

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

Exciting news. Many members are aware that June Knostman made a substantial donation for Frances Park. Recently it was reported that Frances Park was being dug up and looked a mess. I am so happy to report that June's donation is now being put into action.

The Rose Gardens are being redesigned and redeveloped. In addition, the drive between the two entrances will be repaved. The work has already started in the Rose Garden area. I am sure the outcome will be spectacular. I can't wait. Maybe the club would like to celebrate this with some kind of big bash.

BWL equipment is over near Scott Sunken Garden. They are working on the steam pipes at the intersection with Capital Ave. We should still have access to the site for gardening. Just be cautious.



(Members working with dried flowers)

Tuesday April 25th 9:00-3:00 is the Leadership mtg. Those attending we will need to be onsite at 8:00 to help Ann Schoals. See you then.

Tuesday/Wednesday June 6-7 is the state conference in Grand Rapids. Renee and Joan will be attending as delegates.

We are still looking for someone to step up and take on the scheduling and communication with Jason for Scott Gardens. Sue Kesti stated she would be able to help / provide assistant but wouldn't be able to provide complete leadership in this area. She is willing to mentor someone. I really hope someone will contact Sue and get us going on the garden. Sue has scheduled Friday 4/21 @ 9:00 am for the first weeding at Scott Sunken Gardens. Please let her know that you will be there.

In April we had a trio to lead us in design for dried flower arranging. Samples and ideas were provided. Our April speakers and those assisting from the Meridian Club brought supplies, helped guide individuals, covered the design and provided much encouragement as everyone had a fun evening. Joan Lenhard

HORTICULTURE

I recently spent a week in Charlotte (NC). When I left Lansing, our weather was cool and gray. When I reached Charlotte, the weather was cool, rainy, and gray. On Easter Sunday the sun finally came out; it was in the low 80's, the azaleas and flowering trees were breathtaking. Birds were singing and the world was both green and in bloom. Nearly every yard had flowers, even in the city.

Then I came home. The daffodils, crocus and hyacinths were in full bloom, forsythia and early flowering trees had opened, and later flowering trees had large buds. In one week, trees and shrubs were starting to at least show leaf buds. The robins are nesting and spring has arrived.

In most years there has been an obvious difference between North Carolina and Michigan. I've gone there for an early spring "fix" and come home to wait a few more weeks in the cold. This year there seemed to be very little difference when we consider that we are at least 2 climate zones apart and in a time of seasonal changes for us all. True, their trees and shrubs were all leafed out and their early bulbs were already spent. It just felt so exciting to me to leave spring and come back home to spring, showing itself everywhere and all at once.

Now that I've had time to unpack and catch up, my focus has shifted to outside as much as possible. Today we removed two low branches to help a "Star Magnolia" look like a tree and not a shrub. We also removed two shrubs and replaced them with "Little Lime Punch" hydrangeas; the heavy yard art is in place, and the ever-present bittercress is quickly being removed. We celebrated hidden flowers on two small hellebores that were planted a couple years ago and that we thought were lost. We saw new leaves on a clematis that the deer ate last year. There are still plants emerging through the soil and mulch so we're carefully giving space for them to breathe and working around them.

As soon as we can see all the plants, we can add a new layer of mulch to keep the roots cool and to hold moisture in the soil. We can also assess any empty spaces that need to be given new life. What a great excuse to visit another garden center!

We're planning to replace large pots and their soil on the patio. The pots are showing cracking and wear, and to grow vegetables, soil should be replaced at least every 3 years. Since I have mobility issues, my patio pots have become my vegetable garden with tomatoes, peppers, herbs, and zucchini. We'll wait to plant those veggies until the night temperatures are consistently in the high 50's, usually around the middle to end of May.

I hope that your yards are awakening as well as mine is this year. With spring comes a great deal of work, but the rewards far outweigh the challenges. It seems especially interesting to me this year to see spring all over and all at once. Barb Amundsen

GARDENS

The gardens need tending. This is an opportunity to team together and accomplish a beautification project in the middle of the city. Our two gardens need tending soon. An hour every other week can make a huge difference in these gardens. The busiest time is starting up by cleaning out. Planting when the new plants arrive. After those days general weeding takes place.

Sue Kesti has planned a cleaning day at Scott Garden on Friday 4/21 @ 9:00 am. Bring a bottle of water to hydrate, gloves, a few tools you like to use for weeds and raking material up. Many hands will have this garden in shape quickly. Sue would like to know who is planning on assisting. Please try to find time to spare and help with this activity. In this area there is construction. It may be a challenge but again, you may not have any problem.



(Previous arrangements brought in for demonstration and show)

(Content Redacted)

BOARD MTG

Monday May 1st @ 9:45 @ the church.

CLUB MEETING

Next meeting is Monday May 8th @ 5:00 pm @ The Grand Ledge Country Club, 5811 E St Joe Hwy., Grand Ledge. Ann Lipkowitz is our host. This is the Annual Meeting.

Our speaker is Mike Hill. He will present his gardens which some of you have visited. Mike has designed his gardens and uses a wide variety of plants. Mike is also an avid photographer. The large screens will provide a spectacular presentation.

The cost for this is \$30.00. Make checks payable to: GCGL. Mail checks to Ronnie or Joan. They must be received by 5/1. **REMEMBER**, each chair is asked to report about the activities related to their chair-ship. You must bring copies to the mtg for historical records. In addition, PLEASE email Joan your report.



(Serious work on design of pressed dried flowers)

PROGRAM SCHEDULE BOOK & MEMBER UPDATES

If you have any changes in contact information, please be sure Ronnie has that information. She is in process of updating the program book.

Elections were held and the results are: President: Joan Lenhard, Vice President elect: Ann Schoals, 2nd Vice President: Ronalee Polad, Treasurer: Suz Burger, Recording Secretary: Renee McMillen, Corresponding Secretary: Ann Lenhard.

CONFERENCES

The District Leadership Conference on April 25 will be hosted by GCGL at GUMC.

State conference is June 6-7 @ Grand Rapids Sheraton on 28th ST. Please register soon.

The Fall Conference host clubs are the following: Looking Glass and Grand Ledge. This will be held on Wed Oct 4th at St Jude's in DeWitt.

PROGRAM IDEAS

The following ideas have been presented by various individuals for next years' meetings. If you have other ideas please follow up and let us know what you are thinking about. This information is need by 5/24. That gives the team and possibly the person making suggestions time to get accurate information. IDEAS: Tool maintenance, rain gardens, herbs, CADL, a native garden nursery, Beth from MSU, trees and disease, pruning and care of hydrangeas.

DISTRICT 2B & MGC

As spring approaches many clubs are having sales. Please check the District 2B website if you are interested in supporting local endeavors.