

OPEN GATE GARDEN CLUB OF MICHIGAN

May 2025 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING:

May 21, 2025:

Board Meeting at 5 PM

General meeting at 6:15 pm

LOCATION: Father Harvey Activity Center

TOPIC: Deer and Rabbit Resistant Plants and Prevention

Speaker: Laura Butler

HOSPITALITY: Pat Donar is the May monthly chair. Volunteers include Lynne Ronthi, Karen Hall, Cara Wahl, Linda Blanco, Joan Runyan, Sherry Lahey, Sue Bammert, Patti O'Keefe, Skip/Tom. Let Pat know at 248.396.4477 if you have not volunteered for this month but are able to help out by bringing a dish to pass.

MEMBERSHIP: We will be collecting dues at the May meeting. Membership New/Renewal Forms will be available. Or you can download a membership form from the web site before the meeting. <https://opengategardenclub.com/membership>

ELECTION: Our current club officers are also the candidates for the 2025/2026 club year. Voting will take place at May meeting,

ST JOHN GARDENS: Annuals were planted on May 10th from 9 until noon. Many thanks to Karen Poloski and a hard-working team of Ann and Ray Barth, Nicolette Ellinghausen, Jim Fornash, Jim Douglas, Jim Pabst, Pat Manion, Patty O'Sullivan, and Carla Goll.

GARDEN TOUR: MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND SIGN IN! Sign in sheets for the various committees that together make our annual event a success will be on the tables near the door. Note the committee chairs on the top of each form. These garden club members have volunteered for many years on the tour and need your help making this year's tour as successful as previous tours have been.

MINI TOURS: June Mini Tour will be at Patsy and Geno Essenmacher's home, 123 Nicole in Linden. This is an amazing property with extensive, beautiful gardens. Please join other

Photo by Pat O'Sullivan



garden club members for an opportunity to visit with each other while viewing these lovely gardens. We are still looking for mini garden tour hosts for July, August, and September. Please see Kim Alexander at the May meeting if you have questions or want to host a mini tour.

JUNE MEETING: Reminder that our June meeting will be held at the Maryville Retreat Center at 18307 Taylor Lake Road, Holly, Michigan 48442. The center will be providing a meal for us. <https://maryvilleretreatcenter.org/>

SAVE THE DATE: The Blue Water Conservancy will have their annual native plant sale at Neiman's Market

BLUE HERON HEADWATERS PRESENTS ~
NATIVE ROOTS
Plant Sale & Community Market

Celebrate nature and
community—shop native,
shop local!



Neiman's Family Market
Saturday, May 31
10am - 3pm

The native plant sale you love—now bigger and better!
Save the date! More details coming soon!



Open Gate Garden Club Member Meeting
April 16, 2025

Business Meeting

1. Pat Laycock announced Wojo's dates: Thurs, May 8 and May 22. OGGC receives 10% of sales IF buyer mentions Open Gate Garden Club.
2. Norm Kilgour – Members can sign up anytime, bring dues (\$40) to next meeting.
3. Thanks to committee members, all incumbents for offices are returning. Elections will be at May meeting.
4. Karen Poloski thanked all who helped at the April 12th cleanup of the church grounds. It was a beautiful day and a lot was accomplished. The Saturday before Mother's Day (May 10th) will be the day members can plant annuals. Hours will be 9 a.m. until finished.
5. Kim Alexander reported that funds were approved by the Donations Committee for the following organizations: Glenwood Cemetery Heritage Fund, Linden Community Garden, Maryville Retreat Center, Transfiguration Lutheran Church Meditation trail, and Vista Drop In Center. Details available on request.
6. Kim also requested members to sign up for mini-garden tours. These are only open to club members. Let Kim know if you would like to showcase your garden in the month of May, June, July, August, or September.
7. May 14th is the perennial plant exchange at Sue Bammert's home. Any perennials left over will be donated to Adopt-A-Pet. Members can give specific donation flowers to AAP; shady area with lots of roots.
8. May 22 is Children's Night at Fenton Farmers Market. Four people needed to do the planters, 2 hour shifts. Cups, dirt, and plants will be provided.
9. Pat Manion asked for volunteers to sign up for the Annual Garden Tour (July 20th) on the sheets provided. There are 7 gardens, all in the Fenton area. Amy reminded people that there were 80 volunteers last year. Save-the-Date: if you volunteer, you get Preview Friday and the Afterglow party afterwards. The QR Code should be available for ticket purchases as of Mother's Day. Check out Tina Imerson's article in the TriCounty Times.
10. Debbie Tegard-Harroun reported she would recommend Elson Tree Service. They removed trees for Hugh and her and they were very satisfied.
11. Marnie placed Tina's article on the OGGC Facebook page.
12. Lynne Ronthi reminded members about the Silent Auction later this year.
13. Ray Barth is looking for speakers and topics for our meetings. There is a signup sheet.

Speaker Presentation – Dawn Green, Give us the Dirt Master Gardener Program, Green through and through, Urban Orchard Culture & Raised Beds; Soils, Fertilizers, Mulches, Made in Michigan.

- Green leaf compound – Hydrangeas; acid soil amender, acid loving; granular, slow release, Uncle Luke's retain West Croft Gardens, 50# - \$25
- Dairy Doo, Veggie Doo for containers & raised beds – composted manure, Denewyth's retail
- Soil Test – prepaid test give away; should test every 3 years; \$25 from MSU; mix together soil from ten spots; specify what it's for
- Triple Shred – MI landscape (Shumakers)
- Power Vac & Shred – Ryobi Back Attack
- Mulch from last year (Black dyed), too thick, chunky, ugly & stuck together vs. Shredded Aged Pine Bark; looks like soil, turns into soil' Pine bark nuggets for large mulch; mulch doesn't change acidity significantly
- No Till – Regenerative soil & gardening; tilling disturbs layers of microbes; Ruth Stout author "If a Plant can Drop seeds & create a plant, Why Do I need to do more than That?"
- In vegetable garden – Plant low growing plants as "ground cover"
- Old potting mix – Add compost 1/2-1/2 ; mulch should wet before planting.
- Miracle Gro for potted plants only
- Veggie-Fertrel fertilizer – granular
- Espoma – has good products but maybe don't need all the specifics
- Raised beds – Soil, sand, compost mixed all together
- Azomite – Powder or granular; A-Z minerals, micro minerals
- Fertrel Super K and Espoma Plant Tone – general fertilizers
- Compost, not fertilizer, for fruit trees; 3x5 beds w/3 fruit trees; keep pruned
- Leaf Mold – Bader's Acres; Worm castings; Bokashi Composting
- Fertrel Fish Emulsion – Fertilizer
- Wine Bottles for Watering
- Cardboard, heavy rolled paper, newspaper, under mulch