

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 #10
Editor: Joan Lenhard

APRIL 2024

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Jennifer Wright, the speaker for March provided us an update on the school/science/garden program. It was this project that our club supported monetarily. I am glad she has been able to make a difference in the lives of these young students. She is supporting the youth with fun exciting projects while providing needed education. This project looks like it is most successful.

The Landscape Design School is moving along. Speakers are ready, registration has begun. It looks like it will be most successful. We have two people registered who are not garden club members in the state. The book is offered at NGC. However, I have purchased mine through Amazon. You can see the link below and make a decision. The book used to be required but is now recommended. <https://gardenclub.org/store/stewards-land?category=84>

Most folks have submitted their dues. John is now collecting the last few checks as they come in. Please review your previous interests and be prepared to make choices for committees, chair of the day and food at our next meeting. The sign-up sheets will be available at the next meeting.

Our April mtg will be fun and bring out our creative side. Cristy Bennett will present on Ikebana. Register with Ronalee so we have enough flowers.

HORTICULTURE

Hellebores are a lovely way to welcome spring. One species, Lenten rose, always seems to bloom during Lent. Mine opened their beautiful lavender cup flowers a couple of weeks ago. They are quite frost-resistant and continue blooming regardless of the early spring temperatures.



(Picture from Barb's garden)

Hellebores have a history that goes back to antiquity. They originated in Europe and Asia and are evergreen members of the buttercup or Ranunculaceae family. Currently there are at least 20 species, including those with common names like “winter rose”, Christmas rose, and Lenten rose. Despite their names, there is no connection to the rose family of plants.

The name, Hellebores, originated from an ancient Greek word (helleboros), or the combination of (*helein*, to “injure”) and (*borá*, “food”). In ancient times, it was considered good luck to grow Hellebores in the garden. Healers used them in a variety of concoctions and salves. It was also sold as ‘fountain of youth’, and as a powder for invisibility. Medieval witches were thought to use Hellebore powder to summon demons. Back at the beginning of the 6th century BC, Hellebores were used in the “First Sacred War” to poison the water supply of a city.

All parts of Hellebore plants produce toxins that can cause skin irritation, so wear gloves to handle them. To collect and save seeds from Hellebore plants, wait for the pods to dry and shake them into a container or onto a paper to loosen the seeds, rather than digging into the pods to extract the seeds. Usually, minimal exposure to the toxins will cause only a mild irritation and can be taken care of by washing with soap. A plus is that the toxins also make Hellebores distasteful to animals such as deer and rabbits which leave them alone.

Today Hellebores are available in a wide variety of choices. A newer species has yellow-gold leaves, rather than the traditional shiny dark green leaves. Blossom colors include white, yellow, pink, lavender, rich red, plum, deep purple, and light green, as well as blooms that are spotted or blotched with dark purple or red. Most of the plants

that we know are approximately 1 foot tall and wide. They grow best in the shade or partial shade and should be planted in well-drained soil with plenty of organic matter. Some Hellebores are quite difficult to transplant so choose their location carefully. I hope you have some in your garden. This is the time of year to enjoy their beauty. Barb Amundsen

SHOUT OUT THANK YOU

Master Gardener, Barb Amundsen reached the 2000 hour volunteer recognition. It looks like a few of us have a long way to go to reach these numbers. I missed this last month when I recognized our other members who have worked hard in the field as a Master Gardener.

Over the past 12 years, Barb has been very busy in the MG arena. She continues to volunteer at the Food Bank, assists with the MG newsletter and provides the garden club with an article monthly for our newsletter. The time spent with the MG program has been demonstrated by her knowledge in written material and her ongoing home projects within her own garden. Congratulations Barb.

MEMBER UPDATES

Have you turned in your dues? I have heard from a few of you that you will send them via the mail. Members are \$27.00 and non-member is \$37.00. Please send to John McCarthy. Make check payable to GCGL. Thank you.

(Content Redacted)

TREASURER

John was at our last meeting and was able to review our budget. He updated and made corrections where needed. He presented this information via graphs to show income, expenditures and where the money is spent.

BOARD MTG

Mon April 1st mtg 9:30 am. This meeting will be at the church for those interested in attending.

CLUB MTG

Mon April 8th @ 5:00 pm. This is a soup and salad dinner. Sue is the dinner chair. Review page 46 for information on the day and responsibilities.

Our speaker is Cristy Bennett. Her presentation is on Ikebana. It is important you register for this day. That gives us a count on how many flowers to have on hand. **You have received pictures via Ronalee as**

to what we might be making. Email Ronalee by **Wed 4/3** as she is going to purchase the numbers of flowers needed for this program. **BRING a vessel 6-8 in diameter that is short/low. We have the base.**

GARDENS

I am sure with this warm weather we have experienced our two gardens are starting to bud. Let's hope we will not have damage or great loss as winter like weather has not let up.



(Snow flying and surrounding the underside of these little beauties).

The huge trucks and materials at Scott Gardens have been great reduced. We should be able to access the parking lot and gardens without problem in mid-April. Over at Frances Park access to the Blue Star Memorial will be a much smoother ride as the roadway has been repaved. I am sure we will hear from our garden leaders next month to bring us up to date on care, planting and maintenance. Please think about stepping up to help with these two beauties.

FUTURE MEETING & REGIONAL INFORMATION

Flower Show School is being held in Ann Arbor on April 4-6. Registration is open. Ann Schools is

attending. This is a tough school and Ann has passed the first course. The symposium is Aug 6 & 7.

The Landscape Design School is now up on the website of MGC to enroll. Members of this club have done an outstanding job of arranging speakers, publicity, meals and all other logistics. Hurry and register. This school has generated a lot of **BUZZ**. The first course is April 17th & 18th at Trinity Church here in Lansing.

2024 MGC Annual Conference "Smitten with The Mitten Shore to Shore". June 10-11, 2024 Doubletree Hotel on the Riverfront Bay City MI. More information to follow.

The 2B District will hold a fall meeting. It is being developed by the Mason Sycamore Creek Club. The meeting will be Tue Oct 22nd in Mason at the Extension Building on M36 / W Michigan Ave., next door to Raynor Park. They are planning a great meeting.

UPCOMING FLOWER SHOWS

May 7-10 Victorian Garden Armory, Holland.
May 16th Celebrations of Spring, St Clair Shores.
July 18-20 The Garden Olympics, Spring Lake.
Check www.migardenclubs.org for details.

WEBSITES

I would like you to review our District 2B and MGC District websites. Are they easy to navigate? Does it give you the information you need? Can you find information? What is missing? Do you like the format? Share your thoughts next month.

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

Other learning opportunities for MG's and gardeners.

<https://www.monarchgard.com/classes.html>
<https://homegrownnationalpark.org/videos/>
<https://wordpress.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=41de5781d3fdbe6c3fd2e0d80&id=98f99671fa&e=4b516d81b6>