

OPEN GATE GARDEN CLUB OF MICHIGAN

March 2024 Newsletter

MEETING: March 20, AT 6:15 PM

EVENT: Meeting and Presentation

LOCATION: Father Harvey Activity Center



The first day of spring is one thing, and the first spring day is another. The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month. *Henry Van Dyke*

March Speaker: Kristin Longley, Director of Communications, Applewood Estate

March Hospitality: Skip Getz-Walsh, Pat O’Keefe, Kim Alexander, Karen Poloski, Karen Maxon, Linda VanCamp, Deb & Vic Wasylyshyn, Nati Horton, Jim Pabst, Mark Trevethan, Judy Lytle, Martha Romanowski, and Linda Rice.

Thanks,
Lynne Ronthi

2024 Photo Contest Winners

****Front Cover – Debra Henyon; Autumn Scene *Back Cover – Jim Pabst; Lilies**

Spring
#1 Linda Rice; Snow Drops
#2 Jim Pabst; Lilacs
#3 Hugh Harroun; Japanese Garden

Summer
#1 Linda Rice; Sunflower
#2 Ray Barth; Fountain
#3 Debbie Tegard-Harroun; Upside Down Pot

Fall
#1 Jim Pabst; Mums
#2 Linda Rice; Fall Leaves
#3 Ray Barth; Statue

Winter
#1 Jim Pabst; Winter Stream
#2 Linda Rice; Evergreen Branches
#3 Debbie Tegard-Harroun; Winter Sunset Behind Tree

Thank you all for participating!
Debbie Tegard-Harroun

Community Expo: Our participation in this year's Fenton expo appears to be a big success with about twenty people signing up to find out more about joining our club. Thank you to Norm and Nancy, Jerry Loviska, Ann Barth, Geno Essenmacher, Deb Henyon, Judy Lytle, Mary

Kay Schmelzer, Cara Wahl, and Carmi Murray for working at our booth. Thanks to Jim Pabst, Jan Cooley, Judy Lytle, the Essenmachers and the Kilgours for providing photos of their gardens to share with the public. Thank you to Lynn Behr for her ideas and for donating candy and colorful pipe-cleaner flowers to hand out. A good time was had by all!

Thank you for making this such a terrific opportunity to highlight our Club!
Patsy Essenmacher

Garden Tour: Planning is well underway for this year's tour. Volunteer Sign-in sheets will be available at the meeting.

Thanks,
Amy Doyle

Donations: Please consider nominating an organization to receive a 2024 donation from Open Gate Garden Club. To be considered, the requesting club member needs to be actively involved with the nominated organization and the organization should exemplify the club's objectives below:

- ☆ encourage all phases of home gardening
- ☆ promote community projects utilizing environmental responsibility
- ☆ inspire a love of nature and beauty.

There is a donation request form attached to this email and also available for download from <https://opengategardenclub.com/garden-club-documents>

Donation request forms are due back by Wednesday March 27, 2024. Return to:
Kim Alexander Donations Chairperson.

St. John Gardens: SAVE APRIL 6TH AT 0900 FOR GARDEN CLEANUP

Calling all gardeners.

It is time again to round up a team of gardeners to clean up the grounds at St. John Church. Experience NOT required 😊, just a willingness to be out in the sun and make things pretty.

To do list this Spring:

- Clean beds of sticks, weeds and old dead plants. Regrade as necessary and top dress with an inch of compost (provided). Annual seeds will be spread in select beds at this time.
- Dead head all hydrangeas along the north wall of the church and tidy up. Remove the last of the junipers and remove the landscape cloth at the end of this bed.
- Only tidying up the area around the Chapel because of continuing external construction. (Exterior stone will need washed and concrete still to be poured on walkways and circle drive.)
- Remove the poorest performing roses from the statue bed on the south side of the church and some tidy, low maintenance perennials will be planted. Hope to use donations from members gardens (Hardy Geraniums (Roseanne), Moonbeam Coreopsis, Lavender, Blue or Purple Salvia).

Open Gate Garden Club Member Meeting February 21, 2024

6:25 p.m. St John Activity Center

Thanks to the hospitality group for potluck contributions.

