

April 2024 Newsletter



Celebrating 90 Years *Beautifying Petoskey Since 1934*

From Our President

HAPPY SPRING!

2024 marks the 90th Anniversary of the founding of the Petoskey Area Garden Club. We have a committee of hard working members who have been planning all winter for the celebration of this historic anniversary.

We have many events planned:

- May 22 we will honor our long-term members.
- June 24 will be a gala evening party at the Petoskey-Bay View Country Club for all to enjoy.
- June 26 we will enjoy Ethel Larson's presentation of the History of the Petoskey Garden Club.
- Arbor Day in Petoskey, we will give away 90 trees to anyone promising to plant them.
- 4th of July parade, we will have a float with banners proclaiming our 90th Anniversary.
- All summer the Downtown Trolley will be visiting and highlighting our planted beds as they travel around the city.
- We will be gifting floral arrangements (picked from our home gardens) each month to our non-profit partners in the community.

For some of these activities, we will need volunteers from our membership. This will be FUN volunteering, getting together with your gardening buddies to promote and celebrate our Garden Club, proud of our heritage and our future. We will have sign-up sheets at our April member meeting. Thank you all ahead of time, for helping with this big group celebration.

Jane Schneider, *President*

NO MOW MAY

Help Our Local Pollinators Thrive

Will you be the 1st on your street/road to start this year off by waiting until after Memorial day to mow? Here is why that is a good idea.

May is the time when many so-called lawn weeds, like dandelions and clover plants, are in full bloom. These plants provide nectar for bees and other pollinators, when most other plants are not as quick to bloom. Since so many residents have been removing them for years, pollinators have had an extremely limited source of nutrition and resources to pollinate other plants in the spring. Bees, moths, hummingbirds, wasps, beetles, bats, and butterflies are all pollinators. Pollinators are absolutely essential for the reproduction of many plants in our environment. They are the reason why we have biodiversity and so many thriving gardens.

Also, this takes time and one No Mow May will single-handedly create a bumblebee population boom, but real change occurs when it is repeated year after year. Let's start in 2024 and reap the rewards going forward.

Protects from Insects

Insect invasions can be a real nuisance, especially during the warmer months. But did you know that aluminum foil can act as a deterrent? That's right, insects such as slugs and aphids are repelled by the reflective properties of foil. This makes it a great tool for protecting your plants.

Just place strips of aluminum foil around the base of your plants. The reflection will confuse and deter the pests, keeping your plants safe. This is a non-toxic and eco-friendly method that won't harm your plants or the environment. It's a win-win for your garden and Mother Earth.

For instance, you can use strips of foil to scare away birds from your fruit trees. The reflective properties of the foil will deter the birds and protect your fruits. Additionally, you can use foil to line the bottom of a plant pot. This will not only deter pests, but also reflect light back onto the plant, promoting growth.

Pam Carpenter, *Conservation/Environmental*

Member Highlight – Sandy Selden

Sandy Selden joined the Petoskey Area Garden Club in 2006, not knowing how involved she would become! Sandy and her husband, Steve, have three daughters and have lived in Petoskey for 47 years.

Sandy's background is in art, and she has spent many years teaching painting and drawing at Crooked Tree Arts Center, and at Bay View Association. That creativity transfers to the garden. She said, "I love interesting colors and combinations. And I love that every year, gardening is a new beginning."

Sandy was asked to serve on the PAGC Board in 2006 as Youth Activities Chair. After a few years she became Program planner, Gaslight Garden Bed Captain, then served two years as President of PAGC. Her favorite job though, is the one she has now, Chair of PAGC's Children's Garden to be developed in 2026.

In 2017 the PAGC Board decided to create a children's garden, and a committee of seventeen members met to imagine what this new garden could be. "We had lots of ideas," Sandy says, "and we are lucky to have immediate support from the city, as well as professional advice from Deborah Kinney, designer of MSU's Children's Garden." That was the beginning.

PAGC's Children's Garden Committee established this mission for the project: "To nurture children in an engaging garden space dedicated to our regional plants. Our dream is to train our next generation to be good stewards of the earth."

