



GFWC-Big Rapids, Inc. Newsletter

September, 2025

Welcome to fall.....where did summer go? It seems like yesterday I was saying Hello summer, yet here we are, kids back in school, fall sports are starting and our club year begins in two weeks. With the start of our club year, our busy time begins. We have our first club meeting, Michigan Leads, Northwestern District meeting, National Day of Service and that is just September! The Board is planning a "Shiny New Year" theme for our September meeting so glitz up, bring a friend (prospective member) and be prepared to celebrate the start of our 55th year as GFWC Big Rapids.

Sue

Sue Johnson, President (231)349-5137
Linda Telfer, 1st Vice President
Delores Simpson, 2nd VP(Membership)
Leona Royer, Secretary
Cheryl Tessier, Treasurer
Melonie James, Parliamentarian
Linda Telfer, Newsletter Editor

Due date for the newsletter is the 25th of each month.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

September 9—First Club Meeting of the Year

September 27—Northwestern District Meeting in Mecosta

September 27—International Day of Service

October 10-12—Great Lakes Region Conference—Columbus, OH

November 8—Guiding Harbor Fundraiser in Belleville



Keep recycling those batteries and bring them to the September meeting.



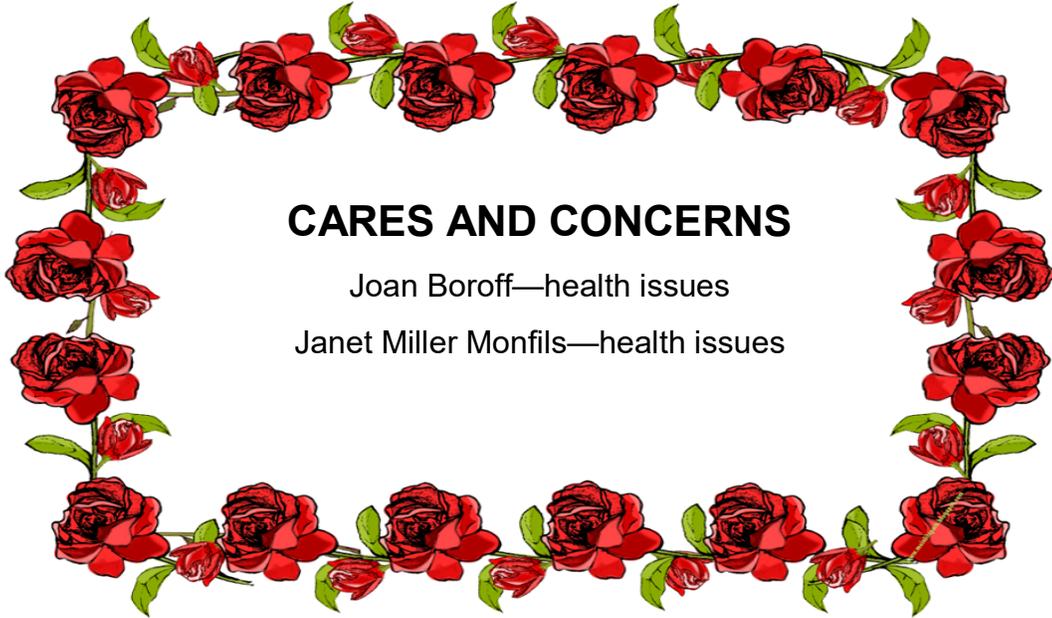
SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

21—Joan Boroff

22—Ruth York

22—Melonie James

29—Pat Rossi



CARES AND CONCERNS

Joan Boroff—health issues

Janet Miller Monfils—health issues



GFWC Tidbits . . .

GFWC International — The first woman's club in the United States is generally agreed to have been the New England Woman's Club in Boston, founded in 1868 (although the Sorosis Club of New York was founded the same year) by Caroline Severance, Harriet Hanson Robinson and Julia Ward Howe, all suffragists.

