

TWIGS

The Garden Club of Greater Lansing Newsletter

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National Garden Club Central Region,

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HAPPY SPRING!! ! FINALLY!

First of all I want to thank the luncheon committee for our April meeting. I didn't get a chance to do it. Barb Amundsen, Mary McCulloch and Karilyn Mull did a lovely job. Thank you to Sue Kesti for bringing in the flowers for the tables. We tried hard to bring spring to a rather cloudy day!

It was a great day as our speaker Lois Snover-Hanson magically turned store bought flowers into beautiful Tussie Musses. I received one from Beulah Voorheis and Donna Craft. Lois is always a joy to have as a speaker.

May is our Annual meeting and will be at the Grand Ledge Country Club. Phyllis Irwin and Barbara Spottek and Ann Lipkowitz have a wonderful day planned for us. Our program with Sandra Wilkins "*Painting a Garden Symphony*" sounds very interesting. Afterward is our plant exchange. Bring a plant, take a plant. No plants to bring? Make a small donation to the club. If you are a committee chair please bring your report of the last year in triplicate.

We plan to have a flower show in 2020, I see that Meridian G.C. will be sponsoring a flower show June 3 at an Iris farm in Okemos. Try to attend to get ideas for our show and see what goes into a show.

I attended the spring District meeting in Howell on the 18th. Very well attended, definitely had a different agenda that most seemed to enjoy.

Less structured, much more casual.

June 5th & 6th Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. will hold their conference at the Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City. The floral arrangements, speakers and camaraderie are amazing! Attend if you can. Deadline is May 15th, after that is a \$20.00 late fee!

October 25th will be the next District mtg., sponsored by the Dewitt Millennium G.C. District IIB will soon have a new director, Anne Crimmins from Hartland G.C. in Howell. Our very own Ronnie Poland is the new treasurer, and I will be helping with the event planning.

I think we have an exciting new year ahead of us with Sue Kesti as our President. She has lots of energy and really is passionate about our club and our endeavors. Actually, the whole new board promises to bring in fresh and exciting ideas to our club.

I have enjoyed being your president for the last two years, it has been fun to see how garden clubs have changed through the years and are adapting to the 21st century! I wish the new board well and hope all of our members will help support them. Thank you, Ann Schoals

ANNUAL MEETING

Join us May 13th at Grand Ledge Country Club House. Located at 5811 E. St Joseph Hwy. Grand Ledge, 48837. RSVP by May 1st with payment of \$27.00 made out to GCGL and sent to Barbara Lowes. Caterer will be Saite's.

Questions contact Phyllis Irwin or Barbara Spottek.

APRIL PROGRAM RECAP

Lois Snover-Hanson led members in a workshop on making a Tussie Mussie at the April meeting. As always, Lois was an enthusiastic teacher with information and directions that were easy to follow, and good demonstrations.



(Notice the delicate linen hankie and fancy pin used the wrap and protect the hand of the carrier -design by Lois)

We learned that the tussie mussie was a very old traditional design which was originally used for its scent to make the wearer smell nice, and to mask odors around her. Usually the flowers chosen included herbs or scented flowers. This also could have been a fashion accessory as it was either worn tucked into a garment's bodice or even carried. When the tussie mussie was large enough to be carried, it was called a nosegay.

Members brought their own flowers, and many brought flowers to share as well. The flowers were arranged as a somewhat flat circle or dome shape and symmetrical in design. The stems were cut off to a uniform length. Finished designs were secured in place with wires and then tied with ribbon. Mine fit nicely

into a vase with a small amount of water (so the ribbon can stay dry) and it still looks fresh.
Barb Amundsen



(Beautiful arrangement and inspiration by Lois)

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.

JULY GARDEN TOUR

I am so excited to tell you our tour in July consist of two spectacular gardens. We will eat at DeLuca's. I must have a number of garden peepers to share with the hosts and the restaurant. Plan on a great time for July 8th starting at 10:00 in E Lansing.

INCOMING BOARD

President: Sue Kesti

Co-Vice Presidents: Ronnie Poland & Joan Lenhard

Treasurer: Barb Lowes

Secretaries: Barb Amundsen & Reba Torongo
Corresponding Secretary: Ann Lenhard

IIB GARDEN MEETING

A large number of IIB'ers attended the spring meeting in Howell. The casual atmosphere was refreshing. Upon arrival the hosts were welcoming and busy getting everything ready for us.