6:54 p.m. Business Meeting

1. Big thanks to returning Garden Tour chair (Amy Doyle), and welcome, Co-Chair Michelle Kusnier.
2. Kim Alexander spoke about OGGC donations program. We provide donations to organizations in which members are active. Kim has forms to fill out. Return by March 27th
3. Kim also spoke about the opportunity for members to showcase their own gardening prowess by hosting a mini-garden tour at their home. This is a members-only event.
4. A general show of hands suggested interest in a garden-related getaway. Kim Alexander will pursue options, either by bus or just carpooling. The club could help defray some costs.
5. Karen Poloski solicited ideas for the St John Spring Cleanup, specifically ideas for the Statue Bed; even more specifically for easy care perennials.
6. The Adopt-A-Pet location is in need of Spring clean up, Let Karen Poloski know if you're interested in helping. Zebra Grass will be available for members to take home from this location as much of what is currently planted is scheduled to be cemented-over.
7. Patsy Essenmacher announced details for the Fenton Expo, March 2 and 3. Sign-up sheets were available. Two more volunteers are needed.
8. After the meeting, Leslie Ryan offered her home (500 E Ratalee Lake, Holly, MI 48442) for the Summer Picnic. Thanks Leslie.
9. Norm Kilgour asked for volunteers for officers for the 2024-25 season. If you're interested in being an officer, please contact Norm.

The break period was used to vote on this year's photos.

7:15 p.m. Break

7:27 p.m. Meeting resumed

The Photo contest winners were announced. First prize will be featured on the front cover of our directory, 2nd prize will be featured on the back. Other winners will be inside the directory.

Linda Mara from the Fenton Art Council spoke briefly about the Spring Expressions event on Saturday, May 11. This year's event will feature a "Grow Bar" including plants (from OGGC members), planting media, and glassware (from Goodwill). The event will be funded, in part, from a MACC grant.

Kelly O'Neill provided a presentation on Garden Sculptures. When considering garden art, determine what is the purpose of your garden (functional, aesthetic, meditative, etc.) The benefits of garden sculpture, no matter how simple or elaborate, is to provide pleasure to the

gardener and enhance the appearance of the garden. Gardeners need to maintain their garden sculpture, either weathering them with sealers, etc, or taking them in for the winter season if necessary. Sculpture materials include wood, metal, stone, and more. The Fenton Art Council is one resource if you are looking for a sculptor.

Door Prizes: Book and Pillow

Meeting adjourned at **8:20 p.m.**

Open Gate Garden Club Board Meeting February 21, 2024

5:10 p.m. St John Activity Center Library

In attendance: Kim Alexander, Ann Barth, Lynn Ronthi, Nicolette Ellinghausen, Debbie Tegard-Harroun, Linda Van Camp, Marnie Boehlke, Lynn Behr, Ray Barth, Deb Scribner, Norm and Nancy Kilgore

1. Summary of 2024 Garden Tour: Amy Doyle, Michelle Kusnier and Patsy Essenmacher chairs. Motion made and carried to raise from \$12 to \$15 with no discounts for advance purchase. Amy will get with Pat Manion to coordinate efforts on setting up the club to process credit card including processing purchases with credit card readers and using barcode software to purchase tickets through the website.
2. Discussion on Fenton Arts Council. They have asked OGGC to participate in their spring art day on Sat, May 11 for 6 hours. We would host a table with an art project. No fee will be assessed for this event. Pat Manion is leading the event
3. Discussion about a potential bylaw modification stating that members were bring food 2 times a year. A subcommittee from 3 years ago had made that recommendation. It was discovered that a previous board had not approved any changes to Article 3, Section 4 re: bringing in food for meetings and that there is no need for a change. There is no problem requesting that people sign up more than once as some already do.
4. Ann Barth will develop some verbiage to be discussed by the board in the future regarding Bylaws Article 3, Section 2 regarding member acceptance.
5. Financial: 2023-24 updated financial summary handed out (included 2022-23 information),
 - a. The Finance Committee needs to meet to discuss what is a reasonable amount of money to maintain in club's account.
 - b. Club is continuing to lose purchasing power due to inflation
 - c. OGGC is not recognized by the State of Michigan, and has not filed a 990N for a number of years.
6. Discussion about the Fenton Expo. Continue to offer ½ membership rate and ½ Garden Tour Ticket for new people who sign up results from the Expo. Motion was made and carried to continue OGGC at the Expo.
7. Kim Alexander presented information on Tour Bus information. Also discussed simply carpooling. Further information will be gathered for a potential "Field Trip"
8. Discussion about the speaker program. Speakers need to focus on gardening matters, not just general information about their organization.
9. Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.