

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

This month we have been very busy with our last flower show at the MSU Pavilion. Our members who entered did a fantastic job showing. I thank you all very much for your contributions. We have gained another person who is over the top on design. Our own Renee wants to get more involved with design. I hope Renee will attend the Design sub-group. She has the info. Ronalee and Jenny put in many hours as did others in the club. They assisted in helping with set-up, hosting and clean-up/tear down. These jobs really are so important to the success of the show. Ronnie has made a video of the show.

We have many things coming up. I **EXPECT** everyone to bring calendars, checkbooks and **COMMIT** to be **INVOLVED**. I am looking to see that **YOU** the **MEMBER** is on a committee, working hard and leading this club forward.



You will be signing up for hosting / luncheon / dinners and committees.

Get ready for hosting and attending the Leadership Spring Workshop being held at the church Tuesday

April 25th 9:00-3:00. Tuesday/Wednesday June 6-7 is the state conference in Grand Rapids.



It is never too early to think about what we need to do for summer or fall. The seasons will be coming in fast after SPRING.

This is the 2nd year in a row that I have looked forward to spring. I am not a spring kind of person. I am not sure what is driving this, as I have not done any of my pre-planting of seeds but what the heck, I am sure everything will work out. Joan Lenhard

HORTICULTURE

The only positive words I can say about this spring's clouds - rain - snow - drizzle - grey skies - wind - sleet - more grey skies - and more precipitation, is that after our warm, dry winter, I'm no longer worried that the ground doesn't have enough moisture. Instead, I have seldom been more excited about a sunny day, or even sunny hours. At least we know that spring is definitely on the way and perennials are stirring underground again. After all,

this is spring in Michigan, so what should we expect??



We plan most garden planting for the middle to the end of May. However, extending the growing season doesn't always mean growing later in fall. It also can mean starting much earlier in spring. If you have a cold frame, row covers or hot caps, April can be the time to enjoy early salad greens and more. Whichever method you choose, the principles are the same. Plants need light, air,

water, and nutrients to grow. They also need protection from cold and wind. Following are a few ideas for early spring beginnings.

Tunnels, cold frames, hot caps, floating row covers, and similar products provide protection from cold and wind, allowing gardeners to start early and keep harvesting until late in the year. For most of these systems, the sun warms seeds or starter plants; the covers need to be opened or removed for watering; there are nutrients in the soil, and limited exposure to wind and cold. They also need to be sturdy enough and anchored well enough to stay in place and not to tear or break despite spring (or fall) winds and storms. Any type of plant cover needs to be wide and tall enough that it doesn't touch the sides or tops of growing plants. The surface also needs to be made of transparent materials that remain clear and will let in lots of light.

Cold frames can be purchased or there are many patterns available to make them. Essentially there is a frame that holds glass or plastic panes and is hinged. The top can be opened on warm days and for watering. The frames are closed to protect plants from wind and cold. Row covers and hot caps are cheaper than cold frames, and often can be easier to move as needed. Most row covers are made from heavy plastic or polyethylene sheets

held up with metal hoops. To prevent disease, they need some means of air circulation such as opening up the cover for several hours a day.

Hot caps are purchased individual plastic or paper domes for covering small plants. Stake them down so they don't blow away and again remove them for watering and on warm, sunny days.

Empty milk jugs can be used as tiny greenhouses. Cut the bottom out of the jug and use the top half to cover the plant. Leave the cap off during the day for heat and air flow but put the cap on at night to retain heat. Tie the handle to a stake to hold the jug in place.



(Jenny Bond)

Be creative. You don't need to use the traditional options. I even have heard that bubble wrap can be repurposed to layer over small plants as protection from frost. The bubbles trap air, so they make a great insulator. Again, it would need to be removed to keep from smothering the plants.

There are many ways to enjoy your garden while we wait for spring. By incorporating one or more of these techniques, you can enjoy fresh and tasty produce for extra months each year. Barb Amundsen

BOARD MTG

Next meeting is Monday April 3rd @ 9:30 @ the church.

CLUB MEETING

This meeting is Monday April 10th @ 5:00 pm. This is a dinner salad meal. The committee will provide desserts, some salads but WE are to bring our talents to the table too. Bring a salad to share with 6-8 people. Don't forget your tableware and dishes. Decaf and dessert will also be served.

The presentation on dry flower arrangement will start around 6:15pm so we can end, clean-up and depart before the sun has fully set.

Please bring all of your pressed flowers. You might need tweezers. If you do not have pressed flowers others might have some to share. Please join in for a fun evening.



Sample from presenter

PROGRAM SCHEDULE BOOK & MEMBER UPDATES

Barbara Lowes, Barbara Spottek, Reba Torongo, Linda Norwood, Ronalee Polad and Joan Lenhard attend the funeral of Beulah Voorheis. Ronalee and Linda attend the funeral services for Leigh Kussro's family.

Ellen Bloomer is recovering after surgery. Sandy Oleson is recovering from surgery. Please keep these women in your thoughts.

CONFERENCES

The District Leadership Conference on April 25 will be hosted by GCGL at GUMC. We need members to sign up for hosting duties. Cost will be \$20.00. Scholarships 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 Jude's in DeWitt. PLEASE reach out if you have interest in any of these conferences.

GARDENS

We have two gardens that will need tending soon. I hope we have a person interested in chairing Scott Sunken Gardens. We might be able to find a co-chair for SSG to help with the care, communication and scheduling. Please think on this as this garden is a real gem in the middle of concrete. Our Blue Star Memorial Garden at Frances is expanding and will take on a new design this year. Please get ready to assist in each garden. An hour every other week can be a huge help.

(Content Redacted)

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.

FINDING INFORMATION

Please use your book and the references to the MGC and NGC along with the District 2B websites to look for upcoming events. These are listed in your book with how to login.

FLOWER SHOW

Horticulture Section C - Container Plants Grown for Foliage - Linda Norwood - 2nd Place for Lavender Tree & Renee McMillen - Honorable Mention for Philodendron

Design - Section A – Petite Designs

Class 3 – “Charlotte's Web” - Ann Schoals - First Place

Design - Section B – Petite Designs

Class 4 – “The Little Gardener” Sue Kesti - First Place, Renee McMillen Second Place, Ann Schoals - Honorable Mention

Design - Section C – Creative Designs

Class 8 – “The Lines Between Us” - Ann Schoals - Honorable Mention

Class 9 – “Where the Sidewalk Ends - Joan Lenhard - Honorable Mention

Design - Section D – Designer Choice

Class 11 – “Flowers on Main” by Sherryl Woods - Jenny Bond - Second Place

Botanical Arts Second B – Botanical Arts-Photography

Class 1. “The Sun Also Rises,” Joan Lenhard - Honorable Mention

Class 3. “Where the Crawdads Sing - Ronalee Polad - Honorable Mention

Class 4. “C.S. Lewis Through the Shadowlands -Joan Lenhard First Place

Ronalee took pictures and video of the Garden Show. Click on the link and enjoy from the comfort of your chair.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=--4tSPiyglg&authuser=0>



(Linda Norwood)