

July 2023 Newsletter



From Our President

Our garden beds are looking glorious, and our presence in the 4th of July parade was again successful. The sudden rain clouds have all our home gardens looking in their prime. We all love summers in Petoskey, and our gardens are a big part of that.

This month with our member meeting we will be revisiting aspects of native plants and how to create a yard that is sustainable and helpful to the ecology at large. At the June MGC Annual Conference, we listened to a knowledgeable horticulturist and landscape designer, Betty Sanders, on the subject. She gave us 10 steps to creating and maintaining a great, family friendly lawn. I am passing it on to all of you.

1. Don't treat soil like dirt. Test your soil.
2. Kick the chemical habit. We apply 10x more chemicals than do farmers.
3. Fertilize with an eye dropper, if at all. Never in early or mid-spring, or summer. Clippings left on a lawn provide sufficient nitrogen. Use compost instead of artificial fertilizers.
4. Give your lawns a breath of fresh air: aerate every 3-5 years.
5. Mow properly: 3" of grass shades it's own roots, shading out weeds. Don't bag clippings: leave them on the lawn to add organic matter and nutrient.
6. Never rake again; mow most leaves into the lawn.
7. Grow the right seed. There are new, more environmentally friendly types available.
8. Add clover to the mix: it keeps your lawn green in droughts and adds nitrogen.
9. Do not water. Half of all water is lost to evaporation. Your lawn will green up with cooler weather.
10. Invite the good guys to dinner. A hungry bird is your best pesticide. Plant trees and "food" to attract them.

Jane Schneider, *President*

June Meeting Featuring American Spoon Foods



Landscape Maintenance Change

Jill Patterson is stepping down as co-chair of Landscape maintenance. Kathleen Davis has agreed to take her place.

Chris Barlett, *Landscape Maintenance*

4th of July Flag Ladies



Wednesday, July 26 Meeting Update

EMS Building, board and membership meeting, Gruler's Gardens 12:45 - 2:00, 1298 E. Gruler Rd.

Monica Gruler has graciously offered to show us around her farm land and talk about the business she is in and the native plants she grows as well. Purchases can be made after the tour. We will leave the EMS at 12:45 and carpool over. Those who have cars and can help, it would be appreciated. We will need to leave by 2:00 or sooner. Directions will be provided.

Thank you,

Pam Washburn/ Janice Hertel, *Programs*