

TWIGS

The Garden Club of Greater Lansing Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE WILL SPRING EVER COME???

We had a wonderful meeting in April! So many members came to me and said how much they enjoyed our speakers. **Lois Snover-Hanson**, National Garden Club Master Flower Show Judge and Dennis Bunning from Van Atta's were the presenters on design for our meeting. It's been a while since we have done this. Hopefully we can do it again soon!



(Dennis Bunning, expert designer at the April Mtg)

I hope to see many of you at the Annual Mtg. on May 14th. If you are a committee chair please have your report in triplicate. One for the President, one for the Secretary and one for yourself. Guests are welcome to the

luncheon and to our afternoon program. They would have to pay for the luncheon in advance. Looks like an interesting speaker. More information can be found in your yearbook.

I can't stress enough how much we need your help on different committees. We are a busy club and many hands make lighter work. You are expected to help with a luncheon whether it is chair of the day, luncheon chair or on the committee. Please think about a committee that you would like to be on if you haven't signed up.

The Landscaping Design School-Course IV was held in Kalamazoo, at the end of April. These courses can be taken out of order. Our club will reimburse you for your class fee. Check your IIB Newsletter for upcoming events through the IIB website.

While applying for our Club of Distinction award I was surprised how many members do not subscribe to the National Gardener! If you like to enter the flower shows this gives you updates on the latest designs, horticulture information and loads of information concerning the National Garden Club's news. It is only \$8.00 a year, 3years for \$21.00

headquarters@gardenclub.org or
www.gardenclub.org. Submitted by Ann Schoals who along with the rest of us is anxiously awaiting SPRING.

JUNIOR GARDENER CORN PROJECT

This year was full of surprises and many blessings. One of those surprises was having

9 schools in our oldest service area, rejoin the project.

Our greatest blessings came as a twosome – tied with a shocking surprise. We were short 600 pots for the project because of a perfect storm. The two-for blessing was working with Van-Atta's Nursery to find a solution and getting a tip to go around the corner to Christiansen's Nursery. Great challenges either shatter relationships or strengthen them. Regardless of what the future holds as we strive to meet the renewed interest in growing both gardens and especially gardeners, we came through this with mutual respect and good-will.



(Deb Albert getting more pots ready)

Can you imagine the thrill of being able to pull together 600 pots of soil on delivery day? This is second only to the thrill of being able to send all of our wonderful volunteer drivers on their routes while Sharon Burton, co-chair and I dealt with and filled those 600 pots. How about the blessing of getting the pots and flat trays for \$0.07 each? Add in the sunshine and permission to work through this in Van Atta's parking lot and you begin to understand the magnitude of wonderful. The perfect storm that made this a surprise moment has to do

with the size of pallets, change of operations for nursery stock at Van Atta's, and coordinating the timing of product order (August) and school count (April). These challenges are being investigated to find a more forgiving approach.



(Sharon Burton working at filling more pots)

More blessings came in the form of our dedicated team of ambassador drivers that graciously increased the number of schools. The drivers served to accommodate a 39% increase in the number of students and a 46% increase in the number of schools. WOW!!!

Please join me in thanking [Joanne Bauer](#), [Jenny Bond](#), [Sharon Burton](#), [Sue Kesti](#), [Ann Lenhard](#), [Barbara Lowes](#), [Mary McCullough](#), [Karilyn Mull](#), [Barbara Spottek](#), [Reba Torongo](#) and [Jean Viele](#). The team that delivered to 2600 students at 23 schools in 2017 is the same team that delivered to 3800 students at 33 schools in 2018. That is impressive. We can not forget our Shot Gun Runners and Drivers: [Karilyn Mull's friend Mary](#), [Richard Kesti](#), [Randy Spottek](#), [Joe Torengo](#) and [Don Viele](#). You are appreciated! Submitted by, Deborah Albert

DUES

Active and new member fee is \$26.00. Associate fee is \$36.00. Send check to Barb

Lowes or bring to meeting. Make check out to **GCGL**. While it is too late to get information into our program book we are still accepting your dues. Submitted by Barb Lowes



(March 2018 IIB Garden Show MSU)

GCGL ANNUAL LUNCHEON MEETING-MAY

Jan Bills is our speaker for this meeting. Jan is the author of *"Late Bloomer."* She will focus her presentation on gardening in the second ½ of life. This should be a great topic as we look for ways to manage our gardens.

The luncheon and meeting will be at Gilbert and Blakes on Okemos Rd just north of Jolly Rd. on May 14th. (REMEMBER there will be construction at Jolly and Okemos Rd. allow for additional time to travel thru this busy intersection. OR from the Mason area use Hagadorn to Bennett -rt to Okemos Rd -rt it will be on the left. Coming from the west or north Mt Hope to Okemos -rt it will be on the left.). Please be sure to have a check for **\$27.00** made out to the **GCGL by May 5th**. Send check to Barb Lowes and call Phyllis so she has an updated count. Many thanks. **P.S.** **Committee Chairs remember 3 copies for annual report.** Submitted by Phyllis Irwin.

MEMBER UPDATES

If you have any info you would like to share with the members please submit and I will post in this section.

I am sorry to report that Reba's sister has passed away earlier in April.. Reba made the trip to Missouri during one of our bouts of bad weather. In the previous month Tootsie's sister passed away. Please remember these two women and their families at this time

TRAVEL BUG

I am interested in some day trips to areas with gorgeous gardens and garden centers/shops. If you too have this bug please let me know.

