



Saline Stone & Thistle Garden Club

www.salinegardenclub.com

Club #401 - District IIA

Member, the Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.

www.michigangardenclubs.org

in the Central Region of the National Garden Clubs, Inc.

www.gardenclub.org

September, 2009

President: Betty Ballou 944-5772
Vice Pres.: Laura Foess Wood 944-2195

Secretary: Bonnie Bender 944-8646
Treasurer: Jill Ball 429-1280

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - Read Carefully -- Important Upcoming Information

- 9/28 Pressed Flower Workshop at Mary Pulick's - 7:00 p.m. (See Member News for details)
10/9&23 Beginner Flower Arranging Lessons at Saline District Library (See Member News for details)
10/22 District IIA Fall Meeting hosted by Good Thyme Garden Club at the Polo Fields (See Member News for details)
10/19 Saline Stone & Thistle monthly meeting UAW Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Bits from Betty Betty Ballou

Welcome to our first meeting of the new garden club year.

I have been remarking that this has been the busiest ever summer in my memory. I haven't made my trips north to visit my aunt, I haven't taken a trip to visit friends. However, my calendar has been full.

The vegetable garden is on its last legs or vines, if you prefer. However, the grass, on the other hand, has found a renewed vigor (in my beds)! A word to the wise, remember to start bringing in your houseplants that have been summering outside.

The August Potluck hosted by Catherine was fun. We toured the Reysz's lovely garden and ate and talked and talked and ate some more. At least I did! Thank you Catherine and Norbert for sharing your lovely home and garden.

Laura has promised us a wonderful year of programs beginning with the very first, a workshop by Mary Pulick. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there.

A Letter from Laura Laura Foess Wood

Welcome Back, Ladies. It is so nice to see everyone again. Undoubtedly it will be a noisy meeting tonight as we try to catch up with one another.

Thanks to everyone for all the work maintaining our three community gardens. This is teamwork at its best. Our gardens look spectacular.

As you are aware, our first meeting of the year will be a hands-on project. Fellow member and friend, Mary Pulick will lead us as we create a fall arrangement utilizing gourds. Special thanks to Joan Black for growing the gourds and sharing them with us. Thanks to Mary for drying them, as well as obtaining and drying all the materials for our designs.

???? MYSTERY PLANT ???

1. I am a member of the Lamiaceae family.
2. I am indigenous to North America and range in height from 1 to 3 feet.
3. I was named in honor of a 16th century Spanish physician and botanist,
4. I have a long history of use as a medicinal plant by pioneers and many native Americans including the Blackfoot, Menominee, Ojibwa, Winnebago and others. Primarily used for stomach and bronchial ailments.
5. I am the natural source of the antiseptic Thymol, the primary active ingredient in modern commercial Mouthwash formulas. A tea made from the plant was also used to treat mouth and throat infections caused by dental cavities and gingivitis. I have been used for stomach and bronchial ailments. Also as a Carminative herb by Native Americans to treat excessive flatulence.
6. I was discovered in an area of New York now named Otsego after the tribe that lived there.
7. During the period of the Boston Tea Party, I was drunk in place of black tea.
8. Often used in beds and borders to encourage and increase the appearance of hummingbirds, butterflies, and pollinating insects.
9. I have produced many commercial cultivars and hybrids, ranging in color from candy-apple red to pure white to deep blue on my square stems,
10. I am a showy perennial and have aromatic leaves used to make tea and I blossom best in June-July

Next month we have two speakers on the agenda. Shirley Dieterle will do a slide presentation on the things she saw at the National Hosta Convention this June. She will include some tips on the slug problems associated with hostas. Later in the evening we will welcome a mystery guest who will do a short demonstration for us.

When you get a chance, please thank Mary Pulick for all her hard work on the yearbook. Even with other commitments and personal hardships, she managed to make our "green" yearbook a reality. We think you will find the yearbooks user-friendly as well as being kind to the environment. Basically, we will not need to re-type all the info each year. Some things like the by-laws do stay consistent. Thanks, Mary.

Enjoy the evening as we let our creative juices flow.
Happy Autumn Gardening!

