

TC Friendly Garden Club's annual walk July 21



The Friendly Garden Club of Traverse City will hold its 23rd annual garden walk July 21. The event will run from noon to 8 p.m. rain or shine. The theme this year is "City Garden Stroll" which is appropriate, since the gardens featured are in the Oak Park neighborhood of Traverse City. Tickets are available at the TC Convention and Visitors Bureau, any member of the Friendly Garden Club and any Tom's Food Market. Ticket prices are \$6 in advance and \$8 the day of the walk.

GARDEN PARTY

Tips for the height of summer

Heaven is under our feet as well as over our heads. —Henry David Thoreau

Did you know that...

Hard winter squashes are easier to cut if they are microwaved on high for a minute or two. Let cool a bit before cutting

What's new?

There is a trend of raised beds going even higher, especially for seniors; the added height saves gardeners' backs and seems to make everything easier.

There is also a trend to vertical gardening and growing one plant on another, e. g. a tall 12-15-foot climbing rose on a standard (not dwarf) apple tree or planting a purple clematis to wind in a pale pink climbing rose or planting edible flowering pole beans along with standard pole bean favorites.

Herb of the month: Summer Savory

Some nurseries and some of our wonderful local herb farms will still have summer savory plants in July. Or, look for seeds in seed racks in stores; summer savory grows fast and it's not too late to start your own seedlings. As a culinary herb, it is a favorite for bean dishes and it is happy growing near beans in the garden. Savory is a small annual, about 18-20-inch high with small pinkish flowers (deadhead often). Through the ages, savory has been so beloved for its bright flavor that the word "savory" has come to mean good food or good experience.

Celebrate!

Celebrate picnics and parties and parties with ripe cherries, blueberries and toasted marshmallows

around a fire after the sunsets.

Start the day with a watermelon carved like a shark and filled with watermelon, cantaloupe and honeydew melon. Then see how many Michigan berries you can add.

Adults might like the mix with a cup of vodka added to a large melon; a berry fruit juice is a great add in for kids.

Old Timer's Garden Lore

July is the time plants are taking off. Keep them strong by making manure tea. Fill a rain barrel (or other container) half full with manure and wait for rain. Use the rich brew to fertilize plants. For quick results, use smaller containers, 50:50, rain and water.

Reading on the Garden Bench

The Vegetable Gardener's Bible by Edward C. Smith. About \$17. An A-Z format makes finding information easy. Emphasis is on establishing a high yield, low maintenance garden. Smith educates the gardener to know what he grows.

Short Season

The harvest starts in Michigan's July. Keep vegetables like summer squashes, tomatoes and beans picked to encourage more production. Thin greens like lettuces, leafy herbs and chards to use as baby salad greens. Plant bush beans again between existing rows that will be pulled after heavy yields, thus making room for the replantings. Thin onions, leeks and shallots to use now, leaving others to use later or for winter storage. Leeks can be wintered over in damp sand. Pull them

BY SALLY KETCHUM

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Garden P Sally Ketchum garden at the yard, an he dering a gr as a croque mixed bord house, the her husband She can be ketchum@d

Sally K writes a C Look for issue Satur

Advertising Index

Advanced Inc.	7
Blue Star Landscape Supply	8
Cherryland Electric Co-op	6
Comfort Center	3
Comfort Center	7
Concrete Service	2
DeWeese Hardware	3
Dirty Deeds	6
Dobias Landscaping & Gardening	6
Ferguson's Hardware	5
Fireside Health & Leisure	8
Flower Power	8
Four Season Nursery	8
Four Seasons Sunrooms	4
Garden Goods	1
Max's Service	4
Michigan Gutters	5
Robinson's Scenic Gardens	7
Silver Leaf Sawmill	7
Source Julien	5
Steurer Excavating	4
Summer Place Casuals	6

GARDEN TIP

Winning window boxes

A few things to consider when creating container gardens.

WHEN PUTTING A WINDOW BOX TOGETHER:

- There should be an accent plant that is tall, coming out of the top like a fountain.
- Choose leaves that are big and blocky.
- Use colors that are similar.
- Do several window boxes and matching patio pot containers in a color scheme.

- Make sure all plants require the same growing conditions.
- Use vegetables and herbs in the containers.
- Leave at least a half-inch of room at the top of the box, above the soil, for water.



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