

THE GARDEN POST

Kalamazoo, Michigan

Four Seasons of News

Issue No. 182

May 2016

Message from our President

At long last — SPRING! Always awaited with so much anticipation Spring is such a joy when it finally arrives. And so it is with the very special events we have planned for this year to celebrate the **Kalamazoo Garden Council's 70th Anniversary**. We are going all out!

Rosemarie Griffith and her committee have been busy preparing for our **June 14 Annual Meeting featuring the nationally recognized Peter Hatch**, who for over thirty years was the head gardener and curator of the gardens of Thomas Jefferson's Monticello. We are honored to have him speak to us and are inviting the public to share in this very special occasion. Invite your friends and make your reservations right away! You may choose lunch or dessert with the presentation. Of course we hope the council members will join us for the full annual meeting which is also open to guests.

We also have plans for a truly unique event this summer combining the **Council's Biennial Flower Show and the District III Meeting** something that has not been done before. **Kalamazoo Blooms for You** will take place August 25th at the Fetzer Center with lunch, speakers, programs, vendors and of course the flower show. Chairs Evelyn Flynn, Barb Smith and Chris Morgan have been implementing some creative ideas for what promises to be an absolutely delightful day. We will need your support and participation in both horticulture and design. If you have never entered a flower show I urge you to do so. It really is a lot of fun and everyone has at least one stem of something to show off

This year is also the first session of **The Landscapers' Landscape Design School** October 24 and 25. This is a rare opportunity to participate in this popular school so close to home.

Each Spring many of our clubs hold plant sales as fundraisers, providing the opportunity to find happy, healthy plants at great prices. Following the club sales the Council will have its own plant sale at the Council House on June 25. Please contribute any plants and garden related items you can. *Details about all these events can be found in this Post and on our website.*

Plans for the renovation and repair of the Council House are still being developed. It is a slow process but we remain optimistic that we are finding a mutually satisfactory solution to the issues, allowing us to maintain our present home for the foreseeable future. We will keep you updated.

In other very exciting news Brenda Carl has agreed to become the new Council President. She is a true joy to

work with and we are very fortunate to have her. She will definitely be an asset to our Council.

I find myself surprised at how fast the last two years have gone. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with this Council Board and am proud of our many accomplishments, all due to the remarkable members. This Board has worked hard, risen to each occasion, implemented new ideas and remained supportive and positive throughout. Once again so many have contributed so much and I am grateful to each of you. It has been an honor and a pleasure to work with you. It really has been fun and we have so much to look forward to!

Thank you all

-Jan

CALENDAR

May 10	Council Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m. <i>Council House; Refreshments at 9:00 a.m.</i>
June 14	Council Annual Meeting, Gull Lake Country Club <i>See separate article for details</i>
July 12	Council Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m. <i>Council House; Refreshments at 9:00 a.m.</i>
August 9	Council Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m. <i>Council House; Refreshments at 9:00 a.m.</i>
August 25	District III Fall Meeting, WMU Fetzer Center. <i>Combined with Council's semi-annual flower show</i>

*All council members are welcome/invited to attend all meetings; meetings are held at the Council House and coffee is served prior to the meetings

UPCOMING MGC SCHOOL OFFERINGS

	2016
	Environmental Study School Scheduled to begin this Fall in Pleasant Ridge Contact: Rita Crawley - 734-529-2907 <i>rcrawley@dundeecasting.com</i>
October 24-25	Landscape Design School - Course I. Haven Church • 5350 Sprinkle Rd. Kalamazoo Contacts: Carol Beckius - 269-372-6950 Lynn Dinvald - 269-491-0944 <i>See separate article for details</i>
	2017
April 24-25	Course II
October 23-24	Course III
	2018
April 23-24	Course IV

Kalamazoo Blooms for You

THE KALAMAZOO GARDEN COUNCIL PRESENTS
A SMALL STANDARD FLOWER SHOW

Thursday August 25th 2016

Open to the public- 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

WMU Fetzer Center

2350 Business Court • Kalamazoo, MI

Come & enjoy beautiful flower designs and spectacular horticulture specimens.

