

# TWIGS

## The Garden Club of Greater Lansing



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

### President's Message

The cold snap that we are experiencing is something we have not had in a few years. This is an important part of our environment for plants, seeds and cold stratification by nature. However, we must keep safe a warm during this extended period of cold.

I thought I would be hobbling along with a bionic hip at this time. My surgery was postponed because I had emergency dental work. For those who have had hip surgery (and other surgery) you must be a minimum of 6 weeks pre- or post-surgery for any dental work. It can lead to severe complications. I am going March 5th.

Our membership dues are due by March 28th. You can bring a check or cash to the February meeting or send it in the mail to John. Page 40 lists membership information. The due date helps us get the *Program Book* together. Thanks.

The board and club members had a very healthy discussion on the GM. Lots of information and ideas were exchanged. Great thoughts about how we progressed from our summer workshops to our workshops making décor for tables

and doors. **Joan** will convene a committee meeting when she returns for next year's GM plans.

### February Club Member Meeting

It is a good day to have hot soup and sandwiches. The team will have 2 or 3 soups, desserts and morning goodies together. Everyone else brings a sandwich to share. Information is in your book on page 40. This is another popular lunch.



Specimens for different categories in a garden show

**Joan** will chair the meeting with **Ann S.** as a backup. Please send information/reports to **Ann, Ronalee** and **Joan** for the agenda.

**Ann** will be working hard to get a team together for the upcoming flower show. It will be sometime in the summer of 2026. She will need a full year plus to get everything done. You just demonstrated with the GM how capable you are of an event. I look forward to working with Ann and the rest of the group to make this event **SPECTACULAR**. Ann will convene a meeting for the Flower Show Team immediately following our February meeting. Please stay and learn more about flower shows and what Ann is looking for. This will be a great program for all of us. Meeting is February 10th between 12:30–1:30.

**Ann, Ronalee** and **Joan** will also be looking into people who are interested in running for the board. Joan would like a full slate by March 1st. It is not too late to think about what committee(s) you want to work on in the future. Joan is looking for people to assist with our meals for the remainder of the year. We need a few more people at each meeting.

The program planning committee will also be gearing up for the upcoming year. If you have any ideas, topics or speakers please be sure to pass this on to the program planning committee. As all good gardeners know we use the winter for planning, generating ideas and dreaming of fabulous gardens. So let your imagination soar and think of subjects/topics, field trips and activities.

Whatever the weather does, in February we also continue to enjoy our piles of catalogs as we want to order far more than we need. At least the nurseries know enough about Michigan's unpredictable weather to wait and ship plants when they can be safely planted.

This year I need to replace shrubs along the front of my house. The area is shaded by a large old maple tree. Much of the area under the tree is filled with hostas, with a few corydalis, jacob's ladder, astilbe and ferns. I "just" need something taller close to the house.

Finding shade shrubs that I like has kept my catalog shopping focused. As the tree grew larger and the shade increased, we tried various combinations over the years. Last fall my well pump needed to be replaced (yes—I live out of town), and I lost several shrubs that were removed to access the pipes and pump. Of course, now I want foundation plants that grow amazingly fast, bloom for a long time, have attractive foliage for three seasons, and a structural shape that is ok during

## Horticulture

When I think of February, it feels like the winter will end and we can "almost" start thinking about spring. So far this has been a winter with grass that is still green, relatively little snow and few slippery roads. Even the cold winds have lasted for only a day at a time, and we've had many days with temperatures in the 30's. It will be interesting to see how this affects plants that are used to being dormant in cold, frozen ground for weeks at a time.



Lady's Mantel, Tall White Daisies, Red Mohican Alliums, Blazing Star Liatris

the winter. They should have few predators, not be prone to disease, and be easy to maintain. Oh—yes—they also should be about 3–4' tall so they fit just up to my front windows!!!

Whatever you're looking for this year, I hope you are enjoying your catalogs too. Just remember that catalogs give the best attributes of every plant. It can be helpful to look up the names of any potential new plants on your computer and see how the sales "hype" and pretty pictures are interpreted by another source. Usually, you will find the same information, but sometimes it's worth the extra effort to confirm the facts about your new "finds."

—Barb Amundsen

## Travel Opportunity

All aboard for a repeat of our trip to St. Louis and its historic Missouri Botanical Gardens that 8 of us first made some 10 years or so ago. More than once it's been suggested to me that we return, and it occurs to me that we may have enough members interested in joining in again.

In a nutshell, here is my proposal. We would leave East Lansing on Amtrak on either May 19 or May 26, returning 3 days later (total of 4 days). The current round-trip cost is \$128 for adults, and \$115.20 for ages 65+. Initial hotel research at the Pear Tree Inn we stayed at last time shows a cost of \$270 per person, sharing two to a room, full breakfast included.

More details will be shared at our February 10 meeting. Barbara Lowes

On another note, it has also been suggested we work with another garden club for a trip to Belle Isle or we put on the trip ourselves. Looking to go sometime in July. Could be a fun season of looking into gardens all around.

—Joan



## February Club Meeting

Come in from the cold and have a cup to warm you up around 9:00. Visit with members and take a minute to enjoy. Meeting is Monday, February 10th at 9:30.

We have two very talented women who will lead us in card design/ making. **Reba** is well known for her skills in dry flower arranging. So for those who dried flowers please bring plenty for us to share. Reba also has some. Typically we have more than enough so stay and have some fun. Reba would like you to bring the following supplies: Tweezers, wet wash cloth in baggie. If you have a plastic lid with short sides such as from small coffee can or any other. I will bring a kit for all who sign up. Please call Reba, leave your name as attending. Her kit is most helpful.

**Ronalee** is our other talented card maker. She will bring lots of supplies for you to use in making or designing your card. Ronalee uses many different papers and added designs to enhance your card. Stay and have some fun.

## February Celebrations

**Suzanne Burger**

## February Board Meeting

Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30 at the church. **Joan** will be the chair for this meeting. Please send information for the agenda by January 27<sup>th</sup>.

## Upcoming District and State Events



The District Fall Meeting is on Wednesday, October 22. Williamston is our host. The event will be held at Milestones on Haslett Rd. Details will be forthcoming. Mark your calendar now for the fun event. This is also Williamston's 100-year anniversary.

The State Conference is June 9 & 10 in Holland. Pre conference fun events are on the 8<sup>th</sup>. More information will be coming soon.

Again, mark your calendars for the fun times ahead.

## Membership Dues & Updates

Your membership dues must be in by Friday March 21<sup>st</sup>. You can bring your check or cash to the February meeting and Joan will deposit. After that all checks must go to John. Please review page 40.

We are looking at a new registration/sign-up process for our members and new members. We will roll it out soon. This is something that will help membership and give us information about your qualified skills and interests. It will be an online form that you click and input information. If you have problems with the process, we can help you complete the document.



## New Member:

**Yvette Smith**

