Lendonwood Gardens

February 9, 2025
Issue #29

NOTES FROM LENDONWOOD

Hello, Friends of Lendonwood!

Yes, we're expecting a little snow, maybe some ice, this week – but let's look on the bright side. It won't be long before we see the first flowers peeking out in the garden, and then, an explosion of spring color and garden events! Lendonwood continues to go and grow, thanks to our supporters and visitors. We hope you will put a garden visit (or more than one, since things change by the week) on your schedule this spring. And, of course, we hope you will respond to our membership campaign and support our efforts to maintain and enhance our beautiful garden.

BUT FIRST, A SNOWY DAY IN JANUARY: Snow brings a whole new look to the garden, clinging to limbs of tall trees, creating a quiet peacefulness, and highlighting every garden structure. You may recall that, for December and January, we installed 15 vignettes dubbed "Vintage Woodland Trails" that featured hints of wintry front porches. The snow just added to the ambiance!

Snow-capped pagodas and Zen Garden stones added a new look for Lendonwood after a January snowfall.

Lendonwood featured wintry front porch vignettes as part of the “Vintage Woodland Trails” display in December and January. The snow made it REALLY wintry!

LENDONWOOD MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN: As always, we invite you to become a member of Lendonwood at whatever level you wish. Memberships help us to keep the garden in good shape and make it even better. By becoming a member, you can visit Lendonwood as many times as you like, AND through our Reciprocal Garden Network, you can receive free admission or additional benefits at over 360 gardens throughout North America. You may join Lendonwood by responding to our mailing or by going to our website at www.lendonwood.com and using PayPal for your payment. Thank you for your support.

WELCOME CENTER RE-OPENING: We can’t wait to re-open the Welcome Center so that we can say “Hello” to our visitors again! Depending on the weather, we expect to re-open around March 19. Watch for updates! Also, PLEASE consider becoming a Welcome Center volunteer this year. Even if you could just help out a few hours a month, we’d appreciate it. It’s not difficult; there’s plenty of training available and you’d be making a difference at the garden.

Volunteers Shirley Daggett, left, and Marilyn O'Grady invite you to drop by the Welcome Center for a friendly greeting, some shopping fun, and access to the garden. Shirley manages the Welcome Center and works closely with the volunteers.

GROVE HOME & GARDEN SHOW: As usual, Lendonwood will be greeting visitors at the Grove Home & Garden Show March 14-16. We'll be providing information about this wonderful botanical garden, inviting people to come visit, and seeking volunteers for a variety of activities. Come stop by our booth!

Lendonwood founder Dr. Leonard Miller, right, stopped by the Lendonwood booth at a past Home & Garden Show to chat with Board member Jim Corbridge.

SPRING WORKDAY MARCH 29: After a long winter's nap, our garden will need a little awakening in late March. On Saturday, March 29, we invite you to come help get Lendonwood ready for the tourist season. There is a wide range of jobs for many ages and abilities, from picking up sticks to painting to pruning to mulching. The workday starts at 8:30 a.m. with coffee and donuts, then formation of work teams, and then spreading out to tackle jobs. Lunch will be provided at noon and the work usually concludes about 2 p.m. Any amount of time you can spare would be much appreciated.

Volunteers Elliot Geer, left, and Chris Lietzke work to clean up beds in the Azalea Garden in a past workday. Elliot was a Grove high school student who showed up to help out. Chris

volunteers in a number of capacities, from being a “Wednesday Weeder” to coordinating the Fairy Festival this year.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE GARDEN PARTY MAY 3: You won’t want to miss our annual Garden Party fundraiser, set for Saturday, May 3. We’ll have wonderful food by Timbered-In Catering, an exciting silent auction, music and fellowship. Ticket information will be out soon, but save the date! This is our primary fundraiser and helps the garden continue as a community treasure.

These folks had a lot of fun at last year’s Garden Party and think you should be there on May 3! From left are Jena Bolt, Allen Bolt, Pat O’Connor and Jim O’Connor.

NEXT UP – ART IN THE GARDEN MAY 17: On this occasion (Saturday, May 17), arts and crafts will be for sale and on display, against a backdrop of beautiful plants and trees in the garden. Admission is free. Lunch will be provided by Santa’s Old Broads as one of their fundraisers. We also are planning musical performances at various times.

Jana Jae, second from right, and her band members and friends brought wonderful sound to Art in the Garden last year.

FAIRY FESTIVAL SET FOR JUNE 7: If you have kiddos in your family (or even if you don't), come experience the magic of Fairy Festival on Saturday, June 7, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be fairy wings available for children, fairy godmothers handing out wands and fairy dust, magic tricks, fairy dancing, face-painting, crafts, sweet treats, music and more! Admission is $5 per person.

"Fairy Godmother" Colleen Jones hands out wands and fairy dust to children at last year's Fairy Festival. Last year, we had about 1,000 visitors! We think this year's event will be even bigger and better!

PLANNING FOR PEAK BLOOM VISITS: People often ask us when is the best time to visit the garden. We say, "anytime you can get here." But you may want to know what blooms when. Well, it all depends on the weather, but generally you'll see blooming cherry trees, magnolias, daffodils and Koreanspice viburnum in late February and March. In April and May, you'll see dogwoods, azaleas, rhododendrons and peonies. Then, in June, we'll have blooming daylilies and perennial pollinators (for the butterflies, of course). We look forward to seeing you in the garden!

Can't wait for the azaleas to bloom! We have more than 300 new azalea plants in the garden, so we're especially excited to watch them grow.

TODAY'S GARDENING TIPS:

If you just can't wait to get out in your garden, there are some things you can do in late February. For example, if the ground is dry and not frozen on a warm day, water your evergreens. Consider applying dormant oil sprays to trees and shrubs infected with overwintering insects that have caused problems. Follow label instructions to deal with aphids, scale and mites. You might want to prune summer flowering shrubs through early March, such as certain hydrangeas, hibiscus and butterfly bush. Don't prune spring flowering shrubs until after blooming is finished. You may sow seeds of larkspur, sweet peas, poppies and snapdragons outdoors now. Also, now is the time to cut back liriope before new growth begins. Early spring is a good time to force flowering of pussy willow, quince, crabapples, forsythia, pear and flowering cherry. Bring the branches indoors, place cut stems in water, and change the water every few days.

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

Pauline Hale, President
Lendonwood Gardens