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Issue #18

NOTES FROM LENDONWOOD

Hello, Friends of Lendonwood!

Happy New Year, everyone! At Lendonwood, we're looking forward to our best one yet! It may be one of our busiest – with some exciting new events to bring in visitors for possibly their first time. We love to show off the garden, especially in the spring when Lendonwood just blooms. So, lots of our events are held in the months of April and May. Please forgive our jammed calendar then and have mercy on our overworked volunteers! Progress is being made on a beautiful new paved pathway, signage for the Hummingbird Garden, and much more. We can't wait for spring!

LEARNING ABOUT HUMMINGBIRDS: New interpretive signs for the Hummingbird Garden, produced by designer Kathi Sikorski, share information about these fascinating tiny birds. Visitors will learn about ways of attracting hummers with nectar plants and feeders, as well as information about the birds' migratory habits. The signs will be installed soon.

Interpretive signs about hummingbirds were recently delivered to Lendonwood and will be installed in the Hummingbird Garden.

NEW PAVED PATHWAY: We are delighted to announce that Grove Rotary has approved Lendonwood's grant request to help fund a paved pathway extending accessibility in the garden. The curving pathway runs from the waterfall down around a large Zen Garden to connect up with a paved path to the Japanese Pavilion. Lendonwood will receive $2,100 from Rotary toward the project. Total cost is $6,100, so we'll be doing some fundraising to help cover the

costs (let us know if you can help!). Because we believe so strongly in the need for accessible pathways (and the contractor was available), we have moved forward with the project and hope it will be ready for springtime events.

This new pathway, once it's stained and landscaped, will make it more enjoyable for everyone visiting the garden – running from the waterfall, along a stream, around a Zen Garden and joining another pathway toward the Japanese Pavilion.

WAKE UP THE GARDEN: The Spring Workday, set this year for Saturday, March 23, draws community volunteers and Grove Rotarians to help "wake up the garden" for the tourist season. We need lots of help from volunteers of all ages; there's a wide range of tasks, from light work to heavy equipment operation. Everyone is invited to join us at 8 a.m. for coffee and donuts, followed by dividing up into work teams for sprucing up the garden. Lunch will be provided.

Clearing out the sludge from the stream is, at least, a three-person job. Thank you, Ray Geis and John Dunsworth, for leading the way!

AMAZING AZALEAS: You may know that Lendonwood volunteers, headed by Board member Ela Johnson, have rejuvenated the old Azalea Garden with about 350 new azaleas planted last year. The original garden was planted by Lendonwood founder Dr. Leonard Miller many years ago. Plants all have finite lifespans and many of those azaleas had declined. Now we are awaiting the magic of spring to enjoy a new day for the Azalea Garden. To celebrate the occasion, during the last three weeks of April, we will be hosting tours and twilight strolls through the colorful blooms. Tours will be available on Wednesdays and Sundays during those weeks (April 10, 14, 17, 21, 24 and 28) from 1 to 4 p.m. Twilight Azalea Strolls under twinkle lights will be held on Saturdays (April 13, 20 and 27), complete with donation bar as well as azaleas for sale.

High school student Elliot Geer helped prep the Azalea Garden last spring for its brand new look.

LENDONWOOD'S OWN FAIRY FESTIVAL: On Saturday, April 27, Lendonwood will be transformed into an enchanting fairyland for children (and their families), filled with whimsy and wonder. The air will be filled with the tinkling laughter of fairies and the mischievous hum of trolls, as a bubble machine releases iridescent bubbles for a magical gateway. Six unique fairies, each dedicated to a different aspect of nature's beauty, will greet our visitors in the garden, spreading joy and magic. Fairy wings and other paraphernalia may be purchased at the Welcome Center to help get in the spirit of the event. There will be music in the air, with melodies from harps, flutes and other enchanted instruments. Look for more details soon!

AND THEN ART IN THE GARDEN: For even more enchantment and magic, Lendonwood's Art in the Garden will be held on Saturday, May 4, beginning at 9 a.m. Local and area artists and artisans will be displaying and selling their artworks, including paintings, pottery, crafts, and more. Lunch will be provided by Santa's Old Broads. Participants will include professional artists, seasoned crafters, and student artists.

Visitors enjoy the talents of many artists and artisans at last year's Art in the Garden.

PLANNING FOR THE GARDEN PARTY: Our Garden Party fundraiser will be held a little earlier than usual; it's set for Saturday, May 18. The reason for moving it up is twofold: the garden typically is especially beautiful in May and the Grove area usually has a number of other fundraisers in June. Volunteer Ellen Douglas, who is chairing the event this year, has been spending the winter gathering ideas and other volunteers to make the Garden Party a success. If you are interested in helping out, please let us know. This is our main fundraiser and it's always lots of fun. More information later. Hope to see you there!

TODAY'S GARDENING TIPS:

Gardening in January? Yes, there are things to do! Beyond dreaming with plant catalogs in hand, you can take advantage of some sunny days to prune dormant plants like roses. And, as always, you can tend to your garden tools, getting them ready for spring. Clean, sharpen and lubricate your tools for the most effective uses. For example, you can use a putty knife or wooden paint stirrer to scrape off encrusted dirt. Mud and rust spots can disappear under a wire brush. Sharpen those spades and hoes with a steel file and then spray with a protective oil. And don't forget your garden friends, the birds, who need lots of food to keep warm at this time of year. Top up your bird feeders with sunflower seeds, suet and other high-energy foods.

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

Pauline Hale, President
Lendonwood Gardens