Lendonwood Gardens

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Issue #20

NOTES FROM LENDONWOOD

Hello, Friends of Lendonwood!

Spring has sprung! Well, at least the daffodils think so. And so do the crocuses, and the forsythia, and some of the magnolias. Soon Lendonwood will be a riot of color and we cannot wait to show off the garden to our visitors and event guests. As you might expect, we pack in as many activities and events during the peak bloom season as we possibly can. So, get ready for a busy springtime around the garden!

SPLASH OF CROCUS: If you've been enjoying the beautiful crocuses that seemed to pop up in minutes this month, maybe you'd like to know the mythical history of this sweet perennial. Did you know Crocus was the name of a mortal youth entangled in a relationship with the nymph Smilax? The gods were not happy and turned him into the plant that bears his name! At least, that's what the ancient Greeks believed. The young man may have had the last laugh, however. The world's most expensive spice, saffron, is harvested from a variety called *Crocus sativus*.

Delicate petals and orange-red stamens brighten up a layer of leaves in Lendonwood.

GROVE HOME & GARDEN SHOW: Lendonwood had a great spot in the Home & Garden Show March 8-10, letting us highlight all the beauty and exciting events at the garden. Many thanks to our volunteers who shared information, answered questions and handed out lots of materials. We even garnered some new volunteers for the garden (hint, hint: we need several **more volunteers** for gardening activities, as well as staffing the Welcome Center; call us at 918-786-2938 if you'd like to help out)!

Board member Jim Corbridge stood ready to answer questions and tell the Lendonwood story at the Home & Garden Show!

WELCOME CENTER OPENING ON MARCH 13: Come check out the new merchandise in the Welcome Center, opening this Wednesday. You'll find colorful shirts, children's activity items, pottery, jewelry and lots more. The Welcome Center and Gift Shop are open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. on Sundays. Friendly volunteers will be on hand to help you find special treasures and invite you into the garden.

Colorful garden flags and interchangeable doormat inserts are popular items for sale at the Lendonwood Gift Shop.

COME ONE, COME ALL: We invite you to help "Wake Up the Garden" on Saturday, **March 30,** our spring workday. You won't even need a green thumb to help get the garden ready for

visitors. There's a wide range of jobs available, from easy-peasy to heavy-equipment operation. Children are welcome, too! This would be a great way to build a foundation of community service among youngsters. Join us at 8:30 a.m. near the back entrance for coffee and donuts – and forming work teams. You'll have fun!

Grove Rotarian Todd Deakins dumps debris he has collected during a fall workday at Lendonwood Gardens.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE NOW UNDER WAY: Here's another way to help ensure Lendonwood's long-range growth and success: become a member! Choose from several levels of membership to support the garden – and you'll receive some cool benefits. Besides unlimited admission to Lendonwood, you will receive free admission and/or other benefits at over 360 gardens throughout North America through the Reciprocal Garden Network program. If you received an invitation by mail, just fill out the membership form and send it with your check to Lendonwood. You can always join with your credit card on www.lendonwood.com or just bring in your check or credit card to the Welcome Center. Thank you!

AZALEA DAZE: You may recall that Lendonwood, with the help of volunteers like Ela Johnson, Chris Lietzke and others, decided to rejuvenate our aging Azalea Garden. Some of the shrubs were decades-old and declining. After we removed the old plants, more than 300 new azaleas were planted last fall. In recognition of this transformation, we will celebrate our first "Azalea Daze" the last three Thursdays of April (April 11, 18 and 25). We invite you to join us on twilight strolls from 7-9 p.m. on any of those days to enjoy the beautiful blooms, fire pit, music and more.

Azaleas add a springtime splash of color to the garden.

ART IN THE GARDEN: Don't miss this special event, our 17th annual Art in the Garden, on Saturday, May 4. You'll find pottery, paintings, hand-made jewelry, and much more, as you stroll through the garden at peak bloom time. This year, we are part of ArtSPLASH Weekend, which also includes an Arts Festival in downtown Grove on Friday evening, May 3, and Celtic Day on Saturday, May 4, at Har-Ber Village. ArtSPLASH is supported by the Grove Area Creative Alliance, a group dedicated to nurturing the arts in the Grand Lake communities. At Lendonwood, artists are invited to participate in Art in the Garden; contact Stan Starts at 918-786-5300, if you'd like to set up a booth.

Art in the Garden draws visitors of all ages to enjoy the artworks against a beautiful backdrop at Lendonwood.

2024 GARDEN PARTY: Ricky Nelson may have made the song "Garden Party" famous, but Lendonwood knows how to make it a PAR-TEEE! This is our primary fundraiser, so it's important for our future. This special event will be held on Saturday, May 18, at 5:30 p.m. in the garden. If you'd like to reserve tickets now, just go to www.lendonwood.com and sign up.

We'll have a fun silent auction, music, raffle prizes, and a delicious dinner by Timbered-In Catering. In case of rain, we'll pivot down the street that evening to the Church of the Shepherd (COS). See you at the Garden Party!

MAGICAL MOMENTS AT THE FAIRY FESTIVAL: Bring your littles to experience the magic of Lendonwood's first Fairy Festival on June 1, 1 – 5 p.m.! There will be music in the air by harpist Linda Paul, amazing tricks by magician Doug Anderson, face painting by Ela Hosp, photo ops by photographer Tom Jordan, and refreshments. You'll see fairy dances, fairy godmothers, and the opportunity to build fairy houses to take home. Admission is $5 per person, as a fundraiser for Lendonwood. Costumes are encouraged; children under 12 will receive fairy wings! Don't miss it!

TODAY'S GARDENING TIPS:

As you celebrate spring flowers, the most colorful and beloved might be the crocus. It's not the time to plant them now (wait until early autumn), but it's a good time to PLAN for planting them. Crocuses do well in cold to moderate winter conditions, such as climate zones 3 to 7. Their bulbs (actually, corms) are small, so they dry out faster than large bulbs. It's best to plant them in sunny spaces, unless you live in the south. Crocuses prefer a gritty or sandy, well-drained soil; consider a rock garden or herb garden for these small perennials. You can even

plant them under ground covers, such as creeping phlox or mat-forming thymes. Crocus will come up right through these ground covers.

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

Pauline Hale, President
Lendonwood Gardens