

TWIGS

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EDITOR: Joan Lenhard

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

I am thanking everyone who helped on our Annual Meeting. Ann Lipkowitz was our gracious host, who arranged with the caterer for the meals. The meals were wonderful and her staff supported the set-up and other details. Ann Schoals arranged for the cake. Ronalee and Renee met with Ann and followed up on details. Nanette and Renee for the presentation of flowers to recognize members and their commitment to the club. Sue Kesti provided our official Induction into the upcoming two years. Ann Lenhard, Renee and Ann Lipkowitz assisted with the flower arranging for the centerpieces. Thank you to everyone for your help. No one person can do everything and the help each person provides completes the program. In addition, I thank every committee chair for getting your reports turned in.



The **BEAUTIFUL MILESTONE WOMEN** of 2023. Sue Kesti, Ronalee Polad, Barbara Lowes, Joanne Bauer, Reba Torongo, Sharon Drake.

Our Program Schedule book will be available this Sept. or earlier. We will keep you up to date on upcoming events, meetings or tours. Please keep an eye on your TWIGS and email.

June 12th at 10:00 we will visit Mike Hill's gardens. Lunch to follow at City Limits Bowling Alley.

The July Garden Tour is scheduled for Monday July 10th at 10:00 for the Meridian Historical Garden. This is located north of the Meridian Mall in the government buildings area. Lunch will follow at Joe's on Jolly or Lucky's Steakhouse.

On Monday July 24th at 10:00 we have been invited to Van Attas to learn about shrubs, Pruning and care. Specifically, Hydrangeas. We must have a count as to who will attend as handouts will be available as well as a gift. You will also have time to shop. Then off to lunch at Blue Gill Grill.

The Greens Market mtg will be held at the church as so many people are excited and ready to get involved with decisions and ideas. That meeting is Monday August 7th at 9:30. The September board meeting is Monday August 28th at 9:30 at the church.

HORTICULTURE

We try to plan our gardens for continuous bloom. I remember charting bloom times and how long each plant's flowers will last. Do they rebloom? What color? How does that work with adjacent plants? Etc. Obviously no plant blooms according to schedule, but even if it does, nothing can be that structured. What is forgotten is that for many plants, the foliage can be as interesting as the blooms. On top of that, the foliage lasts all season

and provides both a backdrop for the blooms and a show of its own.

As we all know, leaf colors can vary from the many shades of green (lime green to dark forest to grass green), to blues (think hostas, blue spruce, or little bluestem grass), dark reds/purples (heuchera, coleus, some maple trees), light yellows (more hostas, coleus, sungold false cyprus}, and even the orange of canna lilies. We can choose the white leaves of filigree hosta and the near black of weigelia tuxedo, ninebark diablo or purple majesty ornamental millet. I'm thinking of leaves in summer; the seasonal changes of fall bring even more shades and choices. Obviously, I'm also thinking about healthy leaves. Disease can cause issues that include unwanted changes in color and texture. Healthy leaves can be a single color, or they can be variegated, striped, stippled, or have contrasting edges. Leaf edges also vary from smooth to ruffled, spiny, scalloped, sawtooth – the list can go on.

Leaves also vary in the way they are attached to the stem. Some leaves grow as individual spikes from the ground, like grass. Other leaves are alternated along stems or appear to have several leaves attached to a stem joint or node.

Leaves add texture to gardens. There is a difference with the addition of a smooth leafed plant to one with ruffled edges, lobes or spiny sharp spikes. Additionally, we know the choices of size from leaves of grass and tiny mouse ears to elephant ears and canna.

Leaves also provide valuable functions to plants by absorbing sunlight and moisture, which help with the intake of nutrients and carbon dioxide and the transpiration of oxygen into the atmosphere. The process is called photosynthesis.

Now that spring is here, we are actively dividing and/or moving existing plants, choosing, and placing new plants, and being tempted by many more plants than we need. As you enjoy the many opportunities of spring gardening, be sure to consider that "right plant, right place" includes decisions about how the foliage in your garden will

have an ongoing impact throughout the growing season and seasons to come. Barb Amundsen

PROGRAM SCHEDULE BOOK & MEMBER UPDATES

June Garden Tour Mike Hill at 10:00, on the 12th. Lunch at 12:15 at City Limits.

July Garden Tour, Mon July 10th at 10:00 -12:00, at Meridian Historical Gardens and Buildings. Lunch 12:15 at Lucky's Steakhouse or Joe's on Jolly. VanAtta's Mon July 24 Time TBA. Topic: Hydrangea Care. **RESERVATION is REQUIRED**

August Greens Market mtg, Mon Aug 7th at 9:30 at the church.

Board Mtg Mon Aug 28th at 9:30 at the church.

September Club Mtg Mon Sept 11th at 5:00 at the church. 5:00-5:30 mtg., 5:45-6:30 dinner, 6:30-7:30 presentation.

GARDEN NEWS



(John, Beth, Sue, Sandy, Sherry at Scott Gardens)

SCOTT GARDEN Sherry McCue has agreed to co-chair the Scott Garden program. However, she is looking for another person to assist. Sue Kesti will continue to advise and mentor. It looks like our members are stepping up to volunteer on a few days to match working schedules. Barb Spottek and Carol Miller are looking to volunteer on Wed. Please reach out if this fits your schedule. The group also meets on Fridays. Keep in touch with Sherry.

THE BLUE STAR MEMORIAL This garden is attended by a few hands. Small flags were added for color for Memorial Day. It has been too cold to add annuals. Some of the perennials may bloom by the holiday. The park crew has helped with

mulching and weeding. Two members of the team are recovering from surgeries. Sue would love more help with this garden. Sue Kesti



(Blue Star at Frances Park)

(Content Redacted)

CONFERENCES

State Conference June 6&7 Grand Rapids - registration is closed.

D2B Fall Oct 4 8:30-3:30 DeWitt. Registration will be in September -bring your checkbook.

MGC Flower Show School Course 1, Oct 5-7 in Ann Arbor. Online Registration coming soon.

DISTRICT 2B & MGC

The 2B District newsletter was sent via Constant Contact on May 12th, please check your email for this very informative newsletter. The MGC newsletter was sent earlier via Constant Contact, but you can find it on the MGC website.

BOARD MTG

Monday August 28th at 9:30 at the church.

CLUB MEETING

Club Mtg Mon Sept 11th at 5:00 at the church.

FLOWER SHOW

Horticulture, Design and Botanical Arts including Photography

The Meridian Garden Club is organizing a flower show to be held in the Meridian Historical Village on July 8 open to 2B Garden Club Members. You can enter horticulture, designs and botanical arts which includes photography and floral designs.

This is a great opportunity to show the public your photos and to advertise District 2B Photographers. It also provides designers an opportunity to continue to develop their skills.

The booklet schedule was sent to the membership on 5/14/23 via email. If you have questions or to enter - Design, Botanical Arts, Photography or Horticulture Class 10, contact Sue Wittick.



(Beauty at Scott Garden)

WINNER APRIL Mtg

Sherry McCue won the microwave Flower Press for having the most usable material in dried flowers.

Theresa McAllister and her helpers from the DeWitt Garden Club assisted our members with making cards. They were very helpful.

Reba has made many cards, framed flowers, flower show entries and our beautiful name tags. Her husband Joe made four presses mostly with scrap wood. A press flower arrangement makes a beautiful gift. Congrats Sherry. Reba Torongo