

# TWIGS

## The Garden Club of Greater Lansing Newsletter

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

If you made it to last months meeting you know it was a great day. Good food, good friends and a great demo and workshop with Lois Snover-Hansen. She is a friendly and funny teacher! It was interesting the different arrangements that turned up with a big variety of flowers. I also found Joanne Bauer's talk on her monarch nursery very interesting. Speaking of Joanne Bauer, it's that time of the year to start talking greens market. Our next meeting will start us off with demonstrations on how to make a wreath, swags and boxwood trees. Everyone can do this! Our luncheon will be a salad or casserole luncheon, so please bring one or the other and your table service.

Don't forget about the Oct. 25 District meeting in Brighton. They are always very interesting and it's fun to talk to other garden clubbers with like minds. There will be a photography showing, which is a first. If you are interested the cost is \$30.00 and needs to be sent to



Barbara Lowes before Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>.  
(Designs from Sept mtg)

Sounding like a broken record, PLEASE!!! We still NEED someone to volunteer as secretary to take minutes of our board and membership meetings PLEASE!!! Also looking for a photographer and a historian. PLEASE!!! Consider taking a position. Really, you will enjoy it!

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!! Ann Schoals

### SEPTEMBER DESIGN WORKSHOP 101

What a super workshop from Lois. I along with many you found a creative outlet with guidance, support and encouragement from Lois to make a beautiful table scape. Maybe we will have some people enter shows after today's fun morning. The following notes were taken on our presentation.

1. The height of a table arrangement should be no more than the distance from your bend elbow to the top of your open hand.
2. Yellow is so "big" that if you use it plan on it being the star - ie: not just 1-2 yellow flowers but featured.
3. If you use a white container put white in your arrangement so the container does not steal your eye/attention
4. False indigo/ baptisia is a good source of fall filler in an arrangement
5. Autumn Anemone and Obedient plant are good fall flower sources for arrangements. Autumn Anemone is not a bulb like species spring bloomers are.
6. Not cutting back iris/lilies after blooming is a valid option and adds a winter interest to

your garden

7. Eucalyptus has three varieties that work well in arrangements, offering blue-green to lime green choices without the intense color/fragrance of the species variety.

8. Feet in the shade and head in the sun - but what was the plant she was discussing?

9. Scotch tape, folded on itself except for attachment points, creates a grid so plant material can stand tall. This action stabilizes flowers when placed in the container.

10. A frog in a container can be limiting; if your proposed arrangement is larger than the frog, impale your oasis on the frog which accomplishes instant stability.

11. Lois recommends a methodical placement, starting with the container boundaries, for example:

A round arrangement you would establish the outer perimeter boundary and work toward center.



(Lois

Snover-Hansen)

For an arrangement placed against a wall you would establish the end of the container bordering the wall by first placing plant material along the end which will face the wall and working toward the front. She did say these parameters were guides and not fast rules.

12. Woody plants can be dried by hanging upside-down after wrapping bundle in a rubberband

13. Dried plant material can be spray painted with ordinary spray paint to suit your needs.

Colorful plants/flowers should be sprayed white first and subsequently sprayed the target color. It is acceptable to highlight spray the material though more common to completely change the color. Deb Albert

### **HORTICULTURE** Leaves of Autumn.

I used to think that leaves changed color and fell as a result of frost. Actually growing conditions do affect fall leaf color, but frost is not necessary for leaves to change. Leaves are green because of the pigment chlorophyll which is produced by the plant. Chlorophyll supports the plant's production of sugars through a process called photosynthesis.

In summer the green color of chlorophyll is dominant and masks any other colors in the leaf. As daylight hours start to decrease, photosynthesis begins to slow down. This causes less chlorophyll to be produced. As chlorophyll degrades, hidden colors of yellow, gold and orange are visible. The brightest leaf colors are caused when there are warm, sunny days and cool nights. Warm days cause the leaves to continue to produce sugar and cool nights cause the leaf veins to carry fewer nutrients from the leaves to the roots. This results in a buildup of sugar in the leaves, which produces the reds, purple and crimson colors. This is most visible when there is adequate moisture in the soil. A drought can cause a delay in fall color, as can warm fall weather which may cause early leaf drop.

