

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.

Volume 11 #4
EDITOR: Joan Lenhard

September 2022
Distribution: Reba Torongo

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

I am so excited that we have added a few items to our summer for members to do. We started at Mike's place in Leslie. A gardener who weaved us thru a garden of lushness. Trees, shrubs, flowers, trails and stream kept us looking in every corner.

A few of us met at the Shigematsu Memorial Garden at LCC. While small you felt transported to another place. The small pond, sculptured trees and grasses that swayed in the breeze made for a lovely evening tour.



(Linda's cat on a bench at the PINK OUT)

Many people stopped out to see the Pink Out at Linda Brownell's home. She really showcased her lovely color. A wonderful day and turn out of members added to the ambiance created in PINK. Thank you so much.

Next was out Summer Tea at Deb Johnston's home. The date changed because of the weather and what a difference one day makes. It was a small intimate setting filled with food, tea, garden rooms, a harpist whose music created an atmosphere of enchantment. Many people attended and had a great time. Thank you so much.

Our hostesses went above and beyond with these events. Next year maybe you will want to host. Having options to see what others are doing in their garden shows our unique and creative design. I am so glad I was able to make all three events. Thank you all so much. Joan Lenhard

SEPTEMBER MEETING

This will be our first evening meeting. We need the hospitality group to help with set-up, design group to make simple arrangements and the dinner committee to make desserts, beverages and assist the other groups. Members are asked to bring salads. This is a great time to clean out your vegetable garden for fresh produce.

Lois Snover-Hanson is our presenter. She will help us make designs and understand a little of what goes on for entering flower shows. Bring flowers and greens from your garden. Don't forget your vase, frog or other type of vessel. Tonight, you get to be creative.

Our District 2B Meeting is Tue., Oct. 11th in Howell. This event is FUN and a great time to meet other members of 2B for only \$30.00. Bring your checkbook to pay for the day. Payment is in early

Sept. Ronalee will enter us into the sign-up sheet, while Suz will accept our checks. See the attached flier with details.

This meeting will be filled with information regarding MGC, 2B, and our own upcoming events. Please read through all documents attached. We have a busy night in front of us. Joan Lenhard

FIELD TRIP – OUDOLF GARDENS, BELLE ISLE

Thursday September 15th. Meet at church at 8:00 for an 8:15 departure. Stop at Park and Ride Okemos for 8:30 for pick-up. Tour at 10:00. Lunch is at McShane's Irish Pub. You can invite a guest.

I have opened this tour to members of 2B. You can still register while we have openings. **YOU** must do two things: 1. **Email** Joan with reservation of names for the trip. 2. **Send a check** to Suz Burger, payment to GCGL for \$40.00. This is your transportation and water. Lunch is on your OWN. We should be back in Lansing by 4:00. Last notice. Joan Lenhard



(Garden Tea with Harpist at Deb Johnston's home)

PUBLIC GARDENS

Both of our gardens need people to assist on maintaining them. I urge all of you to give an hour once a month. While in town shop, go see another garden, visit with a member. We are all busy, but it is important to volunteer. Check with Daiva and Sue for days and times.

HORTICULTURE

In August I looked back on many years with nostalgia. I grew up on the outskirts of Madison. My dad was a carpenter; mom was a stay-at-home former teacher. Both were gardeners. I hated to weed and was a reluctant participant.

Dad's hobby was growing large, "dinnerplate" dahlias. He was a "large amateur grower". In show terms many years ago that meant he had over 50 plants, grown outdoors (not in a cloth house or green house), and that he was not a commercial grower.

My parents belonged to the Badger State Dahlia Society. Each year on Labor Day weekend the group hosted a dahlia show at the Madison Community Center. This was the first in a series and was followed by September weekend dahlia shows in Chicago, Milwaukee, and Moline. Most of the growers went to all the shows. As an only child I had little choice but to be a helper. In turn I learned a lot even though at the time I wasn't thrilled.

The blooms were displayed in pint glass bottles, with small wooden wedges at the neck of the bottle to keep the stems straight while they supported the heavy flower heads. In those days the categories were different than now. Dahlias were classified by size, color, and whether the petals curled into spikes or appeared to be layered flat over each other on the surface (cactus or formal – or variations in between – called semi-cactus or semi-formal). The petals always had to be symmetrical and layer over each other to completely cover the center of the flower head without twisting over each other. Blooms were to be at a 45-degree angle to the stem, with the first pair of leaves at least 7" below the bloom. Also, it was disqualifying to trim any petals or pluck a damaged petal from the front or back of the flower.

I can still remember how excited Dad was when he would have a bloom win "best of show" or even "best of class". He was a good grower, and his flowers were in demand for weddings, local churches, and other celebrations. His back yard garden had its share of blossoms developing under bushel baskets. The baskets were tied on stakes and were used to protect show quality flowers from the effects of rain, wind, or insecticides. This was especially important for the white and yellow flowers because they showed blemishes so easily. The side shoots were often removed from the plants so that nutrients would flow to the specimen blooms.

Dad and other Dahlia Society members also were early volunteers at Olbrich Gardens. I recall that they tried to start a dahlia demonstration garden there. Apparently, that was not long lasting as I don't see anything about it on their website or history.

Obviously, my love of gardening and gardens has grown over the years. However, I admit that I have never had the patience and dedication to grow dahlias in my gardens. It doesn't feel right to grow less than show quality specimens. Barb Amundsen

PROGRAM SCHEDULE BOOK & MEMBER UPDATES

Jenny Bond is recovering from an accident. A few members have had a mild case of C19. I am so glad they have recovered.

Greens Market

Joanne is proceeding as usual. Demonstrations in October. Workshops in November. Greens to be ordered, designs made, sale in Dec.

PREPPING FOR DRY FLOWER ARRANGEMENT

I know you have been out in your garden, tending, relaxing and enjoying. I hope you have been cutting leaves, flowers and petals for drying. Before you know it, our dry flower arrangement activity will be upon us. Last reminder for the season.

BOARD MTG

Mon Aug 29th 9:30-12? @ GUM Church. Minutes, agenda and area wide info. All are invited. Much to cover.

CLUB MTG

Many documents will be sent prior to the meeting. Please review. All are invited. Come prepared with questions, concerns. Much must be covered in this first meeting. We will be very busy.



(Food from the Tea)