GFWC Michigan — GFWC Michigan's support for Heifer International is part of a long-standing national partnership with the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC), which has been an affiliate of Heifer for decades. While a specific start year for the statewide organization is not available, local chapters have supported the charity for many years.

GFWC-Big Rapids, Inc. — The Big Rapids Women's Club, as it was called then, celebrated their 50th anniversary in May of 1943. One of their recognized achievements was "pioneering in the milk funds for the city schools".

UPCOMING EVENTS

DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 1

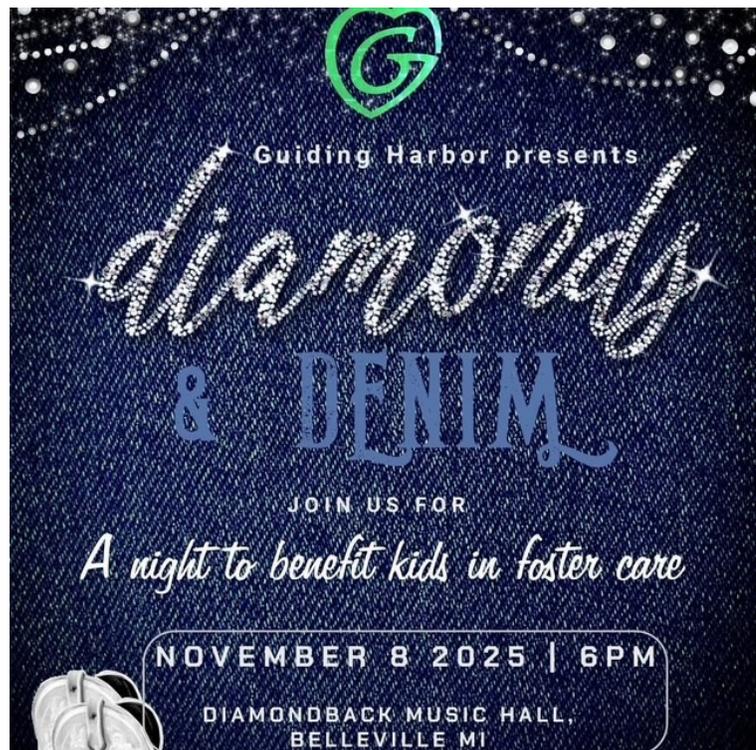
MUM FUNDRAISER



GFWC will again hold a Mum Sale fundraiser this Fall. Mums are \$15.00 and GFWC will make a \$5.00 profit on each mum plant sold. The Education & Libraries CSP will have order forms at the August Picnic for anyone who wish to take orders from their family and friends. Mum plants are scheduled to be ready for pickup from Lee Ann's Flowers on September 8th after 4 pm. Deadline to submit orders is September 1 to Celeste.

If you remember, last year the mums from LeeAnn's were just beautiful and she had a very good choice of colors. Everyone loves mums in the fall, so start taking orders from your family and friends right now.

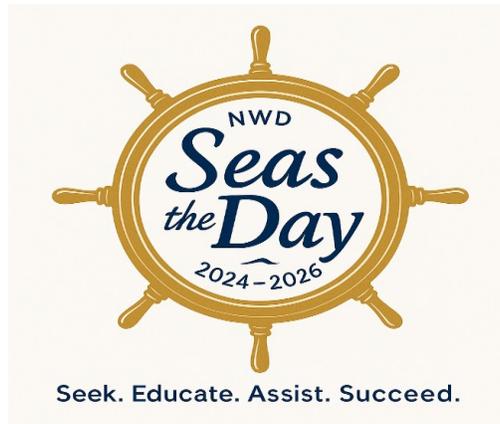
SAVE THE DATE





**GFWC MICHIGAN NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT
OFFICIAL CALL
104th ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING**