(Design by J Lenhard)

The morning speaker was from Bordine's. His presentation was a pick of favorites for the garden. He talked about new choices on the market. Some of the flowers will definitely be making their way to my garden. He also left us with a catalog of plants, shrubs, and trees. A bonus coupon too.

Many hands helped prepare us for the afternoon activity. Lois Snover-Hanson led us in an activity using pool noodles. Now all of us have experience in putting together an abstract centerpiece. I am sure this means we will have many people entering future garden shows. It was great to see so many people at the meeting participating in a fun relaxed atmosphere. Joan Lenhard

(Inspiration by Lois Snover-Hanson)

MEMBERSHIP DUES

You can still get them in but your information will not be in the book. Don't worry we will make sure everyone adds your information to their book. Dues are \$26 for Regular Members, and \$36 for Associates. Send the check to Barb. Barbara Lowes, Treasurer

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

If you are interested in the Designer Workshop please review the following:

Wednesday, April 24th at 10:00am, meet at the Michigan Nature Association Building, 2310 Science Parkway Dr., Suite 100, Okemos, MI. 48864. Please bring the Handbook for Flower Shows - revised 2017 and your project for the day. Our meeting ends around noon.

Our project is themed: "Creative Form." This is because our design type to practice is "Topiary." See Handbook page 94 for explanation.

The idea is to create a topiary design using only flowers found at the grocery store. Or from your basement. Can be fresh or dried. You can bring your project all assembled or finish it at the workshop. The following is an

upcoming schedule for this group.

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 other's 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.

Wednesday, October 16, 2019 "Low Rider" 10:00-12:00
Design Project: Low Profile – Handbook page 78 – Advanced Design Types. A three-dimensional design incorporating three or more design techniques. See pages 81-83. Techniques used must be listed on your 3x5 card. This information has been condensed by Joan Lenhard. The original information was sent to people who already participate in the Designer's Group by Kathi Dominguez.

HORTICULTURE

Peonies are among my favorite early summer flowers. They are such a very old, yet new plant. Peonies have a very long life, require relatively little care and their blooms are prolific and beautiful. While my own peonies are old plants, they can only boast about 20 years, nothing like their potential.

Wayside Gardens recently listed five reasons to plant peonies: 1. They are deer resistant; 2. They are considered omens of good fortune, wealth and happiness; 3. They live up to 100 years; 4. They are named after the Greek god of medicine and healing; and 5. Some produce as many as 50 blooms per year. To add a couple of my own reasons: 6. Although the blooms are wonderful, the foliage can stay attractive throughout the warm months. 7. With a small amount of care they add beauty, color and texture to the landscape. 8. They are lovely as cut flowers. Peonies were described by Marco Polo as, "roses as big as cabbages".

Grow peonies in full or part sun, with well-drained soil of neutral ph. Depending on the variety they bloom from May through June. They grow throughout the United States, but need the chill of winter to promote bud formation. While a few are scented, most peonies have no scent.

Peonies are most easily acclimated if they are planted in fall. This is especially true when moving an established plant. They can be planted in spring but take longer to adjust to the new environment.

While peonies thrive on benign neglect, their location in the garden needs careful consideration. Plant them away from trees or shrubs so they don't compete for soil nutrients, and at least 3-4 feet apart to give them good air circulation. Plants that are closer are subject to powdery mildew. The lovely large blooms require some shelter from strong winds. Cages or stakes are often needed to help stems support the heavy flowers.

Plants are subject to a variety of diseases. To control problems, cut peonies to the ground at the first sign of disease or at least before winter. Be sure to bag and discard your cuttings. This keeps disease from being carried by plant debris from year to year.

Peonies also are affected by small ants which eat pests. They are attracted to sugary deposits on the outside of the flower buds or to honeydew produced by scale insects. Do not spray peonies to remove the ants. They help to keep the plants healthy. Just shake the flower heads a few times before taking them in the house! Barb Amundsen

PLEASE SAVE. CUT AND POST BY YOUR COMPUTER

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