

THE OPEN GATE GARDEN CLUB OF MICHIGAN NEWSLETTER

June 2023

Meeting June 21 at 6:15

Quote of the month: "It is a golden maxim to cultivate the garden for the nose, and the eyes will take care of themselves" -- Robert Louis Stevenson

Speaker "Children's Gardens" by Mary Gerstenberger

Hospitality: Karen Poloski, Deb Scriber, Buddy, Pat Manion, Jean Martin, Pat O'Keefe, Kay Baxter, Patsy Essenmacher, Geno Essenmacher, Janice Cooley, Julie Buttigieg, Kim Fischer

We need 2 more people to bring food, No pizza will be provided at this meeting.

Minutes of the May Meeting:

6:15 open meeting

6:20 Poem by Dick Johnson

6:25 Break for food. Hospitality Thank you.

6:45 Election of new officers:

President...Ann Barth

Vice President...Marne Boehlke

Secretary...Nicolette Ellinghausen

Treasurer...Leslie Ryan

August Potluck Picnic is at Karen Poloski's home, at 9045 Hickory Ridge Rd., Holly, Mi. On August 16th.

Membership dues are due by mid- June.

Mini garden tours this summer are June 8th Karen Hall, July - Jim Pabst, August - Lisa and Jim Rolls.

Garden Tour date is July 23rd. Still time to volunteer. Signup sheets available.

Lynn Behr is asking for ideas for **Christmas entertainment**. The party date is December 13th.

The committee will be forming shortly.

Remember **Silent Auction** when attending garage sales or spring cleaning this year.

Garden Therapy program at Symphony (old Caretel Inn in Linden). Volunteers to work

with clients in gardening areas. Call Lynn Behr if interested. 810-348-1712

Sign up list for working **Fenton Farmers Market** on July 6th, 13th, and 20th, to sell tickets for Garden Tour.

7:20 **Speaker: Cactus Gardening, David Hinch and Vince Russo.**

Meeting closed with **Drawings:**

Book – Backyard Landscaper...Nicolette Ellinghausen

Organic Garden...Heidi Tingley

Décor – Heart...Gary Horton

Tool – Pitchfork...Amy Doyle

Other News:

A big thank you to Karen Hall for letting us explore your beautiful garden on June 8.

Thank you to the members who took part in the Wojo's sale on May11 and May 25th.

Important Garden Tour Information: Help needed please!

Garden#1 host for the afternoon.

Garden: #7

We also need a 3-4 back up people for hostessing.

(1) person for Gazebo and table set up

(2) people needed for garden grooming.

(2-4) people needed for refreshment table. Both shifts: 8:30-12:00 and 11:45 - 5:00

(2-4) people to help load the box truck at St. John's 6:00 -6:30 ish

Garden Tour tickets will be available for pickup at the June 21st meeting. If anyone does NOT want their tickets for any reason, please let me know before we mail any that are not picked up at the meeting.

I can be reached by text, phone or email.

Amy Doyle 810.444.7621

Thank you! Thank you! The support and excitement has already been amazing!

Gardening at St. Johns:

Hi everyone! Just to be a bit more clear...if you are helping to water the flowers at St.John's...with the cooler temperatures, every day watering WILL NOT BE required. When checking for if the plants need watering, gently pick up the overhanging flowers and stick your thumb or finger into the side/ top of the

pot to see if it needs watering, please don't dump water into the middle of the plant, it will eventually cave out the center and look like a nest, always water from the side ...again if the plants are moist, DO NOT Water them! Going a day or two of not watering with the cooler temps will not harm the plants, OVERWATERING will...if it's your day for maintenance, please deadhead any spent blooms, make sure to pinch the flower down to the stem, as this will prevent the plant from producing seed and will result in more blooms! If you have any questions about this e mail or watering, call me please! Thanks to all of you for your help, Jim Pabst 810-429-5417 if anything is unclear please call...water is available at the old church, in the south east corner, kiddy corner from the Fathers residence...if you bring a few 5 gallon buckets to fill, and a smaller container, 1/2 gallon or 1 gallon for watering, it makes the job much easier...