Melissa Povilaitis, NWD President



P.O. Box 518
Big Rapids, MI 49307

mpovilaitis2002@yahoo.com
Call/Text: 989-429-4479

GFWC MICHIGAN NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT 104th ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, September 27, 2025, 9:30 am – 2:00 pm

**Morton Township Library
110 S. James Street
Mecosta, MI 49332**

HOSTED BY: GFWC Mecosta "Heart of the Lakes"

The Northwestern Board is excited to invite all of you to our 104th Annual District Meeting this fall. We have been hard at work creating a day that allows for learning, sharing, and celebrating our local clubs. You will hear from all of our district clubs as they share about their current projects, we will install your next set of NWD Board members and we will also be doing a service project together this year. Also, GFWC MI officers will provide updates on their current administration as well as provide us with updates on our CSP's, Guiding Harbor, GFWC Ed Foundation, and next year's state convention. Please encourage your club members to attend as it really is a wonderful way to meet your local GFWC members.

Registration will open at 9:30am and a Continental Breakfast will be served.

Our meeting will begin at 10:00 am.

Attendees: please bring these items/support the following initiatives

- **NWD President's Project:** "Support Your Local Library": Please bring new or gently used children's books to donate to local libraries that serve our clubs in the Northwestern District.
- **Name Badges:** Please bring your own name badge to wear during the meeting.
- **Bring new/slightly used sneakers:** GFWC MI Fundraiser Chairman Kathy Lewis is asking everyone to donate new/slightly used sneakers to submit towards a fundraiser for GFWC Michigan. Please see www.gotsneakers.com for details.

Club Presidents: please complete/bring the items listed below

- Each club in the district submits **5 copies of their club's yearbook and member rosters with email addresses.** There will be a basket for those at the registration table.
- Our **Memorial Service** will be presented by Dawnetta Montague. Please complete the attached memorial form and email it to Dawnetta and myself by September 13, 2025.
- **District Dues:** Club Presidents, this is an excellent time to pay your NWD Dues of \$3.00 per member (also please include two copies of your member rosters). Please make checks payable to the Northwestern District and give to Dawnetta Montague, NWD Treasurer at the registration table.
- **Guiding Harbor:** Bring your auction items or baskets to the district meeting for Linda Clayton who will take them back with her for the Guiding Harbor Auction. Please see attached wish list. The auction "diamonds & denim" will be held on November 8, 2025 at the Diamondback Music Hall in Belleville, MI.
- **Education Foundation:** GFWC MI Education Foundation will have a display table including handouts, memory books and silent auction items. Be sure to check it out. I am not asking you to bring State Convention auction items at this time. I will be in touch in the spring to ask for your contributions. Looking forward to seeing you at District Meeting with answers to your questions. Fran Voci, 231-823-4119.
- **Roll Call:** During roll call, we would like to have our Club Presidents answer with the number of their club members in attendance.
- **Club Reports:** Club Presidents will be asked to share about their two favorite club projects their clubs have done in the last year. (10 mins) We will also allow for questions and answers.

Please contact me if you have any questions. The NWD Board and myself are looking forward to seeing everyone. Remember to mark your calendars, send in your registration, bring a club friend, and get ready for a great day learning the latest news from GFWC MI and the NWD District!

Melissa Povilaitis, GFWC MI Northwestern District President

The Guiding Harbor Annual Auction Committee is pleased to announce that this year's auction will be held Saturday, November 8 at the Diamondback Music Hall. This year the theme is "diamonds & denim".

As in past years, we are asking GFWC-MI clubs and/or individual members to donate items for the auction. Following is a list of suggested items. These may be assembled into a basket or donated individually to be compiled into a themed package by committee members. Items can be brought to the fall District meetings or contact Linda Clayton at linda4guidingharbor@gmail.com or Deb Mohre at deb.mohre@gmail.com to arrange for donations to be collected. It is helpful if the items your club collects have a similar theme, are new (no used items please) and include the monetary value. Donations can be entered into the ticket sales link located on the Guiding Harbor website or use the enclosed donation form. Thank you in advance!