Leaves turn brown when they lose color pigments. This happens when the green of chlorophyll is degraded but no other pigment is visible. After leaves have fallen, we can consider using them in mulch. Leaves can be broken into smaller pieces by using a "leaf chopper" or a lawn mower. Mulches smother weed seeds, help plants to retain nutrients, and contribute to plant protection by regulating soil temperature and moisture. An advantage of using leaves for mulch is that over time they break down and add organic matter into the soil. Be careful in using leaves that have not been shredded. Larger leaves (such as oak or maple leaves) or heavy layers of mulch every year can limit air flow and smother plants.

They also can trap what moisture is in the ground which leads to root rot or mold on the ground. Always try to leave air pockets for plants to breathe. This can often be done by leaving a little space between the plant stems and the covering of mulch. Barb Amundsen

### **DISTRICT IIB FALL MEETING**

There's still time to sign up to attend this "Avant Garden" event, hosted by the Brighton Garden Club at Crystal Gardens, 5768 E. Grand River, Howell. Cost is \$30, payable to GCGL. The registration deadline is Oct. 11. The event is Thursday, October 25. Our next GCGL meeting is Oct. 8, so that will be your last chance to sign on.

The morning and afternoon programs will be the senior horticulturist & Whiting Forest grounds manager for Dow Gardens, and an artist and photographer presenting "Botanical Art: Intimate Portraits."

These seasonal District meetings are always a pleasure and a treasure. Car pooling can be



arranged. Barb Lowes  
(Arrangements from Sept mtg)

### **GREENS MARKET NEWS**

Let's Think About Greens Market. We are entering the busiest time of year for GCGL. Our only fundraiser is our Greens Market. This supports our projects, philanthropy, and activities. It is with the help of all members that success will come, therefore, it is necessary to have high attendance during the

two weeks of workshops.

Please sign up at our next meeting for as many, even all, of the days you can. Plan to make as many items as you can. There will be a sign-up sheet passed around, so please bring your master calendar from home and sign up for as many days as you are able to attend. Thanks to our generous members who work so hard AND have so much fun at the same time. We're gonna have a happy time!! Reba

### **November**

12-13 Swags

14-16. Wreaths

23 Boxwood Picking @ MSU & Washing and bagging at home

26-29 Boxwood Trees & Fresh Arrangements

30 Set Up for Market Day

### **December**

1<sup>st</sup> is Greens Market

### **SEPT LUNCHEON COMMITTEE**

Thank you to the luncheon committee, Barbara Amundson, Sharon Drake, Linda Norwood, Ann Lipkowitz, Linda Brownell for the salads, gazpacho soup and delicious desserts. Our presenter Lois was excited to join us for lunch. We look forward to more



interactive sessions like this.

(Barb Lowes working on design -Sept mtg)

Lois's demonstration of using items we might have in our own yards was inspiring. Members brought some cuttings from their yards to share. Lois also brought items for members to

use in their designs. Left over items will be dried and used for greens market arrangements. Everyone enthusiastically produced lovely and varied designs using their own containers or purchased some from the club. We were able to use some of those designs for centerpieces for our delicious luncheon. Sue Kesti

### **TRAVEL BUG**

Deb Albert and I had a wonderful day in Romeo. We visited Mr Tapper's garden. He is responsible for all designs and ideas for the development of his property.

Mr. Tapper has a variety of fundraisers throughout the year. He will match the money donated and gives back to his community. Last year he donated \$40,000.

For more information a large article was written in our regional garden letter.

### **OPEN POSITIONS**

Secretary and Historian. Please think about helping us out in either of these two positions.

### **UPCOMING DATES**

Oct 1 Board Mtg

Oct 8 Garden Club – Salad or Casserole Luncheon. A demo day of Greens Market production.

Oct 11 Payment for District IIB Mtg – send to Barb Lowes

Oct 15 TWIGS deadline – send to Joan Lenhard

Oct 22-23 NGC Regional Convention – Frankenmuth MI

Oct 23 District IIB Fall Mtg in Howell hosted by Brighton Garden Club.