



NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, Issue 1

A Club of Distinction Award Winner of Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.

Gaylord, Michigan 49735

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Presidents Day (Monday, February 21) A Tribute to Washington and Jefferson and their Gardens
- The Rockefeller Christmas Tree Lighting Inspires Gift to Board Members
- January Program "Composting: A Symphony in the Garden" by the Owner of Dairy Doo, Brad Morgan
- February Program "Rain Barrels - The Art of Water Collection" by Brad Timmer of Michigan Rain Barrels

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"Our Capitol Congress"

National Garden Clubs, Inc. 82nd Convention

Washington D. C. May 27-29

All Members of Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. are invited to attend the National Garden Clubs, Inc. 82nd Convention at the end of May, the 27th through the 29th. Hosted by the Area Capitol Garden Clubs, the main speaker is Nancy Clarke. We have seen her on HGTV each year during the Christmas Tour of the White House directing volunteers to fulfill the holiday theme chosen by the First Ladies. Recently, retiring after 30 years (6 administrations from Carter to Obama), she will reflect on the responsibilities as Head Florist. *In an ABC News interview upon retirement in May 2009, she talked about starting as a volunteer in 1978. With a staff of three, she did floral arrangements for the East Wing, West Wing, and the private family residence. She did countless state dinners and White House parties for prime Ministers and Foreign Dignitaries. The high point of her career was meeting Queen Elizabeth in 2007. The State Department was contacted for tastes, customs, allergies and personal preferences of guests. For example, in Muslim and Pacific Rim Countries white flowers are associated with funerals and in Central America that is true with the color yellow. "I think flowers add a special warmth to a room, they sort of set the mood, set the tone, and I just think it helps the people coordinate better, get along better."*

Purchasing flowers was done locally but she had access to gardens globally. Always fresh, the word "silk" was a bad word.

First ladies had different styles. Rosalynn Carter liked flowers from her backyard such as white camellias, Nancy Reagan bright flowers, Hillary Clinton tropical flowers especially Bird of Paradise and Laura Bush had Ms. Clarke help select a light green china pattern to match every and all flowers.

The Life Membership Banquet will be prepared by Chef Walter Scheib who worked for the Bushes and the Clintons. The opening luncheon will include the U.S. Forest Chief, Thomas Tidwell to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the relationship between National Garden Clubs, Inc. and the U. S. Forest Service. (Note: Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary is in the Huron-Manistee jurisdiction of the Forest Service and partner with Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.) The Saturday Luncheon will feature the Secretary of the United States Agriculture. He will speak on his new project, "The People's Garden."



George Washington

by

Gilbert Stuart

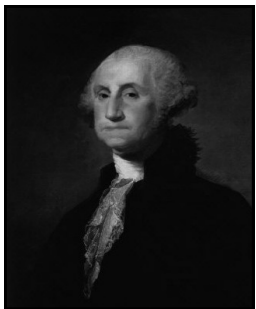
National Portrait Gallery - Smithsonian

Side tours mixed with history and gardens will ensure a wonderful experience to all that attend: The Estate of Marjorie Merriweather Post's Hillwood Estate (Museum and Gardens), Martha Washington's grand-daughter's home (Dumbarton Oaks and Tudor Place), George Washington's Mt. Vernon and his River Farm (Headquarters of the American Horticultural Society), Arlington National Cemetery, National Cathedral and their gardens and more.

PRESIDENTIAL GARDENERS

George Washington - Mt. Vernon Plantation

A Pioneer Farmer, would be George Washington's simple answer to his most important occupation. Although he



played many different roles in founding our nation, Commander in Chief of the Revolutionary Army, First President and Leader of the Constitutional Convention, Washington was a **leader in American agriculture**. He enjoyed cultivation of crops including experimentation with what techniques and tools worked best for his four working farms. He studied agricultural books, corresponded with American farmers and those abroad, tested over 60 crops

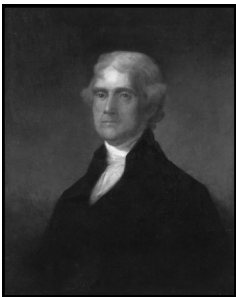
on his plantation which he expanded from 2,100 to 8000 acres. He was determined Mt. Vernon be a profitable operation.