ELECTRONICS

Air pods, headphones, iPad
Large screen TV
Wine Refrigerator
Small appliances (toaster, air fryer, mixer)
Margarita maker, ice maker

EXPERIENCES

Overnight stays, spa gift certificates
Restaurant gift certificates, cooking lessons
Casino packages
Hot Air Balloon ride
Tours
Tickets to sporting events, theater, concerts

LIFESTYLE

Golf rounds, balls/bags/clubs, range finder
Cigars, lighters, gift certificates to cigar bar
Alcohol:wine, liquor, mixers, glasses, napkins
Designer handbags, jewelry, luggage
Sports memorabilia

SERVICES

Personal shopper
Landscaping or snow removal services
Teeth whitening or gift certificates from dentist
Professional organizer
Gift certificates to hair/nail salons
subscription to food delivery service

THEMES FOR BASKETS (these are suggestions, other ideas welcomed!)

Couch Potato – "junk" food, Netflix gift card, cozy blanket
Spoil the Kids/Grandkids – stuff to bake cookies, kid recipe book, board games, gift cards to movie theater
Go For a Picnic – Picnic basket with plates/cups, silverware, blanket, reusable containers, ice packs
Specialty Cocktails – recipe book, liquor, glassware, themed napkins, bar towel
Be a Wine Snob – bottles of wine, foil cutter, good corkscrew, dark chocolate, bar towel, stemless glasses
Reading Basket – books, Audible gift card, cozy blanket, book light, electronic reader, reading glasses
Emergency Ready! – car battery charger, flashlights, jumper cables, portable phone chargers, candles/lighters
Laundry Essentials – laundry basket, hamper, detergents, wool balls for dryer, ironing board, iron
Pamper Yourself – foot spa, paraffin wax spa, shellac nail kit, hair products, hair dryer or straightener
Dinner in Tonight! – themed food items to prepare a special meal at home

Gift certificates and monetary donations are always welcome!



**OFFICIAL CALL TO THE 2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OF THE GFWC GREAT LAKES REGION
October 10 - October 12, 2025
ROSE LOGSTON, GFWC GLR President**



**You are enthusiastically invited to attend the
"Hearts in Action: Celebrating Kindness - Honoring Volunteers"
2025 GFWC Great Lakes Region Conference October 10 - October 12, 2025
Embassy Suites by Hilton, 2700 Corporate Exchange Drive, 43231**

Welcome to Ohio!

The members of GFWC Ohio are excited to welcome you to their home state and share "Living the Volunteer Spirit" with you.

Join us **Thursday evening** for a casual *Meet & Greet* if you're arriving early (6:30 – 8:30)

Friday's guided tour (bus leaves at 9:15 am) and includes: (must have at least 40 registered)

- A visit to the **Ohio Statehouse**, featuring the historic **Ladies' Gallery**, honoring women in Ohio's legislative history — including GFWC Ohio matriarch **Ethel G. Swanbeck**.
- Lunch at **Old Bag of Nails**, a charming pub known for its fish and chips. (Individual checks provided)
- A tour of **Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens**, featuring stunning gardens, **Dale Chihuly glass art**, and live glassblowing.
The tour will end with an optional drop-off at **Easton Town Center** (shopping galore!). Shuttle info to return will be provided.
- We'll be joined by **GFWC President Suellen Brazil** and **President-elect Wendy Carriker** as we "Educate, Engage, and Empower" our region!

Registration will be open or as needed:

Thursday, October 9: 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM
 Friday, October 10: 8:00 – 10:00 AM & 3:00 - 6:00 PM
 Saturday, October 11: 8:00 AM -9:00 AM (or as needed)

Thursday evening- 6:30 – 8:30 PM There will be a "Meet and Greet" in the Short North. The Ohio members will serve some special treats and libations.

