

TWIGS

The Garden Club of Greater Lansing



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

Now that the new year is upon us, we are getting ready to plan for the future of our garden club. It is hard to comprehend that we are at that time of year where we are planning for the upcoming year. The committee will meet in Feb. If you are interested in helping with this please let Ronnie and I know. We want to make sure you get the notification. If you have an idea for a topic please see if you also can assist in finding the speaker. We will also be looking at field trips and site visits. Our first meeting will be a ZOOM meeting.



(Wild Orchid -Rick)

I feel strongly that we can't wait to plan for our most important fundraiser of the year. This too will start

with a meeting in February. Let's get on top of all the issues and get a plan in place for our Greens Market. The people that have been overwhelmed and super busy with this project **MUST** have additional leadership. We are taxing people and this is not good for our club.

At the Jan board meeting a young man joined us for a few moments asking about the garden club. We invited him to the Jan club meeting. How exciting to start the year off with a new member. Rick will bring another perspective to our club that I am looking forward to. Previous to the club he was a CEO of a small Non-Profit. Welcome Rick, I look forward to your input. Joan Lenhard

HORTICULTURE

What keeps gardeners busy in the cold winter months? I have heard that question a few times. Over the last few years these are some of the things I have done to keep busy and focused on gardening.

This year I was concerned with the weather in December and early January being mild. I didn't think it would get cold enough for seed stratification. During Covid I used milk jugs and sowed my own seeds. This was fun and a little challenging. I had between 20-25 1 gallon jugs that I used for this project. I kept busy with the project, looking forward to the spring when I could take the

small plants out of the jugs and transplant into the raised beds and throughout the rest of the gardens. I did this for two winters.



(Wild Orchid – Rick)

Another part of gardening that many of us look forward to is all the new seed catalogues. I always get excited when they arrive. I have huge dreams of what flowers, vegetables, herbs shrubs and maybe a tree that I want. I look forward to the following catalogues: Prairie Moon Nursery, Territorial Seed Company, Burpee Seed, Bakers Creek Heirloom Seed, Johnny's Select Seeds, Bluestone Perennial Plants, Gurney's Seed and Richters Herb Plant and Seed. I actually become overwhelmed by all the choices. There is no one carrot or tomatoes seed. So many cultivars and choices. I have to make decisions and it gets tough.

Another thing that many gardeners do during the winter months is think about shrubs and trees. Do I add or replace a shrub or two? Are my trees healthy? Do I need to have them trimmed and shaped? Are they so big that now the issue is what happens in a severe storm with high winds, icing etc.? Do they need to come down? During the winter many trees and shrubs can be limbed up,

shaped and cut before they go to bud. Try to get the task done by the end of March.

Another task we may put off until the winter is our care and maintenance of our tools. Now is the perfect time to clean, sharpen and replace our tools if needed. Sometimes new gadgets are on the market and we may give them a try. While we are busy in the garage with our tools it is a great time to organize and cleanout the garage. Get our pots cleaned, do inventory on soil, fertilizers, herbicides and other products we use in the garden.

Gardeners are always busy with a project. One more thing to think about is care and upkeep in the coming years. Can I continue at this pace? Do I need to slow down with all the projects? Can I hire out some of the work? Well, we have a few more months of winter so now is the time to take stock and get ready for April and beyond. Joan Lenhard



(Wild Orchid – Rick)

SHOUT OUT THANK YOU

Hello friends. I wish to thank you for all the phone calls, notes, and beautiful cards. I am so grateful; You made my day special. "It's such a pretty world today- - look at the sunshine." Love you, Reba

Birthdays

No Birthdays.

TREASURER

The transfer of signatures and updates to the MSUFCU has taken place. We will work with John to make corrections in the categories for expenditures.

BOARD MTG

Mon Feb 5th at 10:00 (new time) is a ZOOM.

CLUB MTG

Mon Feb 12th @ 9:30 @ the church. This is a soup and sandwich luncheon. Ellen is the chair of the day and Barb L is the luncheon chair. Please review pages 30 and 46 for information on the day and responsibilities.

MEMBER UPDATES

(Content Redacted)

Thank you and the attendees for welcoming me to my first meeting of the Garden Club of Greater Lansing. During lunch with the members at my table, I mentioned seeing native orchids in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and was asked if I could send information to the leadership for sharing with the members.

I have kept tropical orchids for many years, and was completely astounded to find wild orchids growing locally that rival tropical orchids in their beauty and interest. I've attached a few photos as examples. I was introduced to Michigan orchids during the Aldo Leopold Festival (May 29 to June 2, 2024) in Hessel MI, which is about 28 miles east of St. Ignace. The festival organizes nature walks to see orchids, wildflowers and other native trees, plants, and fungi. Members can find more information on the festival website at <https://www.aldoleopoldfestival.org>

Rick Chung.

FUTURE MEETING

Our April meeting is a presentation on Ikebana. Start thinking about vessels and kenzans (frogs). We are looking into what supplies we might need to have on hand for members.



(Wild Orchid – Rick)

WEBSITES

I would like you to review our District 2B and MGC State websites. Please look to see if it is easy to navigate? Does it give you the information you need? Can you find information? What is missing? Do you like the format? I hope to receive your input at our next meeting.

Michigan Garden Clubs <https://migardenclubs.org/>
District 2B <https://mgcdistrict2b.weebly.com/>