Through **detailed record keeping**, he was able to **improve the quality of his soil through crop rotation, fertilizer and other land conservation techniques**. His goal was to become a self-sufficient farm through ending tobacco farming subject to the British Crown for sales. He modified tools to fit his needs and introduced the mule to American farming as a better fit than a horse. His main crop was wheat but also grew corn, rye, buckwheat, oats and potatoes. He also planted grasses in hopes that his land would remain fertile year after year. **He designed a special building for his composting operation** and subscribed to the The Practical Gardener by John Spurrer.

Washington took land with a thin top soil and thick clay and combined it with usable **compost from manure, creek and river mud, fish heads and plaster of paris**. **His property was in a landscape he designed with curved beds** of perennials for every season (bulbs, hollyhocks, peonies, heliotrope, larkspur, and dozens of other specimens.) He planted a boxwood parterre of the Fleur-de-lis to honor his friendship of the Marquis de Lafayette, with the French Aid it took to win the Revolutionary War. The Kitchen Garden included fruits and vegetables (asparagus, beets, beans, spinach, artichokes, onions and lettuce.) A greenhouse held exotic plants in winter months such as coffee, lemon, lime, orange trees and aloe. He had a botanical garden for trials of pecan and hickory nuts and root vegetables for animal fodder. He freed 122 slaves well trained in this self sufficient community.

Thomas Jefferson - Monticello Gardens

Known for "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness", Author of the Declaration of Independence and the Statute of Virginia for religious freedom,



Third President of the United States, Founder of the University of Virginia, he was a public official, historian, and philosopher who served his country over five decades.

As did Washington, Thomas Jefferson collected seeds and plants from all over the world and would receive a shipment of 700 species per year from the Jardin des Plantes in Paris. His plants would be considered to be **heirloom** today. He **landscaped his grounds** with a winding flower bed to be able to take in more

flowers, curving gardens were the new trend to get away from the formal European garden design.

Trees were probably his favorite. He has been called **the father of American Forestry**. In fact he felt felling a tree, was "a crime short of murder." He had a special grove of trees "pets" he would call them---a Red Cedar, Sugar Maple (wanting to establish a sugar plantation in Virginia), European Larch, Tulip Poplars and Copper Beech. As he got older he remarked "Too old to plant trees for my own gratification, but will do so for posterity."

A unique 1000 foot terraced vegetable garden was carved from the side of a hill. This afforded it protection from the wind and allowed plants not normally able to be grown in Virginia a chance. He reportedly grew a banana tree bearing fruit. He also had a Pond and experimented with water plants. The "Garden Kalendar" was a

book, he wrote chronicling the plants he grew.

After his death in 1806, the property declined. It was the **Garden Club of Virginia** who revived the gardens between 1939 and 1941 and restored them to his drawings and plant lists. He is known for his oval beds and roundabouts. Tulips lasting over 115 years are the spring mainstay of the garden. Sweet William and Canterbury bells to foxglove compliment the old roses followed by sweet peas, poppy, stock, larkspur and calendula.

Pictures depict a weedy lawn which was probably scythed once or twice a year. This is before modern day lawn care was available. Most of the work was done by his wife and daughters. Manure was hired out to spread around his home on the lawn, but in a misunderstanding coal was shoveled instead!

WINTER CALENDAR

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2011



A Garden Under the Snow by Paul Gauguin

January 12 - Business Meeting and Day Runner/Yearbook Updating (Bring to Meeting)
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Place: BJ's Restaurant
Program: "Composting: Creating a Symphony in the Garden"
Presenter: Brad Morgan of Morgan's Composting, Home of Dairy Doo Products
Hostesses: Karen Gurchiek and Sue Symkowiak
Thought for the Day: Rosy Moran
Table Decorations: Flowers by Josie

February 9 - Business Meeting
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Place: BJ's Restaurant
Program: "Rain Barrels: The Art of Water Collection"
Presenter: Brad Timmer, Owner of Michigan Rain Barrels
Hostesses: Rose Gleason and Marge Williamson
Thought for the Day: Ruth Doss
Table Decorations: Flowers by Evelyn

March 1 - National Garden Club, Inc. Scholarship Entries due to State Chair: *One candidate will be selected from the State of Michigan to receive a \$1,000 Scholarship (College sophomores may apply for their Junior year, in Horticulture related fields, see website listed below). That winner will be eligible to compete for 35 \$3,500 National Garden Club, Inc. grants. More info: vafroeblich@comcast.net.*

Interested in Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. Flower Show School? - New session begins August 9-11, Okemos

Flower Show School is open to all Garden Club Members and those who are interested in Floral Design. The four courses spread over a two year period include: Basic information on proper garden techniques starting from seeds to plants, selection of plant culture and control of pests to result in fine flower show entries or for your own personal use. There are many varieties of plants which can be featured in flower design: Annuals, perennials, trees, fruits and vegetables. Arrangement styles will range from traditional to contemporary along with Table Settings (learning to use centerpieces, dishes and linens) as an art form..

