



Glacial Gardeners Grapevine

Volume 23, Issue 5

May 2018

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:
Hours counted .. 2

TO DO LIST:

- Review GG By-laws annual plan for the May meeting
- Start putting up posters and signs for the Plant Sale
- **DIG, DIG, DIG, GROW, GROW, GROW!!**
- **Reminder: May Meeting is at 5pm to clean up Resource Center Gardens**



GGMGVA MEETING MINUTES

GLACIAL GARDENERS MINUTE April 10, 2018

Ten members met in the Curry Room of the Natural Resources Center in Florence at 6:00 p.m. for our **APRIL MEETING**. Thank you to Sharon and Nancy for the power point practice presentation "Pruning Plants for Production and Maintenance." Sharon and Nancy will tweak this program and present it to the Lakewood area gardeners. There was also a printed handout.

President Fleurette called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. with the following members in **ATTENDANCE**: Sharon, Connie, Lois Ann, Arlene, Keri, Kathy, Deb, Nancy, Karen, Fleurette. and UW-Extension Office Manager Sabrina.

Those who are due "funny money" for bringing in their up-to-date **VOLUNTEER HOURS** are Sharon, Connie, Lois Ann, Arlene, Keri, Kathy, Nancy, Karen and Fleurette..

Kathy moved, Nancy supported, and motion carried to accept Secretary Karen's March **MINUTES** as published in the GGs' Grapevine.

Sharon moved, Connie supported and motion carried to accept Treasurer Nancy's report of **ACCOUNT BALANCES**.

CORRESPONDENCE included a thank you note from the Niagara Library for the GG monetary donation which was used to purchase three gardening books. We also received a note from past GG scholarship recipient Jovanna who informed us she has changed her college major. We now have a copy of our liability insurance forms.

UWEX: Sabrina reported no applications have been received for the Summer Horticulture Assistant position. GG who have not turned in their Criminal Background Check information were reminded to do so as soon as possible.

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Fleurette's Chat

NOTE FROM CHAIR May 2018

SPRING! SPRING! SPRING! SPRING! SPRING! I was just going to keep typing this and submit it to Kathy as my April message! Because it's really exciting to be outside again. As the snow has receded around the house, we've cut back grasses and winter interest plants, picked up 34,252 pine cones (really, they are thick this time) burned up fallen sticks, twigs, branches and generally just enjoyed being out there, trying to keep up with the work as the snow disappears. I'm eyeing different areas for renovation or upgrades and trying to remind myself not to over plan! I've pulled most of the yard decorations out of the garden shed so I could get to the porch chairs in anticipation of a couple of days of 70-degree weather they are promising in a few days.

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NEXT MEETING
RESOURCE CENTER GARDEN
CLEAN-UP
Tuesday,
May 8, 2018
5:00 pm



HOURS TO BE COUNTED—FOR MAY

- 1-1/2 Support hours for attending meeting + driving time

- Continuing Ed hours—1/2 hour

- any time for planting seeds or getting ready for the plant sale

GARDENING TIPS & TRICKS

Gardensnips, April 15.

Let's face it: no matter how much you love to be in the garden, there are still chores that make you frown. Isn't it awesome when you find shortcuts to make gardening more fun?

Here are some garden hacks that you may want to implement:

