

TWIGS

The Garden Club of Greater Lansing Newsletter

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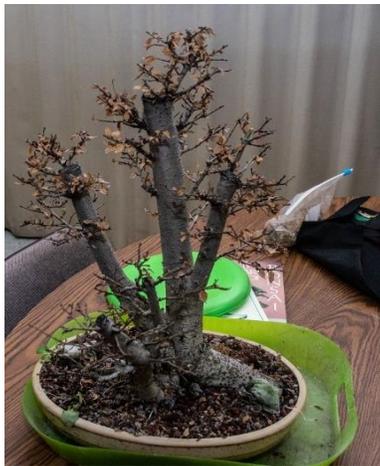
March 2019

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Distribution: Reba Torongo

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring Count Down. 21- 1 day at a time. Our February meeting was wonderful! So colorful it just made you feel better after all the gray, cold and ice. I want to thank Linda Norwood, Ellen Bloomer, Karilyn Mull, Ann Lenhard, Barbara Spottok and Ronnie Polad for a beautiful meeting. The soups and salads, the centerpieces complete with take home, handmade gifts for all was just what we all needed.



Our speaker was Jerrie Nichols from the Mid-Michigan Bonsai Club (Pronounced "Bones eye"). She really made the whole process less terrifying to give a bonsai a try. Good basic information on soil, tools, types of plants. It was great. I would like to thank those that made Valentines for Vets. They have been sent on their way. Hopefully it puts a smile on their face that someone remembers them.

Next month should be a great one too! Egypt Krohn of Hunter Park Garden House manager will give us tips and tricks to growing our own. Salad and Sandwich luncheon so be sure to bring your own service and a sandwich to share.

Lots of interesting events coming up:

February 20th Designers Guild meets at 10:00 at Michigan Nature Assoc. 2310 Science Parkway, Okemos

February 25-26 Orchid Show at the Plant, Soil Science Bldg. At MSU.

March 16-19 IIB District Flower Show at MSU Pavilion.

April 18th District IIB Meeting. \$25.00 Howell, Livingston County Public Safety Bldg. \$ in by 4/01/19

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

Count Down to SPRING. Ann Schoals, Pres.

HAPPY St. PATRICK'S DAY!!

MEMBERSHIP DUES

It's that time of year ladies - time for those pesky dues. Paying them in a timely manner will guarantee your contact information will be printed in the new Yearbook. Dues are \$26 for Regular Members, and \$36 for Associates, same as last year. Be sure to bring your checkbook to the next meeting. If you are not going to be at the March meeting send the check to Barb. Barbara Lowes, Treasurer

UPCOMING EVENTS

Master Gardener Classes 3/4-6/10 Mondays 5:30-9:30 at Ingham County Fairground Offices.

Horticulture Therapy Conference March 8th at MSU Plant Soil Science Bldg. Be sure to register early and get a break on the fees. Garden Show and Exhibit at MSU Pavilion

3/14-3/17. Be sure to sign-up for hostessing.

GARDEN NEWS

I look forward to Friday. It is not about TGIF, but articles in the Detroit papers. I look forward to reading what Nancy Szerlag shares for gardening. Nancy is a Master Gardener, columnist and oversees gardens in the metro area. It is in this weekly column that my interest in gardens has grown immensely. Every week something new and wonderful to read. I learned about Detroit Garden Works, Buffalo Garden Walk (month of July-one bang up weekend) and about up and coming events in the metro area. You can follow her at <https://gardening.yardener.com/> or her Blog at <https://nancysgarden.wordpress.com/>

The January 28, 2019 Homestyle section of the Detroit papers had an article about some of Nancy's favorite seed catalogs. Here is a list: Johnny's Selected Seeds, Richters Herbs, Territorial Seed Company, Pinetree Garden Seeds, Botanical Interests Seeds, Renee's Garden Seeds, Peaceful Valley Organics, Seeds of Change, Sow True Seeds, Nature @ Nurture Seeds.

Another article identified perennials used to pollinate gardens. This article was on Friday January 11th. This too was in the Life Styles section. The information came from Janet Draper out of Washington DC. Calamintha White Cloud attracts bees of all stripes. Also recommended is Hyssop (up and coming Herb of the Year), Allium Millenium just to name a few. These articles are just filled with tidbits and makes me eager for spring.

While searching for some of the above information I happened across another website that is fantastic. It is the SPRUCE. <https://www.thespruce.com/> This site not only has information on gardens it includes: Trends, Décor, Gardening, Cleaning Solutions and the list continues.

Enjoy combing through catalogs, looking at websites and getting your mind ready for **SPRING**. IT really is around the corner – at least I hope so. Joan Lenhard

HORTICULTURE

Recently my daughter sent a picture of several perfect daffodils cut fresh from their yard. I admit I am very jealous of North Carolina's spring in March and look forward to seeing their lovely flowers at Easter. HOWEVER, I also admit that I don't like 24 hour a day air conditioning to withstand their summer heat. Our spring is worth waiting for; I'll stick with Michigan to enjoy our seasons and the anticipation of one-by-one signs of spring.