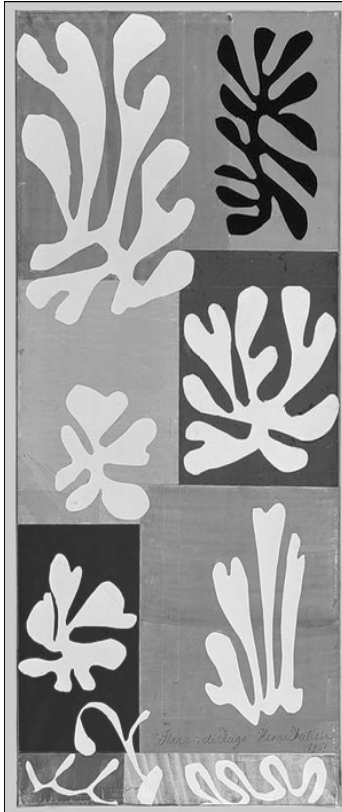
September 12-13 - District V Landscape Design Study School, Mason County Garden Club, Ludington

For details on upcoming 2011 Club Affiliation Events, see National Garden Club, Inc. (www.gardenclub.org) and Michigan Garden Club, Inc. (www.michigangardenclubs.org) for Study Schools, Garden Walks, Flower Shows, State, National and Central Region Conventions.

The Art of Gardening

Learning. Designing. Growing.

2011 Club Theme



Snow Flowers
by
Henri Matisse

As 2010 ends, a thanks to everyone who participated in continuing the Edelweiss Garden Club traditions. A new Yearbook will be on the tables at the January Meeting full of wonderful activities to keep your inner gardener alive. To close out November and December 2010, Ruth Doss hosted our Pine Cone Wiring Day at Waters RV. Carol Breed, Pine Cone Chair and Cynthia Hilling, Bow Chair worked over the course of the year to collect and purchase these embellishments on the wreaths. A thank you to Rosy Moran, Chair and her Committee for taking on the Greens Sale and Dee Burau for overseeing Pick Up Day on short notice. The wreaths were lovely this year, along with poinsettias by The Blossom Shop delivered by Kathy Steel. (You may have noticed the quality of their loam in each pot retained moisture which outpaced other potted poinsettias). A second thank you to Dee Burau, Christmas Luncheon Chair and Committee for the merriment and good spirits at Marsh Ridge Resort. The Friendship Shelter was ecstatic about the receipt of our greens as part of our Winter Beautification Deck the Halls project delivered by Lois Kalis.

As one year closes, another one opens. This year, plans are to captivate you with art inspired by Members (see compiled list in Yearbooks of hobbies, arts and crafts as a better way to get to know others in the Club as well) and art inspired by both local and famous artists. Flowers and gardens are universal, no matter what language is spoken.

Our programs this season will fulfill National Garden Club Goals in areas of Horticulture, Landscape Design, Flower Arranging, Historic Preservation, Environment, Conservation, Recycling, etc. Roseann Kujawa and Marge Williamson set these up nearly a year in advance, as well as Field Trips which will include heading out of town to the Day Lily Farm and Northwest Michigan Botanical Garden site. Look for partnerships with the Gaylord Area Council for the Arts for our Membership Luncheon and upcoming Garden Walk, "Art and Country Gardens."

In January and February flower choices will be finalized for this year's planting, Scholarship information is being distributed and Members will tour our new website in an upcoming Meeting.

Rockefeller Christmas Tree Inspires Gifts

Conservation and Environment

Inspired by the lighting of the Rockefeller Christmas Tree and the discussion on replenishing fir trees across the nation, Joan Collick, 1st Vice President decided on a unique gift for fellow Board Members. Ten State Trees, the White Pine,

were ordered through the Otsego County Conservation District and will be planted on their 16 acres in the spring by Youth of the Community. These trees grow to be 50 to 80 feet tall at a fairly fast rate. Patricia Osburn, Director reminds us, in

addition to the gardens there in the summer, visitors are welcome in the winter to snow shoe and cross country ski. Thanks Joan for creating a new stand of pines



Airport Will Receive F-16 History and Preservation

Another reason to get our Gardens ready for the Air Show. Those in attendance will see the reveal of the F-16 slated to land and remain on the ground at Gaylord Regional Airport. Nancy Valuet, Airport Garden Chair and member of the EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association) has announced this addition coming to the Airport. Not easy to acquire, Matt Barresi, Airport Director along with Otsego County have been putting in overtime to receive this craft. The plane is a US Air Force Fighter Jet (F16A Fighting Falcon).

