Lendonwood Gardens

September 10, 2023
Issue #14

NOTES FROM LENDONWOOD

Hello, Friends of Lendonwood!

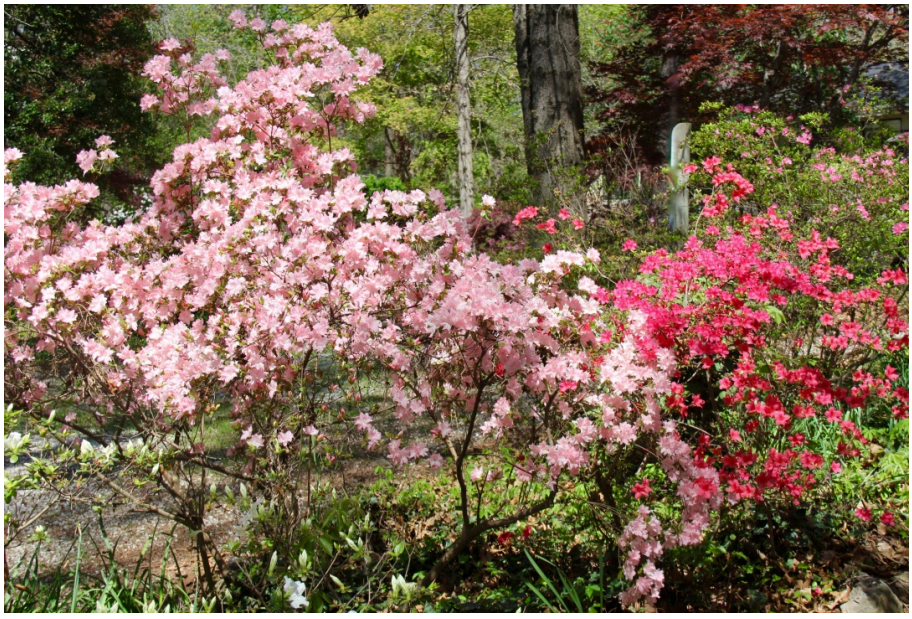
We recently experienced yet another damaging windstorm around Grand Lake, but this time Lendonwood fared pretty well. We had minor debris – leaves, twigs, small branches – littering the garden, but no major problems. Some of our Lendonwood friends were not so lucky – fallen trees, roof damage and more. Hopefully, the coming fall season will quiet the weather-makers and let us enjoy a string of fun events both in the garden and around the lake. In the meantime, visitors from near and far are exploring Lendonwood and reporting how much they enjoy this treasure in northeast Oklahoma.

SPEAKING OF AUTUMN…: What is fall without pumpkins and corn shocks? Well, not as much fun! So we're changing all that in Lendonwood. Volunteer Chris Lietzke has taken on the challenge of adding fall décor throughout the garden. There will be photo ops galore, with hay bales, corn shocks, and MANY pumpkins scattered along the winding pathways. Come check it out this fall.

Corn and pumpkins aren't actually grown at Lendonwood, but they'll be front and center for fall photo ops this year.

GREAT NEWS FOR THE AZALEA GARDEN PROJECT: We always like receiving checks in the mail, but we ESPECIALLY like receiving grants for special projects in the garden. Recently, a check for $14,413.00 from the City of Grove arrived in our mailbox to help complete the

rejuvenation of Lendonwood's Azalea Garden. Over the last several months, a small group of dedicated volunteers led by Ela Johnson and Chris Lietzke had tackled the old and declining Azalea Garden – clearing paths, lining paths with rock, clearing undesirable vegetation, fertilizing and pruning existing plants, beginning work on the old irrigation system, and arranging new surface material for paths. Then in July, Ela and Chris appeared before the Grove Convention & Tourism Bureau to request a grant for the important next phases. They presented a very effective slideshow outlining the need for funding to replace aging azalea shrubs, enlist the help of a qualified azalea grower in ground prep and planting, add winter-interest plants, and update our old irrigation system in the space. They also announced plans for an annual AZALEA FESTIVAL, once the new plants start their springtime display. The entire request was funded! Congratulations to all who have worked so hard to rejuvenate what once was a crown jewel of Lendonwood! And thank you to the City of Grove for its much-appreciated support. Can't wait for the first annual Azalea Festival!



