

# TWIGS

## The Garden Club of Greater Lansing Newsletter Member of: Michigan Garden Clubs Inc. IIB DIVISION, National Garden Club Central Region, National Garden Club

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Editor: Joan Lenhard

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are so eager for Spring! The sunshine, warmer weather and spending more time outdoors. It is our hope to gather together with garden club members in outdoor settings! Your program / yearbook committee is gathering ideas and investigating opportunities for future meeting. We are striving for in person, but that is dependent on safe gatherings. If you have an idea or a speaker please share that information with Joan and Ronalee.

As we look forward to the arrival of Spring, we look for opportunities to be more active. Have you considered volunteering at the Blue Star Memorial or Scott Sunken gardens? It is a great way to support the community, create opportunities to bond with fellow gardeners and you learn something every week you meet. Another opportunity to be more active is to share in committees, become a chair or an officer for the garden club. This may seem like a daunting task but with the support of current and past leadership we encourage you to take the next step. Making a bigger commitment to the club provides us with a viable future, new ideas and enthusiasm.

My term as President ends in May. Joan has been co-Vice President for two years with Ronnie. We need some one to assume that responsibility for the next two years and then step into the role of President. Ronnie will continue as co-Vice President and continue to wear her many other

hats but does not wish to be President. Ronnie is active with developing and maintaining our new website, GCGL Facebook page and pulling together our program book. In addition, she supports our state and IIB group. Please consider contacting me, Joan or Ronnie to help your garden club. You are wanted and you are needed.

We are in need of a Treasurer and recording Secretary. All positions are critical and we can not continue as a viable garden club with out these positions being filled. We need active participation by all members. Sue Kesti



(A sentinel standing strong, bending to the wind, Joan Lenhard)

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Sandy Oleson

Susan Epple

Daiva Devereaux

Sandra Flanigan

## HORTICULTURE

For all of the years that I have been a member of GCGL, and years before that, March has been the month of the District IIB Flower Show at the Greater Lansing Home and Garden Show. It's been a time to force branches into bloom, find snowdrops in little white patches, and enjoy the lovely blooms of hellebores. We have enjoyed watching as snow melts and we see the leaves of daffodils and crocus.

Perhaps we can still use some of our techniques for the show to help ease ourselves into thinking toward spring. Try forcing a couple of branches from a flowering shrub to bloom early in your own home. Choose branches with a large number of flower buds. Open a couple of buds if you can't tell whether the buds are for flowers or leaves. Use sharp pruners, and cut one or two branches at least 12 inches long. Be careful not to damage the shape or structure of the plant. Bring the cut branches indoors and place the stem ends immediately in water. The water should be cool, but not cold. Make a slit or two in the bottom of the stem before placing it in the water. This helps with the intake of water. If possible, submerge the entire cut branch in water, such as in a bathtub, overnight. This allows buds and stems to quickly absorb water and begins to break dormancy. Then you can move them to a loose container and keep them upright. Keep the branches in water in a cool area, preferably around 60-65 degrees. Warmer temperatures causes buds to develop too rapidly and not open fully. Change the water every 2-3 days to be sure it stays clean. Try to keep branches near a humidifier, or mist them regularly. Direct sunlight also may cause buds to fail, so keep in bright but indirect light. When your blooms emerge, they are well worth the trouble.

We also always chose a few special house plants to take to the show. This is the year to check all of your house plants and prepare them as though

they were going to be exhibited. Clean up your containers as well as the plants. Dust all of the leaves, using a dry cloth. Never add any "shine" or other unnatural treatments as these not only look artificial, but also they can actually damage the plants by clogging the stoma or stomata (pores in the leaves). Cut off dead or damaged leaves. Use a sharp scissors to trim any ragged edges. Be sure that each plant looks neat and clean, both on the surface and from the underside.

Perhaps buy a few flowers and practice making an arrangement for yourself or as a gift to someone. You could look at the suggested categories from this year's "National Parks" theme, or make up a category of your own. Perhaps try an arrangement that you could improve upon for the spring 2022 show. Remember we were told that the categories are expected to remain the same for 2022 as they would have been in 2021. It might be fun to stretch ourselves and try something we haven't done before. Barb Amundsen

## GUESS THIS PLACE



I am eager for you to come sit with me and contemplate the beauty that surrounds me. I am in E Lansing. Can you find me? Be specific.

