

# Garden Clippings

Newsletter

Volume 30, Issue 5

MARCH & APRIL '24

MARSHALL AREA  
GARDEN CLUB, INC.



## MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup> MEETING

**Brett Myers – The How, When and Why to pruning your trees and bushes.**



I hope you are able to join us for the March meeting, which will be at 7pm at the United Methodist Church. Brett Myers, from the Leila Arboretum, will answer all of your How, When and Why questions about pruning. The Who and Where will be completely up to you though. Hope to see you there.



MARSHALL  
AREA

*Garden Club*

**Tues. March 19**

**MARCH MEETING**

*Pruning (How/When/Why)*

*7pm at the church*

**Tues. April 16**

**APRIL MEETING**

*Wildflower Walk thru Michigan*

*7pm at the church*

**Tues. April 22**

**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS  
WASTE & ELECTRONICS**

*Bailey Park, Battle Creek*

*Dropoff 12 - 5:30pm*

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

**Bruce Gillespie:** Our January garden club meeting at Marshall Public Library, also accessible through "zoom", was an eventful meeting. Not only did we have a superb presentation from Ian Stewart, but the club also took in six new members. This addition has brought our current membership total to 108, which I believe to be a new high record during my tenure. These new members and their names are also being noted in this Garden Clippings issue. Should we be seeing them at future meetings and community projects, don't forget to give them a "Hello"!



This newsletter issue and the February scheduled meeting at Marshall United Methodist Church on Old US 27 North, will be the kickoff of Marshall Area Garden Club annual membership renewal. Those fees are still holding steady at; \$20 per individual and \$30 per couple. Payment may be done in person by cash or check. Those wishing or needing to send their dues through the mail, please do so by check only. Such should be sent to our secure club post office box, not my home address. Checks can be made out to; MAGCI.

Our club mailing address;

**Marshall Area Garden Club, Inc. (MAGCI)**

**P.O. Box 924**

**Marshall, MI. 49068-0924**

Those individuals who submitted their memberships after our July 2023 Garden Tour, are not required to pay a renewal fee. These folks are; Shannon Aikins, Tom Allison, Tim Barnes and Liane Smith. Their membership fees, and of course our newest members, are good until the 2025 campaign.

**Mon. May 20**

## **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION**

**Calhoun County Fairgrounds  
Dropoff 12 - 5:30pm**

**Month of May**

## **PLANT EXCHANGE PREP**

*Remember to pot up plants as you move and divide things in your garden this spring and share them at the plant exchange, which will most likely be the first or second Saturday in June.*

**Plant Exchange Date TBD  
(likely beginning of June)**

**May/June Newsletter**

**Send any info to Alice by 4/15  
at [confabwithalice@gmail.com](mailto:confabwithalice@gmail.com)**

## **DIRECTORY UPDATES**

**Please update your directory**



Six people joined the club at our January meeting! Please welcome them to the club when you see them and add their contact info to your directories.

**Bob Hefferan**

phone: 616-446-7492

email: [bobhefferan@gmail.com](mailto:bobhefferan@gmail.com)

**Anthony & Brittany Martin**

phone: 570-972-4664

email: [brittanynmartin.contact@gmail.com](mailto:brittanynmartin.contact@gmail.com)

**Nancy Reincke**

phone: 517-677-3532

email: [nreincke14@gmail.com](mailto:nreincke14@gmail.com)

**Ian Stewart and Erin Skidmore**

phone: 269-967-4201

email: [stewa264@gmail.com](mailto:stewa264@gmail.com)

## **SPRINGING INTO ACTION**

As we are all getting excited to be out into our own gardens this spring, here are some of the plans in the works for the community gardens around town. Please consider helping out when you see the e-mails for spring clean-up and planting/weeding events. I've always thought that the best way to get to know your fellow garden club members is when you're planting and weeding alongside them.

### **West End Median Beds: Natalie Rector**

**Natalie:** There are four beautiful blue spruce at west end that are generally hidden by rose bushes. With the mild weather I tried an experiment to see if pruning roses this time of year will work. At least we can see the blue spruce now.



### **Carver Park: Doug Crane**

**Doug:** We hope to see lots of volunteers in late March/early April for our annual spring cleanup of Carver Park. The barberry bushes need to be trimmed, and all the Annabelle hydrangeas, ornamental grasses, and perennials need to be pruned before the new growth begins for the coming growing season. Bring your warm clothes, gloves, and hand pruners to help us launch the growing season at Carver Park!



### **Fountain Circle Beds/Urns: Natalie Rector & Doug Crane**

**Doug:** It's always an exciting time during the third week of May when we plant the fountain circle beds and the twenty urns in downtown Marshall. I'm especially excited to use two new supertunias from Proven Winners in our plantings this year. Saffron Finch is a beautiful yellow spreading petunia and Vista Jazzberry is a bright lavender petunia that has earned the title of "Annual of the Year." Not to be outdone by Proven Winners, the BallFloraPlant company has hybridized a group of vigorous and floriferous verbenas. The Edurascape Verbenas flower beautifully and consistently through the heat of the summer, and they're loved by butterflies. Bring your trowels and gloves to help us plant up a beautiful summer in Marshall!



