

TWIGS

The Garden Club of Greater Lansing



Member of: Michigan Garden Clubs Inc. District 2B,
National Garden Club Central Region,
National Garden Club Inc.

Volume 12 #6

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December 2023

Distribution: Reba Torongo

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

This is a busy time in the year for many of us. We start in our gardens by cleaning up, and putting everything away from use this summer – lawn chairs (unless they are on a frozen Lake Lansing), tables,



pots, clippers, rakes etc. Next, we are preparing our snowblowers and shovels for what is to come. After that we are cooking and baking up fabulous food, cleaning and decorating indoors and outdoors, shopping and wrapping gifts. Some of you are traveling as well. And on top of that we ask you to help with the greens market. It is a very busy and stressful time of the year. No wonder we are exhausted. I hope you are finding YOU time for a reset. An afternoon nap, a good book to enjoy or a cup of tea to sip, a moment to watch the birds at the feeders, take a short walk in the forest, listen to some music. All or any of these actions may be helpful. Give yourself some rest and peace.

CHRISTMAS TEA

We made it through the year and now we have a moment to visit and enjoy the season. Bring your fancy Christmas mug. The hot water is ready and you can pick your tea. Plenty of edibles will be on hand. Carpool if you can for ease in parking.

HORTICULTURE

As we think about the holiday season, we appreciate the traditions and memories that have evolved over the years. My home must always include several beautiful red poinsettias.

Poinsettias are native in Mexico and Central America. Wild poinsettias grow from Mexico to Guatemala in tropical dry forests especially on western slopes and in canyons, although their native areas have been widely damaged by deforestation. They were considered as symbols of purity by the ancient Aztecs who cultivated them as early as the 14th century for use as a red dye.

Early names for the plant were Mexican flame flower or painted leaf. The name poinsettia was given in honor of Joel Roberts Poinsett, a botanist and the first US minister to Mexico, who introduced the plant to the United States in the 1820's. Poinsett sent poinsettias from Mexico to his greenhouses in South Carolina possibly as early as 1826.

The poinsettia is a Euphorbia species of the spurge family. The plants association with Christmas began in 16th-century Mexico, where a legend tells of a girl who was too poor to buy a gift to celebrate the nativity and was inspired to gather weeds from the roadside and place them in front of the church altar. Crimson blossoms sprouted from the weeds. From the 17th century, Franciscan friars in Mexico included the plants in their Christmas celebrations.

The traditional plant has dark green leaves, with flaming red bracts or leaves which are often mistaken for flower petals because of their color. The poinsettia flowers are small and are grouped within the small yellow buds (called cyantha), located in the center of each leaf cluster. The red color of the bracts is developed by a process called photoperiodism, which means that they require at least fourteen hours of darkness, with bright light for the other hours each day for 6-8 weeks for the color to develop.

Over the years new cultivars have been developed so that we now have colors ranging from the deep velvety red to orange, pale green, cream, pink, white, and marbled or variegated. Poinsettias also range from 2-13 feet in height. Currently there are over 100 cultivated varieties. Every year in the US, approximately 70 million poinsettias of all varieties are sold during the holiday season.

Many countries and traditions have varied meanings for poinsettias, however in general they are always considered a symbol of love, hope, prosperity, and joy. We all know that over the Christmas season they are welcome gifts. They also are considered as symbols of rebirth and renewal since they bloom during the winter months.

Poinsettias should be watered regularly and placed in indirect sunlight, away from drafts and cold temperatures. In late spring, they can be pruned back, and fertilized every two weeks. Re-pot them every 2-3 years and continue to enjoy the beautiful show. Barbara Amundsen

(Content Redacted)

TREASURER

John McCarthy is our new treasurer. I am truly thankful for this help. Remember John works and will not be at mtgs. **THEREFORE**, before a mtg send questions to John, Ronnie and myself so we can get answers. This step is very IMPORTANT. Thank YOU.



(The last hay bales for the season)

BOARD MTG

No meeting in Dec. We will resume Mon Jan 8th.

CLUB MTG

Our next club meeting is Mon Jan 15th. Our speaker is Thomas Moore. He will be presenting on CADL.

MEMBER UPDATES

It is time to bring out your yellow program book and make the corrections.

(Content Redacted)

Greens Market

Be sure to stop in and make a few items for our upcoming sale. Friday will be a busy day as we need to clean-up, price items, and set-up the room. We need lots of help this week to accomplish our goals.

On Sat Dec 2nd please come early (8:00) to finish anything not completed the night before. Be sure to bring any extra box of bags you have so we can help people get items to their car. Clean-up will start immediately after the closing of the Market. Please stay and help.

UPCOMING FLOWER SHOWS

Holly Jolly Flower Show, Youth and Adult Winter Flower Show for District 2B. Best Western, 2209 University Park Drive, Okemos, MI.