Lendonwood's Azalea Garden will be completely transformed with the help of our volunteers' hard work and a grant from the Grove Convention & Tourism Board.

MORE GREAT NEWS FOR THE AZALEA GARDEN: No garden should be without a place to sit and drink in the beauty all around. The owners of Notable Outdoor Living in Grove stepped in to make sure visitors to the renovated Azalea Garden will have such a place. Tim and Ann Bailey recently delivered and installed a beautiful and durable table with benches. Thank you, Notable Outdoor Living, for your generous donation and support for the garden!

The Azalea Garden has a new place for relaxing and enjoying the surroundings, thanks to Tim and Ann Bailey of Notable Outdoor Living in Grove. Ela's dog Aussie gave it a two-paws up!

ROCKIN' WOLF CREEK PARK: Lendonwood was one of several local nonprofits invited to participate in the Boats, Beats and BBQ event at Wolf Creek Park on September 2-3. Organized by MidAmerica Outdoors of Jay, the two-day (and LOUD) event featured high-performance boat races, music by multiple bands, and delicious food-truck cuisine. MidAmerica pledged to donate some of the proceeds to local nonprofits who set up tables for sharing information about their organizations. Thanks to Ela Johnson, Chris Lietzke, Jim and Cindy Reynolds, and Pauline Hale for helping staff the Lendonwood table! Did I mention it was LOUD? But fun!

It's always fun to share the story – and beauty – of Lendonwood Gardens, and the Boats, Beats and BBQ event offered an opportunity to meet potential new visitors and volunteers.

FALL WORKDAY COMING SOON: If fall is around the corner, then so is our "Put the Garden to Bed" fall workday, set for Saturday, October 28. We hope you can spare a few hours to help get the garden ready for a long winter's sleep. It's always a lot of fun – and it starts at 8:30 a.m. with coffee and donuts! Volunteers are organized into small work groups tackling jobs ranging from light tasks to heavy-equipment operation. Tasks typically include picking up downed twigs and limbs, planting bulbs, repairing walkways, mulching flower beds, cleaning and staining benches, and other jobs. Lunch will be served at noon. Most work is done by 2 p.m., but any amount of time you can give would be much appreciated. All ages and abilities are welcome; no green thumb required!

Board member Jim Reynolds sets the tone for a past fall workday, by welcoming and organizing teams of volunteers to get the garden ready for winter.

TODAY'S GARDENING TIPS:

September is a good month to start cleaning up your garden beds, cutting back perennials that are past their prime and pruning back any dead vegetation. However, you may want to retain some blooms, such as zinnias and coneflowers, for reseeding next year's garden or providing food for birds in winter. At this time, you should consider digging and storing any tender bulbs, such as dahlias, cannas, and elephant ears. Keep them in a cool and dry space with good air circulation. Now is a good time for planting trees and shrubs, when they won't be so stressed by hot weather but have enough time for roots to get established before hard freezes. It's also a good time to take inventory of your garden: "tour" your beds and make notes for planning next year's wonderful masterpiece!

CHANGING OF THE GUARD: This is a timely moment to say how much I have enjoyed serving as Lendonwood's President for the last three years (and a few years before that!). This garden is a special place and worthy of all our support. Not many communities of our size can

boast such a beautiful botanical garden – and I take pride in whatever I've been able to bring to the table. However, as much as I have enjoyed the great privilege of serving as President, I have decided to turn the gavel over to a new leader, pending the members' election at the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, September 12. I'm not going anywhere and will remain as a member of the Board, providing any support I can. Thank YOU for your unending support over the years.

That's all for now, folks! See you in the garden!

Jim Corbridge, President
Lendonwood Gardens