After the Air Show, this decom-

missioned jet will be moved to the corner of Dickerson and Van Tyle to draw attention to the Airport and the long awaited sign designating the Entrance. The small white house there will be removed so this can take place.

Budding airplane enthusiasts will be able to stop and inspect the plane. This model is not an antique, but is used and ready for aggression against the United States by the National Guard.

Often, they are sent to another state to be placed in a museum or used in bombing target practice on military ranges.

This is nice honor for the Gaylord Community and the Garden Club who helps maintain this property.



Rain Barrels and Gardens Conservation and Recycling

The February Program will focus on Water Collection and Conservation. Gaylord is actually the home of Michigan Rain Barrels, an industry which recycles used food and wine containers into a fashionable vessel fitting naturally into environments. Why should one acquire a rain barrel? Water can be harvested to save on well and municipal water use, slow down runoff and

can be used during a drier time period. One inch of rain on a 20 x 25 square foot roof can produce 4 to 5 barrels worth of water. Rain Gardens are also popular for capture. A slight depression can be dug and water can be funneled from hard surfaces such as roofs, roads, drives and sidewalks. Native plants are ideal for these areas as they provide a long root structure to filter water. Brad Timmer, Owner is a Landscape De-

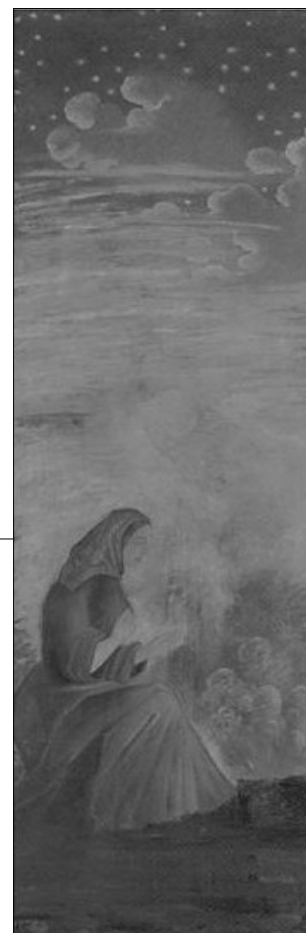
signer and will talk further on the subject. Bring your questions to better your garden.

Publicity 2011

The 2011 Yearbook will bring to light a need to continue working on increasing Active Membership to insure continuity and stability in the Club in the coming years. Active Members are needed to be a viable Club and to keep up with the physical demands of gardening. This year, Publicity for new Members will be

a focus. Most of our new Members come from current Members by personal invitation. Start thinking about prospective New Members for the May Membership Luncheon. Brochures and our website www.edelweissgardenclub.com can be a resource. Also, Edelweiss Garden Club flags for Members Home Gardens and car

window stickers have been discussed for further community visibility.



Seasons by Paul Cézanne (1860)

Meet Our Members

Marge Williamson - 2nd Vice President

I have deep roots in Gaylord. My Grandparents settled here in the early 1900's and both of my parents were born here. They came from large, Polish farming families. I still have many relatives living in Gaylord today. Though I wasn't raised here, we always had family ties here and spent all our vacations here. When my husband and I retired in 2000, we decided to move to Gaylord from Livonia, MI where we raised our family. We had owned cottages up here through the years and knew we would like the slower pace.

Since I worked for a doctor many years and then for Hospice of Michigan, my first volunteer job here was for Hospice of Michigan, taking care of patients and participating in Grief Support Sessions. I joined RSVP, a bowling league, a water aerobics class; the Garden Club, and my Church's Ladies Guild. Each activity brought new friends into my life and many new activities. I especially enjoy the Garden Club because of the sense of accomplishment it brings. I saw a notice in the local newspaper about their Membership Luncheon back in 2005 and went on my own to it. I wasn't alone for long. Everyone was very gracious and I'm still making new friends.

