

OPEN GATE GARDEN CLUB OF MICHIGAN

September 2023 Newsletter

PLANT EXCHANGE:

September 13th at 6:30 PM

Location: Linda Van Camp

217 E. South Holly Road



MEETING: September 20th AT 6:15 PM

TOPIC: Wonderful Woodlanders

Presented by Glen Pace

Hospitality:

Each month 14 people sign up for hospitality. On the sign-up sheet they can choose clean up, set up, greeter, and they can choose a dish to bring: appetizer/bread, salad, main or dessert. We ask that food is provided for at least 30 people. If a couple signs up together, we expect them to bring 2 dishes. The hospitality chair will **text/call the Wednesday before the meeting just to remind whoever has signed up for a dish.** It is very helpful to respond to this reminder by text or email: Lynne Ronthi, Lyro2016@gmail.com, (810) 498-5577

Those who have signed up for the September meeting are: Lisa Rolls, Kathy Wright, Pat O'Keefe, Martha Romanowski, Sue Bammert, Sandee Shoemaker, Nati and Gary Horton, Betty Sheehy, Jerry Loviska, Jeanne Martin, and Pat Manion.

We need 2 more people for September. Please email Lynne if you are able to provide a dish.

Welcome to our new members:

Please save a seat or two at your table at the September meeting for a new member or two. Invite a new member (or anyone who is looking for a place to sit) to join you. Our new members are: Janet Baxter, Deborah Bihun, Justin Davis, Holly Gaul, Suzanne Kelly, Jennifer McKay, Amy and Patrick Mulholland, Carmi Murray, John Pendergast, Clifton Pinion and Megan Poirier, Dianne Swyrtek, Zana Wandshneider, and Christine Webster.

Opportunities:

- Chairperson Summer Garden Tour 7/21/2024
- Finance

- Budget 23/24 / Audit - One day Sept 23
- Nomination (new officers search)- Spring 2024
- Summer Picnic Host 8/21/2024

August Mini Tour:

My Husband and I loved having a chance to share our yard and home with the Garden Club members. We learned a few new things about our plants (proper names and tips on care and transplanting). We also learned a few things about cleaning our bird bath. We enjoyed some food together and had time to have conversation.

We also learned how close a few members lived to us. And we learned that we shared other common hobbies (collecting older cars) We made plans to meet up with one member and her husband at the Fenton Back to the Bricks the next day. This was a great get together outside of the normal club meetings.

Thank you all for coming,
Lisa and Jim Rolls

Summer Picnic:

August 16th was blessed with breezes, mild temperatures and blue skies. Lucky because it rained the day before and after! We had a good turnout, about 40 members, who all brought great food! (Especially the garden dishes, yum). Next year we will reduce purchased food by 50%; but at least folks got to take the extras home.

It always impresses me how very friendly and helpful our group is. Everyone pitched in to help with set up and clean up! Gardeners are indeed, good people. Thank you and thank you for the compliments on the flower beds too! Even the dogs had fun.

Thank you all for coming and making it a success.
Your hostess, Karen Poloski

Garden Tour:

The 2023 Open Gate Summer Garden tour was a day enjoyed by many. We had record breaking numbers, nearly selling out of our 700 tickets, resulting in a profit.

Eight beautiful and uniquely different gardens were on display, each, loved by all. It was only possible due to the hard work and dedication of over 60 members, with many serving more than one position, before, during and after the tour. I'm so grateful to every home owner and member that made it all possible, many hands make Amazing Garden Tours! What a blessing you all are!

Well done all! Well done!
Amy Doyle and Patsy Essenmacher

St. John Gardens:

Thanks to everyone who have been putting in a huge effort dealing with the plantings that we had and the weather that we had. I have heard rave reviews on our beds. You should all take a bow!!

For this fall cleanup I would like to make things easier for us next year by removing some landscape cloth and planting several dwarf hydrangea shrubs to reduce our dependence on annuals. Maybe a few low maintenance and tidy perennials as accents. Looking for idea's guys and maybe a few plant divisions; nothing aggressive or having long shabby phase. Hoping for a day in mid-September so plantings have time to settle in before winter.

Karen Poloski
St. John Planting Chair

Midwest September Garden To-Do

<https://www.finegardening.com/article/midwest-september-garden-to-do-list#:~:text=Sow%20late%2Dseason%20greens.&text=Aside%20from%20the%20amazingly%20wide,about%20the%20fall%20crops%20here.>

The above link will take you to a good article. I have copied below my favorite idea from the list.

Identify late-summer color lapses. As you stroll through your September garden, you can certainly reminisce about the wonderful sequence of colors and textures that your garden provided throughout the growing season. However, September shouldn't be bereft of color. Your late-season perennials, texture, and foliage contributions, and your remaining annuals, should still be providing extended color and interest. It is a great time to wander the garden with a camera and capture images from different angles. Photos from within the home looking out upon the garden are helpful too. As you note lapses in color, consider how best to address those areas for the following year. Perhaps include more later-blooming perennials or more colorful conifers? Maybe ornamental grasses or late-blooming perennials would be a great addition for their lengthy contributions and late summer interest? Or perhaps you can insert some late season color by poking in cool-season annuals to get you well into autumn. Every gardening month should have this same evaluation, and ideally, many of your plants should be providing extended months of interest or seasonal contributions beyond their primary show.



Late blooming perennial 'Dark Beauty' toad lily
(*Tricyrtis formosana* 'Dark Beauty', Zones 4–9).

Minutes Open Gate Garden Club Member Meeting 6-21-2023

6:15 Thank you to Pam and Larry Trevethan for 25 years of service as the Newsletter editors.

Refreshments

6:45 Business Meeting

- Geno Essenmacher is handing out tickets for July Garden Tour. If you want extra tickets see him.
- Jane Sommers took a fall and is in Wellbridge in Grand Blanc. Visitors welcome.
- Lynne Ronthe: New sign-up sheets for next year are available. Sign for two meetings.
 - This is Lynne's last year for hospitality chair. We need a new chair for the 24-25 season.
 - Talk to Lynne if interested.
- Amy: We still need refreshment table help. Help from 5:30 to 6:30 to load truck.
 - Meet at St. John at 4:45 to take preview tour of gardens on Friday before tour.
 - July 14th plant tagging for tour home gardens.
 - Tour afterglow for workers starts at 6:30
- Mini tours July 13th at 5pm Jim Pabst home.
 - August 1st at 5:30 at Lisa Rolls home.
- President: thank you to members
 - Karen Hall: thank you for mini tour attendance at her home.
 - Pat Laycock thank you for funds raised through Wojos \$199.60.
 - Fenton Farmers Market Tent to sell tickets for the Garden Tour dates: 7/6, 7/13, and 7/20.
- Door Prizes: Book- Roses Debbie Tegard- Harroun
 - Book-Dictionary John Kusnier
 - Decor- Turtle Geno Essenmacher

7:00 **Speaker: Mary Gerstenberger, MSU extension, Childrens Gardening.**

8:15 adjourn