

Garden clubs anticipate harvest of color

By LAURIE MIHOLER
Special to the Record-Eagle

When local gardening buffs tend to their chores as they plant bulbs in the fall, or divide perennials, select seeds and annuals in early spring, prune shrubs, or undertake a score of other gardening tasks, they do so in seasoned anticipation of that glorious time when bud and blossom burst forth into flower.

Spring and summer are the gardening community's hey-days, and local garden clubs share their excitement through a variety of projects.

The Friendly Garden Club of Traverse City is planning its annual summer garden walk for Thursday, July 16 from 2 to 7 p.m., rain or shine. Tickets are \$4 in advance, \$5 the day of the walk, and will be available from club members and downtown stores. This year's tour will focus exclusively on Old Mission Peninsula, with five gardens to be featured. The proceeds from the walk are designated for the club's beautification projects.

Currently the members are planning a special planting at the Open Space in honor of Michigan's Sesquicentennial. Sophia Bradley, club president, said the group is going to attempt to duplicate the official "150" logo in plantings.

Also as part of the sesquicentennial, and in celebration of Arbor Day, the members will plant three trees native to the area: Cherry, White Pine, and Sugar Maple, at a site near the Con Foster Museum. Com-

Tours highlight of summer season for residents, guests

memorative plaques will be placed by the trees. In the past, the group has donated funds towards the construction of the boardwalk along the Boardman River downtown.

Other area garden clubs have also contributed to a host of beautification projects, both financially and with members' labor.

Trillium Garden Club of Traverse City was active in sponsoring, along with the Downtown Traverse City Merchants Association, the hanging of floral baskets in downtown and Old Town last summer. They also contributed financially to the Skegemog Point Natural Wildlife Conservancy, a project that involves buying land and returning it to the people in order to view wildlife in a natural setting.

Trillium also contributes to the Federation of Garden Club's efforts to bring back the old, natural wildflowers growing along the roadside. Other donations have been made to a variety of civic and private projects.

The Ma-Me-Ne-Sewong, whose name area Indians once gave to Long Lake — meaning "lake of many islands" — has been actively involved in establishing and maintaining a nature trail on South Island in Long Lake. Members of the club will act as guides for the Symphony Home Tour in

June, when participants are taken to the island as part of the tour.

Ma-Me-Ne-Sewong has also been involved at the Long Lake elementary school, initiating such projects as planting and weeding around the school, and donating books on forestry and camping.

Mildred Webb, club president, said the members are currently putting on monthly exhibits at the school and the Long Lake

Township Hall in honor of Michigan's 150th birthday.

Handicapped children from Central Grade School are also a special interest of the club. Members have planned and escorted the children on field trips and nature outings, most recently to a farm by Lake Arbutus to watch the tapping of maple trees for making maple syrup.

The Little Garden Club of Leland has, for several years, undertaken a spring sale of daffodil bulbs. The bulbs are the type used for naturalizing and come in boxes of 250. Most of the daffodils seen blooming around the Leland area are from the club's annual project.



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