Lendonwood Gardens

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Issue #19

NOTES FROM LENDONWOOD

Hello, Friends of Lendonwood!

February is one of those months when you don't know what to expect in the weather. Could be 70 degrees one day and freezing the next. That's Oklahoma! On this "Super Sunday," we're hearing there may be snow tonight, but shouldn't last long. Even on the cold days, we often can see hints of spring in Lendonwood. That keeps us looking forward to a season of growth, color, and lots of activity in the garden.

FEBRUARY COLOR: Yes, there are flowers blooming in the garden in February! Specifically, you can spot snow drops and hellebores (Lenten roses) tucked in the various beds. Seeing these cold-weather blooms reminds us of the color to come – and appreciate the strength of these spring precursors.

Even in February, snow drops make their appearance among the fallen leaves. They amaze us with their perseverance in the face of cold temperatures and even snow.

MEMBERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE: We'll soon be launching our annual membership drive and we hope you will join in supporting the garden. We offer various levels of membership, from Individual ($30 and up) to Family ($50 and up) to Friend ($150 and up) to Sponsor ($500 and up). There are several ways of joining. You may receive an invitation by mail, with a membership form for your convenience to pay by check. Or you may join with your credit card

via www.lendonwood.com. Also, when the Welcome Center opens in mid-March, you may join by visiting the center, paying by check or credit card. We really appreciate your support!

SPEAKING OF THE WELCOME CENTER: We are always delighted to re-open the Welcome Center after a winter break. This facility lets us meet our visitors in person, learning about their gardening interests and experiences – and answering questions they may have. We keep track of where our visitors reside, with a map bristling with stick-pins and only a few states not represented so far. So, if you have visitors from out of town, be sure to bring them by Lendonwood. Volunteer Shirley Daggett, who manages the Welcome Center, promises lots of new merchandise in the Gift Shop, just in time for re-opening in mid-March (the specific date depends on the weather).

Volunteers Pat O'Connor, left, and Cindy Reynolds, among others, stand ready to greet visitors to the Welcome Center when it opens in mid-March.

HELP US 'WAKE UP THE GARDEN' MARCH 23: If it's spring, it must be time to wake up the garden and get it in shape for the tourist season. We invite any and all community members to join us for a fun day of community service at Lendonwood on Saturday, March 23. There will be jobs for all ages and ability levels, from picking up sticks to repairing fences. The fun starts at 8 a.m. with coffee and donuts, followed by teams tackling specific projects. Lunch will be served. Most jobs are completed by about 2 p.m.

Community volunteers pause for a group photo before tackling jobs at the Fall Workday last year. Spring workday will be held on Saturday, March 23.

LENDONWOOD EARTH DAY PLANS: April is the month for Earth Day, celebrated at Lendonwood not necessarily on the national day (here it depends on school schedules). We typically have around 200 Grove third-graders exploring the garden, learning about Koi fish, Monarch butterflies, Angel of Hope statue, hummingbirds and more. We look forward to the sound of children's laughter and amazement as they tour the garden and plant some flowers.

Volunteer Jan Shoemaker, center, gives planting tips to third-graders participating in Earth Day at Lendonwood last year.

PROM PIX DAY: Also in April, the garden will welcome young people who are somewhat older. On April 27, Grove High School celebrates Prom Day – and that means prom photos! Many of the prom-goers and their families visit the garden for photo sessions against a

backdrop of colorful flowers. It's something of a style show as we get to see the latest prom fashions for both girls and boys – and point them to the best spots for memorable photos.

Prom-goers take advantage of Lendonwood's beautiful backdrop to record memories of the day.

GARDEN PARTY!: Our main fundraiser, the Garden Party, is set for Saturday, May 18, at the garden. Your support for this event helps make it possible for Lendonwood to grow and thrive. One of the highlights is a silent auction with a wide variety of wonderful items. In the coming weeks, we'll be seeking donations of extra-special items for the auction. Dinner will be prepared by Timbered-In Catering. Yum! If it rains, we'll serve up the fun at the Church of the Shepherd (COS) Church at 1600 Har-Ber Road.

NEW DATE FOR THE FAIRY FESTIVAL: So many spring events led us to move the magical Fairy Festival to Saturday, June 1. There will be lots of whimsy, enchantment, fairy dust, and musical serenades. Don't miss it! Bring your little ones to share the magic.

TODAY'S GARDENING TIPS:

February may be cold and dreary at times, but it's a good time to prep for the growing season. There still is time for starting seeds indoors, including cool-season crops and flowers. For example, you may want to start some beets, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, kale leeks, lettuce, mustard or parsley. On the flower side, you could start some calendula, impatiens, sweet peas, or viola.

This time of year also is a good time to consider pruning woody plants, while they are dormant. At this time, pruning wounds can heal before sap rises (as the weather warms). While leaves are absent, it's also easier to see the structure of the plants as you prune.

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

Pauline Hale, President
Lendonwood Gardens