FREE ADMISSION & FREE PARKING

Did you know that 75% of the bedding plants in the United States are produced in Kalamazoo County?

Did you know that Our Nature Center was voted number one Nature Center in the Nation by other Nature Centers?

Did you know Kalamazoo was once known as the Celery capital of the world?

Some of these facts, as well as many others about our county will come to light as we engage in our 2016 biannual flower show titled "Kalamazoo Blooms for You."

Join us as a committee member or a participant and you'll get to show some of your prize horticulture or design a floral exhibit. It's so much easier than you can imagine and if that's not enough, we're holding design classes in May at the Council House in case you think you need a little confidence builder!

The schedules will be distributed in May and will be on line for your convenience. You can note there will be opportunities for everyone from the experienced entrants to the first timers.

Kalamazoo Blooms for You sponsored by the KGC will be held at the Fetzer Center on Thursday August 25th in conjunction with the District III meeting.

Come and enjoy beautiful flower designs and spectacular horticulture specimens. Free admission and free parking!

This is a fun time to get to know other Club members!

-Come join us!

SPRING PLANT SALES

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| <p>May 7
10 a.m - 2 p.m.</p> | <p>Westwood Garden Club Plant, Bake and Garden Art Sale.
George's Appliance- 1025 Miller Road Kalamazoo, MI
Contact: Lorie Reed at 269-375-2572.
Proceeds will go to the Veteran's Memorial Restoration Project</p> |
| <p>May 13
9 a.m - 3 p.m.</p> | <p>Kalamazoo Garden Club Plant, Bake and Garden Garage Sale.
Home of Sue Fritz, 3960 N. 26th St.
Across from Gull Rd Meijer Garden Center. 269-388-4233</p> |
| <p>May 21
8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.</p> | <p>Chula Vista Garden Club Plant, Bake and Yard Sale.
Hope Lutheran Church, 280 12th Street Painwell, MI
Contact Brenda Carl, 269-344-5260</p> |
| <p>June 4
8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.</p> | <p>Petal Pushers Plant Sale.
Home of Joann Wespinter, 2129 Ames Drive Portage, MI. 269-327-0258
Just off Portage Rd.
Special invitation to KGC members on Friday evening 6 - 8:30 p.m.</p> |
| <p>June 25
8 a.m. - 2 p.m.</p> | <p>Kalamazoo Garden Council Plant Sale.
5333 North Westnedge Avenue, across from Markin Glen Park
New garden tools from Zenport & miscellaneous garden equipment.</p> |

Membership News

Change of Address:

Jeanette Maxey 6945 Hunters Creek Kalamazoo, MI 49048	Caroline Gray 1700 Bronson Way Apt 260 Kalamazoo, MI 49009-1074 269-370-8152
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New Members: Western Hill GC

Kathy Bair (John) 36 South Lake Doster Drive Plainwell, MI 49080-9107	269-664-6087 kebair@charter.net
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A ROYAL SEASON

The Summer wears Her garments
Like a Queen upon a throne...
Wearing a cloak of velvet green
Embroidered with blooms of ev'ry hue.

Arboreal canopies shade Her movements
Beneath a ceiling of celestial blue;
Breezes like a sweet breath call Her Subjects
To bow and nod at Her approach;
And once She has made Her appearance
All in Her Royal Domain curtsy with reverence
Befitting the Sovereign in their midst.

© Marcella Martin 1987

for *The Garden Post*



HORTICULTURE

Dashing Daring Dragonflies

As something flew by my head I ducked and thought Hummingbird Moth. As I focused on it, I realized it was a dragonfly and it was a big one. Having grown up on a grain farm and living on my present property for 40 years, I had seen many dragonflies without really focusing on them. I identified it as a common green dragonfly, the green darner *Anax junius*. Common green darners are one of the larger dragonflies, growing up to 2 or 3 cm in length. Its abdomen gives it the name "darker" as it resembles a darning needle. Both males and females have a green thorax with a black dorsal stripe. Males have dull green eyes, a green face and a thorax bright to dull green. The wings on both sexes are amber colored. It falls into the species Odonata, which includes both dragonflies and damselflies. Michigan has 15 different species. Because of the forests, lakes, ponds, rivers and bogs that MI has, it makes for a major diversity of dragonflies and damselflies.