I have four sons, two daughters-in-law and six grandchildren, ages 10 to 22, who also keep me very busy and fill my life (usually) with joy. They all live downstate in the Livonia/Milford areas, except for my son, Mark, who owns Arlene's Diner in Downtown Gaylord and truly enjoys being a downtown business owner. I love living in Otsego County. I try to support the local businesses and attend as many local plays and concerts as I can.

Rosy Moran - Corresponding Secretary

Rosy Moran and her husband Doug, came to Gaylord in August of 2006. Rosy is a former Speech and Language Pathologist, having retired in 2004 from the Willow Run Community School District. She is currently an active Member of the First Presbyterian Church in Gaylord, as well as Edelweiss Garden Club and is also the Secretary for the Loon Homeowners Association. Rosy is the proud mother of two fine gentlemen: Patrick, age 27, and Alan, age 23, and is also a mother-in-law to a wonderful daughter-in-law, Rachel. Rosy would be remiss if she failed to mention her baby, "Arlo", a three year old Havanese.

Having lived in the "Golf Mecca" for four years now, Rosy finally took the plunge and joined the Z-League at Michaywé Pines. Her golf skills may be rough around the edges, but she is having a darn good time!

Rosy's other leisure time activities include scrapbooking, cooking new recipes, and reading with the G-town Bookies.

Margaret Albert

Although Margaret hails from Ohio, she has immersed herself in Gaylord's community life and yesteryears by purchasing the grand Victorian with substantial gardens on North Center steeped rich in local history. This Queen Anne style residence was built in 1896 by Frank Kramer owner of the Kramer Store. (He was also the principal founder of Gaylord State Bank, which was established in 1893.) With these ties to Gaylord's earlier years, Margaret volunteers at the Historical Society and helps others find the history of their homes. She has restored other old homes and an old school. Hunting and refinishing antique furniture is one of her passions. While living near Shiphewana, she spent every Wednesday there and also auctioned antiques.

Having been in the teaching profession for 20 years, Margaret continues to teach an art class to third graders once a month. She joined our Club in 1995 and is also an Alpine Advanced Master Gardener. She believes in service in her community splitting time between volunteering in Gaylord and during winter months in Florida. While in Gaylord, she sings in the Presbyterian choir (a tradition she has kept up from elementary school) and is involved in their huge annual Flea Market sale. She was in a gourmet cooking group for 19 years, belonged to two bridge groups, has sewn, canned and cross stitched. Recently, she has dedicated time Tuesday evenings in working with Carol Nelson-Snyder on her recovery from a devastating brain aneurysm.

Her this old house is always a work in progress and Members will get the chance to visit during "View My Garden" this summer.

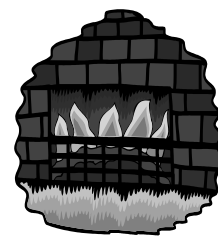
Joy Hanje

Joy raised four children in Rochester, Michigan. During that time, she taught sewing in Adult Ed for Utica Schools and sold real estate part time. When Al and she were married, they moved to Lake Fenton and Joy worked for EF Hutton as a registered sales assistant. Over the years, she and her husband had a cottage in Gaylord and when they decided to retire 23 years ago in 1987, they re-built the cottage into a small home. After two more additions, they have their current house. Joy continues to enjoy home repairs and her daughters bought her a compressor and nailer for Christmas last year. She is currently replacing the standard baseboards in the house with wider more traditional ones. Recently, she re-did a small bathroom as well. She has been drawing her whole life, but didn't take any formal training until about 20 years ago. Joy loves to draw and paint.

A Member of the Club since 2003, she has been the Corresponding Secretary and Chairs of both Habitat for Humanity and Scholarship Committees. She is also an Active Member of the Evangelical Free Church and hosts the annual Woman to Woman Conference. December 10th, Joy had her first "great" grandchild, Olivia Carolyn Hanje and has 15 grandchildren, 13 boys and 2 girls. Congratulations!

Fireside Reading

New Garden Books from Otsego County Library



The Nonstop Garden: A Step-by-Step Guide to Smart Plant Choices and Four Season Designs

By Stephanie Cohen *author of The Perennial Gardener's Design Primer* and Jennifer Benner (2010)

Novice gardeners start with annuals and perennial beds but, this Author wishes she would have had a manual to build an integrated garden right off the bat twenty five years ago. She “continually wrestled and rearranged her perennial plantings wondering why they had no oomph and just did not jive.” She visited other gardens and took notes. Results ended in less work and more play!

