

August Newsletter 2020



July Program Update

Our July meeting at Lavender Hill Farm was lovely, with 28 members enjoying the sunshine and beautiful lavender in full bloom. Lunch was great, many of us took tours and were entertained by the knowledgeable staff, and we even played bingo! Thanks to Lee Phillips for putting it all together for us.

Emmanuel Episcopal Church is open and available for our use so we're getting back on track with our upcoming August 26th meeting. Capacity is limited to 50 and the kitchen is not available. Members are invited and encouraged to bring your own snack, lunch and beverage. Masks are also required and hand sanitizer will be available.

In addition to the member meeting, we will be watching the Biggest Little Farm. This captivating 90 minute documentary chronicles eight years of a couple's quest to turn 200 acres of barren farmland into a living farm harvesting in harmony with nature.

We will start at 11:30 with a social time and the meeting will begin at noon. The Board meeting will be held at Emmanuel Episcopal at 10:00. All members are welcome to attend. Future meetings continue to be determined on a month by month basis.

Marj Green
Program Chair

Flower Show School in Petoskey

Don't miss course 1 of 4 of Flower Show School in Petoskey, Michigan, September 29 and 30, 2020. We will be at a venue that we can socially distance from each other. Looking forward to horticulturist Judy Newman working with Forever Conifers and Merry Marigolds and designer Claudia Chopp teaching us some traditional floral designs. We will supply breakfast and lunch both days. Sign up and have a great time learning about Flower Shows.



Sharon Schappacher
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Landscape Maintenance

A special thank you this month to Dottie Hawthorne and Jill Hotchkiss for all the work they did to bring the new Gaslight Bed to fruition. They spent many hours working on the design with Jason Bock from Drost Landscape and Jon Hummel from the City of Petoskey. Jon says he has already gotten many compliments and is happy to give the garden club the credit.

Nearby, the Soblesky gazebo is showing its age. The cedar roof shingles are in need of some repair. The gazebo was built in 2001 by the garden club at a cost of 25,000 as a memorial to Virginia and Ed Soblesky for their extremely generous donation to the garden club. Those funds comprise most of the endowment the garden club has at the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation and the income comprises most of our yearly budget. The area around the gazebo looked so unkept this year that we couldn't put our flower pots there. Six of them were relocated to the History Museum. Although the city has been short handed this summer, they have tried to maintain the area as best they could. In the next few weeks, Jon and his crew hope to rip out the rest of the shrubs and perennials and plant grass in those sections. In conjunction with the city, we hope to come up with a plan to beautify the area and give it a new purpose.

In 2006, the garden club spent \$30,785 at the Waterfall Area to make improvements around the waterfall. In 2013, we spent \$3000 to redo the bed near the waterfall and add edging. Since then, we have spent close to \$10,000 to make improvements beside the old staircase, large boulders etc. Now that the new staircase has been installed, some of the work we did has been undone and we need to revisit that area. Carol Sutton is already working on getting ideas for what we can do there.

In 2010, we put some permanent plantings in what is now called the South Entrance Bed at a cost of \$2600. Before that we planted the whole bed with annuals in the spring and bulbs in the fall so those plantings have paid for themselves many times over in both cost and maintenance. However, after 10 years some of the shrubs have died or are dying and need to be replaced. We are working on that too!

While it is always fun to plan new projects, maybe next year we should think about making the necessary improvements to the gardens we already have. Maintenance will always be an issue. If we build it, we have to take care of it or make sure there are funds available for that purpose. Thank you everyone for taking such wonderful care of our gardens and containers this year. It has been one of our best at a challenging time.

Barb Kromm and Nancy Graham
Landscape Maintenance Chairs



Nominating

Pam Washburn has decided not to be nominated for Programs for 2021 and does not want to continue as Hospitality Chair. I am hoping we have a couple of members who would be willing to fill her shoes. Pam has done a great job and I'm sure she will be willing to share all her expertise. Please call 347-6904.

Jane Bock
Nominating Chair