

NOTES FROM LENDONWOOD

Hello, Friends of Lendonwood!

Spring is here – and the garden is showing it! Cold weather this winter may have affected some flowering shrubs, but other plants are undeterred. You'll find a glorious display of Japanese Maples with foliage in various shades of color; Kousa Dogwoods taking up where the Common Dogwoods left off; swathes of Iris in full bloom; nectar plants filling up the Monarch Waystation; and bright red annual Salvia planted by Grove's third-graders! There is a certain rhythm to Lendonwood Gardens: blooms come and go so there's something different to see all season. All the more reason to visit now – and come back again and again!

OUR VERY OWN EARTH DAY: Lendonwood celebrated Earth Day on May 2, with about 200 third-graders coming to visit, observe and learn. Yes, we know that's not the official Earth Day, but Lendonwood will celebrate it whenever Grove's third-graders can join us. They learned about – and fed – the Koi fish; the life-cycle of Monarch butterflies; the story of the Angel of Hope; and more. They enjoyed a picnic and got to plant flowers, marking each with their name on a label. Several volunteers pitched in to help the budding gardeners enjoy the day! A few days later, some of the students came back to check the progress of their flower. Always great to hear the excited laughter and chatter of children in the garden!



Volunteer Bob Shell served as our own Pied Piper, leading groups of third-graders throughout the garden. Bob coordinated the entire event, working with other volunteers to make the day special for the children.



Jan Shoemaker of Lowe's Garden Center volunteered her time and expertise to teach young children how to plant flowers. Thank you, Jan!



The Monarch Waystation was a big hit with the third-graders, who thought there was something magical about a fuzzy caterpillar turning into a beautiful butterfly.

FOCUS ON THE ARTS: It's not a giant leap from loving gardens to appreciating the arts, so Lendonwood tries to support creativity throughout our community. Over a two-day period, we participated in the Grove arts festival at the Food Truck Friday, followed by our own Art in the Garden on Saturday, May 6. Lendonwood had a table at the downtown arts festival May 5 as part of the Grove Area Creative Alliance, which works to highlight the artistic talents in the Grand Lake community. There was a terrific turnout for enjoying music, food, the arts, and fellowship. We had a great time!



Things were hopping on the Grove Community Center lawn for Food Truck Friday May 5, with its arts festival theme and crowds of people and furry friends!

ART – AND LOTS OF PEOPLE – IN THE GARDEN: Speaking of turnout, we were delighted with the huge number of people who came out for Art in the Garden the next day. There was barely enough parking space and the walkways were filled with visitors enjoying creative artistry throughout the garden. The artists were very pleased with the crowds visiting their booths. We want to thank Santa’s Old Broads, a local charitable organization that made food and drinks available for hungry visitors!



Artist Lucinda Wood of Grove and Caldwell, Kansas, displayed many unique and beautiful artworks from beaded crosses to colorful jewelry.



Guests pondered which of the beautiful artworks was calling their name. Oh, what to choose?



We are always so pleased to have artworks by students from Grove Schools. If these are any example of our young talent, the future for the arts is bright, indeed!



Don Bormaster was pleased to show off his beautiful prints at the same time he gathered names! On behalf of the Grove Area Creative Alliance, Don collected contact info from people interested in receiving information about area creative events.

HERE COME THE HUMMINGBIRDS: Volunteers are working overtime to get the new Hummingbird Garden ready for this season's onslaught of the tiny birds. Flowers are being planted; trellises installed; feeders ordered; benches placed; beds edged with stones; and more. Interpretive signs about these amazing birds are in the draft stages. Come take a sneak peek anytime, but stay tuned for a grand opening announcement! Many thanks to Grove Rotary, supporters Stuart and Kimberly Hayden, and the volunteers who are making it happen.

SPEAKING OF VOLUNTEERS: We really could use more volunteers to help Lendonwood in a variety of ways. For example, there is a need for more "Wednesday Weeders," more helpers in the revitalized Azalea Garden and new Hummingbird Garden, and workers in the Welcome Center and Gift Shop. In addition to Wednesdays, we've now organized volunteer gardening opportunities on Saturday mornings. If you can spare a few hours here and there, please let us know at info@lendonwood.com. We'll find a way for you to make a difference in the garden!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Lendonwood's main fundraiser, the popular **Garden Party**, will be held on **Saturday, June 3**, and we hope you'll be there. Come enjoy a delicious buffet dinner by Timbered-In Catering (yum), music by the talented Jerry Ruzicka, and a fun silent auction. Who knows what treasures you'll find! Tickets are \$60 per person and we can arrange reserved tables for eight. Buy your tickets by May 23, whether by check mailed in, credit card online at lendonwood.com, or by visiting the Welcome Center. See you there!



SPEAKING OF SILENT AUCTION: If you or any of your friends have a fabulous item for the Silent Auction at the Garden Party, please let us know as soon as possible! If it's really over the

top, we might arrange a special “live auction” for it. Just call or email us at info@lendonwood.com.

TODAY’S GARDENING TIPS:

Yes, we know it’s hard to pull our attention from all the spring blooms right now, but there ARE things to be done. First of all, when the blooms fade, deadhead them – not just for looks, but it might encourage a new flush of color in some cases. It’s also a good time to check your watering schedule and mechanics. Winter has a way of damaging sprinkler heads and valves. Fertilize according to the needs of your particular plants and soil. With the warmer weather, guess what grows fastest: WEEDS. It’s time to tackle those weeds before they spread seeds for future challenges. On a positive note, now is the time to design and plant your containers. Think about color combinations, texture, sunlight, fertilizer, watering needs, and your own favorite plants. (Remember the formula: thrillers, fillers and spillers) Our favorites? Coleus, lantana, geraniums, petunias, and trailing plants. Oh, and consider a pot or two of herbs on the patio. Handy for cooking.

That’s all for now, folks! Hope you are enjoying a beautiful spring!

Jim Corbridge, President
Lendonwood Gardens