

TWIGS

THE GARDEN CLUB OF GREATER LANSING NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"Wow" was one of many enthusiastic comments offered as club members entered the beautiful setting at the Grand Ledge Country Club for the 2019 Annual meeting. Elegant, festive, warm and comfortable were some other expressions offered as we viewed the white and pink theme on the tables. Ann Lipkowitz arranged center pieces with various pink, rose and white flowers from her yard atop silver and clear beaded topiary. The pink printed programs added to that elegance, thank you Ronnie Polad!



(L to R Barbara Spottek -5 yr, Sandy Oleson 05 yr, Linda Brownell, -5 yr, Jenny Bond -10 yr, Ann Schoals -30 yr, Tootsie Lambo -30 yr, Leigh Kussro-35 yr. Missing from the picture is Kaye Lani Walters -35 yr)
The above members of the GCGL celebrated membership years.

Thank you to co-chairs Phyllis Irwin and Barbara Spottek for the selection of this beautiful venue. Thank you to the committee of Jenny Bond, Donna Craft, Sharon Drake, Ann Lipkowitz and Temp Petovello for making the annual meeting such an enjoyable event.

I look forward with a sense of excitement as we mark the 88th anniversary of The Garden Club of Greater Lansing (GCGL). The theme for 2019-2020 is "Learn, Share, Grow". There are many ways to visualize that as we all participate in the programs and events offered by our GCGL, District IIB, and Michigan Garden Club. Please be involved by reaching out to new members and welcoming them to participate on committees and attend all the programs offered.

We learned from our speaker, Erin Pavloski about the Mid-Michigan Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) as she informed us of priority invasive species and what our role could be in educating ourselves, learning how to identify, reduce the spread and manage those species. Now we need to share that knowledge; that will encourage the growth of that knowledge for ourselves and our community. You can report and inquire at www.misin.msu.edu or call 517-676-2290.

Please remember Donna Craft; we were sad to learn that her husband Carl passed away this past week end.

ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

The big takeaway is the use of the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network (MISIN) at www.misin.msu.edu. There is reporting, ID training modules, fact sheets, and more on that website.

More information about our CISMA online at www.inghamconservation.com/mm-cisma and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mmcisma

Be on the lookout for the following invasives: Japanese Knotwood, Black swallow-wort, Phragmites, Japanese Barberry, Oriental Bittersweet, Autumn Olive, Common Buckthorn, Glossy buckthorn, Invasive honeysuckles, Tree of Heaven, and Spotted Knapweed. You can send photos of plants to the CISMA at erin.jarvie@macd.org

Pests and early flowers watch for: Asian long-horned beetle, Spotted lantern fly, Oak wilt, Dames Rocket and Garlic Mustard.

Remember to PlayCleanGo!

PlayCleanGo: Stop Invasive Species in your Tracks! Take the pledge at playcleango.org

- Remove plants, animals, and mud from your boots, gear, boat, and trailer
 - Clean your gear before entering and leaving a recreation site
 - Drain bilge, ballast, wells and buckets before leaving the area
 - Dry equipment before launching into another body of water
 - Dispose of unwanted bait in a sealed container
 - Use certified or local firewood and hay
- Erin Pavloski, presenter, edited by Joan Lenhard

JULY GARDEN TOUR

We have two gardens to tour Monday July 8th with lunch at DeLuca's around 12:30 pm. I must have a number of garden peepers to share with the hosts and the restaurant. Deadline is Monday July 1st. Tour will start July 8th at 10:00 in E Lansing. Details with addresses in our July issue. Joan Lenhard

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 5 & 6 Michigan Garden Club Conference in Traverse City.

Designer Workshop review the following:
Wednesday, July 17, 2019 Discussion on "Mechanical Deconstruction" 10:00-12:00
Design Project – Bring a completed design of

your choice. Each design will be deconstructed to learn from each others' choice of mechanics/techniques. Mechanic: Device used to hold and control direction of plant material and non-plant material; Handbook page 147 and pages. Also, see pages 81-83 on techniques. Discussion will be followed by a potluck lunch and continue with the 2020 Flower Show Schedule Meeting.



(L to R Linda Norwood, Ann Schools. Linda won a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Annual Meeting)

UPCOMING SALES

The Wild Ones Red Cedar Chapter is holding a native Michigan plant sales this spring. These plants will provide habitat for birds, bees and butterflies and are perfectly adapted to Michigan's weather. They are also free of harmful pesticides.

Saturday, May 25, 2019 8:00 am-2:00 pm
Meridian Township Farmers' Market
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864

MSU Horticulture Household Plant & Succulent Sale
1066 Bogue St. Plant and Soil Science Bldg.
Nov. 2nd 8-4 pm

HORTICULTURE

Gardens are built in many layers. To me the foliage is often overlooked in planning and planting. I love flowers and have as many as possible, however regardless of how we try to keep blooms going, perennials and shrubs have their blooming seasons and then the plants spend the rest of the warm months as foliage. There are so many wonderful shapes, sizes, colors and textures to provide on-going stability for our changing seasonal blooms. Grouping plants or repetition of color and shape can create interesting textural appearances. Using annuals will provide even more possibilities. Just be sure to document anything you especially like so that you can repeat it another year.

We all are aware that leaves have many shapes, sizes, and colors. Some leaves are glossy; some appear somewhat fuzzy and soft, some have sharp edges, others are lobed, large, small, everything in between. Additionally some plants change by the season, or perhaps while they bloom, while others change color in spring with new growth or in fall.