Friday morning 9:00 AM the bus will leave the hotel at 9:15 AM for our **scheduled guided tour of the Ohio Statehouse, then on to the Old Bags of Nails**, where you can choose from the menu and pay your own tickets. Our last stop on the tour will be a guided tour of **the Franklin Park Conservatory**. You will return to the hotel at approximately 3:30 PM, just in time for the Great Lakes Region Board Meeting scheduled to start at 4:15 PM in the Cardinal Room. Those not serving on the BOD there is an optional drop-off at the Easton Town Center for some shopping but you will need to find your own way back to the hotel. (Shuttle service info will be provided).

Please wear your GFWC emblematic apparel during the tour or the sightseeing.

Friday afternoon 4:15 PM The GFWC Great Lakes Region Board of Directors will meet from 4:15-5:00 PM. Officers, Chairmen, Committee members, and Region representatives who are scheduled to give reports at the Board Meeting and/or during the Conference are asked to send your reports to GLR Secretary, Candy Godbee and copy GLR President, Rose Logston before Tuesday, October 5th. If you cannot do this, bring two copies to this meeting.

Friday evening 5:00 - 7:00 PM Embassy Suites Complimentary Reception and a large area to provide the opportunity to catch up with long-time friends and make new ones. You will be able to socialize with GFWC International President Suellen Brazil and President-elect Wendy Carriker before we enjoy the "Ohio the Heart of All" state night dinner. (Special request: Wear something with RED on it, if you can.) **6:45 PM** Processional participants will organize in the hall in front of the Buckeye Ballroom **After dinner**, GFWC Ohio members will host a reception honoring GFWC and GLR officers.

Saturday 9:00 AM the opening ceremonies of the **2025 "Hearts in Action: Celebrating Kindness – Honoring Volunteers" Great Lakes Region Conference** will begin with the "Great Eight" procession. The Business Session will include reports from the GFWC Chairmen and/or Committee members representing our Region on the GFWC Board of Directors. These representatives will present platform workshops and presentations while sharing great information with us. The election of officers for the 2026-2028 administration will take place, and we will hear from our 2025 LEADS graduates. We will also have a little fun time getting to know each other better.

Saturday 12:00 PM "Savor the Moments: The Power of Positive Connections" Luncheon will celebrate our affiliates and welcome our keynote speaker, GFWC President-elect Wendy Carriker. More reports, workshops, and presentations will follow. And of course, some fun!

Saturday 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM Incoming 2026-2028 leaders will meet with GFWC President-elect Wendy Carriker. This will include 2026-2028 Region President, State Presidents, and State Directors of Junior Clubs.

Saturday 4:30 PM -6 PM "Tea and Talk" time in the GLR President's room #223 and Short North (Maybe something stronger than tea)

Last chance to visit our "Vendors" Vendors will be open until 7:00 PM - please support them Saturday evening 5:00 - 7:00 PM Embassy Suites Complimentary Reception

Processional forms at 6:45 pm in Buckeye Ballroom hallway

Saturday 7:00 PM "Serving with Heart: Celebration of Kindness, Friendship, and the Volunteer Spirit" dinner. Suellen Brazil, GFWC International President, will be our keynote speaker. We will honor our 2026 GFWC Jennie nominees. After dinner some more special music and some fundraising fun!

Sunday morning 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Inspirational Music by Harriett Groh, GFWC GLR Music Chairman Join us at this closing session where we'll hear the exciting reports from the GLR "Great Eight" and others. We will have the Memorial Service and remember our friends and loved ones whom we have lost in the past year. **Remember** to send the names of any members your club lost so we can honor their contribution to GFWC. There will be some closing words from our GFWC Officers and the invitation to the **2026 Conference in Wisconsin**, before we adjourn the 2025 GFWC Great Lakes Region Conference.

DRESS FOR THE WEEKEND

When traveling, remember to wear your GFWC logo wear and membership pin.

