



# GARDEN ALMANAC

**IHM Community  
Garden Newsletter**



**July 2019**

## Planting season has begun

The weather has been the big story here just as it has been for all farmers, growers and gardeners in the Midwest and Great Lakes areas. Because of the excessive rain, we missed the traditional Mother's Day planting date.

Then Memorial Day rolled around, and the soil was still too wet to plow. We were finally able to till on June 12 and open the garden for planting on June 14. It turned out that this was the latest we've been able to get into the garden for many, many years, but we're off and running. Just a day or two after opening day, nearly all the gardens were planted.

There's always plenty to do at St. Mary Organic Farm, ranging from tending our flower garden to growing food crops. We are accepting applications for volunteer opportunities. If you enjoy working outdoors and have an interest in gardening, contact me at [rdluzen@ihmsisters.org](mailto:rdluzen@ihmsisters.org).

Thank you for your continuing interest in St. Mary Organic Farm.

Happy gardening to you,

**Bob**

Bob Dluzen  
Community Garden Coordinator



The garden soil was in good condition after tilling.



Nick, Liz and Jessica helped install our drip irrigation system this year. They are involved in the Agriculture Program at Monroe County Community College.

***When you have eaten and are satisfied,  
praise the Lord your God for the good land  
he has given you.***

***Deuteronomy 8:10***

## In the Gallery



“[Rediscovering Mercy and Compassion](#)” – the art of Helen David Brancato, IHM, will be on display in the Motherhouse Gallery July 11 through Sept. 5. All are welcome to the opening reception Thursday, July 11, 6–7:30 p.m.

Sister Helen David Brancato is a versatile artist who works in oil, watercolor, printmaking and graphic illustration. Her work has been widely exhibited and has appeared in many professional magazines. Sister Helen is an associate professor of art at Villanova University, teaching drawing and printmaking. She has presented many workshops around the country on creativity and compassion, spirituality and art and has been influenced by her immersion in the lives of the poor people in her area as well as her extensive travels to Haiti, Peru, Chile, Italy and Germany. She collaborated with Henri Nouwen in the illustration of his book, *Walk with Jesus*, and with poet Evelyn Mattern on *Why Not Become Fire?* and *Ordinary Places, Sacred Places*.

The exhibit is free and open to the public Monday through Friday from 10:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. For more information about the exhibit, contact Sharon Venier at 734-240-9754 or email [svenier@ihmsisters.org](mailto:svenier@ihmsisters.org).

## Urge the EPA to ban Glyphosate

### From the IHM Sisters Justice, Peace and Sustainability Office

The Trump administration recently moved to permit the continued sale of glyphosate, the main ingredient in Monsanto's weed-killer, Roundup. The Environmental Protection Agency claims glyphosate isn't a risk to public health.<sup>1</sup>

But we know glyphosate can be harmful to vital habitats and wildlife. Roundup annihilates milkweed, the plant monarch butterflies can't live without.<sup>2</sup> Killing these plants isn't even a tragic side effect: it's what Roundup is designed to do.

As milkweed dwindles, we're watching monarch populations plummet.<sup>3</sup> And humans are at risk, too: the World Health Organization links glyphosate to cancer.<sup>4</sup>

The administration is required to collect public comments on its proposal to keep Roundup on store shelves before a final decision is made. Click [here](#) to submit a public comment to the EPA today. The comment period ends July 5, 2019.

Source: Environmental Action <https://environmental-action.org/>

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1. Emily Holden, "[Trump EPA insists Monsanto's Roundup is safe, despite cancer cases](#)," *The Guardian*, April 30, 2019.

2. John Pleasants and Karen Oberhauser, "[Milkweed loss in agricultural fields because of herbicide use: effect on the monarch butterfly population](#)," *Insect Conservation and Diversity*, March 12, 2012.

3. Gabrielle Canon, "[It's a sad reality: a troubling trend sees a 97% decline in monarch butterflies](#)," *The Guardian*, Dec. 8, 2018.

4. "[IARC Monograph on Glyphosate](#)," International Agency for Research on Cancer / World Health Organization, Jan. 3, 2016.

