carbohydrates they produce and that decreases the amount of chlorophyll that shows the green color. For the few weeks before the leaves fall, the natural pigments display their own color...red and purple anthocyanins and yellow and orange carotenoids. Maples become orange, red or yellow; ash trees turn yellow, purple or red, poplars go yellow and oaks change to red or brown. Microclimates in the tree's areas will influence their color; a sugar maple might not turn orange or red if growing in a cooler area.

Native plants tend to lose their leaves earlier than introduced species. Natives are adapted to this climate and know that past mid-October there's likely to be a heavy, wet snow which would catch the weight on the leaves causing branches to snap and break. On the other hand, those trees that hang on to their leaves have more time to grow and store nutrients. Deciduous trees lose their leaves in autumn in response to declining day length and cooler temperatures. A corky wall, the abscission layer, begins growing between the leaf's stem and the branch; as the layer thickens, the leaf separates and falls. Oaks and beeches may not develop this abscission layer in the fall and will retain their withered leaves into winter or even spring. This type of tree that will keep its dead, papery leaves are called marcescent.

Norway maples are an example of a non-native tree that does not receive nature's signals to turn colors. The leaves on these trees remain green until a hard frost and simply fall to the ground green. Michigan is renowned for its fall color show; an abundance of oaks and maples and a few others such as sassafras produce the orange, red and yellow display. Spring and summer rains in Michigan encourage fall leaf color to last longer and will keep the leaves on trees longer with clear days and cool nights. The right temperatures, the right conditions and the right species of trees affect the coloring.

Michigan's autumn days are sunny as the nights get longer and are cooler but not freezing. A warm, moist fall will determine a lesser foliage show and freezing temperatures can cause leaves to fall suddenly preventing them from their slow, colorful dormancy. Trees under stress from pests, disease, injury or drought can lose their leaves without any color change. As you are raking up those mounds of leaves this fall, remember the miraculous biochemical change that Mother Nature has bestowed upon us so that we can again admire Michigan's autumn color exhibition.



October TO DO's for Zone 5

1. Prepare soil for spring planting
2. Remove annuals
3. Transplant roses and ground covers
4. Harvest herb roots, vegetables and fruits
5. Pot bulbs that you want to force; plant Spring blooming bulbs
6. Repair/paint trellises,arbors,fences,benches,
7. Clean garden accessories
8. Mow and edge the lawn
9. Fertilize grass with fall fertilizer
10. Prune shade trees
11. Rake or mulch leaves
12. Find Specimens you can spare for **Garden Club Clump Sale in October**



Hidden Lake Gardens, Tipton, Michigan

Upcoming and Noteworthy Events for GCD Members

- **Sept 28th - October 2:** Dearborn Historical Museum's antiquarian book sale.
- **October 10, 2016 - Garden Club of Dearborn Annual Clump Sale** - First Presbyterian Church, Brady Road, Dearborn
- **October 12, 2016 - MGC District 1 Fall Conference, Taylor Meadows Golf and Banquet Center** -. Contact: Rose Wiggle Tickets: \$25 each. Checks to *Garden Club of Dearborn*.
- **October 24, 2016 - Trick or Treat in the Gardens at the Henry Ford Estate**- Annual tradition of Halloween fun at Historic Henry Ford Estate. All proceeds benefit the restoration of the Henry Ford Estate's gardens. The program is put on by the Henry Ford Estate Garden Volunteers. Tickets available online.
- **October 13-16 - 47th Annual Migration Festival, Kingsville, Ontario** - Opening Ceremonies at Merlis' Coffeehouse and Eatery, 4 Main Street West, Kingsville Thursday, October 13 at 6 pm
- **December 3, 2016 - 20th Annual Holly Berry Brunch Fundraiser, Dearborn Inn** - Tickets available now. \$30 until November 1, \$35 thereafter. Contact *Mary Bugeia, 313-562-7524*