

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

Our February meeting was fun. Everyone was amazed at the many patterns, colors, designs that can be used to make cards. **Ronalee** brought a tables' worth of everything you could think of to make our cards.



Ronnie gave a little demonstration but stressed the importance to take your time, look over the materials and make a plan. I can see why so many people enjoy doing this. With all the colors, designs and patterns you can create so many things. That was the challenge for some of our folks. Letting go of structure and being in free flow creative mind is not the easiest thing for some folks.



But... everyone enjoyed the process. We had many beautiful cards.

We had another person express interest in our club, **Andrez Chuney**. This young gentleman found us through MGC. After talking with him he sounded like he was going to join. He was also into card making. Andrez is interested in community gardens, empowering individuals to learn and grow their own products. He brings lots of knowledge of community. I think he will be an asset to the group. He thought it was cool that we have such a variety of interests and presentations.



Horticulture

Well—I was hopeful, but spring isn't here yet!!! It's difficult to curb our enthusiasm as the snow thaws and the temperatures gradually start to climb. This

time to use an outdoor cold frame. Whichever method you use, it's comforting to know that we are truly getting ready for spring and planting time.

If you are starting seeds, a general rule is to start them 6–8 weeks before the last predicted frost date. Seed germination time and growth patterns vary a great deal. Be sure to check on how long it takes for your seeds to germinate and to become large enough to transplant into your garden.

Check packages or online to see the time to germinate. Also check whether your seeds need a cold (refrigeration) time before you can plant them in soil. Once they are planted, be sure to keep them watered, away from drafts and give seedlings about 12–14 hours of sunlight (or grow light) each day. One trick that I like indoors is to put a small plastic bag over seedlings as they start to grow. This helps to keep the moisture on them and to concentrate the light.

While we are starting new seeds, it also is time to reflect on what's happening to our plants outdoors. Plants go dormant in winter in response to shorter days, cooler temperatures, and other environmental changes. This dormancy period allows them to conserve energy and survive the winter.

As plants grow, they are affected by temperature and sunlight. During the summer months, plants use photosynthesis to

is the time of year to check that our tools are clean, pots are ready for use, and to force ourselves to be patient. It's also a great time to start seeds. If you have a grow-light, seeds can be started indoors. As the weather seems more consistent, it's also a good



change carbon dioxide, water, and inorganic salts into carbohydrates. While carbohydrates are used by the plant, excess carbohydrates are stored for use during the winter. When the day length shortens and temperatures begin to fall, plant growth slows down and plants begin to move sugars and carbohydrates from the leaves down into the roots. Ultimately the plants conserve energy by becoming dormant. They use the stored sugars and carbohydrates they produced during the growing season to survive the winter.

Dormancy is a mechanism vital to plant survival. If plants were actively growing during the winter, the water in the stems and leaves would freeze. Winter also has less sunlight for trees and plants to use. Water becomes scarce with the ground frozen making it impossible for many plants to endure the cold weather months.

Plants know that winter is coming. As the days get shorter and the nights get colder, this signals to the plant to slow down growth. Dormancy is the process of staying alive while they wait for renewal and a fresh start. Once the weather is warmer, the plants come to life and begin their process of photosynthesis and growth all over again. —**Barb Amundsen**

March Meeting

Get ready to return to the evening hours for our March meeting. **Ronalee** will be managing this meeting as both Ann and I will be unavailable. This meeting is a casserole and salad dinner. Last month the team was already getting ready. **Renee** is stepping in for Ann. Members bring a salad or casserole to share. The dinner committee is bringing desserts, setting up the refreshment table. Don't forget your dinnerware. Plans are also taking place for the flower arranging and theme.

Upcoming Education

So much to learn and so much information to share. I hope some of you have received the following information and have registered. Register for the "2025 MI Ag Ideas to Grow With" virtual conference, **February 24–March 7**. www.canr.msu.edu/miagideas

Another free education program is from the following website: <https://www.smallhousefarm.com/>

Click on shop, online education and the Spring Garden Summit. Bevin has presented before.

Program Committee

Meeting coming soon. In the mean time please review the E Lansing Sr Prime Time program. Go to www.ELPRIMETIME.com p17 of the brochure. Many interesting and dynamic options that we might want to look into for our upcoming year of speakers.

Travel

Some of our members are taking off for the Philadelphia Garden Show. I can't wait to hear about their experiences. **Barb Lowes** talked about a trip to St Louis via train. Check in with her about details.

Member Update

Reba is recovering at home and will still be sending out our correspondences.

Birthdays

Bri, Sandra F., Beth H., Judy, Sandy O., and Linda Sue. Let's wish them a very happy birthday and month to celebrate.