Member News & Announcements

Thanks to our Hostesses for this evenings meeting: Chairman: Joyce Leslie, Joan Black, Catherine Reysz, Natalie Jeffries, and Mary Pulick

A Happy October Birthday to: Elvie Casper 10/5, Cheryl Schoen 10/7, Elizabeth Bairactaris 10/27,

STEPPING STONE WORKSHOP

Seven members showed their creativity when they attended the concrete stepping stones workshop in August, three in the morning and 4 in the evening.

PRESSED FLOWER WORKSHOP: Monday, Sept. 28th, 7:00

Learn how to press flowers and make a project using pressed flowers. Workshop at Mary Pulick's at 1745 Stonebridge Dr. S. Stationery, book marks, soap decorations, etc. are a few of the choices of projects to be made. Cost is under \$2 to be paid at the workshop. Sign up at the Sept. meeting or contact Mary at 734-665-4703 or marypulick@gmail.com

BEGINNER FLOWER ARRANGING LESSONS

Will be held Friday, October 9 and October 23, 2009, 10:00AM to 2:00PM at Saline District Library, 555 North Maple Road, Saline. Cost is \$35.00 includes instruction, manual, all supplies to make 4 fresh flower arrangements. Bring clippers or kitchen scissors and a brown bag lunch.

Registration Deadline is October 5, 2009. Send check to Mary Pulick, 1745 Stonebridge Dr. S, Ann Arbor, 48108 734-665-4703 Questions-contact Mary at 665-4703 (marypulick@gmail.com)

DISTRICT IIA FALL MEETING: "Thyme for Autumn Pleasures"

Spend a fall day in the beautiful surroundings of the Polo Fields setting. Enjoy the panoramic view of autumn colors from the dining room or wander out on the balcony for a breath of fresh air. The District IIA Fall meeting hosted by the Good Thyme Garden Club of Ann Arbor will be held Thursday, October 22nd, 2009 at the Polo Fields Country Club located at 5200 Polo Fields Drive, Ann Arbor, MI. The attendance fee is \$22.00 payable to SST.

If you are planning to go, please give Jill Ball your money tonight or as soon as possible. She will be sending one check for everyone. If you were not at the meeting and would like to attend

The September Conservation Tips:

1. **Compost Leaves**
Rake your leaves into a corner of your yard. Leave them there until next fall. During the year, the leaves will decompose into a crunch mulch. You can use this to insulate flowerbeds or improve soil texture.
2. **Fertilize Organically**
When preparing the soil for next year, add organic slow-release fertilizers which will help enhance the soil over time. Organic fertilizers can be found in most garden stores and through catalogue companies.
3. **Plant Trees**
Choose species native to your area. Also choose ones that are drought and pest resistant which can thrive in the soil and light conditions of your property.
4. **Gauge Your Garden**
Replace plants that demand too much water or attract too many bugs.
5. **Watering**
Remember to water less with the cooler days and nights.

These Fall Planting Pointers are from the Earth Share website - earthshare.org

send Jill your fee so she can include it in the check. Also, give her a call so she will know you are planning to attend.

LIBRARY FUNDING

The Michigan Senate recently passed a budget that would cut library funding from \$10 million to \$7.5 million. This would mean that a lot of services would have to be cut. Now is the time for each and every one of us to write to our representatives to ask them to just say NO to this library funding cut. Detailed information can be found at <http://www.capwiz.com/ala/mi/home/>

MARY MCCANN PARK

Mary McCann Park in York Township is being developed as an educational/teaching center. At the back of the park, several kinds of gardens are being developed such as prairie areas, butterfly gardens, Pheasants Forever, along with several other areas. Our club was contacted and asked to help weed the two 5 x 30 feet butterfly gardens. Three teams went over during the course of the summer and weeded. Our thanks to Betty Ballou, Laura Wood, Joyce Leslie, Iris Williams, Joan Black, Dave McNamara, and Nancy McNamara for helping in this way.