Both dragonflies and damselflies come in a wide variety of colors and crazy names like-darners, clubtails, spiketails, cruiser and skimmers, all related to their behavior or anatomy. Dragonflies are larger and more aggressive (harmless to humans) than the slender skittish damselflies. Dragonflies hold their wings flat at right angles to their body even at rest; damselflies fold or hold wings in a slight v shape at rest. Dragonflies back wings are larger at the base than the front wings, while damselflies four wings are almost identical in size. Common green darners are strong fliers, with all four wings moving independently, giving them the ability to fly forward, backward and to change direction rapidly.

The eyes and eyesight of both are truly amazing. The dragonfly has large compound eyes allowing it to see 360 degrees, including above and below. The large eyes of the damselfly are always widely separated, rather than close together or touching each other. This eyesight makes them hard to approach and any motion causes them to fly away. A great tip from photographer Bill Johnson: (pre-focus on their perch and stand still) the dragonfly will usually return.

These strong hunters are called "the fighter jets of the insect world." Mosquitos and flies along with other insects make up a large part of their diet. Adult damselflies prey in flight and can even pluck spiders from their webs. In one article I read, a dragonfly reportedly caught and ate a hummingbird. (This I hope never to witness!) Dragonflies are the world's fastest insect reaching speeds from 19 to 38 mph and traveling as far as 85 mi in one day. Their speed helps them to avoid predators by hiding in vegetation or jetting away.

Males and females mate multiple times once reaching adulthood. Females can lay huge clutches of eggs and

multiple batches from multiple matings. Resident populations mate during July and August, while migratory populations breed early spring in MI. Resident populations require a year to develop before sexual maturation, while migratory populations mature after 5 months. Most people are not aware of dragonfly migration. The common green darner has two different population types: resident and migratory. Residents remain in the general area from which they emerge, while migrants do not overwinter and do not return to the original site.

Some populations of common green darners undertake huge migrations each year. In mid Aug. to Oct. large groups move south from Canada and the northern US to Mexico and southern regions along coastlines and other areas. Often more than one species can be seen traveling together. Weather systems have a significant role in migration. Returning northern migrations are rare and the adults generally do not return to the same general area.

The lifespan of a dragonfly consists of two stages. The female lays her eggs in water and they hatch as aquatic larvae called "nymph." This stage lasts between one to three years for the resident population but only 5 months for the migratory population. The Dragonfly unlike other insect larvae does not pupate. The nymph crawls out of the water and hangs from the bank or a stem to dry until the skin splits and the winged adult emerges. Here it remains in a tender state (called teneral) meaning soft or delicate. In this state they are weak and do not fly very well. Many die while in this stage, knocked off by wind or eaten by other predators. Once the adults become able to fly they must be careful of predators such as birds, lizards, frogs and fish as well as larger insects. They may live as long as six months during a period of dry sunny weather. This adult life does not last long--just time to mature and reproduce.

I am truly amazed at what a benefit gardeners receive from dragonflies and damselflies, both in the nymphal stage and as adults. They feed on mosquitoes, midges, black flies and many other small insects. While nymphs they feed on insect larvae, worms and many small creatures, as well as being an important food source for fish and frogs.

Michigan Odonato Atlas is utilizing data gathered by the Michigan Odonata survey. The survey and atlas are designed to provide species accounts for all the dragonfly and damselfly species found in MI. It will serve as a guide in monitoring changes and distribution of these insects. The committee for MI Odonato wants to take advantage of the renewed interest in MI Odonata by involving the public in contributing data on a list of about a dozen

KGC presents: A LEGACY of GARDENING
from Monticello to Kalamazoo
Peter J. Hatch

Professional Gardener > Author > Historic Landscape Expert



Preserving Historic Gardens

Peter J. Hatch is a professional gardener and historian with 38 years' experience in the restoration, care, and interpretation of historic landscapes. A celebrated author of four books on the gardens of Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, where he served as Director of Gardens and Grounds for 35 years, Hatch has lectured in 36 states on Jefferson and the history of garden plants. Presently, he gardens and travels extensively to promote his latest work, *'A Rich Spot of Earth': Thomas Jefferson's Revolutionary Garden at Monticello*, and consults on the installation and maintenance of both public gardens and private estate landscapes. Peter recently consulted with First Lady Michelle Obama in the installation of the Kitchen Garden at the White House.

