

# TWIGS

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

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### PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

It was great to see so many people at the March meeting. What a hubbub of action. We covered lots of information about our new transitions. I thank ALL of you for your input.

The program committee can now get busy finalizing our book. This will include all the different opportunities that are being arranged for our upcoming year. It looks to be a great time. I hope we can continue to meet in person.

Our presenter Lynn gave us the idea of having co-chairs. This may help for the busier parts of the club. In addition, Lynn's presentation was fantastic. She presented the plants she is using in her circle garden. The research and the time in getting seed and using her greenhouse to get plants going for this upcoming season.



Thanks to all of our volunteers who helped with set-up, take down for the Garden Show. What a

fantastic show it was. We also had numerous people enter into the show. Thanks to you we had a successful show. I look forward to next year when more of you will get the design juices flowing, or have some horticulture you would like to enter. It is never too early to think about getting involved in the regional events and programs. Joan Lenhard



### APRIL MEETING

Getting ready for our gardens includes finding something that is new. Dan from Bordine's Nursery (Howell/Brighton) is here to show us what is new and exciting. Plan on mtg at the church. The hospitality group will be ready for us. If you would like to bring a snack, please let the members of hospitality know. We could use your help this month as we have no one assigned. If you are bringing your lunch for afterwards that is fine but remember we must be out by 1:00 pm. Clean-up must also take place.

### MEMBERSHIP

Many people took advantage of our meeting in March to submit their dues. Please turn in your

renewal ASAP - (March 28<sup>th</sup>). We are prepping the program book and would like accurate information. I look forward to your renewal. Remember \$26.00 for Active and \$36.00 for Associate. The dues should be mailed to our Treasurer Suzanne Burger.

(Content Redacted)

Marti Brick who is a long-standing member of the garden club, husband recently passed away. Please remember her and her family.

### ANNUAL MEETING

It has been a few years since we have been able to finalize a year and start a new one with people present. We have reservations at Brookshire Inn and Golf Course in Williamston. We will celebrate our long overdue 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Our speaker is Nita Campbell. She is a wealth of information and you will enjoy her presentation.

A plated meal at noon consisting of chicken marsala, roasted redskin potatoes, asparagus (if in season, sauteed green beans if not), caesar salad, roll and butter. Coffee, tea and lemonade.

Please bring your checkbook to the April meeting so you can pay for this event. *TENTATIVE COST*: \$30.00

### UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 4<sup>th</sup> Board Mtg

April 11<sup>th</sup> Club Mtg with speaker

Apr Scott & Blue Star Gardens Clean-up TBA

May 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Mtg – see newsletter

June 6-7 MGC State Conference Lansing

### HORTICULTURE

I see robins in my front yard and snow in the back. The daffodils are popping up all over and my favorite season of the year is coming!! Before spring is really here to stay, we're likely to see more snow showers and cold winds, and of course the ground is still much too cold except for the hardiest of plants.

My daffodil buds seem to grow a little taller every time I look. But while I wait for them to open, a special treat is to see the brave bulbs that bloom through the snow.

Snow crocuses are the earliest spring flowers. They can burst into bloom while snow is still of the ground. These hardy flowers begin to grow with a warm spell in late winter or early spring. If it snows



again, before they bloom, or during bloom, that's okay. Both the plant and the flowers will be unharmed. It only takes a few days growth, to open for the first bright colors of the year with white, yellow, blue, and light orange flowers above thin grass-like leaves. These small plants grow just 3-4 inches tall. Best of all, they are easy to grow, and very prolific.

As an aside, there are also taller, later, and larger blossom varieties of Crocus. Some Crocus even bloom in fall. Crocus can also make good houseplants and will easily bloom indoors. The word "Crocus" is Latin for Saffron. Saffron comes from the stigma of the Saffron Crocus, but it takes thousands of blossoms to get an ounce of Saffron. No wonder Saffron is so expensive! Crocus are native to Southern Europe and Asia, are popular throughout the world and actually grow from corms, not bulbs.

Snowdrops can be seen as soon as snow melts in earliest spring—or even late winter. The dainty flowers are white and shaped like drooping bells, with green stems and green markings on the inner petals. Despite looking delicate, snowdrops multiply

rapidly and are hardy. They are native to Europe and the Middle East, brought to Britain by the Romans, and on to America by early settlers.



Winter Aconites earn their name by blooming as early as February. The bright yellow flowers love the sun so much that they only open when the sun shines. The flowers stay closed on cloudy days. Winter aconites are in the buttercup family. They are found across southern Europe, Asia and Japan. As with the other very early flowers, Winter Aconites are short and only grow to about 4" tall.



Chinodoxa or Glory of the Snow are another small group of very early bulbs that are a little taller at 5-6" tall. Each bulb produces 2-3 narrow leaves and an upright flower stalk with small starry flowers. They are best planted in full sun to part shade with groupings of at least 15 plants which are allowed to naturalize over time. Photos that Barb used are from online. Barb Amundsen

### **MGC NEWS - STATE CONVENTION BASKETS**

Ann and Sue are accepting donations for the 2 bags that will be for auction in the June state conference. The pollinator basket has a large honey container, a hand painted sign saying "bloom" and ideas for more. Both bags have specialty teas. I think an apron is also included as of now. Please contact Ann Lenard or Sue Kesti if you have questions or would like to contribute.

Our club will be hostess for the evening event at MSU Horticulture Gardens. Please be prepared to volunteer for this event.

We need **VENDORS**. It might be a lawncare service, a landscaper, or a small cottage gardener. Please help us out. The application, forms are also included in this email.

### **2B NEWS**

District 6 has invited District 2B to their Spring Leadership Meeting. This is in place of our District having its own 2B Spring Meeting. It will be held in Mt. Pleasant on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at The Commission on Aging 2200 S Lincoln Rd, from 9:30-3:00. We have a few folks registered for this event. Joan Lenhard

### **RECIPE**

Many people asked about Carol Miller's recipe. I have sent that via email.