

TWIGS

The Garden Club of Greater Lansing Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Exciting to see so many cars in the parking lot for Greens Market workshops this week! There is so much camaraderie and joy in the room where swags and wreaths are being assembled. It is a true joy to participate! Thank you to all who are and will participate. Everyone doing what they can, when they can will ensure a success. And this is a great opportunity to get to visit and know each other. Thank you to Joanne Bauer for keeping us all on track.



(Creative way of standing dried seed heads and spraying for GM)

We have so much to look forward to: working on the rest of greens market workshops, the big greens market day when the community lines up and eagerly inspects fresh arrangements, boxwood trees, etc. If you have a chance, go to the Turner Dodge House Festival of Trees from December 7- January 1. All three floors will have as many as 60 trees decorated. Thank you to Deb Albert and her crew for entering a tree for GCGL. Don't forget the Christmas Tea on December 16! See your member handbook for details.

Other upcoming events: Greens Market recap for membership meeting January 13, 2020; Learning about Orchids from our speaker at February meeting and attend the Orchid Society Show at MSU February 22-23. March brings the District IIB Flower Show at MSU, more opportunity to learn! Hope you will all have a joyful holiday season! Sue Kesti

HORTICULTURE

As we work toward Greens Market and decorate our homes, it seems appropriate to consider a very condensed summary about some of the greenery around us even during this cold season.

Ask a child to draw a Christmas tree, and you'll find a pretty good silhouette of a spruce! All varieties of spruce have needles that are short and stiff. Each needle is attached separately to the branch by a projection or collar. The cones hang toward the ground and develop into a smooth, flexible shape with thin scales. Spruce trees typically grow into a "perfect" conifer shape with most branches looking upturned.

Pine needles grow in clusters on the branches. They are softer and longer than other conifers. The cones hang towards the ground. Fully developed cones are stiff and woody, and very inflexible. Fallen pine needles raise the pH of the soil, although the trees prefer a slightly acidic soil. The needles are often used as mulch.

Fir needles are soft, flat and most have two white stripes on the bottom. The cones grow upwards like candle flames. Fir trees often develop into tall,

upright shapes.

Both arborvitae and cedar needles tend to be somewhat flexible and fern-like. We appreciate their decorative contributions to wreaths and swags, as well as in our yards. Junipers have short, stiff, spiky needles. The best way to decide if it's a juniper is to grab a handful of foliage. If it hurts, it's a juniper!

Boxwood, holly and mountain laurel are broad leaf evergreens that are widely used in landscapes and in holiday decorations. For some species, the berries stay on holly throughout the winter season.

Also we can't forget the evergreen perennials that add to winter landscapes. Many ground covers stay green even under the snow. Vinca, creeping phlox and pachysandra are three popular ones. Larger perennials include yucca, hellebores (Lenten rose), heuchera and heucherella. Candytuft can be grown as an evergreen too. Prune it to keep new evergreen leaves coming, as these look better than the older leaves.

While this is just a partial list, and each species has many varieties, it seems to me that any green in our homes or yards help to make the winter go faster. As we think of spring we crave green as part of the winter interest that surrounds us!! Barb Amundsenn thing but it." This tree would later come to bear his name – the Douglas fir.

GREENS MARKET WORKSHOPS

Nov 29 9:30 to 11:30AM Cutting Boxwood

Dec 2-6 8:30AM to 3:30PM Boxwood Trees & Fresh Arrangement

Dec 6 9:00AM to 4:00 Bag loose greens, finish arrangements, price products, clean-up and set-up of area for sale.

Dec 7 8:00 am to 1:30 pm Set-up & final touches, Sale, & Clean-up.

WAYS & MEANS

Calendar books - Vision of Beauty 2020 are in stock and available for purchase at \$5.75 each. These make nice gifts for your gardening friends and family. Limited supply available to members before greens market Dec. 7th. Ann Lipkowitz



(Sandra Flanigan, Sherry McCue, Mary Sullivan-our three newest members and Ann Lenhard cutting greens and building wreaths)

SMALL MIRACLES FLOWER SHOW

District IIB members, Jenny Bond (Garden Club of Greater Lansing) and Sue Wittick (Meridian Garden Club) are co-chairing a flower show at the Greater Lansing Orchid Society Show and Sale at the MSU Plant and Soil Sciences Building on February 22nd and 23rd. The schedule for the "Small Miracles" show is posted on the District IIB website, <https://mgcdistrict2b.weebly.com/flower-shows.html> (password is 2bgardeners). All designs must include at least one orchid flower.

Orchids will be available for free to anyone who would like to enter a design at the IIB Designers' meeting on February 19th or through Jenny Bond (jbond@msu.edu, 517-676-2676).

Registration for two of the design classes is required and the number of entries is limit to four. Registration for the other design classes is not required (but it is encouraged) and there is no limit on the number of entries. Contact Sue Wittick (witticks@gmail.com, 517-242-8259) to sign up. Sue Wittick

MEMBER UPDATE

Lost & Found- rain coat cream/ black left at Spring annual meeting at Grand Ledge Country Club. Call - Ann cell 517-290-5584.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Carol Miller Reba Torongo
Anita Beavers Joan Lenhard

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Ann Lipkowitz

CORN PROJECT

Heads up for April 14, 2020 as the date of our Corn Project delivery of soil pots and seeds to the Elementary Schools of Greater Lansing. Thanks to Sherry McCue joining Sandy Oleson as co-chairman and Ronnie Polad assisting with communications. Thanks also to Van Atta's Greenhouse and Flower Shop for their support in this effort.

A sign up list for "delivery drivers" will be available in February. This marks the 41st anniversary of our Corn Project. Sandy Oleson

UPCOMING EVENTS

Greens Market Day December 7th at Grace United Methodist Church. Come dressed for the weather if you are helping outside, or a runner. Inside helping customers bring on the festivities in your most holiday apparel. Check your Program Book for details on both designing and selling. Joanne Bauer

DECEMBER MEETING CHRISTMAS TEA

Join us for an afternoon Christmas Tea. Come relax and enjoy the company of our members. Dress for an elegant style Tea. Bring a dessert or other small dish like cheese, crackers, nuts, relishes and other finger food. This relaxing and fun afternoon will be held at Phyllis Irwin's place. It is advisable to carpool as parking is limited. Please call a new member and have them join you. Event on Monday the 16th, 2:00-4:00 pm Joan Lenhard

JANUARY MEETING

Recap of **Greens Market**. This is a soup and sandwich lunch. The Lunch team provides the soup. Remember to bring bowls, plate, flatware and a sandwich.

CREAMY ORANGE FRUIT SALAD

(FROM PINTEREST)

Ingredients:

1(3.5 oz.) Instant Vanilla Puddingmix
3/4 cup milk
1/3 cup frozen orange juice concentrate (thawed)
1 cup vanilla Greek yogurt
1 (20 oz.) can pineapple tidbits, drained
1 (11 oz.) can mandarin oranges, drained
1 cup fresh strawberries, sliced
2 bananas

1. Combine the pudding mix with the milk and orange juice concentrate. Mix with electric mixer 1-2 minutes
2. Stir in yogurt, add pineapple, mandarin oranges, and strawberries. If not serving immediately, add bananas just before serving.
Sandy Oleson