JELLIED FRESH VEGETABLE SALAD Joan Black

1 Pkg. (3 oz.) Jell-O Lemon Gelatin	1 cup sour cream
2 bouillon cubes	1/2 cup diced celery
1/2 tsp salt	1/3 cup thinly sliced radishes
1 cup boiling water	1/3 cup diced cucumber
2 T tarragon vinegar	2 T green pepper strips
Dash of pepper	2 T thinly sliced scallions

1. Dissolve gelatin, bouillon cubes, and salt in boiling water.
2. Add vinegar and pepper. Chill until slightly thickened.
3. Blend in sour cream and add remaining ingredients.
4. Pour into a 3-cup mold or individual molds.
5. Chill until firm-about 4 hours.
6. Unmold and garnish with crisp lettuce or chicory. Serve with French dressing or mayonnaise, if desired. Makes 2 3/4 cups or 5 or 6 servings.

PHYLLIS WEST

Honorary member Phyllis West passed away on September 13, 2009 at the age of 83. She had been a member of the Stone and Thistle Garden Club since 1991. Besides gardening and many other interests she was known as the "cake lady", making many cakes for many people, so her Texas Sheet Cake is shown below. Think of her when you make it.

Phyllis West's Texas Sheet Cake

2 cups flour	1 cup water
2 cups sugar	1/2 cup buttermilk or sour milk
1/2 lb. margarine	1 tsp. baking soda
4 Tbsp. cocoa	2 beaten eggs
	1 tsp, vanilla

Sift flour and sugar. Bring margarine, cocoa, and water to a rolling boil. In a small bowl, blend eggs, buttermilk, soda, and vanilla. Combine all ingredients and mix well by hand, or in mixer. Bake in a greased 11x17 inch pan at 350 degrees for 20 to 25 minutes. Frost with icing.

Frosting:

1/4 lb. margarine	6 Tbsp. black coffee
4 Tbsp. cocoa	1 tsp vanilla
1 lb. powdered sugar	1 cup nuts

Bee Balm

Bring margarine, cocoa, and coffee to a rolling boil. Remove from heat. Add powdered sugar, vanilla and nuts. Spread over warm cake. Enjoy!

Treasurer's Report Jill Ball

Beginning Balance (6-19-09)		\$3,317.35
Income		
Memberships	\$60.00	
Library Plants		
Reimbursement	\$137.50	
Uncleared Check	\$11.95	
Expenses		
Saline Library Plantings	\$137.50	
July Ice Cream Social	\$42.03	
MGC Membership Dues	\$200.00	
Ending Balance		\$3,147.27

**SALINE STONE AND THISTLE GARDEN CLUB
Annual Report 2008-2009**

Opening Balance:		\$3,379.57
Income:		
Dues	660.00	
Raffle	197.00	
Worm Castings	147.25	
Book Sales	13.25	
Workshop Fees	6.00	
Member State Mtg. Reg	80.00	
Plant Sale	1,226.96	
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		\$2,330.46
Expenses:		
State Dues	235.00	
Pres/VP District/State Mtg.	60.00	
Member State/State Mtg. Reg	80.00	
Board Member Gifts	68.21	
Newsletter Printing	225.80	
Newsletter Postage	50.40	
Yearbook Printing	112.99	
Mtg/Workshop Expenses	297.87	
Hostess Box Supplies	46.53	
Membership/Office Supplies	23.80	
Sunshine Cards/Memorial Plants	37.60	
July Ice Cream Social - 08	35.23	

August Potluck - 08	45.16
May Potluck - 09	56.16
Website	76.39
Depot Garden Expenses	76.76
Plant Sale Expenses	169.78
Lucky Draw Expenses	31.78
Adopt-a-Road Expense	8.22

\$1,737.68

Donations:

World Gardening	50.00
Saline Library	50.00
Rentschler Farm	50.00
Growing Hope	200.00
Memorial MGC Scholarship	200.00
MGC Life Membership	105.00

\$655.00

SUMMARY

Ending Balance:	\$3,317.35
Reserve Fund:	\$500.00
Membership Dues for 09-10:	\$630.00
Plant Sale for 09 10	\$1,233.21

The Monthly Newsletter is edited by Joan Black (734) 429-2453, email: Darby2@Provide.net. Please have information to her by a week before the meeting