Attend and Bring a Friend!

When: June 14, 2016

Where: Gull Lake Country Club
9725 W. Gull Lake Dr.
Richland, MI

Time: 10:30 am KGC Open Annual Mtg
12:00 pm Lunch
(chicken or pasta primavera)
1:00 pm Dessert & Beverage
1:30 pm Speaker

Cost: Lunch, Speaker, Dessert \$27
or Dessert & Speaker \$15

Registration and details:

www.kalamazoogardencouncil.org

Coming To Kzoo

Landscape Design School is coming to the Kalamazoo area this fall so mark your calendars and plan to attend. The Landscapers Garden Club and The Petal Pushers Garden Club are joining forces to host this popular school scheduled for Monday - Tuesday October 24th and 25th at the Haven Church, 5350 Sprinkle Road in Kalamazoo.

This is Course I. Dates for the subsequent schools are April 24-25, 2017 for Course II, October 23-24, 2017 for Course III and April 23-24, 2018 for Course IV.

Our District III director Evelyn Flynn will be the registrar and total registration is \$80.00

(Plus a \$5.00 exam fee or refresher fee if applicable.) You may also register for one day at \$40.00. Complete brochures will be available at the annual meeting or from your club president in June.



Question may be addressed to Carol Beckius (269-372-6950, cbeckius@chartermi.net or Lynn Dinvald (269-343-3827, ydoublelne@aol.com.) Or ask any Landscaper GC member

KGC's Annual Meeting

To commemorate our 70th anniversary a very special day has been planned. As a community service Kalamazoo Garden Council will host a national speaker, Peter J. Hatch, professional gardener, author and historic landscaper of the gardens at Monticello for more than 30 years. The event will be held at beautiful Gull Lake Country Club beginning with an open annual meeting. See flyer on facing page.

Reservations may be made online or by mail or phone: kalamazoo-gardencouncil.org, or to Bunny LaDuke 269-808-2206, 516 Bridge Street, Plainwell, MI 49080. Maximum capacity is 250 people; this is on a first come basis so reserve early.

Dragonfly- cont. from page 4

species this summer. Also there are still some species for which more data on distribution and abundance are needed in our state (MI). Take time to look and see if you would be interested in contributing information on dragonflies and damselflies in our area. You can find this site at: Michigan Odonata Atlas - <http://mos-atlas.blogspot.com/>

-Cleora Mohney, Gardenettes

Sources:

"Dragonflies" - Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources.

"Digital Dragonflies" - Forest Mitchell, James Lasswell.

"My North" *Traverse: Northern Michigan Magazine* - Editor, Lynda Twardorski

"Dragonflies": *Horticulture* - Bill Johnson.

Michigan Odonata Atlas

2016 KGC FLOWER ARRANGING CLASSES

Get ready to start arranging flowers this spring! In August there will be 12 openings in the flower show for beginning arrangers to enter instead of only four. Our flower arranging classes are going to describe the basics of design and demonstrate some ideas you can use in the flower show classes and the arrangements for Council's

Annual Meeting. Try some new ideas and sharpen your flower arranging skills!

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

Cleora Mohney - Creative Line Design "Tips for Line Designs"

Tuesday, May 17, 2016

Pat Ira - Creative Line-Mass Designs "A Handful of Flowers"

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

Karen Gentile - Mass Period Designs "Bring Colonial Design Indoors"

Cost of Registration: is \$5 for all three classes and is due at the first meeting.

To Register: call or email Pat Ira (941-492-4985) or (pateyera@yahoo.com) preferably by May 7th. Space is limited.