- ⇒ Do your potted plants suffer from slowly disappearing soil? If so, save old fiberglass window screens to cut into squares and place over the drainage holes in your pots. The soil will stay in place, and your patio will stay clean.
- ⇒ A pizza cutter makes a nifty root slicer when you're transplanting seedlings from a flat, where their delicate roots all tangle together. Use the pizza cutter to section the young plants into small cubes of soil and roots for easier transplanting. The cutter's rotary wheel makes it easy to cut long strips lengthwise and widthwise and thus form chubby planting cubes.
- ⇒ Save egg cartons for overwintering small to medium-size bulbs of nonhardy summer-blooming plants. After digging up and cleaning the bulbs in late fall, place one bulb in each egg carton cell. Write the name of each bulb on the carton. Stack and store the cartons in a cool, dry place, such as a basement or insulated garage. Don't let them freeze. A temperature of 40° to 50° is ideal.
- ⇒ An old funnel, either plastic or metal, makes a super string dispenser. Hang it from a cup hook on the wall or just nail it in place. Set the ball of string in the funnel, and thread the string through the opening.
- ⇒ If you have an old window box that has rotted out on the bottom, set it in the vegetable garden and plant heat lovers such as peppers, tomatoes, and eggplants in the box. The sides form an instant raised bed that warms up quickly in the spring. If you have lots of window boxes, line them up to make a creative and highly functional garden border.
- ⇒ When you sweep the kitchen floor, dump the sand and dirt you gather onto the ground around your bird feeder, especially in the winter. Birds need grit to digest their food, and it may be hard for them to pick up sand and gritty soil when it is frozen.
- ⇒ Keep an eye out for old microwave or television carts on wheels left out for the garbage collector. Just about any small rolling carts, especially those with open shelves, are great places to store gloves, trowels, small fertilizer containers, spray bottles, labels, plant ties, clogs, and other items that you use throughout the garden. If you feel that the cart looks too out of place in the garden, give it a coat of deep green paint to make it seem more at home.
- ⇒ Use an old children's wagon, wheelbarrow, or cart of any size to hold or move plants, indoors or out. For a wagon too decrepit to move, paint the outside a bright color to match your garden decor and plant directly in the garden to create a focal point. Use a very light potting mix, and this wagon planter will last for several seasons.
- ⇒ Instead of pulling out tiny seedlings to thin them, trim them out instead, so you don't accidentally disrupt the seedlings you want to keep. Most scissors are too big and bulky for the job, but a pair of manicure scissors, complete with a curved blade to get into tight spots, is just the ticket.
- ⇒ Next time you're making raised beds or have a hole in the landscape that needs to be filled, search your home for biodegradable materials to fill the raised beds' bottoms. Good candidates include newspapers, cardboard, flattened cardboard boxes, phone books, and trashed paperbacks.
- ⇒ Get crazy at your next tea party in the garden. Toss used loose tea or tea bags into the compost pile or even around shrubs and perennials. The tea will decompose on the spot, releasing much-appreciated nitrogen in the process.

Submitted by Kathy Coppock

MEETING MINUTES - cont'd

WIMGA: Our homework is to review *GG* By-laws before the May meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

***Beautification** - Lois Ann is in contact with Rain Makers Irrigation and Florence Utilities and will let us know when work can begin on the Gazebo Garden. We have not heard from Tom Beck RE: the Gazebo Garden picnic table. Lois Ann will compile a list of past and present Gazebo Garden workers and helpers who will be invited to a thank you reception. Because of the very late Spring this year, we're re-thinking the date of the reception and are considering Fall, 2018 rather than May, 2018.

***Scholarship** - No scholarship applications have been received as of this date, but they aren't due until May 1. The Scholarship Committee will be meeting in early May.

***Education** - Sharon and Nancy will present the pruning plants power point program to the Lakewood area gardeners on April 20. Deb and Nancy will present a children's gardening program at the Florence Library on April 14.

***Fundraising** - Thank you, Fleurette, for the Plant Sale posters, bookmarks, and plant labels.

Keri invited *GG* to come and get a bag of potting soil from the Spread Eagle Garden Center ASAP for Spring Plant Sale plants as Keri has 42 bags of soil to give away free of charge.

***Sunshine** - No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **NORTH STARS GARDEN CONFERENCE** matter is tabled until next month.
- President Fleurette has not heard anything RE: the **GROWING TOGETHER WI Grant** opportunity.
- We will meet on **JULY 17** at the home of Louise Holmes, Crystal Falls, for a garden tour, followed by a salad bar/dessert potluck and *GG* meeting at Fleurette's. Please note change of regular July meeting date.
- Nancy reported on prices at CJ Graphics of **ROADSIDE SIGNS** for the Spring Plant Sale as follows:
- Size: 24" X 18", two color, both sides @ \$9.71 each for 25 signs, 80¢ each for frames.
- Deb volunteered to check prices at XCELL and US Printers. Kathy moved, Arlene supported and motion carried to vote online, as time is of the essence. We will order 10 or 12 signs.
- The Northwoods Garden Club "**SPRING INTO SPRING**" EXPO will be held tomorrow night, Wednesday, April 11 from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m., at the Dickinson County Library in Iron Mountain. There will be gardening presentations by local businesses and a children's "make and take" gardening project.
- Our homework before the May meeting, is to review the **ANNUAL PLAN** for 2018.
- The **MONCHES FARMS** road trip was tabled until after our Spring Plant Sale.
- Sharon and Nancy gave a glowing report of the **NORTHERN LIGHTS SPRING CONFERENCE** in Marinette on March 24. They had a very good time, food was excellent and they have succulents for our Spring Plant Sale.

