



# ***THE OPEN GATE GARDEN CLUB OF MICHIGAN NEWSLETT***

**February Newsletter 2023  
Meeting Jan. 15 at 6:15**

**Quote of the month: It will never rain roses:  
if we want to have roses, we must plant  
more trees.”—George Elliot**

**Speaker: Dr. Kristen Uthus** of New World Orchids.

**Hospitality:** Norm and Nancy Kilgore, Linda Blanco, Pat Donar, Karen Hall, Jerry Loviska, Heidi Tingley, Marnie Boehlke, Maisie Nikola and Mike Nicola

## ***February Photo Contest***

*Gather your top pics to enter into our annual photo contest. The more entries, the more fun for all!*

- Each member may submit one photo per season. spring, summer, fall & winter.
- Photos should be printed out and submitted with the member's name and category recorded on the back, ex; John Smith / spring.
- Photos should be no larger than 5" x 7".
- Photos should avoid humans, or domesticated animals. We welcome nature, i.e.; deer, squirrels, birds, insects, etc.

*Once the contest is finished and your submission is selected, it is up to you to submit your winning photo, to the specified club member. \* To ease with newsletter and website publishing, digital prints are best.*

## **Minutes of the January Meeting:**

6:25 Call to Order

Announcement: We joined the Fenton Chamber of Commerce as of 1-19-2023. All club members

can attend chamber meetings. We will be participating in the Expo on March 4 and 5. Lynn Behr will be heading the table at Expo and will be asking for volunteers in February meeting.

Ray Kondel will be stepping down from the speaker acquisition position. If you are interested contact him or Ann Barth. Historian position is still needing to be filled.

Karen Poloski is looking for 15 to 20 people for adopt a garden volunteering for this year.

Maisie Boehlke is selling Girl Scout Cookies this year at our February meeting.

February is Photo Contest  
March is seed exchange.

7:15 Speaker Emily Duffin presenting "invasive species".

8:15 Drawings Garden ornament Debbie Wasylyshyn

book Leslie Ryan

8:25 meeting adjourned.

**Please note:** Our speaker this month will be bringing some orchids for sale. The orchids she is bringing are suited for growing in the Michigan home and are very different than the orchids commonly found in local garden centers.

## **Note from membership:**

. "If there are questions about the club or how to join, please have the person go to our web site [opengategardenclub.com](http://opengategardenclub.com) or text me. There are applications available for download on our web site. If you have not been to our web site yet,

there is info about the club and garden descriptions for our 2023 garden tour gardens there.”—  
Pat Manion

### **A History of the Rose:**

A Valentine’s favorite flower might be the Rose. Roses have a long and colorful history. According to fossil evidence, the rose is 35 million years old. The Chinese began cultivation of the rose some 5,000 years ago. During the Roman period, roses were grown extensively in the Middle East. They were used as confetti at celebrations and festivals and were a major source of perfume. Romans demanded that peasants grow roses instead of food crops to meet the demands of the empire. Petals were strewn in Roman baths and on beds, thus the phrase “a bed of roses.”

In the Fifteenth century, the rose was a symbol for the fighting factions to control England.

The white rose symbolized York, The red rose signified Lancaster. This is known in history as the War of the Roses.

Roses were in such high demand during the seventeenth century that rose water was considered legal tender. Napoleon’s wife Josephine had extensive rose gardens. Noted botanical illustrator Pierre Joseph Redoute used her gardens for inspiration.

I wasn’t until the eighteenth century that cultivated roses were introduced to Europe from China. Our modern day roses can be traced back to this ancestry. We can credit repeat bloomers, and hardiness to these early ancestors.

Shrub roses and old garden roses are currently very popular. They fit the lifestyle of gardeners and are disease resistant and winter hardy.

Hope you take some time to smell the roses today!



### **Things to do in the garden in February:**

The longer days and warm spells are most welcome this month. The birds are singing and our thoughts turn to the upcoming garden season.

- Finish ordering seeds and plants this month
- Continue to check houseplants for insects and fungus invasions.
- Check trees and shrubs for storm damage. Remove damages using proper pruning techniques.
- Clean planters with a weak bleach solution to get them ready for spring.
- Start seeds indoors of peppers, tomatoes, hollyhocks and begonias.
- Check to see if tubers and bulbs you have stored have started to sprout. Pot them up and keep them in a bright location once they do.