March is an exciting, busy month to get us in the mood for warmer weather ahead. While we need to practice a great deal of patience before doing much in our own gardens, there are a number of upcoming programs and events to keep us busy. The Greater Lansing Home and Garden Show at the MSU Pavilion includes the IIB spring flower show. GCGL (and other MGC) members can participate by serving as hostesses, clerking for judges, exhibiting plants or arrangements, and certainly by attending the show. Arrangements need advance scheduling as there are only 4 spaces allowed in each category. Forced branches and house plants do not need advance registration. Everything to be exhibited needs to be free of insects and/or disease, be well-groomed with broken or discolored leaves trimmed or removed, be in a clean (preferably coordinating) container, and it helps if you know the name and botanical name of your plant or plants in advance. Remember that this is a four-day show. Be sure that you know how your exhibit will be watered. If your arrangement or plant needs special care to water, be sure you plan on doing that yourself. Also, while you're at the show, take time to learn what you can. There will be many creative exhibits from landscapers with good ideas and new plant names as well.

Other programs to consider during March include: the Wildflower Conference on Sunday and Monday, March 10-11 at Kellogg Center on the MSU Campus. For details and registration: www.wildflowersmich.org On

Saturday, March 16, the MSU Horticulture Gardens offers their annual Spring Make & Take. The program features 3 presentations and will be held in the MSU Plant & Soil Sciences Building, 12:30-5:00 pm. For more information and registration, <http://www.hrt.msu.edu/SP-Register> There are workshops offered by the Hunter Park GardenHouse. Topics, presenters registration information is available at <https://gardenyear.eventbrite.com> . As the Garden Centers wake up for spring, Van Atta's Greenhouse begins its spring offerings. Those are listed at www.vanatta.com . Begin to check out new plants and possibilities at other garden centers as well. Just don't buy yet unless you have your own greenhouse, or plan to keep plants indoors for a couple of months.

When we see this many garden activities, we can have hope. Spring can't be far behind!!
Barb Amundsen

FEBRUARY PROGRAM RECAP

GCGL enjoyed a very interesting program in February. Our speaker was Jerrie Nichols of the Mid-Michigan Bonsai Club. Our first lesson was that it is pronounced "bone" – sigh." That will take some practice for many of us.

Bonsai started over 2000 years ago in China. It was used in Japan approximately 800 years ago, which added more rules, ritual, stylization and cultural interest. Many bonsai are considered cultural treasures. The oldest that is currently known is 700-800 years old.

Bonsai can have a variety of plant origins. Jerrie mentioned a geranium, and a schefflera as examples of less usual plants.

She suggested buying a plant/tree already in a pot (preferably a bonsai pot); then your goal is to keep it alive. Basic plant requirements are the same as other plants – light, water, temperature control, soil, fertilizer, and over wintering care, just much more specific needs. Specific requirements vary, but all should be checked for water every day. They may not always need water but can dry out very fast.

Soil should be inorganic, pumice, lava rock, hard-fired clay. These give good drainage. She uses fertilizer in a tea bag and gives it to the plants only once a year. Repot small plants about every year. In general the plants are placed so that their leaves get lots of sun and warmth; roots are in the shade and more protected.



Several tools were shown; the most important are good scissors,

bamboo skewers or some such to put soil into pot, good wire cutters (flat on top so you don't nick the bark) and a sieve to get rid of dust.

Jerrie shared a handout which showed different styles of design and a list of references. Any of us who attended could scan and copy it for those who are interested.
Barb Amundsen

DETROIT BELLE ISLE

A year ago Piet Oudolf was chosen to update the gardens on the ISLE. This choice was from The Garden Club of Michigan. Two local gardens are The Lurie Garden in Chicago and The High Line in New York. This is exciting. He is known for many gardens. He uses perennials and grasses for naturalizing and structure. I look forward to seeing the transformation. A website has been established that you can visit. <https://www.oudolfgardendetroit.org/> On FB you can follow the updates at OudolfGardenDetroit. He also has a movie called **FIVE SEASON** *The Gardens of Piet Oudolf*

Two of his books are: *Planting the Natural Garden* by Peit Oudolf and Henk Gerritsen. The other book is *Planting a New Perspective* by Peit Oudolf and Noel Kingsbury. I look forward to a trip to the ISLE this summer - maybe two. Joan Lenhard

SPRING SUMMER FALL GARDEN TRAVEL

I plan on doing one day trips when possible

this year. If you are interested and want to go please email me. If you have a garden you would like to see let me know that too. At this time I am looking at MSU Tollgate Gardens area, Meadowbrook, Whiting (new treetop walk) and hope for a few more. Joan Lenhard

Greenmede Historical Village

20501 Newburgh Road; 38125 Baseline Road (8 Mile Road) Turn right off 8 Mile onto Newburgh and go Joshua Simmons Road and turn right. We should get information at 248-477-7375 and to make arrangements for visit. or admin@livoniagardenclub.org

1820's Homestead. 3 plus acres. Many buildings, barns etc. were moved thee making a village (similar to our Meridian Village. When I was there, a flower show was in the house - all rooms - and there were multiple gardens around the village that were maintained by the Livonia Garden Club at that time ---eons ago. Reba Torongo

PLEASE SAVE. CUT AND POST BY YOUR COMPUTER

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www.gardenclub.org

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