NEW BUSINESS:

On Tuesday, **MAY 8** at **5:00 p.m.**, *GG* will Spring-clean the upper and lower Natural Resources Center gardens plus the Fisher Lake planter, **weather permitting!**

BAY DE NOC, ESCANABA, GARDEN CONFERENCE, will be held on **April 21**.

Keri moved, Arlene supported and motion carried to send a \$500 check to the Florence School to help fund student's trip to **TREES FOR TOMORROW** Camp in Eagle River, WI.

Discussion followed RE: funding for a **PLANT TOWER** for Woodland School. Sharon moved, Lois Ann supported and motion carried to have President Fleurette get more information on this project.

OTHER:

A newspaper article was read by President Fleurette RE: the **FLORENCE SCHOOL GREENHOUSE** for which *GG* has already given a donation.

Sharon moved, Nancy supported and motion carried to **ADJOURN** at 8:00 p.m.

DON'T CRY
because it's over
SMILE
Because it happened



WINDOW BOXES

Window boxes bring color and spirit to barren areas, as well as considerable pleasure to those who tend them. Measure the width and length of your sill, then check garden shops or hardware stores for boxes in the appropriate size.

Depending on your house style and budget, you can choose from wood, cast cement, molded terra cotta, plastic, or fiberglass. Avoid metal boxes, because they will very likely rust in a few seasons, and if placed on sunny sills will transmit heat, which burns roots.

Make sure the box is securely attached with wire or bolts. Don't count on just gravity, no matter how wide the support is. Prepare for planting by covering the bottom with a layer of landscape fabric or plastic screen. This will hold the soil in place while allowing water to drain.

Fill the box about three-quarters full with any all-purpose potting mix, then stir in several trowels each of perlite and organic matter such as leaf mold, aged manure, or compost.

There are no design rules to planting, but contrasting leaf sizes should be a goal, as should contrasting plant outlines. Use bushy plants for bulk, tall plants for a vertical accent, and pendulous species for a graceful cascade over the side. Window boxes almost always look better if there is something draping over the edge, and for sheer drama, you can't beat drapery that hangs in long streamers well below the box.

Unfortunately, although there are many summer stalwarts that will swag down nicely for 12 to 18 inches or so, not many plants are willing to dangle unsupported for much more than that. Plants that will include ivy (*Hedera helix*), ivy geraniums (*Pelargonium peltatum*), nasturtiums (*Tropaeolum majus*), ornamental sweet potato (*Ipomoea batatas*), trailing lantana (*Lantana montevidensis*), and vinca (*Vinca* spp.)

The list of likely trailers is short because most lax-stemmed plants are vines, and most vines would rather hang on than hang down. If they can't climb straight up, they'll climb any which way -- on themselves, on the other plants in the box, on the brackets that hold the box up, etc. The end result is a tangled mass instead of graceful tresses. That said, if you have a situation where vines can't get a grip on anything, these are also worth a try: canary bird vine (*Tropaeolum peregrinum*), climbing snapdragon (*Asarinaspp.*), grape ivy (*Cissus incisa*), and passionflower (*Passiflora* spp.)

If you have only part sun, try these plants for your window box: ageratum, basil, bay, bee balm (*Monarda didyma*), begonia, caladium, dwarf Chinese astilbe (*Astilbe chinensis pumila*), ferns, four o'clocks, fringed bleeding heart (*Dicentra eximia*), lady's mantle, lantana, lobelia, and wishbone flower (*Torenia*); and English ivy, mint, or vinca to trail over the side.

No direct sunlight at all? That's no excuse for not planting a window box. Assuming you get at least bright reflected light, there are quite a few plants that will endure. Many of the best are perennials with comparatively short blooming periods, but if you choose plants with handsome foliage, the box will be attractive even when there are no flowers. The delicate, ferny foliage of Jacob's ladder, for example, contrasts nicely with the scalloped round leaves of coral bells, and both remain fresh looking all summer. The Jacob's ladder will give you blue flowers for a few weeks in late spring. The coral bells will bloom (at least briefly) a short time later, in red, white, or pink.



If you are determined to have flowers all summer long, you can try shade-tolerant annuals, but keep in mind that even tolerance has limits. You'll probably have to experiment a bit to find which will perform under your conditions. Choices include wishbone flower (*Torenia*), with its small purple, snapdragon-like flowers; begonia, both tuberous and wax, available in white and every shade of red and yellow from pale pink to screaming orange; and the ever-faithful impatiens, in a spectrum much like begonia's.

And don't forget to plant a trailer. Vinca and English ivy will both do fine.