### **Floral Hall Flower Beds: Alice Schneider**

**Alice:** This will be the 175<sup>th</sup> Calhoun County fair this summer and my hope is that the Floral Hall flower beds up at the fairgrounds really pop with color in August. We had some bare spots last year due to die-off and removing some aggressive plants that were taking over. Inspired by Lynn Sleight's zinnias, I was thinking of planting tons of zinnias this spring to fill in the thin spots and getting some more perennials for long term coverage. So please, if you have any echinacea, rudbeckia, anemone or other hardy August blooming perennials that you might be moving or dividing this spring, consider donating a section for Floral Hall. And I will be organizing some weeding parties up at the fairgrounds again this spring and summer - I hope to see you there 😊

### **Fairground's Quilt Flower Bed: Linda and Bruce Gillespie**

**Linda:** The Fairground's Quilt Flower Bed will be maintained by Bruce and Linda Gillespie again this year. It is an important 175 year anniversary for the Fairground this year and will be incorporated in the design. We will want someone to take it over next year since it should be on a two year rotation to keep the ideas fresh. If anyone is interested in working with us to learn the process please let us know.



### **Ketchum Park: Mitch Robbins**

Mitch heads the Ketchum Park Advisory Committee, which is a volunteer group dedicated to maintaining and improving Ketchum Park. The garden club donated many native plant seedlings to the park last year for their naturalization efforts. Keep an eye out for upcoming clean-up and weeding events to help maintain this lovely park.

### **Adam Crosswhite Memorial Beds/Urns: Nancy Isham**

**Nancy:** Nancy Reincke and I will be clean up the beds and replace anything that needs it.

### **Brooks Nature Area: Janet Schoenmeyer & Ian Campbell**

**Jan:** Brooks Nature Area will be needing help in the spring; (usually late April/early May) to work on trail maintenance. The work consists of using loppers to cut down any branches that are sticking out or have fallen into the paths of the walking trails. Mulch needs to be added to the woodland trails to make walking on the paths easier. Some areas also need to be cleared to allow better views of the lake.

## CALHOUN COUNTY FAIR 175 years of fun!

The Calhoun County fair was started in 1848 and has been going strong ever since. It's been a wonderful part of Marshall's history from almost the very beginning.



Entertainment at the Calhoun Fair – Marshall, Mich.



Food booths at the 1928 Calhoun Fair – Marshall, Mich. (Note that the Boys and Girls Annex, now called the Belcher Building, is in the background)

## CALHOUN COUNTY FAIR Help support this 175<sup>th</sup> fair

### • Enter something in the fair!

This can be anything from flowers or veggies to homemade soap or needlepoint. There are tons of different Floral Hall classes. So whatever your hobby, there's likely a class for you! I'll be putting together Fair Entry Kits again this year to make entering a breeze. So please, help make Floral Hall chock full of entries and support this historic 175<sup>th</sup> fair.

### • Volunteer - Floral Hall display!

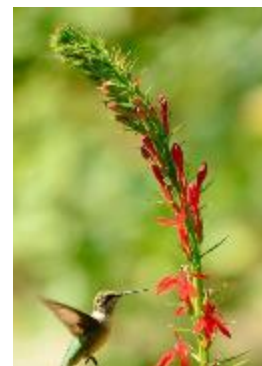
The garden club puts together a display on one of the stages in Floral Hall during fair week. The fair theme this year is *"Timeless Traditions and Old Fashioned Fun"*. The details of the club's display haven't been decided yet, but count on it being a colorful and happy scene that's a whole lot of fun. Plan on planting window boxes and containers full of color and texture to help decorate our stage display. There will also be a fun new twist to celebrate both Marshall's and the Fair's intertwined history. Volunteer sign-up sheets will be going around at future meetings.

### • Volunteer - Floral Hall flower beds!

Help tend the Floral Hall flower beds this spring and summer with a fantastic group of MAGCI volunteers! Keep an eye out for those e-mails asking for help, and come if you can. The more the merrier.

## KETCHUM PARK UPDATE

**Mitch Robbins:** In 2023, the Marshall Area Garden Club, Inc (MAGCI) continued its legacy of beautifying Marshall by taking on a new role as environmental stewards. In their recent involvement with Ketchum Park, MAGCI added plants to the Native Plant Restoration project along the banks of Rice Creek. The restoration project is a testament to their evolving commitment to preserving Marshall's natural beauty. Their expertise in gardening and horticulture ensures that the native plant restoration at Ketchum Park will thrive and flourish for years to come, benefitting not only the local flora and fauna but also providing an educational and recreational resource for the community. By planting native vegetation along the creek, MAGCI not only enhances the area's aesthetics but also promotes a healthier, more balanced ecosystem. Native plants provide habitat and sustenance for local wildlife, contribute to improved water quality, and help prevent erosion—a win-win for both the environment and the community. Volunteers from MAGCI and the Ketchum Park Advisory Committee (KPAC) have volunteered many hours planting and eradicating invasive plants along Rice Creek throughout Ketchum Park. This has been an ongoing effort since 2014 and will continue in 2024.