## July normal temperatures 1980-present

Date	Normal High temp.	Normal Low temp.	Normal Daily Avg. temp.
July 1	83°F	63°F	73°F
2	83°F	63°F	73°F
3	83°F	63°F	73°F
4	83°F	64°F	73°F
5	83°F	64°F	74°F
6	84°F	64°F	74°F
7	84°F	64°F	74°F
8	84°F	64°F	74°F
9	84°F	64°F	74°F
10	84°F	64°F	74°F
11	84°F	64°F	74°F
12	84°F	64°F	74°F
13	84°F	64°F	74°F
14	84°F	64°F	74°F
15	84°F	64°F	74°F
16	84°F	64°F	74°F
17	84°F	64°F	74°F
18	84°F	64°F	74°F
19	84°F	64°F	74°F
20	84°F	64°F	74°F
21	84°F	64°F	74°F
22	83°F	64°F	74°F
23	83°F	64°F	74°F
24	83°F	64°F	74°F
25	83°F	64°F	74°F
26	83°F	64°F	74°F
27	83°F	64°F	74°F
28	83°F	64°F	74°F
29	83°F	64°F	73°F
30	83°F	64°F	73°F
31	83°F	64°F	73°F

## July record temperatures 1874-present

Date	Record High °F	Year	Record Low °F	Year
July 1	98°F	1931	47°F	1965
2	99 °F	2011	46°F	2001
3	100°F	1911	48°F	1971
4	102°F	2012	49°F	1972
5	96°F	1988	47°F	1972
6	100°F	1988	42°F	1972
7	101°F	1988	44°F	1984
8	104°F	1936	45°F	1984
9	102°F	1936	50°F	1883
10	102°F	1936	51°F	1895
11	101°F	1936	47°F	1978
12	100°F	1936	43°F	1978
13	102°F	1936	48°F	1976
14	104°F	1936	46°F	1967
15	102°F	1977	50°F	1971
16	102°F	1988	49°F	1945
17	102°F	2012	46°F	1978
18	99°F	1942	49°F	1971
19	100°F	1946	48°F	1984
20	97°F	1977	48°F	1971
21	100°F	2011	50°F	1970
22	96°F	1940	49°F	1970
23	98°F	2016	50°F	1981
24	105°F	1934	52°F	1974
25	99°F	1940	51°F	1953
26	97°F	1941	50°F	1977
27	100°F	1955	48°F	1971
28	100°F	1930	48°F	1978
29	99°F	1940	50°F	1971
30	98°F	1916	50°F	1984
31	96°F	2006	48°F	1918

## July 2019 twilight

Date	Morning Twilight begins EDT	Evening Twilight ends EDT
July 1	5:28	9:47
2	5:28	9:47
3	5:29	9:47
4	5:30	9:46
5	5:30	9:46
6	5:31	9:46
7	5:32	9:45
8	5:32	9:45
9	5:33	9:44
10	5:34	9:44
11	5:35	9:43
12	5:36	9:43
13	5:36	9:42
14	5:37	9:41
15	5:38	9:41
16	5:39	9:40
17	5:40	9:39
18	5:41	9:38
19	5:42	9:37
20	5:43	9:36
21	5:44	9:36
22	5:45	9:35
23	5:46	9:34
24	5:47	9:33
25	5:48	9:32
26	5:49	9:31
27	5:50	9:29
28	5:51	9:28
29	5:52	9:27
30	5:53	9:26
31	5:54	9:25

## July 2019 sunrise and sunset

Date	Sunrise EDT	Sunset EDT
July 1	6:02	9:13
2	6:03	9:13
3	6:03	9:12
4	6:04	9:12
5	6:04	9:12
6	6:05	9:12
7	6:06	9:11
8	6:06	9:11
9	6:07	9:10
10	6:08	9:10
11	6:08	9:10
12	6:09	9:09
13	6:10	9:08
14	6:11	9:08
15	6:11	9:07
16	6:12	9:07
17	6:13	9:06
18	6:14	9:05
19	6:15	9:05
20	6:16	9:04
21	6:17	9:03
22	6:17	9:02
23	6:18	9:01
24	6:19	9:00
25	6:20	8:59
26	6:21	8:58
27	6:22	8:58
28	6:23	8:56
29	6:24	8:55
30	6:25	8:54
31	6:26	8:53

## July precipitation records

Date	Greatest amount of rain	Year
July 1	2 in.	1876
2	2 in.	2011
3	2 in.	1902
4	2 in.	1969
5	2 in.	2012
6	1 in.	1975
7	4 in.	1998
8	3 in.	1957
9	3 in.	1937
10	2 in.	1879
11	3 in.	1979
12	3 in.	1966
13	1 in.	1914
14	1 in.	1886
15	2 in.	1937
16	1 in.	1988
17	1 in.	1983
18	3 in.	1903
19	3 in.	1982
20	2 in.	1989
21	1 in.	1899
22	2 in.	1994
23	2 in.	2010
24	2 in.	1912
25	1 in.	1964
26	2 in.	1878
27	3 in.	1896
28	2 in.	2011
29	4 in.	1909
30	2 in.	1915
31	5 in.	1925

## Gazebo available for your event

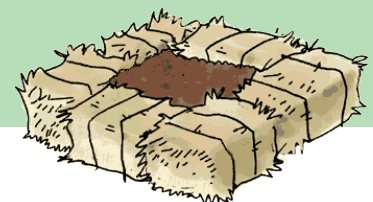
The gardens make a wonderful setting for our Gazebo. The primary purpose of our Gazebo is to provide gathering space for St. Mary Organic Farm activities and events that advance the educational and spiritual goals of the IHM Sisters. Other activities may be scheduled for the Gazebo if they fall within the guidelines described in the Gazebo Usage Policy.