Interest includes: Cranbrook, Meadowbrook and Riverlake Inn at Colon MI. Submitted by Joan Lenhard



(March 2018 2II Garden Show MSU)

MICHIGAN ALL-STATE BONSAI SHOW

Enjoy stunning bonsai trees on display in the Grand Room. Shop for bonsai, specialty pots, and growing supplies from a great selection of vendors. Attend free demonstrations on May 12 and 13, at the Frederik Meijer Gardens in Grand Rapids. Watch bonsai artists at work. This is a free event.

SPRING PLANT SALE -Michigan State University Extension Service

Great deals on hanging baskets, perennials, annuals, grasses, herbs, vegetable seedlings, shrubs, and more. May 18, 4-7 p.m., is reserved for members. May 19, 7 a.m.-2 p.m. is open to the public. The sale is being held in the Plant & Soil Sciences Building. Remember to bring your own cart. More information is available by calling 517-353-0328 or at www.hrt.msu.edu/our_gardens.

MUSHROOM HUNT

After our presentation in March some of you maybe interested in this event. Mary Fredricks, a member and botanist/mycologist of the Royal Oak Nature Society, will lead the walk through Cummington Park. Anyone with an interest in learning more about mushrooms and other fungi of the urban woods is welcome. Park and meet at 10 a.m. at Leafdale and Torquay. There is no pre-registration or cost for this walk. This walk is scheduled for Thursday May 26th with the RO Nature Society. You can find out more about this group at **Royal Oak Nature Society** Email: naturesociety@romi.gov
Website: www.romi.gov/nature
Phone: 1-248-246-3380

SPRING 11B GARDEN MEETING

The Spring District IIB Spring Meeting and Bee Ready for Spring Flower Show at Eagle Eye in Bath was well attended and a joy to attend. There were educational exhibits, vendor booths, and morning pastries, coffee and tea. The salad luncheon with the tasty bread was generous.

Beautiful table centerpieces and 2 decor baskets were available for auction. In addition, there were many beautiful silent auction items to bid on. A high light for me was the beauty of the 96 horticulture entries. The yellow daffodils were most likely coaxed to bloom just at the right time. Thank you Lois Snover-Hanson for your suggestion on forcing a cut flower to bloom! I certainly want to plant more variety of daffodils in my yard. They are one of the first welcoming signs of Spring.

Life Membership Presentations. Awards were presented to clubs for their yearbooks,

community projects and newsletters. GCGL received second place for TWIGS. Congratulations Joan Lenhard and all who contributed to our publication!



(first time design)

There were two speakers with great presentations. Vic Foerster was the first speaker. He is consulting arborist for Grand Valley State University, the City of Grand Rapids and has commercial and residential clients. In addition, he is an author. His recent book release "*Hidden in the Trees, an Isle Royale Sojourn*" is under consideration for the Michigan Notable Book Award. He educated us and held our attention by sharing many of his experiences both as an arborist and explorer of nature.

The second speaker was Gretchen Voyle. She is an MSU Extension Horticultural educator for Livingston County and has 30 years experience where she ran the Gypsy Moth Suppression Program and the Emerald

Ash Borer identification and Education program. She writes and teaches in the Master Gardener program. Her presentation was on "Backyard Critters We Love to Hate". She stressed that the first line of defense against these critters was to repel them by removing branches, trees and foliage 6-8 feet from the house. Humor and her satirical style kept us laughing while we learned.

Two garden clubs were presented with a new Local District Director's Award established in Marilyn Lee's name. The Marilyn Lee Awards are awarded at each of the District IIB meetings. Meridian Garden Club award received one for their project "Plant it Pink", a garden to provide healing and meditative space for the survivors of breast cancer, their families and the Meridian Township community. Across the Fence Garden Club, received an award for a beautification project.

The Fall IIB district meeting will be hosted by the Brighton Garden Club in Howell, October 25. Look for news in the upcoming months. Submitted by Sue Kesti.



(Another first time designer)

HORTICULTURE REPORT

Containers can be a great way to showcase plants, fill in spaces and add interest. An outdoor container can be anything that will hold soil, and have sufficient drainage.

Choose the container and plants to complement each other and the space where they will be located. Consider size, shape, colors and textures. Locate containers where they can be easily watered. Remember that pots need water more frequently than plants in the ground (often daily or even twice a day when the weather is hot).

Plants can be annuals, perennials, bulbs, grasses, herbs, vegetables, small shrubs or trees, or any combination. Use plants together in a container which have similar growing requirements for sun or shade, water and soil type. A good general guide for a container is a thriller, spiller and a filler. Thriller is the special focus of your container (something to draw the eye). Spillers droop and often hang over the edges of the pot. Fillers tie the two together and literally fill in the available space. You can vary this any way you like and may use more or fewer than three kinds of plants, vary leaf sizes and textures, choose coordinating or contrasting colors, etc. Create an effect that you will enjoy. Remember that the plants will grow, so leave space for plants to grow together.

In general annuals have the longest bloom time, and are often used in container plantings. Sometimes choosing plants that have great foliage spring through fall, or that bloom sequentially through different seasons can help. Another possibility is to choose basic plants to form a framework and then replace a seasonal plant that is spent with one that blooms later rather than replacing an entire container.

Containers can be a quick way to fill in garden space, provide contrast and interest within a garden, add interest to a patio or seating space. Just use your imagination and have fun with containers. Submitted by Barb Amundsen