

NOTES FROM LENDONWOOD

Hello, Friends of Lendonwood!

We hope you are getting ready for wonderful Christmas and New Year's celebrations with family and friends. Now in mid-December, the garden settles in for a long winter's nap – and yet, there are days when beautiful weather invites us in for a quiet stroll under the tall oaks. Don't pass up the opportunity, because, as you know, the garden itself is open year-round from dawn to dusk – even though the Welcome Center is taking a break for the winter season.

ANGEL OF HOPE CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY: On December 6, we hosted the annual Angel of Hope remembrance ceremony, complete with candles and white flowers. The chill of the night was offset by warm hearts, beautiful music, a crackling fire, and hot cocoa. Thank you, Rev. Robert Carter, for leading us in prayer and singing our traditional hymn, "Holy Ground." Also, thanks to Cindy Reynolds for sharing the history of the Angel statue, to Rusty Willow for donating the flowers, and to Stan Starts for organizing this special event.



The Angel of Hope Statue surrounded by flickering candles and white flowers



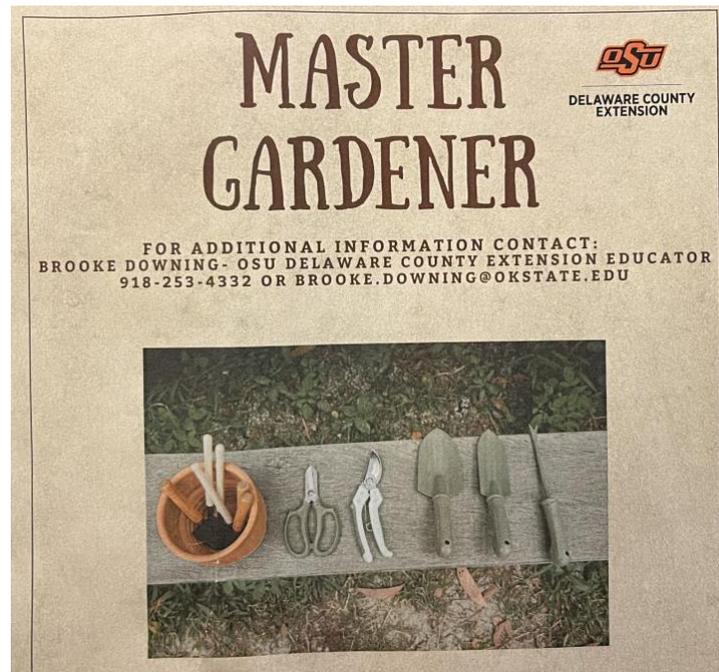
Rev. Robert Carter of Trinity Baptist Church sings “Holy Ground”

YEAR-END REVIEW FOR THE WELCOME CENTER: Shirley Daggett, who manages our Welcome Center and Gift Shop, reports that 2022 was a very successful year for the Center. Revenues were up significantly, plus we had the opportunity to greet many more visitors from throughout the U.S. and abroad. In fact, we now have a “push-pin map” of the U.S. on the Welcome Center wall to show the broad range of home areas represented by our visitors. Thank you to all our Center volunteers and, especially, to Shirley for her leadership. As she points out, we’re still pretty new at this and learning more every day. As a reminder, the Welcome Center has closed for the winter season and will re-open on March 15, 2023! We look forward to another exciting year in 2023!



Just a few of the handcrafted holiday items that quickly sold out at the Gift Shop this fall

LOVE GARDENING? Now's your chance to REALLY learn about the art and science of gardening! A Master Gardener program is coming to our county (and two others), sponsored by the Oklahoma State Extension. The Tri-County Master Gardener Volunteer Program will be offered in Delaware, Craig and Ottawa Counties on Mondays, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., from January 23 through April 3. For more info, contact Brooke Downing, OSU Delaware County Extension Educator, at 918-253-4332 or Brooke.Downing@okstate.edu.



We are delighted to see this program re-instated in our area! Check it out!

VOLUNTEERS FOR AZALEAS: For many years, one of Lendonwood's botanical highlights has been the Azalea Garden, located just west of the main garden. This area planted by Lendonwood founder Leonard Miller has drawn many visitors to enjoy a wide array of colors and cultivars. Unfortunately, in recent years, some of these beautiful shrubs have declined, due in part to competition for water with invasive ground covers (English Ivy and Common Periwinkle, for example). Volunteer Chris Lietzke and Board member Ela Johnson have come up with a plan to save the Azalea Garden! It involves pulling out those invasives, re-edging the azalea beds, and doing some light pruning. And they could use some help, if you have some spare time this winter. Call Ela at 816-749-8493, if you'd like to join the campaign to save the Azalea Garden!



Some of the beautiful azaleas at Lendonwood



Pale lavender perfection

TODAY'S GARDENING TIPS: Okay, it's winter and your garden is sleeping. What's a gardener to do? Well, a lot, actually! We've talked about improving your soil, mulching, reviewing last year's experiences, and sharpening tools. But want to know the most exciting thing to do in the winter? Yes, it's studying those seed catalogs and nursery ads arriving in the mail and email, when it's COLD outside! We all have our favorites, but you'll want to check out all of them. Who knows what you might find. It's the time to start dreaming about and planning what you want to plant in the coming season. Think about your garden spaces and

what seeds and summer bulbs might be just perfect for them. When you can, take a look at gardeners' reviews of on-line offers and remember your own experiences with specific companies.

That's all for now, folks! Have a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

Jim Corbridge, President
Lendonwood Gardens