As we choose plants and place them in our gardens, it is useful to recognize these differences in the foliage and consider the overall effect the plants provide. When they are not blooming, plants provide a backdrop to their neighboring flowers, but we want that effect to be harmonious or contrasting to enhance the overall appearance of the garden.

I always try to keep a few dark red leaves in my perennial garden. Often these are heuchera as a mid-low height plant, but there are many other good choices as well. Ajuga is a good shade ground cover; Chocolate Joe Pye is a taller choice. Their contrast with all shades of greens, blue, and yellows is lovely. They also provide a good complement to blossoms.

Many leaves are variegated or splashed with contrasting colors, have colored edges, colored centers, or definite patterns. My

personal preference is to group these plants so that the multicolored leaves can be effective, and to mix them with solid colors so that they become a focal point and not an overload of pattern.

Lovely effects can be created by grouping plants with leaves of different sizes and shapes but of similar color. To me the most effective groupings that I have seen use several textures of blue leaves, to provide a cooling effect.

The effects of color can be either jarring or soothing, effective or intrusive. While I like foliage that is yellow-green, to me that is effective as an accent and contrast, but not as a large massed grouping of plants. Personal preference allows the creation of effects you want.

Whatever your choices, be sure to consider the foliage as you choose new plants and move existing plants this spring. It's fun to experiment with foliage placement. We find more exciting choices and combinations every year. Barb Amundsen



(Blue Star Memorial Frances Park)

BLUE STAR MEMORIAL

The self-imposed deadline to have the Memorial garden designed and planted by Memorial weekend happened even in the light rain. It started with Sue Kesti taking a sample of the soil and getting it analyzed. It looks like the soil is in pretty good condition.

The team of Sharon Drake, Sue Kesti and Ellen Bloomer put together the red, white and blue theme. Planted in this years garden are Shasta Daisy, red Geraniums, English Lavender and Blue Salvia. This design gives us color throughout the season with annuals and perennials. This is a sun loving planting and full of pollinator plants.

The June board meeting is being held at Frances Park. Everyone will have an opportunity to enjoy this garden along with the many others at the park. Ellen Bloomer



(Incoming board LtoR Sue Kesti -President., Ronnie Polad and Joan Lenhard -VP, Barb Lowes -Treasurer, Ann Lenhard -Corresponding Secretary, Reba Torongo and Barb Amendsen -Recording Secretary).

JUNE BOARD MEETING

Our next meeting is being held at Frances Park located on Moores River Drive, between MLK and Mt Hope. The meeting will be held in the pavilion. Remember to bring your own personal picnic basket. Bring what you need-plate, napkins, beverage(s) and container (mug, coffee, water), flatware etc. The committee is looking to provide some refreshments.

AWARDS

Shortly after the first of each year, the President receives a request for an annual report to MGC. This is approximately 4 pages of questions about each club's participation, focus of programs and activities, and viability in its community. There is an elaborate scoring system. The questions and report focus varies somewhat from year to year. The

application is submitted at the beginning of March, and we are very pleased to have received a "Diamond Club of Distinction", as evidence of outstanding effort in achieving over 1400 points. This reflects that we should be proud of all that our club represents in the Greater Lansing area.

Other awards are submitted in October based on the previous year's work. The actual award presentations are at the District IIB meeting the following spring. In October 2018, the Club applied for four awards from MGC. We received these results at the IIB meeting this past April. The awards were for the Newsletter, the Yearbook, Holiday Tree, and Junior Gardening. We were pleased to receive recognition for each of these areas.

GCGL has applied for a award for our Newsletter for many years. Again for 2017-18 our Twigs was recognized. We received 1st place in District IIB, and 2nd place from MGC. Many thanks to Joan Lenhard for our outstanding newsletter. The Yearbook award again is an award which we have received for a number of years. We were recognized with a second place award from District IIB.

A new application this year was for a holiday tree that focused on objectives of MGC and NGC. We submitted the butterfly tree to the Lansing Area Festival of Trees in December 2017. The GCGL tree was in support of the black swallowtail butterfly, with a plaque and information in support of our theme. We were pleased to receive a first place award both from District IIB, and from MGC, which gave us a check for \$25..

A second new application this year was submitted for the Corn Project. This program is geared to kindergarteners and first graders and has been in existence since 1979. The club provides seeds, peat pots filled with soil, and directions to schools. Students plant under the direct supervision of teachers because we can no longer easily enter the schools and work directly with the students. We received a 1st place District IIB and a 3rd place MGC Caroline Gray Award of Merit. The

Caroline Gray Award is designated for an outstanding project with school-age children in an area of horticulture, nature study, conservation, flower arranging, beautification or civic concern.

Members are encouraged to look at the list of possible awards on the MGC website. Some of you may see relationships between some of our activities and/or events with current awards. I'll be glad to complete the application paperwork for anything that may have been overlooked. We continue to look for new award possibilities. Barb Amundsen,

CONE COLLECTION FOR GREENS MARKET

HEMLOCK: Begin to fall in March

AUSTRIAN PINE: 1st 2 weeks in June

DOUGLAS FIR: Fall in June

NORWAY PINE: Fall at end of June

WHITE PINE: Fall in October

NORWAY SPRUCE: From January until 1st grass cutting. Please store in paper bags.

To bake cones, line a cookie sheet with foil, place cones and bake for one hour at 200 degrees. Turn oven off and leave in until cool.