



GARDEN ALMANAC

**IHM Community
Garden Newsletter**

July 2023



May this garden be blessed

“Bless the workers of these gardens, that they may enjoy community amongst themselves and the plants and find spiritual sustenance in those connections.”

A highlight of the gardening season is our annual garden blessing. This year it took place on a beautiful Saturday morning in early June. As in past years, Sr. Marianne Gaynor, IHM, facilitated the event.

After a brief introduction, a reading was recited, followed by a moment of quiet. Gardeners then had an opportunity to share what their gardens meant to them, their experiences in the garden, their upcoming plans and who they shared their harvest. During a lively conversation, nearly all said they shared their bounty with family, friends and neighbors.

Sr. Marianne then led the group in a Prayer of Blessing and Thanksgiving. Twenty or so gardeners, sisters and guests participated in the ceremony.

All of the garden plots were taken this year. So if you or someone you know would like to rent a garden plot next year, it's not too early to get on the waiting list for the 2024 gardening season. You may email me at rdluzen@ihmsisters.org.

Good gardening to you,

Bob



Sister Marianne Gaynor, IHM, was the facilitator for this year's Garden Blessing.



A view of the gardens in late June. So far it's been an outstanding growing season.

***We are here to cultivate the
garden and take care of it.***



Volunteers add pavers to Monarch Waystation flower garden



The arbor in the flower garden has always had grass underneath it. A redesign of the flower garden called for pavers in the arbor. Sue Wagers began the project by last fall by removing the sod.



Volunteer Chris Setzler from Detroit Stoker Co., along with gardener and volunteer Dan Poirier, skillfully laid pavers under the arbor. They also installed a path from the arbor to the south side of the flower garden.



This structure was leaning. Paul Simonton, long time garden volunteer, led a J.A.W.S. crew who rightened the corner posts, hauled in sand, prepared the area for paving and placed the initial pavers.



The flower beds on two sides will be renovated. Climbing plants will be planted at each corner of the arbor.

St. Mary Organic Farm Beekeeping Log

By Dan Pederson, Beekeeper

The beginning of June has brought increased life to the bee hives. Three hives survived winter and were so strong that by early May, they were split, creating two hives from the original one. The old queen and about half the bees from the initial hive went into each new hive. Splits are typically moved a few miles away to help acclimate them to a new territory.

We now have five hives at the bee yard. Pollen and nectar are being transported from flowers back into the hive and activity is at peak level. The queen lays up to 2,000 eggs daily while some bees care for the young and others go foraging.

Attached are two photos. One reveals bee “art.” On the top of the inner cover of the hive box, bees often get creative with their wax designs. The other is a picture of a swarm that a local beekeeper could put into a hive. Swarms are often the size of a football or bigger and the queen can be found somewhere in the middle.



Bee “art”. This bee’s wax comb was formed into a freeform shape by worker bees.



A swarm of bees are seen resting in a tree. If left by themselves, they will all fly away to take up residence in a new location. It can be a hollow tree trunk, a wall of a house or other sheltered spot.

Deer resistant barriers for raised beds

Installation of the deer fence last year eliminated all deer browsing in the community garden plots. This caused the hungry neighborhood herd to look for food elsewhere. Their next salad bar turned out to be our elevated gardening boxes. The deer obliterated the plants in the beds.

Paul Simonton solved the problem by constructing protective barriers for each box. The two longer sides are hinged and made to drop down out of the way when tending the plants. When done, the sides easily fold back into place.

The barriers have effectively stopped all munching by the deer while keeping the beds accessible to the gardeners.



Monthly precipitation records for July

Normal precipitation3.51 inches

Rainiest May.....8.76 inches 1878

Driest May..... 0.50 inches 1930

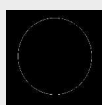
Primary phases of the moon July 2023



Full moon - July 3



Last quarter - July 10



New moon - July 17



First quarter - July 25

July 2023 sunrise and sunset
Eastern Daylight Time

Date	Sunrise	Sunset
1	6:02 am	9:12 pm
2	6:02 am	9:12 pm
3	6:03 am	9:12 pm
4	6:03 am	9:12 pm
5	6:04 am	9:11 pm
6	6:04 am	9:11 pm
7	6:05 am	9:11 pm
8	6:06 am	9:10 pm
9	6:06 am	9:10 pm
10	6:07 am	9:09 pm
11	6:08 am	9:09 pm
12	6:09 am	9:09 pm
13	6:09 am	9:08 pm
14	6:10 am	9:07 pm
15	6:11 am	9:07 pm
16	6:12 am	9:06 pm
17	6:13 am	9:05 pm
18	6:13 am	9:05 pm
19	6:14 am	9:04 pm
20	6:15 am	9:03 pm
21	6:16 am	9:02 pm
22	6:17 am	9:02 pm
23	6:18 am	9:01 pm
24	6:19 am	9:00 pm
25	6:20 am	8:59 pm
26	6:21 am	8:58 pm
27	6:22 am	8:57 pm
28	6:23 am	8:56 pm
29	6:24 am	8:55 pm
30	6:25 am	8:54 pm
31	6:26 am	8:53 pm