## 2024 "Welcome to My Garden" TOUR Sat. July 13 – Sun. July 14

**Karla Love, Tour Publicity:** On Saturday, July 13 and Sunday, July 14, 2024 the Marshall Area Garden Club will feature six distinctive garden landscapes for our 33<sup>rd</sup> annual tour. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days; Rain or Shine.



Tickets are \$15 and sold at the Information Booth in front of the Welcome Center on days of tour. Children 12 and under are free and receive a Garden Scavenger Hunt map. Advance tickets are \$10 and available after June 1 at many local businesses. For more information please visit [marshallareagardenclub.org](http://marshallareagardenclub.org) or [choosemarshall.org](http://choosemarshall.org).

Gardens on tour include:

Mike and Cathy Galloway - 316 N. Eagle St,  
Cora Keiper - 521 Sibley Lane,  
Mike and Jodi Mankerian - 301 S. Liberty St,  
Marty and Lucy Overhiser - 215 N. Marshall Ave,  
Victoria Bouwens - 340 N. Mulberry St, and  
Karen Ghiban - 347 High St.

The "Garden and Farmers Market" will be held Saturday, July 13, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 125 W. Green St. featuring vendors of produce, plant material and gardening products. Admission is free.

Please save this weekend, July 13 and 14, to volunteer for a three hour shift at one of the gardens either on Sat. or Sun. and you will receive a free ticket for doing so.



## TREE PLANTING INITIATIVE

Let's make a difference in Marshall



- Looking for club members to be part of a working group that plants & maintains trees.

I was surprised when I saw how long ago it actually was when we planted all those elms throughout Marshall. I think it would be nice if the club had a more sustained tree planting activity again and would like to get the club's feedback. If you're interested in being part of a working group that would help support the club's mission by planting and maintaining trees in our parks and public spaces, then please consider volunteering.

- Proposing a Special Project tree budget of \$300 for this next year to kick-off activity.
- If you want to help, please sign-up at the March meeting or contact Alice at [confabwithalice@gmail.com](mailto:confabwithalice@gmail.com).

## MARSHALL'S NEW ZONE

We have new Plant Hardiness Zones!  
Now we are in Zone 6a instead of 5b



In November the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) released a new version of its Plant Hardiness Zone Map (PHZM), updating this valuable tool for gardeners and researchers for the first time since 2012. The 2023 map is based on an average of the last 30 years (from 1991-2020) of the lowest annual winter temperatures at specific locations. The map is divided into 10-degree Fahrenheit zones and further divided into 5-degree Fahrenheit half-zones. Marshall is now in zone 6a. The new USDA zone map is available online at the following link: <https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/>.

## MEET A MEMBER

I'd like to introduce two members to you, Nancy Chapman and Karen Deppe. Nancy joined the club ~7 years ago and Karen joined ~3 years ago. When we were looking for new club officers for 2023-2025, they both agreed to try something completely new, help support the club, and work as Co-VPs in charge of Programs. You've both done a wonderful job and the club really appreciates the diverse and interesting programs you've arranged for us at each meeting. **Thank You!**

### Nancy Chapman



**Nancy:** My love of gardening began with Wayne's Grandmother, she gave me many plants that started our first garden. Also it was fun to visit her garden which was a "a feast for your eyes" especially when her large collection of many iris varieties were in bloom. People would stop and ask to see her garden. I have gone from a small garden to a large garden that was on the Battle Creek Garden tour two times and now I am back to a small condo garden. Am fortunate to have 100 ft by 4ft garden around the front and side of the condo. I have many pots because the flowering bushes and trees have too many roots and am not able to dig holes. I do have the small area in front of the porch I can plant in the ground. When you have many pots it makes the weeding go very fast, but the watering is slow and often.



My other interests are my immediate family which has grown to 22. I also enjoy quilting, knitting, reading and baking, especially cookies. I look forward to being able to work on the various projects the Garden Club does to beautify Marshall.

### Karen Deppe



**Karen:** I like working in my yard, but it was neglected for many years, so it's a real work-in-progress. I like flowers and have planted many varieties in a disorganized way over the past few years. I'm limited in what I can plant because deer will eat anything palatable. I counter the deer by mostly planting varieties they won't eat, like daffodils, irises, marigolds, and snapdragons. Limited fencing keeps them away from a few hostas and my vegetables. The past three years I have tried growing more vegetables and herbs, mostly tomatoes, greens, and raspberries. So far I've used a combination of raised beds and in-ground planting. This next spring and summer I would like to add beans and summer squash to my vegetables and plant a dwarf mulberry tree and maybe a few Concord grape vines.

I joined the garden club to learn more about growing plants in my yard and how to keep my houseplants alive. Most of my houseplants are succulents, although I also have a spider plant, Boston ferns, and a monstera. And two amaryllis bulbs I'm trying to get to flower.

Even though I joined the garden club to learn more about plants, I have found it interesting meeting and working with new people on projects around town. It's been interesting working with Nancy Chapman to find speakers for the monthly meetings this year. Listening to the speakers at the monthly meetings has improved my knowledge of plants and piqued my curiosity in other topics, like natural habitats and recycling.