Submitted by Kathy Coppock



CHICKEN FAJITAS

RECIPES

1 large package flour tortillas
 Grilled chicken breast strips
 1 red bell pepper, cut into thin strips
 1 green bell pepper, cut into strips
 1 yellow bell pepper, cut into thin strips
 1 medium yellow onion, roughly chopped

Sour Cream
 Guacamole
 Salsa
 Shredded Mexican Cheese blend

1. Cook the peppers and onions in a few drops of olive oil over medium heat in a large skillet. Add a pinch of salt while they cook. Once they are wilted and cooked through remove them from the heat.
2. Present a large platter or lazy susan with bowls of sour cream, guacamole, cheese and salsa. Assemble fajitas by placing warm chicken and vegetables in a tortilla then adding whatever condiments you can. Wrap up and enjoy!

MEXICAN WHITE SAUCE

This is a recipe for that garlicy white dip Mexican restaurants serve with their chips and salsa and it is amazing on everything. I put it on my tacos, I dip my fries in it, I eat it with chips, I drizzle it on nachos.

Ingredients:

6 Cloves Garlic	1/2 tsp Salt
Juice of half a lemon	1 tsp Cumin
1 tsp oregano	1/2 cup Milk
4 dashes Hot sauce	1 cup Sour cream
18 Pimento stuffed olives	30 oz Miracle whip jar
1/2 tsp Cayenne pepper	1 tbsp Olive juice from jar
1 tsp Garlic salt	
1/2 tbsp Red pepper flakes	

Instructions:

Put all of these ingredients into your food processor and blend till smooth!

The MOST IMPORTANT PART:!

You **HAVE** to refrigerate this sauce for 12-24 hours. You have to give it that time to meld together or it will not taste right so make sure to plan ahead!!

It makes a lot and is good on everything!

Mother's Day
Container Gardening Workshop

Thursday, May 10, 2018 @ 6PM

In this hands-on workshop, you can design and plant your own Container.

Choose from our special selection of 2017 premium annuals including New Varieties and Proven Winners. Many of these popular, new varieties are only available for early planting.

Spread Eagle Garden Center design staff will be on hand to help you select the right plants for Sunny or Shady locations and plants that work well together. We'll help you design and plant a beautiful container that will last all season.

Enjoy snacks, beverages and a fun evening with friends or Mom.

\$40.00 Workshop fee includes: Container, Potting Mix, Soil Moist, Slow Release Fertilizer, and 5 premium Annuals.

Workshop space is limited. Reservations are required.

Spread Eagle Garden Center
4413 North Lake Rd.-South, Florence WI, 2 Miles West of the Menominee River Bridge on US 2 in Spread Eagle, Wisconsin

Call: 715-696-3910 or e-mail: keri@spreadeaglegardencenter



We are all waiting patiently to go to our new homes after the plant sale!!



*I've banished the winter, saith the spring,
 Awake! Arise ye flowers!
 Brisk breezes blow,
 Bright sunshine glow,
 And rouse the young Year's powers.*

Henry James Slack



CHAT - cont'd

We had another meeting for the Food Wise/Growing Together garden project planning. The materials will be ordered on May 3 and we have planned an "assembly" day, as in "some assembly required". We are starting at 10 a.m. on May 16 at the resource center. If the weather is nice we may move to the Crossroads Community Garden to do some of the work and then transport things to the garden, as well. If you like assembly work, come on down.

Hoping that our perennials will be out of the ground in time for potting up for the plant sale (the ground is really still solid about an inch down). We will be passing out the signs, more posters, making final plans at the May meeting. Remember, 5 p.m. to clean up the gardens – the two at the resource center and the Fisher Lake sign one. We're skipping the Gazebo Garden until we are clear on when the sprinkler system will be trenched. So be there at 5, bring some tools to work with, meeting at 6.

One more exciting event for me in May – we are traveling to our oldest granddaughter's college graduation and making an overnight stop very near to The Flower Factory with a leisurely morning trip there before continuing on! Excited about both!

Fleurette



Glacial Gardeners
Master Gardener
Volunteer Association

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

MAY

- 5 Cinco de Mayo
- 8 Resource Center Gardens Clean-up. 5pm
Glacial Gardener's MGV meeting 6pm.
Florence Resource Center, lower level.
- 10 Mother's Day Container Gardening Workshop
Spread Eagle Garden Center 6pm
Reservations required (see flyer in newsletter)
- 19 Northern Lights Master Gardener Plant Sale & Plant Pest Clinic
9:00am - Noon Harmony Arboretum
- 26 Glacial Gardeners Master Gardener Plant Sale
9:00am - Noon Florence County Fairgrounds

