Lendonwood Gardens

September 7, 2025
Issue #36

NOTES FROM LENDONWOOD

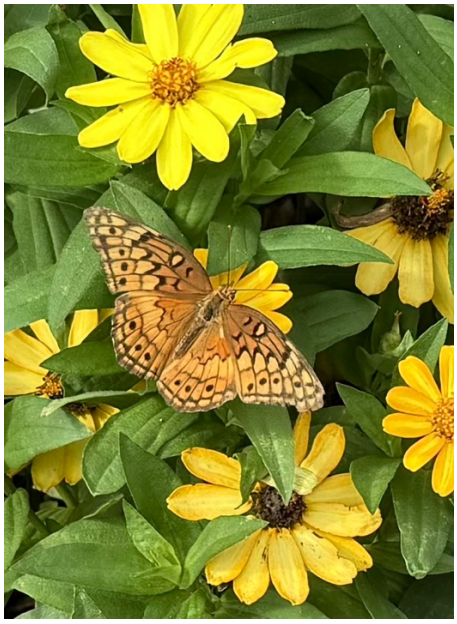
Hello, Friends of Lendonwood!

Finally, we have a break in the heat of summer! It's actually pleasant outside, whether you're doing fall gardening or just cleaning up the beds. In our zone, we can still enjoy some summer blooms, like zinnias, crape myrtle, coreopsis, etc. You might even be fortunate enough to have reblooming irises or daylilies make an appearance. I don't know about you, but I often forget about the rebloomers – and when they bloom, what a wonderful surprise! The fall season offers its own panorama of color: brilliant maples in local yards, amazing Japanese maples in many different colors, late-blooming coneflowers, and many more. Color comes also from migrating butterflies, from Monarchs to Buckeyes to Tiger Swallowtails. And, if you're lucky enough, you might see some migrating birds, including the Mississippi Kite, many types of warblers, gulls and pelicans, among others. With the fall season, we at Lendonwood are preparing for our fall Plant Sale, the Fall Workday, completion of our Daylily Bed renovation, and Angel of Hope Remembrance Ceremony. Hope to see you around the garden!

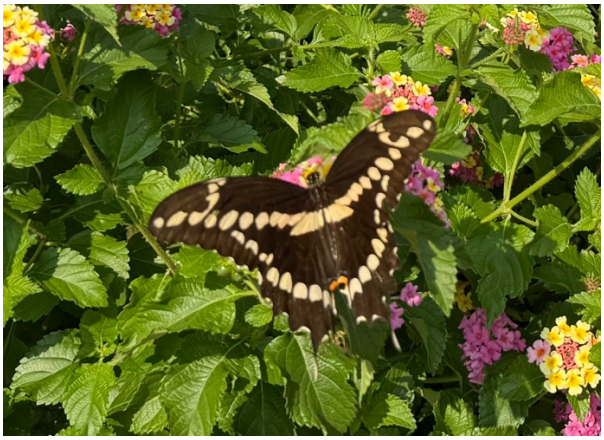
FAIRY FESTIVAL PLANS UNDERWAY; VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Yes, the 2026 Fairy Festival is not until next June, but it's never too early to plan. The date is set for Saturday, June 6, 2026, and the festival will be coordinated by Grove community volunteer Mary Richardson. You may know Mary from her work as head of the Grove Rotary Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, an amazing and successful effort to put free books in the hands of Delaware County children. She is bringing the same excitement and energy to the Fairy Festival. Immediately, Mary issued a call for volunteers to help make the event the best ever. If you'd like to volunteer, contact Mary at 918-786-0150 or LendonwoodFairyFestival@gmail.com. There are lots of ways to get engaged in this fun event!

Mary Richardson, coordinator of the 2026 Fairy Festival, has been involved in the first two festival events on behalf of the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. She invites volunteers to join in the fun.

BUTTERFLIES FLOCK TO THE GARDEN: Migrating butterflies often find their way to Lendonwood, sipping nectar to fuel a long flight south. In the last few days, we've seen a Giant Swallowtail, a Question Mark butterfly, and a Variegated Fritillary. We must confess that we check out the butterfly field guides on sale in the Welcome Center for positive identifications.



This beautiful Variegated Fritillary butterfly found sustenance in the zinnias at Lendonwood.



One of our largest butterfly visitors, the Giant Swallowtail, stopped in for a bit of nectar.

We were pleased recently to welcome a Question Mark Butterfly to Lendonwood. That's opposed to the Comma Butterfly. Butterflies apparently do punctuation!

SEEKING PLANT DONATIONS FOR FALL PLANT SALE ON SEPTEMBER 20: Do you have house plants, perennials, bulbs, iris rhizomes, daylily starts, shrubs or other botanical treasures to donate? Please contact us right away to help expand our inventory for the Lendonwood fall plant sale on September 20. Just call Lendonwood at 918-786-2938.

DAYLILY BED RENOVATION UNDER WAY: Changes are afoot for the old Daylily Bed, thanks to donations for a complete renovation. Last year, in celebration of the 90th birthday of former Board President Jim Corbridge, his children, Loren Corbridge and Stuart Corbridge and their spouses, donated funds for a new look for the Daylily Bed. Many thanks to Ela Johnson, Jim Reynolds, Ray Geis, Art Kopp and others for transforming the space into something special. The renovated bed will feature three beautiful fountains, new daylily varieties, new plants for contrast, and spreading ground cover.

Board members Jim Reynolds, left, and Ray Geis set up water and electrical supply for the three new fountains in the Daylily Bed. Soon, transplanted and new daylilies and other plants will be placed in the bed surrounding the fountains.

TODAY'S GARDENING TIPS:

Autumn is a good time for adding compost to garden soils to increase organic matter content. Perennials, especially spring bloomers like peonies, can be divided now. When planning peonies, plant them only 1-2 inches deep. Planting too keep can cause flowers not to form. It's a good time to divide irises as well. After lifting the iris plant, check for rot; cut off and discard any signs of rot. When replanting, preferably in a well-drained location, dig a shallow hole of 3-4 inches deep. Build a small mound in the center and position the new rhizome over the mound, spreading the small roots around. Spread dirt very thinly over the rhizome and tamp down. Water well.

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

Pauline Hale, President
Lendonwood Gardens