Here’s the Checklist for a mixed garden:

- Annuals (20%)
- Perennials (30%)
- Bulbs (10%)
- Trees and Shrubs (30%)

- Edibles (Herbs and Veggies) (5%)
- Vines (5%)

Along with photographs of suggested plants, this book has garden designs for shade, hot and wet areas, wild life, going native and a “Winter Wonderland.”

This is a good time to look out your window at your garden which will showcase its barebones and structure. (And drive by Edelweiss Gardens, too.)

The Author recognizes gardens do not have to be devoid of color even in the darkest of winter days. Recommended plantings include anchoring with strong plant shapes. And, she says leave clean up until Spring to take full advantage of some of the vegetation.

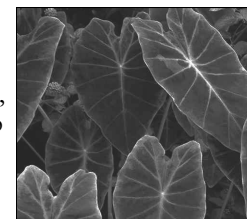
So, what does she recommend for a good winter garden?

- Evergreens
- Colorful woody stems
- Ornamental berries, buds and barks
- Dry Grasses
- Seed heads left from perennials

Unique garden supports, trellises and arbors can add interest this time of year.

When Gaylord heats up next summer, she is a believer in adding tropicals which are included under the heading of annuals.

Banana trees, elephant ears, cannas and hibiscus: Fussy perhaps, but, a surprise in the up north habitat.



The Darling Dahlias and the Cucumber Tree

By Susan Wittig Albert (2010)

There is nothing new under the sun proven in this fictional Garden Club in the setting of the Depression Era.

Susan Wittig Albert is nationally known for her China Bayles mysteries. This book’s debut, begins the start of a new series with characters as Garden Club Members. The Club, in the not real town of Darling, Alabama, has a column in the local paper, publishes a list of ways to make do or recycle during hard times, shares treats and recipes with one another and worries about whether or not they should raise their dues to 25 cents, all in

the midst of solving a murder mystery. The book brings back nostalgia of the past such as soda fountains, fells naphtha soap and movie theaters. But what is a Cucumber Tree is the first thing you want to know in the story. As it turns out, it is a *Magnolia Acuminata*, not known for its showy flowers (small yellow and non-descript) but rather for the fruit it bears which looks like a cucumber. These contain seeds and turn red in autumn. Although not native to Michigan, this tree can be seen in the State of Ohio and in the Appalachians. This book is easy reading and a winter diversion with

some garden lore. Confederate Rose? Another name for *Hibiscus Mutabilis*. *Mutabilis* means ‘changeable’ and the story goes, a Civil War soldier bled and fell next to its white flower and by evening the flower turned red. So you *can* learn from fiction.





MEMBER OF MICHIGAN GARDEN CLUBS, INC., CENTRAL REGION AND NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

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www.edelweissgardenclub.com



Upcoming 2011 March - April Newsletter

“Art in Bloom” May 12th
Membership Luncheon at
Michaywé Inn the Woods

Planting Day June 1st (BBQ
Potluck at the Opal Lake
Beach House, Michaywé)

Jonquil

by Georgia O’Keeffe

District V Spring Meeting Sign Up

Summer Plans

MAKING ARRANGEMENTS

FLORAL DESIGN - BLEACHED OR DYED PINECONES

Edelweiss Garden Club Members are always on the hunt for well formed pine cones for the Annual Greens Sale. Beyond the Christmas season, pine cones can be used to add shape and dimension to rustic Up North décor year around and in floral arrangements.

At almost no cost, a natural look can be obtained through bleaching all sizes and types. The results provide contrast against foliage or medium and darker colored brown cones. This project does require some time for



the cones to bleach, dry and reopen, but can be sped up with the use of oven heat to re-flower as they close tightly when submerged in the bleach mixture.

Start by using a non-reactive type of container and expect after adding a 50/50 solution of water and chlorine bleach to have the cones sit for 8 to 9 hours. As the cones do float, weight them down or wedge them against one another. Rotate the cones periodically to make sure all sides are being treated. Rinse well. To go a step further, once bleached, cones can be fabric dyed for 30 minutes to produce soft colors which spray paints can not produce. Dry on newspaper and work carefully anytime

when using these types of products.

Pine Cone Drop for 2012 Greens Sale begins in April when the snow melts. Carol Breed, Pine Cone Chair will be monitoring the quality and quantity of the cones from this harvest. Each Members should contact her, to let her know you have found your 75 red or white cones.

