

TWIGS

The Garden Club of Greater Lansing Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

January can be an exciting time for gardeners! Our mail boxes and emails bring catalogs and articles full of colorful enticing pictures of produce, plants, trees and flowers. It provides us a time to dream of what we might plant in our gardens this year. Some of you may have started planning in the Fall as you harvested seeds and saved them to share with our gardening friends.

Gardeners are a very generous group. We share the bounty of our gardens with neighbors and friends. I am looking forward to future plant and maybe seed exchanges. It will come.

Now also is the opportunity to step up and share in the future of GCGL. We need **ALL** of you to contribute and volunteer on committees, chair positions and board positions.

I will complete my term as President this May. Joan has been Vice President for two years and will be on the roster for President for the following two years. We need a co-Vice President willing to assume President duties when Joan's term ends in two years. Ronnie will continue as co-Vice President and does not wish to be President. The Treasurer and Recording Secretary positions need to be filled also. Descriptions of those positions are in our green notebooks. You can also talk with the ladies currently in those positions. Hospitality and Neighborhood Beautification will also need chairs. Our newest member, Mary Ann Smith jumped in and will take over Publicity. Joan,

Ronnie or I would also be happy to talk with you if you have questions. Now is the time to be an active vital part of our leadership.



(Elephant Ear Plant – Colocasia from Temp Petovello)

Participating in the membership meetings can be a great way to stay connected and help. We miss seeing and hearing from members who have not been able to attend the zoom meeting. Yes, there are challenges, but most can be overcome with help. One member even got the geek squad to

assist in joining our zoom sessions. The smile on her face said everything. Another member asked her son for a computer and getting her on zoom so she could join us too. She like everyone else misses being together. She is also excited about the possibilities. Ronnie has been a patient and valuable resource helping people through the process. Please consider becoming more involved with your garden club, the success is dependent on your participation.

Several members have volunteered to telephone members to encourage joining us at our February meeting. We hope this helps with their participation. We will have a speaker, Dr Erin Hill will tell us everything we need to know about weeds.

We also are looking forward to future in person meetings. Some may be outdoors but that could be fun and it would be a joy to see all of you. Sue Kesti

WHAT ARE YOU GROWING

Temp called the other day and was so excited to share with the club two great specimens. She is also excited because soon she will be able to join us via Zoom. She is super excited about that.

First off is this big beautiful Elephant Ear plant (Colocasia). Her son has been toting it in and out of the house during the warm summer months for years. It is growing by leaps and bounds. She has re-potted it a few times. This plant is about 6ft tall now and she thinks it might have to stay in the greenhouse area as it is getting heavy and hard to move. This plant normally only grows in the south. Temp just wanted to prove them wrong. With the right amount of love and care she has this beautiful plant.

The other is a flower. It is this beautiful Amaryllis. Put it where you want so you can enjoy everyday. It needs no watering. The bulb provides all nutrients. Temp has been growing since Dec. So far it has bloomed 4 times. The flowers when in bloom are huge, 6-8 inches across. The brilliant color is cheery. Temp Petovello



(Amaryllis – Temp Petovello)

BOARD POSITIONS & CHAIR OPENINGS

Co-Vice President. In this capacity you will Co-VP with Ronalee and take over as President in May of 2023. Ronalee will continue as Co-VP creating a transition and supporting role. Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Hospitality, Neighborhood Beautification.

Please take the time to review responsibilities for roles in our Club. Now is the time to step forward and make a difference. Joan Lenhard

FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING

To join, please let Ronalee know. She will send you a link for the Zoom meeting. As always your input is welcomed.

Erin Hill from MSU will talk to us about weeds. She is extremely knowledgeable on the topic. I have submitted 6 weeds of high interest to our members. She will also talk on other weeds too. Be sure to tune in. Joan Lenhard

HORTICULTURE

I think January should mean that winter is half over. After all, by Halloween our gardens were put to bed, yards picked up, tools cleaned and put away. Somehow by February we should be looking ahead to spring, but for me January and February feel like the longest months of the year. While I enjoy the beautiful red cardinals, there seems like no end to slush, snow, cold winds, and what we can see of a brown landscape under the snow.

November and December seemed to go fast with the rush of the holidays (despite this year's limitations). However spring seems too far away to do more than dream. Perhaps the best way to get through this time is to give ourselves permission to think spring before it really comes.

Of course we have that stack of catalogs to help. In the pictures every plant is in a perfect location to bloom as it should. Each plant looks like it could have a home in my garden. Then it's time to read a little more.

Remember that plants need light, water, air flow, adequate drainage, nutrients – all in varying degrees for different plant choices. Adding to an established garden should mean that we need to match the plant to the environment where we want it to grow. It's futile to add a plant that requires a lot of water to an area that doesn't receive much moisture. Some plants get sufficient moisture from humidity in the air, while others need water every day or even live in water. It's also futile to add a sun loving plant to a lovely grouping in a shady area. Again some plants need diffused light, and other plants thrive only in bright sunshine. This seems like common sense, but I'm afraid it's so easy to be carried away.