Classes: begin at 9:30 am and will be held at the KGC House in the basement or the porch (weather permitting).

Bring: the following: your container, soaked oasis or pinholder, flowers/ greens/branches and clippers. Call Pat with any questions.

Restoring Oak Savanna at the Baker Sanctuary

The Michigan Audubon's Baker Sanctuary in nearby Calhoun County includes ponds, streams, cattail marsh, tamarack bog, oak opening, floodplain forest, wet meadow and ongoing prairie and wetland restoration projects to provide habitat for many birds species and especially the Sandhill Crane. Bernard W. Baker Sanctuary is open to the public and features nearly 2 miles of mowed walking trails. Parking is available at 21145 Fifteen Mile Rd., Bellevue.



Michigan Audubon, in partnership with Michigan Department of Natural Resources, is working to restore 65 acres of oak savanna habitat at Bernard W. Baker Sanctuary. Historically, Bernard W. Baker Sanctuary featured large swaths of oak savanna habitat that were maintained by regular, likely annual, low-intensity fires from pre-historic times until the late 1950s. Bird survey records from 1941 to 1961 reveal that Bernard W. Baker Sanctuary was a haven for grassland bird species including Henslow's Sparrows, Bobolinks, and even Passenger Pigeons and Greater Prairie Chickens which are now extinct and extirpated from the state, respectively. Sadly, by 1997 the oak savannas had been degraded after years of agricultural use, fragmentation, and fire suppression. The once native grassland had fallen under a blanket of aggressive and non-native plants including smooth brome grass, autumn olive and multiflora rose, which outcompeted native plants and degraded habitat quality. Following the decline in habitat quality, sensitive grassland bird species were rare across the once bustling savanna.

Oak savanna restoration efforts at Bernard W. Baker Sanctuary began in the fall of 2014 and received a lukewarm response from the public. Habitat restoration is

a long-term process and can be visually unappealing for some time as aggressive invasive plants and opportunistic tree species must be removed to allow native grasses, forbs, shrubs and mighty oaks to thrive. I will be the first to admit that by first snowfall the sanctuary appeared to have been hit by an F5 tornado. Through ecologist-tinted glasses I viewed this chaos as huge progress for a severely degraded habitat. We had given invasive plants a one-two punch and were ready to plant a diverse, high-quality native seed mix by June. I held my breath and hoped a positive response from plants and birds would change public attitudes toward the controversial project.

By fall it was clear that the flora and fauna were on board with the project. Thousands of tiny native seedlings, miniatures of fully grown plants, were thriving under the newly opened canopy. A PhD student from Michigan State University successfully tracked a gravid (pregnant) female Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake (state-threatened) to her birthing den, where 6 young rattlers safely entered the world. Several birders have reported the presence of juvenile Red-headed Woodpeckers, a species typical of oak savanna that has not been recorded at the sanctuary for years. The positive response from these and other grassland species is a strong sign that the restoration is headed for success.

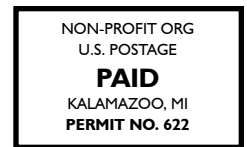
Just over a year ago this site held a broken system, ecologically speaking, that had lost its ability to provide healthy habitat for grassland birds, a suite that is already being hit hard by urbanization, unfriendly farming practices, natural succession and toxic pesticides. I sincerely hope that this project demonstrates to visitors the importance of bird habitat management and the idea that not everything that is green is good. Invasive plants have dramatically decreased habitat health for breeding, migrating and wintering birds; if we want to continue to see birds we must take action to prevent the spread of invasives and encourage native plants to reclaim their ground. Habitat restoration requires extensive amounts of time, money and resources and it is not always pretty, but without it the birds we adore will continue on a downwards trajectory. The oak savanna restoration project at Bernard W. Baker Sanctuary is just one way Michigan Audubon is enhancing bird habitat -- how will you do your part?

-Rachelle Roake

*reprinted with permission
Jack Pine Warbler*

KALAMAZOO GARDEN COUNCIL, INC.

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