## MGC NEWS

June 1-3 is our state meeting and education sessions. This continues to evolve in education sessions and speakers. It looks like another great opportunity for some learning. Check the website and get registered. Joan Lenhard

## IIB UPDATE MARCH FLOWER SHOW

March 18<sup>th</sup> is an all day zoom session and meeting. Please go to the website and register if interested. You will have breaks throughout the day and speakers sound great. Joan Lenhard

## MEMBERSHIP

A big **Thank You** goes out to our telephone volunteers Barbara Amundsen, Barbara Lowes, Linda Norwood, Sandy Oleson, Mary Sullivan, Karilyn Mull and Sue Kesti who contacted active and associate members who had not been attending past meetings. This was a great excuse to say hello and come join us for our February meeting.

The calls were well received and many did attend Dr. Erin Hill's presentation. Erin presented on Weeds. This presentation was filled with information. How to identify, manage and in some cases how eradication might need to take place because of the invasive weed. If you have questions on weeds reach out to Erin at MSU. She or members of the team will be happy to help. Sue Kesti

## BOARD POSITIONS & CHAIR OPENINGS

Ronalee will continue as one Co-VP creating a supportive and transitioning role. Other openings include: 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

## MARCH BOARD MEETING & PROGRAM

If you are interested in attending either meeting please be sure Ronalee knows so she can include you in the Zoom notification.

We will have a full agenda for the board with discussion on upcoming meetings, programs and updates on our current situation. The program meeting will be finalized and a notice will go out so be sure to watch for information. Joan Lenhard

## MEMBERSHIP DUES

YOU may make a donation to the GCGL in lieu of your dues. Please confirm with Ronalee if you are changing your membership or information. This is used to update our program book. Joan Lenhard

## UPDATE ON HOME GARDEN

PBS Wisconsin Flower Show was a virtual learning extravaganza for me. I had opportunity to explore ten or more sessions, the vendor booths and the photos submitted for judging. Spectacular pictures. My registration also allows me to go back into the system and review sessions and see some I missed.

You read about me competing in the Virtual Trivial garden questions a month ago. Well I am tooting my own horn. I made it to the podium and was in second place for one round and 3<sup>rd</sup> place for 6 rounds. With 3 questions left I was bumped into 5<sup>th</sup> place for the last question. This was so fun I immediately signed up for next month which is the last month for awhile.

90% of my seeds have arrived. I am collecting milk containers so I can start cold seed stratification. Wish me luck as I am flying by the gloves of a soon to be busy gardener.

Looking for a fun March Madness? Check out Proven Winners Shrub Madness. It was hard to pick once I was down to the sweet 16. After all I was picking favorites not eliminating losers. Give it a try. Joan Lenhard

## GUESS THIS PLACE

Last month a picture was added in which I asked people to guess where it was. This month I answer that question. Look on the next page.



(Famous attraction is: Musical Fountain in Grand Haven).

## **WEBSITES**

Websites/Calendars to check for gardening events

Capital Area Master Gardeners –

[www.mgacac.wordpress.com](http://www.mgacac.wordpress.com)

Michigan Master Gardener Association –

[www.michiganmastergardener.org](http://www.michiganmastergardener.org)

Let's Garden Lansing – [lets gardenlansing.org](http://lets gardenlansing.org)

Allen Neighborhood Center –

[www.allenneighborhoodcenter.org/exchange/](http://www.allenneighborhoodcenter.org/exchange/)

Michigan State University Horticulture Gardens -

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/hrt/our\\_gardens/](https://www.canr.msu.edu/hrt/our_gardens/)

Michigan Volunteer Management System –

[www.michigan.volunteersystem.org](http://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](http://www.gardenclub.org)

*username: member Password: conserve*

*Michigan Garden Club*

[www.migardenclubs.org](http://www.migardenclubs.org)

*username: Member Password: mgcgrow*

*District IIB*

<https://mgcdistrict2b.weebly.com/>

*password: zbgardeners*