There is no charge if your event or activity advances the educational and spiritual goals of the IHM Sisters. Free-will donations for the use of the Gazebo are welcome. To reserve the Gazebo, contact Events at 734-240-9871 or [events@ihmsisters.org](mailto:events@ihmsisters.org); They will be happy to assist you with your reservation.



## Straw for mulch

Bales of straw for use in the Community Garden are available for purchase again this year. The cost is \$3 per bale. There are a dozen bales out by the shed for you to use. Please keep track of how many bales you take. More bales will be stored in the barn to keep them out of the rain.



# Nature Explorers

## Opossums (also called possums)



The opossums name comes from the Algonquian term meaning “white animal.” It is North America’s only **marsupial** (non-placental mammal). They carry their

babies, called joeys, in a pouch on their mother’s belly while they grow, like a kangaroo.

They have a strong immunity and are mostly immune to rabies and have partial or total immunity to venom from rattlesnakes, cottonmouths and other pit vipers.

They are smart animals. When tested, they found their way through a maze faster than rats, cats and dogs.

Have you ever seen an opossum playing dead? This is an involuntary response. They roll over and become stiff and either close their eyes or stare off into space. They bare their teeth and actually foam at the mouth, where a foul-smelling saliva is produced. They can play dead for up to four hours.

Did you know that opossums are good climbers and can hang upside down from trees using their tails?

## Considering a gift to St. Mary Organic Farm?

Donations are always appreciated and are tax-deductible. Your contribution will go toward local educational programs on gardening, healthy eating and lifestyle, environment protection, conservation and other programs that are part of our mission to do God’s work by making our community a better place to live. They may also be used to purchase equipment and tools and to maintain garden facilities.

Please make your check payable to IHM Sisters and include St. Mary Organic Farm or SMOF in the memo line.

Safe, secure online giving is available for your convenience.



## From Pope Francis’ Encyclical, *Laudato Si’: On Care for our Common Home*





Ecological education can take place in a variety of settings: at school, in families, in the media, in catechesis and elsewhere. Good education plants seeds when we are



young, and these continue to bear fruit throughout life. Here, though, I would stress the great importance of the family, which is “the place in which life – the gift of God – can be properly welcomed and protected against the many attacks to which it is exposed, and can develop in accordance with what constitutes authentic human growth. In the face of the so-called culture of death, the family is the heart of the culture of life.”<sup>149</sup> In the family we first learn how to show love and respect for life; we are taught the proper use of things, order and cleanliness, respect for the local ecosystem and care for all creatures. In the family we receive an integral education, which enables us to grow harmoniously in personal maturity. In the family we learn to ask without demanding, to say “thank you” as an expression of genuine gratitude for what we have been given, to control our aggression and greed, and to ask forgiveness when we have caused harm. These simple gestures of heartfelt courtesy help to create a culture of shared life and respect for our surroundings. [#213]

## Phases of the moon

### July 2019

	New Moon - July 2
	First Quarter - July 9
	Full Moon - July 16
	Last Quarter - July 25

## IHM Garden Bee Journal: June 9, 2019

By Judy Durfy

There was a lot more water and even tadpoles in the grass last week! With all the rain, I wasn't surprised to see a lot of water still pooled around. On my last visit, I had made two new hives out of the big survivor hive. I was looking forward to seeing if the queens had successfully hatched and were able to fly out, mate and make it back to the new hive without a predator getting them.

The first "split" had lots of bees and some brood, however, it'll be another week before I'll be able to see if that new queen is laying well. I had put the other split on top the existing Italian hive, which appeared to have a failing queen. I used a screen divider board to keep the old bees and the newly introduced bees apart while they assimilated. I had used a frame from the big russian bee hive that had two queen cells on it because the queen cells were too close together to separate without damaging both. The problem with having two queen cells is, if both queens are viable, when the first hatches she'll either kill the other or half the bees will swarm with her and go elsewhere before the other one hatches out. I'm not sure which event happened, but there were no bees at all in the upper hive where the split had been, but there were many more bees in the hive below, along with more brood. Was the old queen able to lay more successfully with the addition of more bees, or did a new queen move into the bottom after a successful mating flight? I'll find out next time I come by and inspect all the hives.

### Gardening in the 1900s



Backyard chickens were popular in 1905.

**“A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust.”**

**– Gertrude Jekyll**

