



# December 2024 Newsletter



## *From Our President*

With Winter upon us, it is easy to overlook the pleasures that our gardens give us. Many of us use this time of year to plan for next year's garden. I certainly do that. As you are thinking about improvements for 2025, may I suggest some lovely books that I have read, that could be a inspiration for you to plant gardens that include Native Plants, or to consider the role of wildlife in your garden, and also to provide easy to maintain plants.

I recently read the book *Comfort of Crows, "A Backyard Year"* by Margaret Renkl. Sandy Selden lent me this book, which I loved, and my Book Club read it this year. It is an inspirational, once a week diary of the author's backyard gardens.

**Braiding Sweetgrass**, "Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants," by Robin Wall Kimmerer, is a lovely book about Native plants. Each chapter is to be savored for its guidance in life and nature. I am currently reading another book by Ms. Kimmerer, **The Serviceberry**, "Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World." The Serviceberry Tree is one tree (among many) that puts me in mind of my dear late husband. He planted one next to my home that has attracted numerous hungry birds each year.

If you would enjoy a plant biology book that reads like it was written by a kind uncle explaining the world to nieces and nephews, you will love this book: **The Hidden Life of Trees**, "What They Feel, How They Communicate," by Peter Wohlleben. Yes, trees do communicate with each other, and take care of each other, and share commodities with underground fungi. I highly recommend this book. I recently bought Peter Wohlleben's more recent book, **The Power of Trees**, "How Ancient Forests Can Save Us If We Let Them." I'm anxious to read this one. I imagine it will be similar to two other "must read" books...

Douglas Tallamy has two books I would urge you to read, well, at least one of them: **Nature's Best Hope**, "A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard," and **Bringing Nature Home**, "How you Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants." Amazing research and gardening!

If you would like specific guidance on what to do for your garden and when to do it, try **The Wildlife Gardeners Almanac**, "A Seasonal Guide to Increasing the Biodiversity in Your Garden," by Jackie Bennett. I bought it this year and will dive into it this winter.

I hope you will enjoy a garden book in this planting planning season. Such a book may be a wonderful gift! You may even want to drop a hint to Santa that you would like one of these excellent books for yourself. Thank you all for allowing me to have the pleasure of serving as your President for the past two years. I learned so much, and loved being a part of PAGC in a leadership role.

Jane Schneider, *President*



Garden Club

## *Christmas Luncheon*

Wednesday  
December 18, 2024

Perry Hotel  
100 Lewis Street  
11:30 am  
\$28 per person



It is that time of year again to pay your Garden Club dues.  
\$25 Active membership  
\$35 Associate membership  
Please make your check out to PAGC and mail to  
P.O. Box 746, Petoskey, MI 49770, or give to me at the next meeting.

Sharon Schappacher  
231-838-7677



## Kay Starmer Garden Award



On Friday, September 20th, 10 members of the PAGC gathered to present the Kay Starmer Garden Award to the 2024 winner, Tom Fochtman, at his home on 335 Ottawa Street in Petoskey. Tom was very pleased to meet everyone and even served a treat of cookies as we toured his gardens with him. His corner property gave him great space to plant gardens on two streets and in his back yard. Tom has studied landscaping and is quite knowledgeable about the plant varieties that thrive in our area. He incorporated some vegetable plants along with his flowers for a very complete look. The time was spent sharing good gardening tips. Fochtman was presented with a gold star stake for his garden and a gift certificate for \$100.00 from Willson's Garden Center. The Petoskey Area Garden Club has presented the award since 2017, in recognition of an outstanding garden that can be viewed from the street as people pass by. It recognizes residences in the City of Petoskey.

*Submitted by Linda Longworth*

**November's Meeting with Jackie Burrell, the owner of Sky's the Limit.  
Beautiful bouquets were made by all.**



## Don't Forget Your Socks!

At our Christmas luncheon we will be collecting socks and deodorant for Brother Dan's Food pantry. We serve over 200 with food and free lunch each week. We have noticed more and more homeless without socks. Last week we had a group of homeless men. We only had five pairs to hand out. And they fly off our shelves so fast we have to limit them to one pair. Mens and women's socks are available on Amazon for about .89 cents per pair. If it's easier, they can be sent to me at 114 W Lake St., Petoskey, MI. 49770. We also appreciate any cloth bags that may be sitting around your house, the "walkers" with no transportation, are most grateful. Also scout your bathroom cupboards for any hotel soap or shampoo you may have. We love them!

*Submitted by Nan Casey*

*Merry Christmas*

