

TWIGS

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Kathi Dominguez from the DeWitt club and Master Flower Show Judge and member of the Designer Guild brought us a package deal. Kathi showed us a miniature made from the cap of a whip cream can -3 inches. She also brought us a miniature of 8 inches that we had the opportunity to put together. This hands-on activity provided people with the skills to understand scale and use of material.



(8" Miniature designs made by our members)

You will be receiving the final draft of the Constitution and By-Laws. In addition, you will receive a ballot for voting on the above-mentioned items.



(Busy designing the miniatures)

Next month you will still have time to complete your membership by sending a check to Suz Burger or bring a check to the meeting. The Committee sheets will also be available for you to sign-up. I will be asking people to send me times they are available for helping out at the March Home and Garden Show. Joan Lenhard

BOARD MTG

Next meeting is Monday March 6 @ 9:30 @ via zoom. To attend contact Ronnie to get on email list.

CLUB MEETING

Mike Hill is a member of the Mason Sycamore Garden Club. He is also a fabulous photographer. He has documented his garden from spring through winter. Mike will show us how his garden grows. You do not want to miss this presentation.

This is a Sandwich Luncheon. Please bring your sandwich and tableware. The luncheon committee will provide snacks and dessert.

HORTICULTURE

As I look ahead to early spring flowers, I can't help but think of violets. Violets come in a whole rainbow of colors. They are most often found in bright jewel tones, especially blues, purples, and whites. Newer varieties include yellow, pink, and bicolor. I love their bright, early blooms.

Violets are a genus of flowering plants with around 1,000 species. Viola is the botanical name for violets, violas, and pansies. Some Viola species are perennial plants, some are annual plants, and a few

are small shrubs. In horticulture, the term pansy is used for the plants with multi-colored, somewhat larger blossoms that seem to have hand-painted faces. The terms “viola” and “violet” are normally used for small-flowered annuals or perennials, and the wild species.

Violets work well as cut flowers for small arrangements. Annual violets also have a lovely scent. Most violet blossoms are even edible and can add a pop of color to baked desserts or tossed in a salad. Yellow violets, violet roots and stems are not edible. Of course, only eat flowers that you know are pesticide free.

Although violets tolerate a variety of light conditions, most grow best in full sun to part shade. Some species can be planted in full shade. They are cool season plants and most finish blooming before the heat of summer. Mine bloom early but the foliage stays healthy all summer.

My back yard slopes. Years ago, we added rocks and soil to develop a level patio garden, surrounded by a low rock wall. My neighbor/friend offered starts of her violets because she said they would look so nice in the crevices of my rock wall. I didn't know any better, so accepted with pleasure.

For the first few years the pretty little violets bloomed when they should, stayed on the rocks, and added bright spring color. Over the years the violets have provided lovely spring accents. However - “A weed is a plant out of place.” I can't remember how long ago I learned this, but it certainly fits. Much as I love them in spring, my violets did not stay on the rocks!! First, they moved into the patio garden; they moved to the sides of my house, then into front gardens.

In a few cases the small mounds of heart-shaped leaves are welcome to fill in bare spaces, however usually the extra plants become weeds. Of course, violet blooms are small – so their seeds are very, very small and we aren't aware that they are spreading. Every time I think they are all removed, there are new plants in unexpected places. I also am a proponent of “right plant, right place.” Violets don't know enough to stay in their place.

I'm sure that this spring will be no different. We will enjoy the early bright blooms, and then remove extra plants that are out of place. A few weeks later there will be more, and the process will repeat. As we enjoy the flowers and colors of spring, we have many lovely choices. Despite my frustrations with unwelcome plants, violets are still a lovely sign of spring and worth the small amount of extra weeding that they cause.

Note - Despite their common name and similar blossoms, African violets are not a type of violet.
Barb Amundsen



(8" Miniatures made by our members)

BY-LAWS, CONSTITUTION

Ronnie has updated our current documents with the recommendations from our members. You will receive the documents that were accepted at the February meeting with the correction of a typo. I want to thank everyone for the discussions, the questions raised and how as a club we can continue to operate in the future. Well done group.

Voting will take place next month at the March meeting. The documents you have received, you have had for 2 months. Voting will be via ballot at the meeting. The exception will be for members who receive paper documents each month but are active members in the club. Those members will receive the ballot and can mail it in or call Ronnie.
Joan Lenhard

(Content Redacted)

CONFERENCES

The District Leadership Conference on April 25 will be hosted by GCGI at Grace United Methodist

Church. This meeting is being arranged by Ann Schoals. She is the liaison to D2B. We will need members to sign up for hosting duties. Cost will be \$20.00. Scholarships will be available.

State conference is June 6-7 @ Grand Rapids Sheraton on 28th ST. We will have a minimum of 2 people attending this conference.

The Fall Conference host clubs are Looking Glass and Grand Ledge. This will be held on Wed Oct 4th at St Judes in DeWitt. More news to follow. PLEASE reach out if you have interest in any of these conferences.

DISTRICT 2B & MGC

How many of you read the newsletters from D2B or MGC Garden Gate? What do you look for in a newsletter? What do you want these newsletters to provide? If you are not receiving these newsletters please let us know. You may have removed yourself from Constant Contact. If you did remove yourself, **YOU** must be the one to go to the web page and submit your information.



(Designing our 8" Miniature)

PROGRAM SCHEDULE BOOK & MEMBER UPDATES

At our next meeting please be sure to sign-up for our different committees, and monthly meetings. Ronnie maintains a running update on our program book. If you have changes, **PLEASE** forward them to Ronnie. She will update for the new publication. All updates must be in by April 12th. This gives us time to go to the printers and get the booklet ready for distribution at our May Annual Mtg.

UPDATE: The visitation for Beulah is scheduled for Sat Mar 18th @ 10:00. It will take place at Holt United Methodist Church. This church sits at the

tip/apex of Cedar and Aurelius. You can enter the parking lot from either street.

FINDING INFORMATION

Did you know that pages 3 & 5 in our program book identifies websites in which we can search for information. Find answers to some of our questions. In addition, each group has newsletters they send to us. You can so read those newsletters on their site. Please take time to explore these websites.