

# TWIGS

## The Garden Club of Greater Lansing



Member of: Michigan Garden Clubs Inc. District 2B,  
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### PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

What a fun night in April. Cristy Bennett shared with us her knowledge of Ikebana. Her handout and demonstration were wonderful and insightful. She provided history, understanding of the philosophy and development of the process of Ikebana.

Many of us took that demonstration and knowledge and put pencil to paper to draw out our design. The next step was taking the design and putting together the flowers and plant material to make a beautiful design. Graceful, simple and timeless is what I think of when I see Ikebana arrangements.

The proposed budget for our upcoming new year was presented. With minor changes we will be voting on this at our Annual Meeting.

I would like to thank the many hands who throughout this year have been active helping to set-up and take down, clean up and put the room back in order. This is no small task. We could use a few more helping hands on this committee.

Speaking of committees please think hard about how you can add your talents to the wide range of activities we have going on in the club. YOU are needed. You are what makes the club successful. Thank you to each and everyone of you who has risen to the challenge, brought solution and realize

that being active and supportive is what drives the club. YOU COUNT. Thank you all.



(Sample of Ikebana Design)

## MEMBER UPDATES

If you have a change of email, address or phone number please send to Ronnie. It will be added to our new book.

(Content Redacted)



(Sample of Ikebana Design)

## ANNUAL MEETING

The team has met and finalized the plans for the Annual meeting. Pink is our theme color. Our arrangements will be something we are familiar with.

Our guest speaker, Jean Kauffman is president of the Iris Society. Her presentation will focus on Irises. Such a graceful and yet robust bloom.

Our board will be installed by our state president, Nancy Ryan. Nancy has met some of our members at our last spring meeting.

Ann has again gone the extra mile and has added some wonderful touches to this event. Renee and

her team are looking into our awardees for our 5-year increment celebration.

Please arrive by 9:30 am as we will start on time. Remember as a Chairperson you need to complete your reports. You can send via email your copies to Ronalee and Joan. Bring one with you so you can hit the highlights.

The cost is \$32.00 per person. This includes: either chicken or salmon, plus sides, dessert -brownie or cheesecake, favors, coffee or tea. Checks are made out to GCGL and sent to our treasurer John McCarthy. We must have your reservation by: Wed. May 8<sup>th</sup>. John will let Ronalee and Joan know what our numbers are and communicate that to Ann to finalize your meal. Be sure to communicate which meal plan you are choosing. You can send an email to Joan with that information.

## HORTICULTURE

Once in a while we have something happen in our gardens that seems amazing enough to retell the story. My story this month is about a very special "star" of my spring garden.

I have mentioned my Star Magnolia tree in the past. This year it has out-performed beyond my expectations. We all remember the wonderful warm days of our false early spring this past February. My Star Magnolia enjoyed those days too by becoming filled with its beautiful white blossoms – in February!! Of course, they couldn't last when the warmth was followed by those cold, frosty days and nights and the cold winds of March. Every bloom froze. Most of the blossoms stayed on the tree, but they looked like brown curled leaves (or bunches of petals). The poor tree looked pathetic as it was completely covered by the brown reminders and remainders of the spring that was. Even the strong winds didn't knock those brown petals down. In past years we have had frost after the trees have started blooming, but I can't recall such an early warm spell nor such a contrast in temperatures.

Now that April has come (I'm writing this in mid-April), we have returned to a more normal spring weather pattern. My tree also has the advantage of

being close to the house, which provides some protection from the wind. Our days are warmer, with only a few short hours of cold on some nights. I'm delighted to share that my Star Magnolia is covered with white blooms **for the second time this spring!!** From being pathetic to becoming gorgeous again seems truly like a touch of garden magic!!! If I look closely, I can still see brown curled petals between the new flowers, but those don't really show any more.



(Star Magnolia Barb Amundsen)

This second bloom has changed my expectations for my Star. Since it always leafs out after it blooms, I admit that I was worried about the effects of the frozen brown early bloom. Now this second bloom appears to show that the tree has recovered enough that it will leaf out as usual, and that there will be no lasting effects from the untimely, early bloom.

Hurrah for spring!! Let's hope that the fits and starts of this year are settling into a normal pattern so that we can again predict what our plants need and how to take care of them. Barb Amundsen

### **TREASURER**

John prepared a operating budget for the club. It will be presented for our May mtg. John will be conducting a review of previous books with the committee on Finance.

### **BOARD MTG**

Mon May 6<sup>th</sup> mtg 9:30 am. This meeting will be at the church for those interested in attending.

### **CLUB MTG**

Mon May 13<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30 am. This is our Annual Mtg. See the article for details.

### **GARDENS**

The teams were ready to tackle the clean-up at both garden sites. The weather did not cooperate. With over an inch of rain and winds at 25 mph or greater it was not the time to be outside. I know members have been at both sites looking and planning for the upcoming season.

### **REGIONAL INFORMATION**

State Conference is fast approaching. I have to make a decision on a delegate. I have had a few people ask about this. I would like to appoint someone who has not had the opportunity to be a delegate before to attend the conference. The club will pick -up your registration. I will be going and am willing to share a hotel room to help save on those costs. Please contact me immediately. We can get you registered and paid for. Ronnie will help with this process if confusing.

### **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.  
Sept 21 YesterYear - Meridian Garden Club.  
<https://meridiangardenclub.weebly.com>

## **SPEAKER / PRESENTER**

Alysia Babcock, Master Naturalist and Advanced Master Gardener was the speaker for MSU's monthly retiree meeting. Her topic was the advantage of using Native Plants in our gardens. She explained how native plants evolved with our local species to provide food and why they depend upon one another for survival. Unfortunately, non-native species interfere with our local ecosystem and in the case of invasive species, can outcompete and destroy it, harming our environment and its local pollinators, insects, and birds. She gave many examples of what invasive/non-native plants she would recommend replacing with native plants that would be a better choice in our landscaping.



(Sample of Ikebana Design)

She discussed a few invasive plants that were of particular concern to her including Oriental Bittersweet and Garlic Mustard. One that I was

unaware of was the Lesser Celandine which outcompetes the other spring ephemerals and is now carpeting areas of Frances Park along the wooded walkway and the stream that drains through it and into the Grand River, spreading it downstream.

<https://www.brandywine.org/conservancy/blog/invasive-species-spotlight-lesser-celandine-ficaria-verna#:~:text=However%2C%20not%20all%20spring%20ephemerals,they%20even%20have%20a%20chance> .

Another that I've often confused with phlox is Dame's Rocket. However, Phlox has five petals whereas Dame's Rocket has four. She shared her Mnemonic: Petals five, leave alive...Petals four, show it the door. Linda Sue Sulzdorf



(A retreat in the city)

Remembering our summer tour. This quite tranquil place is a peaceful respite from a busy day. Koi, lotus blossoms, quiet waters. All of this makes for a perfect backyard retreat. Thanks John.