



Photo: BEA DAVIS

LIONS' HONOREES - David and Dorothy braid, of woodsedge apartments, received a certificate April 7th from the Lansing Lions for their work serving Lansing Seniors. Lion Art Bratton (r) does the honors.

Spring Hist. Mtg Apr. 30 at All Saints: Tax Credits For Barn Rehabs On Tap

The Spring meeting of the Lansing Historical Association will be held Wednesday, April 30 at 7:30 p.m. at the All Saints Parish Hall at the corner of Route 34B and Myers Road.

Charles Pomada and Rick Lazarus will present a program on *Barn Preservation*

and the New York State Tax Credit. It should be of interest to all people who want to know more about the new tax laws concerning barn restoration.

The meeting is free and open to the public. As always, books and articles of historical interest will be available.

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Garden At A Glance

By Katrina Greenly

It's certainly been a confusing spring and the gardens are equally confused. Night chills of 10-20^o spell disaster for many swelling buds. Some damage is apparent, such as mushy wood hyacinths, flattened fully bloomed daffodils, browned magnolia petal tips and dropped early azalea buds.

Other effects may take a while to become visible. Make a note, because when the weather finally turns warm we could forget that some injured plants need extra nurturing this year. If a dry summer follows this dry spell, weakened plants will need regular extra watering to build up their health.

If cold, damp soil discouraged you from sowing peas, try germinating them in moist paper towels on the counter. When that little root emerges, plant the peas out into the rows. While in the garden, don't forget the first lettuce, spinach, radishes and leeks. Garlic and onions should go in as soon as possible for a long growing season.

My vote for a leafy vegetable for taste and heat tolerance is Swiss Chard. Easy to germinate, it grows beautifully from May through November. Steamed red or white-stemmed chard adds color to the dinner plate and is sweet tasting. Its flavor is similar to beet greens and spinach, but without that dry, astringent aftertaste. You can harvest swiss chard vigorously and it will regrow to your heart's content. Swiss chard, chicken, navy beans, garlic and onion make a delicious quick soup.

Spring's a great time to divide most perennials. (Do wait for fall for peonies.) In a few weeks, you'll be able to divide large clumps to spread around or give a little to a friend. If you just want to give a small piece without disturbing a nice clump, simply slice off a corner with a narrow shovel and fill the resulting hole with some compost to hasten roots' regrowth. If you must make many

divisions, dig up the entire clump using a garden fork around the perimeter to loosen the plant; then lift it from the soil. Some fiercely established clumps, such as hostas and daylilies, may require more muscle effort and you might have to resort to cutting and lifting with a shovel.

Once the large clump is out, shake the soil off gently or use a gentle stream of water to rinse soil from the roots. Many perennials can be divided by simply working the clump with your fingers to separate plantlets. Separate densely growing hostas and daylilies by piercing the center of the plant with two garden forks, which are used as levers to pry the clump apart. For the densest clumps, such as ornamental grasses, you'll have to cleave them in the center with a sharp shovel.

To plant small clumps, dig a hole large enough to give roots a full spread. Sift fine soil and compost around the roots 'til it's tucked up under the crown of leaflets. Water thoroughly. After the water's settled, you may need to add a little more soil and top off with two inches of a mulch. If the weather's hot and sunny, water daily for the first week and give weekly waterings for at least the next month. If the soil drains poorly, adjust your watering by feeling the soil with your finger to detect dryness.

The last recommendation is to plant your trees and shrubs early this year. You can plant them as soon as the ground thaws enough to work. Many nurseries have tree and shrub specials in the spring. Keep your eye on special ads in the papers. This dry weather may last the summer and the longer new plants are in the ground the better. Happy planting!

Send in your gardening questions to Katrina Greenly. She lives in Ludlowville with husband John and son Tony and operates "by-You-Side" landscape consulting

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