July 2023 twilight hours
Eastern Daylight Time

Date	Morning begins	Evening ends
1	5:27 AM	10:30 PM
2	5:28 AM	10:30 PM
3	5:29 AM	10:30 PM
4	5:29 AM	10:29 PM
5	5:30 AM	10:29 PM
6	5:30 AM	10:28 PM
7	5:31 AM	10:28 PM
8	5:32 AM	10:27 PM
9	5:33 AM	10:27 PM
10	5:33 AM	10:26 PM
11	5:34 AM	10:25 PM
12	5:35 AM	10:24 PM
13	5:36 AM	10:24 PM
14	5:37 AM	10:23 PM
15	5:38 AM	10:22 PM
16	5:39 AM	10:21 PM
17	5:40 AM	10:20 PM
18	5:40 AM	10:19 PM
19	5:41 AM	10:18 PM
20	5:42 AM	10:17 PM
21	5:43 AM	10:16 PM
22	5:44 AM	10:15 PM
23	5:45 AM	10:14 PM
24	5:47 AM	10:13 PM
25	5:48 AM	10:11 PM
26	5:49 AM	10:10 PM
27	5:50 AM	10:09 PM
28	5:51 AM	10:08 PM
29	5:52 AM	10:06 PM
30	5:53 AM	10:05 PM
31	5:54 AM	10:03 PM

**July normal
temperatures
1991- present**

Date	Normal High	Normal Low
1	83°F	64°F
2	83°F	64°F
3	83°F	64°F
4	84°F	64°F
5	84°F	64°F
6	84°F	64°F
7	84°F	64°F
8	84°F	64°F
9	84°F	64°F
10	84°F	64°F
11	84°F	65°F
12	84°F	65°F
13	84°F	65°F
14	84°F	65°F
15	84°F	65°F
16	84°F	65°F
17	84°F	65°F
18	84°F	65°F
19	84°F	65°F
20	84°F	65°F
21	84°F	65°F
22	84°F	65°F
23	84°F	65°F
24	84°F	65°F
25	84°F	65°F
26	84°F	65°F
27	84°F	65°F
28	83°F	65°F
29	83°F	65°F
30	83°F	65°F
31	83°F	64°F

**July record
temperatures
1874 - present**

Date	Record High	Year	Record Low	Year
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	2018	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	2019	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

Daily Precipitation Records for July 1874 — Present

Date	Most Rain for the Day	Year
1	1.52	1876
2	1.56	2011
3	2.17	1902
4	2.38	1969
5	1.76	2012
6	1.12	1975
7	4.34	1998
8	2.80	1957
9	2.51	1937
10	2.05	2020
11	3.08	1979
12	3.19	1966
13	1.48	1914
14	1.26	1886
15	1.94	1937
16	2.20	2021
17	1.20	1983
18	2.70	1903
19	2.61	1982
20	2.04	1989
21	1.19	1899
22	1.73	1994
23	1.69	2010
24	2.34	1912
25	1.16	1964
26	2.17	1878
27	2.62	1896
28	2.16	2011
29	3.54	1909
30	1.75	1915
31	4.74	1925

Length of Daylight Hours for July

Date	Hours: Minutes: Seconds
1	15:10:37
2	15:09:56
3	15:09:12
4	15:08:24
5	15:07:32
6	15:06:37
7	15:05:38
8	15:04:36
9	15:03:30
10	15:02:21
11	15:01:09
12	14:59:53
13	14:58:35
14	14:57:13
15	14:55:48
16	14:54:20
17	14:52:49
18	14:51:15
19	14:49:38
20	14:47:59
21	14:46:17
22	14:44:33
23	14:42:45
24	14:40:56
25	14:39:04
26	14:37:09
27	14:35:13
28	14:33:14
29	14:31:13
30	14:29:10
31	14:27:05

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 the 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, call 734-240-9871 to speak to the IHM Events Planning Department or email eventsplanning2@ihmsisters.org



From Pope Francis's Encyclical *Laudato Si'*

Some forms of pollution are part of people's daily experience. Exposure to atmospheric pollutants produces a broad spectrum of health hazards, especially for the poor and causes millions of premature deaths. For example, people become sick from breathing high levels of smoke from fuels used in cooking or heating. Pollution affects everyone. It is caused by transportation, industrial fumes, substances contribute to the acidification of soil and water, fertilizers, insecticides, fungicides, herbicides and agrotoxins. Technology linked to business interests is presented as the only way of solving these problems. In fact, it proves incapable of seeing the mysterious network of relations between things and so sometimes solves one problem only to create others. [20]



Consider a gift to St. Mary Organic Farm



Donations are always appreciated and tax-deductible. Your contribution will go toward local educational programs on gardening, healthy eating and lifestyle, environmental 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, tools and to maintain garden facilities.

As a friend of St. Mary Organic Farm, together, we can work to expand and provide gardening space to even more families in our area who otherwise would not have the opportunity to garden.

Please make your check payable to: IHM Sisters and write: "St. Mary Organic Farm" on the memo line.

Thank you for your continuing support.

The amen of nature is always a flower.

-Oliver Wendell Holmes