Our goals for the new garden include:

- 1) Promote gardening and the knowledge of plants
- 2) Provide a safe place for play and exploration
- 3) Be accessible to visitors
- 4) Be accessible to children, in scale and signage
- 5) Engage all the senses
- 6) Provide gathering spaces for large and small groups
- 7) Include a climbing structure and a sound sculpture

"We trust that the theme of this garden will be Petoskey's early heritage, especially the history and culture of the Odawa people at the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, and we have received permission from the Odawa tribes to tell their story," Sandy commented.

We have a story to tell that is unique to our area. In Arlington Park, there is an historic boulder placed in 1913 to mark The Old Indian Trail from Mackinaw City to Grand Rapids used from time immemorial by the Huron, Ottawa, Chippewa, and other tribes. The name for our garden will be the Odawa word for garden, Kitigaan.

Our plan has been designed by Tim Knutsen of Beckett and Raeder, Inc., landscape design specialists. The garden will include three climbing sculptures, a bridge, a meeting place with shade, and a winding walk through Arlington Park. Not inexpensive, to redo an entire park. Our estimate is \$750,000. The city will write grants for much of that. Matching grants will be the best and will accelerate the process. The Petoskey - Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation already has a special fund in place for donations to our project, Kitigaan, the Children's Garden.

Sandy recently said this: "We all have the opportunity to share what we love. By sharing what we know and love about plants, pollinators, and conservation we will introduce and inspire our next generation to care for this earth. We are doing important work. Please join me in support of this unique gift to our city, Kitigaan, the Children's Garden."

Submitted by Kathleen Davis



Garden Club Meeting

April 24, 2024

Northern Lights Recreation
8865 M-119
Harbor Springs

Board Meeting
at 10 a.m

Social Gathering
at 11:30 a.m

General Membership
at noon

COMMUNITY UPDATES

Kendall Klingelsmith
Director
Petoskey Parks
and Recreation

David Jones
Executive Director
Petoskey-Harbor
Community Foundation

Eva Siegrist
Owner of
Siegrist Greenhouse
Caring and Maintaining Plants



Orders are In

Your pre-ordered embroidered apparel will be available for pick up at the April meeting. I will also have the other apparel and aprons on hand for anyone in need.

Jackie Bunker, *Apparel*

Celebrate

ARBOR DAY

plant a tree!

Saturday, May 11, 2024, 11am - 1pm
Arlington Park, Petoskey

In celebration of Arbor Day and the
Petoskey Area Garden Club's 90th Anniversary
we will be giving away 90 Michigan native Serviceberry Trees.

The bare rooted transplants will be 12-24 inches
and will grow to 25 feet tall.

Serviceberry trees are early to bloom each spring and their berries
are loved by birds. They grow in sun or shade and in most soils.
Planting directions are provided. Perfect gift for Mother's Day.



**Sponsored by Petoskey Area Garden Club and
Petoskey Parks and Recreation Department**



90th Anniversary Gala

Petoskey/Bay View Country Club • June 24, 2024 • 5:30pm- 9:00pm

Ticket Reservation Form

Ticket price includes hearty hors d'oeuvres, Live and Silent auctions. Cash bar provided.

Number of tickets to purchase at \$75 each: _____ Total purchase: \$_____

I cannot attend the 90th Anniversary Gala but would like to donate \$_____ to PAGC toward the new Kitigaan Children's Garden.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Guest names: _____

Credit Card Credit Card # _____ Expiration _____ CVV _____

Check enclosed

Return form to:

PAGC • P.O. Box 746 • Petoskey, MI 49770

For questions, please contact Jane Schneider, PAGC President: (517) 303.6828

Beautifying Petoskey Since 1934

90th Anniversary Gala

Petoskey/Bay View Country Club • June 24, 2024 • 5:30pm- 9:00pm

This year marks the 90th Anniversary of the Petoskey Area Garden Club and we are celebrating this special milestone.

Join us as we reflect on our legacy and celebrate our future together!

Tickets are \$75 per person which include a variety of hearty hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar, and auction items to bid on.

William Santos, of Monarch Garden & Floral Design, will do a live auction demonstration of fabulous floral arrangement.

An array of attractive packages will be available to bid on for the Silent auction. There is something for everyone!

Proceeds from the auctions will go toward the new Kitigaan Children's Garden. Purchase your tickets today!

Beautifying Petoskey Since 1934





Christmas Party
2023