If you really want the plant, find your best site for it. If you want to fill a specific area in your garden, first define the growing environment and then choose accordingly. Remember your catalog orders should be placed now or at least by the end of February.

Also be sure that you have your seeds ready (whether you collected them from last summer's

blooms, or ordered new packets). Be sure that any seeds not in sealed packets are checked and discarded if there is evidence of mold. If you're starting seeds in a cold frame, a greenhouse or under a grow light, check the time to germinate and grow to transplant size. Count back and make a chart to decide when to start each variety.

As we impatiently wait to start seeds, or to receive and plant our catalog choices, we need to remember that roots are growing under the snow and our plants need this time to be healthy next summer. Barb Amundsen



(Beautiful tree with snow on the branches. Front yard Joan Lenhard)

MASTER GARDENER CLASS

Remember you still have time to sign up for this great opportunity. Follow the links below.

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/mginghamspr21/>

For the complete list of upcoming EMG trainings, visit this link:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/master_gardener_volunteer_program/join-us/upcoming-extension-master-gardener-trainings

MGC NEWS

Monday mornings at 10:00 tune in to learn. Each week a presentation is provided. These are on Zoom. They are also recorded in case you missed the presentation.

The leadership team is providing education for all members of the garden clubs. Look for exciting opportunities in the near future. Joan Lenhard

IIB UPDATE MARCH FLOWER SHOW

This year the fabulous Garden Show at the MSU Pavilion has been canceled. We will use the same theme of National Parks for next year. The upside to this is you have a whole year to get your designs ready. Please think about entering for next year. Joan Lenhard



(A tree decorated in Whitehills. The picture doesn't do it justice. The backyard is decorated too and you can see it as you drive around the corner).

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Suzanne Burger

MEMBERSHIP

Former member Grace Farquar passed away. She was a member for many years. Please remember her and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

A proposal was presented to the Board to waive the dues for membership this upcoming 2021-22 year. The Board was in favor of the recommendation. The overwhelming response from membership agrees with the Board. However, please be aware that **YOU may make a donation to the GCGL in lieu of your dues.** I will make the report to the board via email for the purpose of this newsletter. Joan Lenhard

UPDATE ON HOME GARDEN

I found a gift card to Barnes and Noble and I bought two books not one. The first is, *Planting the Natural Garden* by Piet Oudolf & Henk Gerritsen. The second one is, *Planting A New Perspective* by Piet Oudolf & Noel Kingsbury. I had reviewed both books via the library this past year. I kept them checked out as long as possible.

I look forward to when I will travel to Belle Isle to see the latest garden by Oudolf. I hope to view it at least two times this year. He developed the plan keeping in mind that interest should be year round. I imagine in two years time this garden will be wonderful during every season.

I have ordered seeds and will be finalizing the rest of my order for the upcoming spring. I have found some seed catalogs are already out of certain seeds. So the hunt begins again.

This winter up until now has been mild. I had more work I could have done on those 40 degree days but it just didn't seem right. It was winter after-all. I will have to think about cold frames and seed starting. That will be a first. I might wait to sow directly. I am still thinking on that issue. I would love a little greenhouse but... not quite sure about what I would purchase. Maybe a small portable one, or make a small one. To much time to think about it.

I joined a ZOOM trivia challenge for gardeners. It is through MSU Horticulture and offered by David Lowenstein, who is in Extension with Macomb County. If interested contact David at: lowenst6@msu.edu

After last night's challenge I think I need to hit the books. The top 4 people are associated with extension or long time master gardeners scoring huge points. I struggled to get off the bottom. I didn't finish in last place but I bounced around it all 30 questions. Once I got going I hoped to break 15 out of 30 correct answers. I think I just did it. I think this could be quite fun. Next one is in February and I am going back. I hope David is not serious about making the questions harder. Joan Lenhard.

GUESS THIS PLACE



(This famous attraction in our state draws hundreds of people to it every summer. It is a tourist area on west side of state. It was Moody Blues Night when this picture was taken).

WEBSITES

Websites/Calendars to check for gardening events
Capital Area Master Gardeners –
www.mgacac.wordpress.com

Michigan Master Gardener Association –
www.michiganmastergardener.org
Let's Garden Lansing – lets gardenlansing.org

Allen Neighborhood Center –
www.allenneighborhoodcenter.org/exchange/

Michigan State University Horticulture Gardens -
https://www.canr.msu.edu/hrt/our_gardens/

Michigan Volunteer Management System –
www.michigan.volunteersystem.org

Sixteen Sprigs Lavender Farm call 803-3081
<http://www.sixteensprigs.org>
Facebook Sixteen Sprigs Lavender Farm

National Garden Club
www.gardenclub.org
username: member Password: conserve

Michigan Garden Club
www.migardenclubs.org
username: Member Password: mgcgrow

District IIB
<https://mgcdistrict2b.weebly.com/>
password: zbgardeners