Friday – Comfortable clothes & walking shoes –Wear your GFWC Apparel. **We want residents and visitors of Columbus to ask "what is GFWC". And since the Governor of Ohio has a ceremonial office in the Statehouse, you may have a chance to meet him!**

Friday Board of Directors Meeting- Come as you have been for the day.

Friday Evening – After 5 Cocktail Dresses or Pant Suits Special Request: add a little RED to your attire.

Saturday – Business Casual or if you have any affiliate related logo clothing please wear it as we will be celebrating our affiliates

Saturday Evening – After 5 Cocktail Dresses or Pant Suits

Sunday Morning- Travel Wear with GFWC emblematic pins or logos.

OTHER HELPFUL INFORMATION

GFWC Great Lakes Region Fundraising – we will have some fundraising at various times throughout the weekend. There will be a Split the Pot on Friday evening, then Saturday evening after dinner we will have a live and interactive fundraising party.



REGISTRATION FORM
GFWC GREAT LAKES REGION CONFERENCE
October 10th - October 12th, 2025
 Embassy Suites by Hilton Columbus 614-890-8600
 2700 Corporate Exchange Drive, Columbus, OH 43231
<https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/cmhccees-fwc-4828956e-b940-4050-a017-82b9c643723d/>



Name: _____
 Address: _____ E-mail: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ Officer/Chairman: _____
 Club/District/State Affiliation: _____/_____/_____

Registration Fee: \$35.00 \$ _____
A late fee of \$25 will be added with a postmark after the due date of September 9, 2025 \$ _____

Mark here if you plan to attend the "Meet and Greet" (the room will be open 6:30 – 8:30 PM) _____

Complimentary made to order Breakfast 6:00 until 9:30 am Friday & 7:00 until 10:30 am Sat & Sun

Friday – Bus Tour Downtown Columbus Bus leaves at 9:15 AM (Min. 40)
(includes transportation, Admittance to Franklin Park & tour guides) \$50.00 \$ _____

Friday – Ohio State Night – "Ohio the Heart of It All" Dinner
Apricot Pork \$44.00 \$ _____
Chicken Piccata \$44.00 \$ _____
Vegetarian Option: Penne Primavera \$44.00 \$ _____

Saturday – Savor the Moment: The Power of Positive Connections Lunch \$35.00 \$ _____
Buffet served in the hotel restaurant – you can eat in that area or return to the Ballroom with your food

Saturday – Serving with Heart: A Celebration of Kindness, Friendship, and the Volunteer
Beef Pot Roast \$44.00 \$ _____
Shrimp Scampi Pasta \$44.00 \$ _____
Vegetarian Option: Five Cheese Lasagna \$44.00 \$ _____

All regular meals will have a starch, vegetable, salad, and dessert – vegan meals will have deserts & salads

Mini Mart Space – State/District, Club Fundraising \$10.00 \$ _____

Donation for the GLR International Day of Service (GFWC Survivors Scholarships) \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Please indicate all dietary restrictions: _____

Make Checks Payable to: GFWC Ohio or pay by Venmo- @Carol-Christy-1

Send Registration To: Carol Christy applepie792@yahoo.com (513) 649-5775

Send to: 2545 El Comino Drive, Middletown, OH 45044

Registration must be postmarked by September 9, 2025

Are you a first-time attendee? _____ 50+ yrs. _____

GFWC Great Lakes Region would like to request your support in our fundraising efforts. We are requesting **gift card donations to support our “Quarter Auction”** on Saturday evening. Gift cards must be from national chain stores such as Cracker Barrel, Lowes, Target, Wendy’s, Walmart, or Starbucks to name a few. (\$10.00 or more in value.) We will collect the cards at registration, and if you wish to support Great Lakes Region but cannot attend, please give them to your state president or another attending member. In advance of the Conference, the fundraising committee would like to thank you for your generosity.