We have the need to check ALL planted annual planters to see if they need water. They are located in 2 signage beds, 2 planter in front of the rectory, the planting beds in the front of the church and finally the bed down one set of stairs. Most areas are watered by a sprinkler. Jim is worried the planters are not going to be watered correctly by the sprinklers and could dry out too fast. So after the check, only add water where necessary. Karen did this yesterday. She used 5 gallons of water and spent between 30 and 45 minutes. Please groom plants, pick weeds and groom as necessary.

Water availability. There could be a hose in the cemetery connected to a faucet and you can carry buckets of water across Adelaide. If not, the chapel on the front of church has 2 faucets haul the water by car or wagon to the church. Or bring some from home.

Jim and Karen am looking for volunteers up from June 5 - June 21 (thanks Nicolette for working today), when we can discuss how much watering will be needed as well as set up the teams to care for the beds. Please sign up for multiple days or with a buddy. Just let me know what days you will work and I will keep the group informed.

On Wednesday June 21, Jim and Karen will discuss gardens maintenance as well as have sign- up sheets.

Open Gate Garden Club New Member interview – Leslie Ryan

Leslie's interest in gardening goes back to her early childhood. She has a small black and white photo of herself around 4 or 5 years old, standing outside, cradling in her arms a huge bunch of cut bearded iris. While she doesn't credit any individual in motivating her, she has always enjoyed digging in the dirt. Leslie and her husband purchased a historic 1876 farmhouse and the landscaping was very boring until she met her best friend and designer extraordinaire. He initially designed the interior then they moved to the outside to do period Victorian landscaping. They have been working on it for 15 years and it now consists of classic formal design with antique garden elements, Victorian structures, formal boxwood gardens, and lots of hydrangeas, viburnums, magnolias, lilacs, and a woodland shade garden (to be featured on the 2023 Home Garden Tour). They have an old barn foundation that is currently being worked on, and Leslie has plans to build a wonderful hexagon potting shed.

One of her favorite gardening techniques (which she learned at an OGGC presentation) is to put down cardboard under mulch, thus keeping weeds down substantially. During the summer, Leslie spends

about 5 days a week working on her gardens; usually a half day at a time or more. She enjoys “Fine Gardening” magazine, and is particularly interested in vintage and antique garden elements, resulting in cultivating her inclination towards restoration and repair of these items.

Leslie is a Retired Physician Assistant, and a Viet Nam era Marine Corps veteran. About herself she says:

“I guess you would call me a maker. Before I retired we built a 2 story barn that has all the amenities of a house except for running water. I have a completely equipped wood working shop and a separate welding shed. I also repair wicker, restore furniture and metal objects, build wooden garden elements, do upholstery, picture framing, restore antique textiles, make beautiful lampshades, repair damaged concrete garden elements, have a special room to spray paint.

by-Nicholette Ellinghausen

December Party: looking for entertainment ideas and any other suggestions you may have for this fun event. The subcommittee format worked well in 2022. More to follow in June. Please reach out to Lynn Behr or Tina Imeson with any entertainment thoughts you might have.

Fenton Farmers Market: will have sign-up sheets available in June for members to promote the OGGC garden tour at the Market. Great opportunity to earn your 10 volunteer hours.

What to do in the garden in June:

The first two weeks of June has been like gardening on the sun, to quote Jim Pabst. Thankfully we have been getting a little rain around here. It’s wonderful to see the grass greening up and the plants filling out.

This month it’s time to:

- Finish up planting and begin general maintenance such as weeding and deadheading.
- Stake plants before they fill in
- Apply mulch if you haven’t already done so!
- Plant tender transplants
- Finish pruning Spring flowering shrubs.
- Identify insects on your plants. Many are beneficial.
- Continue to water as needed, especially new plants.
- Grow more containers! They are movable and will fill in many holes in the garden. They will extend the season and are comfortable to do in a sitting position. Your artistic self will be revealed as you experiment with colors and plant shapes. Remember to include a thriller, a filler and a spiller.
- Bring your houseplants outside if you can. They will enjoy the sunshine and rain and will reward you with new growth.

New Wildlife Habitat

The National Wildlife Federation has recently certified the gardens of Debbie Tegard-Harroun as an official National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat site. Because of conscientious planning, landscaping and sustainable gardening, wildlife will find quality habitat including food, water, cover, and places to raise their young.

Your garden may also be eligible for certification. If interested, feel free to contact Debbie for more information.

Membership Forms are attached to this newsletter. We will also have some available at the meeting.