

TWIGS

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

We are at crossroads for our future. Together as a team we will grow and develop our leadership roles. I am asking each of you to consider helping out. You may be an associate member but you have a responsibility to continue the mentorship process. As people join the club, we must **all** reach out to welcome the person, help them learn about the club and encourage them to get involved. Call, tell them about the club, give them history, talk about the programs and activities you enjoy and ask them if they have questions and sit with someone new when we get together.

I am far behind on my gardening. This spring did not motivate me to start seeds, clean out some pots and get through my square foot gardening book. I may start things late but I hope that means the harvest will still come in before freezing temps.



(Garden at Mike Hill's property)

The recent weather is challenging for gardens. Lots of rain, cooler weather than temps in the 80's. I am sure the plants are very confused. I know I am.

The Annual meeting was wonderful. It was so good to see so many people join together and celebrate. The opportunity to take a picture presented itself and we loved being outside for the picture. Linda and team did a great job of organizing, coordinating and making sure everything ran smoothly. Thank you very much.

We start our new schedule this month. The summer months will have garden tours or other activities for us to gather, enjoy and see beauty around us. We have a tour in June. July is being developed for our Garden Tour, August will have us getting ready for Greens and a tea to quench our thirst. Sept is our first evening meeting and a tour to Belle Isle. Keep your eyes posted on the TWIGS and emails. Check the website and FB if you do lots of technology.

I started this adventure a year ago asking people to be good stewards of the land. This includes our water, care for plants, chemicals that we use or don't use. As you start the summer off do one thing to start the stewardship growth. Joan Lenhard

HORTICULTURE

This is a glorious time of year. The early trees and shrubs are so full of blossoms, and they seem to be lasting longer than usual. As I watch the peonies try to catch up with tulips and daffodils, I can't recall a

better spring. I admit that I wish it had started earlier, but the wait was certainly worth the show. A friend recently sent a photo that she took with the note, "look at this cute dainty little flower that I saw on my walk. Can you tell me what it is?" When so many things are blooming at once, we sometimes overlook the fact that even noxious weeds can have their own beauty. Sadly, I had to tell my friend Pat, that she didn't find a winner this time.

One of the most annoying plants in spring is hairy bittercress. It begins to bloom so early that the snow is barely gone, and the flowers are so small that we scarcely notice them. Hairy bittercress is an annual, but its seeds stay in the soil over the winter. Almost before the winter is over, the seeds germinate, and the small plants start to bloom. The flowers quickly go to seed, the seed pods explosively burst open, and the wind helps to spread them far and wide. The plants have long taproots that are hard to remove, and the newly spread seeds can germinate in the same season.

Every year I seem to have more hairy bittercress, no matter how carefully we try to prevent it. It grows in between perennials (or through them), especially where the soil is low on mulch. I also often find it on the edges of my lawn, and occasionally on bare spots in my lawn.

Ideally, thick healthy grass can be a deterrent. You might not get it all, but if the grass is thick clear up to the edges of the lawn, that tends to prevent germination. Mulch can be a deterrent in gardens. If mulch is thick enough, the seeds can't germinate. If you must remove it, take the time to dig out the taproot. Use a long thin tool to dig down as far as needed. Once the weather gets hotter, the bittercress disappears. Unfortunately – if we have a cool spell during the summer, it can return. Also, unless you removed it all, it will stay dormant only to emerge again next spring. Every time it comes back, it seems to find new places to grow. Barb Amundsen

JUNE MEETING

Join us at Mike Hill's home on Thursday June 16th for a 9:30 tour.

(Content Redacted)

For those in Lansing we will meet at the church and depart for the tour. Meet at 8:30 for an 8:45 departure. Parking on-site is limited. I hope our folks from the Mason area will help lunch committee make arrangements for lunch.

Please register for this tour. This helps with lunch and carpooling. To register you will email Joan between June 8-14th. I will try to remind you with an email. We will have a rain date if it works for Mike. Joan Lenhard



(Garden at Mike Hill's property)

MGC STATE CONFERENCE

We have many people respond to help at the gardens at MSU. Thank you. We also have a good number of people registered. Thanks. See you in a few weeks at the conference. Joan Lenhard

PROGRAM SCHEDULE BOOKS

Ronnie has worked hard to rework our book. It looks great. Is very readable. Larger print and super design. More space to write notes. The color does not interfere with reading the pledges. I think you will like the look.

The book is at the printers now. I can't wait for you to receive one. They should be ready any day. We will distribute as many as possible at the conference and at Mike's tour. The rest we will mail. Joan Lenhard

APRIL 2023

That is correct. This headline is important because you **MUST** start drying flowers, leaves and grasses for a program on pressed flower arranging. This should be a wonderful session.

To press flowers put between 2 sheets of clean paper and many heavy books. Add to you collection every month. Before you know it, you will have a garden of flat flowers waiting to turn into a work of beauty. Ronalee Polad

BLUE STAR MEMORIAL & SCOTT SUNKEN GARDEN

The ladies have shown up to dig, clean and prep the gardens. They have fought against wet muddy soil, rain and cool temps. Sue K noticed two little buddies who have found a wonderful place to splish and splash.



(Enjoying a day at the pond – Scott Sunken Garden)