May – June 2, 2024
Issue #22

NOTES FROM LENDONWOOD

Hello, Friends of Lendonwood!

Things have been so busy at the garden that your president failed to get out the May newsletter on time. That's my story, and I'm sticking to it! But, yes, it's been hectic around here – in a good way! With spring comes new blooms and a rapid succession of special events. Azaleas, dogwoods, peonies and more were enjoyed by all. Then came Azalea Daze, Prom Days, Art in the Garden, Garden Party and the Fairy Festival. Whew! Busy days. And through it all, our hard-working volunteers continued to spruce up the garden by weeding and mulching. We think it's never looked better! So make a date to come visit, especially now when the daylilies are blooming.

DAYLILIES IN BLOOM RIGHT NOW: Don't miss out! The daylilies are blooming and they are gorgeous. Scientific name for the daylily is Hemerocallis. As the name suggests, each bloom lasts for one day. However, most stalks have several bloom buds, so the display lasts for awhile.

Daylilies come in a wide variety of colors, from yellow to peach to coral to red to many more. They are beautiful.

AZALEAS BY TWILIGHT: Just a few weeks ago, in April, temperatures were cool but the firepits warm as we celebrated the first blooms of more than 300 azaleas planted last fall in the refurbished Azalea Garden. Twinkle lights strung from the trees charmed our hearts as we greeted visitors and volunteers in the early evenings of Azalea Daze. Visitors had the opportunity to purchase year-old azalea plants donated to Lendonwood by the supplier for our newly upgraded Azalea Garden.

Firepits added a glow to the evening during Azalea Daze in April. While temperatures were a bit on the chilly side, hearts were warmed by the thought of future celebrations of Azalea Daze at Lendonwood.

PHOTO OPS FOR PROM DAYS: If it's April, it must be prom season! And that's when we prepare for prom-goers and their families to visit the garden for those glamorous beauty shots. This year, students from Jay had their prom on April 20, followed by the Grove prom on April 27. For us volunteers, it's like a style-show where we get to help them find just the right spot for photos. Of course, we hope they'll come back to visit in the future.

Views at the Koi Pond remain a favorite photo backdrop for prom day photos, like this one from last year.

RAIN, WHAT RAIN?: Art in the Garden, originally scheduled for May 4, was postponed a week when weather forecasts from the previous afternoon still called for rain the next day. Not wanting to risk damage to our artists' work, we made the call at 3 p.m. May 3 to postpone. And, of course, the next day was beautiful (well, a little rain in the morning). In any case, when we DID have the event on May 11, we lucked out with gorgeous weather, wonderful artworks, a good turnout, and delightful musical performances by Jana Jae and her band and by The Message, a local bluegrass band. Everyone said the music added a magical touch to the day. So, many thanks to all the artists, our volunteers, the musicians, Santa's Old Broads for their delicious food, and our visitors.

In a celebration of all the arts, Lendonwood's Art in the Garden featured Jana Jae's group, the Message bluegrass band, crafts, paintings, wire sculptures, and much more. Delicious refreshments were provided by Santa's Old Broads. It was a wonderful experience for all.

Local artist Judy Campbell demonstrates artistic techniques for visitors at Art in the Garden.

"I WENT TO A GARDEN PARTY": We had a beautiful evening for our sold-out Garden Party fundraiser on May 18. Garden supporters enjoyed amazing silent auction items, a delicious buffet dinner, and music provided by Jerry Ruzicka. Thank you to all who attended, bid on auction items, or volunteered to help create a wonderful event – especially to Ellen Douglas, who organized the Garden Party.

Garden Party guests enjoyed the delicious food provided by Timbered-In Catering, the wonderful silent auction, music, and a lovely evening for fellowship.

Jerry Ruzicka added a musical vibe to the Garden Party, encouraging guests to bid, bid, bid on silent auction items.

FAIRIES, TROLLS AND MORE: Another magical event this spring featured fairy wings for kids, face-painting, a troll magician, fairy godmothers, refreshments, fairy dances, and crafts. Lendonwood's first Fairy Festival, held on June 1, far exceeded our expectations, both in terms of fun and crowd! We estimate upwards of 1,000 people attended – the most ever in the garden at one time. The best thing? All those smiles on children's faces! Many thanks to organizers Sharon Lebow and Chris Lietzke, as well as to all the volunteers who made it such a huge success.

We were delighted to welcome all our visitors to the garden's first Fairy Festival! While we didn't know how many to expect, our volunteers worked hard to accommodate everyone. It was so much fun!

Okay, this says it all! This cute little elf shares the wonder and magic of the Fairy Festival. Those eyes and that gaze tell us we did something right.

THANK YOU, LAKESIDE GARDEN CLUB: Our friends in South Grand Lake, the Lakeside Garden Club, have stepped forward AGAIN to help us spruce up a key area at Lendonwood. The club recently presented a check for $1,045 to the garden to redo and upgrade a bed just inside the front gate. The fully shaded bed will require a special selection of plants, but our gardeners, led by Board member Ela Johnson, are up to the task. They have already begun clearing out unneeded seedlings (you'll see some of the Japanese maple seedlings on the plant sale rack!) and planning the rejuvenation. It wasn't so long ago that the Lakeside Garden Club made a generous donation to rehab the bed just behind the Welcome Center. With their support, we are working on first impressions visitors receive as they enter Lendonwood. Thank you, Lakeside!

Members of the Lakeside Garden Club and the Lendonwood Board recently met to celebrate the club's gift to help renovate a garden bed just inside the front gate.

TODAY'S GARDENING TIPS:

By now your garden must be in full glory. Now that spring flowers have bloomed and said good-bye, it's time for summer plants to shine. The list is long, especially for sun-loving flowers: coreopsis, zinnias, lantana, marigolds, roses, hydrangeas, hibiscus, daylilies, salvia, dahlias, and many more. So how to keep the color coming? Here are some ideas, depending on what you have growing. Spray roses showing signs of disease, such as black spot, powdery mildew or rust. Use stakes or metal circles to support tall, large-flowered plants such as dahlias, hollyhocks, and hibiscus. Keep on top of weeds, for the sake of all your flowers. Deadhead old blooms to encourage new growth and more blooms. During dry weather, be sure to keep the garden adequately watered; weekly deep soaking is preferable to daily light sprinkling. Water between 6-10 a.m. to avoid evaporation. Apply a 3 to 4 inch layer of mulch around the roots of your plants to retain moisture and discourage weeds. Deadhead spring bulbs to prevent them from wasting energy on producing seed. Also, fertilize them; but wait until the leaves have yellowed before trimming them off.

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

Pauline Hale, President
Lendonwood Gardens