State Presidents & Directors of Junior Clubs—Please be prepared to present a report of not more than three minutes. GLR Vice-President Loretta Caron will contact you with more detailed information.

Please **remember to bring your state flag, pole, and stand** for Saturday morning opening ceremonies. The flag bearer is to wear **white gloves**.

Deadlines – Please adhere to the GLR and Hotel deadlines as listed on the Registration Form. The hotels are no longer preparing meals for additional attendees so get your reservations in on time and be sure and make your selections, if offered.

Please share this Call with all members in your state and club.
Encourage them to join us in Ohio.

“Bring One – Get One” If you bring a member who has never attended a GLR Region Conference, you and your “newbie” will each receive one entry into a drawing for a new designer purse with matching wallet. The entries will have been saved from Michigan and the drawing will be held at the close of the GLR Conference in Ohio in 2025. (Purse and wallet donated by GLR President Rose Logston)

Please consider making a donation to the GLR IDS Day on the registration sheet. In order for us to evaluate our impact we decided we would offer you the opportunity to contribute in time for us to make the donation on September 27th on behalf of the GFWC Great Lakes Region. Thank you so much!

Hotel Reservation deadline is September 9, 2025

Embassy Suites by Hilton, 2700 Corporate Exchange Drive, Columbus, OH 43231

614-890-8600. All suites are \$139.00 per night (all have pull out sofas in separate rooms)

<https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/emhcees-fwc-4828956e-b940-4050-a017-82b9c643723d/>

Registration Deadline is the same at the hotel reservations, postmarked on or before September 9th, 2025.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING.....

ANNUAL CLUB PICNIC



A wonderful time was had at the Annual Club Picnic at Northend Riverside Park on August 12. It was fun to see each other at the end of our summer break. Bingo was enjoyed while we watched the river flow by; what a wonderful setting. Oh... and I didn't mention the wonderful food that everyone brought... yum yum. Thank you to Delores and her cute party favors and to everyone who attended. See you at the club meeting on September 9th.



FLOWER OF THE MONTH

From the Environment CSP

BLACK-EYED SUSANS

With its many flowers, black-eyed Susan lends itself well to mass plantings and has long been a staple in perennial gardens. Black-eyed Susan, [native to the Midwest](#), comes in both [annual and perennial](#) varieties. Hardy in Zones 3-11, they need little care to grow abundantly. Because black-eyed Susan blooms for many weeks when other summer perennials begin to fade, this plant is a sign that fall is around the corner.

The most common black-eyed Susan flowers have a single row of gold petals surrounding a black or brown center. The foliage is unobtrusive. Because the foliage is covered in coarse hairs, [rabbits and deer](#) rarely bother it (although these creatures may snack on the flowers). The leaves are usually deep green, which blends well in a mixed garden bed.

Light - These sun-loving plants do best when grown in sunlight six to eight hours a day. They can grow in shade, but the colors of the flowers aren't as vibrant.

Soil and Water—Once black-eyed Susan is established, it's a [drought-tolerant plant](#), but it needs regular watering when first planted. While they grow well in almost any soil, black-eyed Susan won't thrive in soggy locations. If your soil is mostly sand, add [organic matter](#) to help it retain water.

Temperature and Humidity—These plants grow best in warm temperatures. They prefer 60°F or above. However, black-eyed Susan doesn't mind humidity. When temperatures are very hot (above 90°F), increase watering to keep the plants from being overly stressed by the heat.

Fertilizer—Because black-eyed Susan grows in most soils, it usually doesn't need fertilizer.

Pruning—Deadheading black-eyed Susan is essential for healthy regrowth. When deadheading, cut back to just past the first leaf on the stem. At the end of the season, [cut them back](#) to 2 inches above the ground. Add mulch during cold months to keep them from freezing before spring. Black-eyed Susan propagates from underground rhizomes and self-seeds, so if you want to keep them from spreading, clean up seed pods and trim back growth.

FROM BHG.com