

OPEN GATE GARDEN CLUB OF MICHIGAN

April 2024 Newsletter

MEETING: April 17, AT 6:15 PM

EVENT: Meeting and Presentation

LOCATION: Father Harvey Activity Center

April Speaker: Brian Kerschbaum, Waterscape LLC, will speak on Water Feature Design



April Hospitality: Carmi Murray, Ann Barth, Janice Cooley, Judy Lytle, Pat Laycock, Pat Donar, Lisa Rolls, Deb Scribner, Lynne Ronthi, Nicolette Ellinghausen, Pat Manion.

Message from Lynne Ronthi: Dear Open Gate Garden Club Members, I am ending my tenure as Hospitality Chair as of June 2024. I have enjoyed serving in this challenging position for the past 3 years, but it is time to pass the torch. I encourage you to think about volunteering for this important role. You can team up with another member if you wish. If you want more information about the responsibilities of the position, click here <https://opengategardenclub.com/garden-club-documents> and scroll down for the Hospitality Chair Responsibilities document. Please contact Ann Barth if you are interested.

Sincerely,
Lynne Ronthi

Spring Expressions, May 11, 2024: OGGC is participating in a community event sponsored by the Fenton Arts Council. We will be providing a creative planting experience for participants. Participants will have an opportunity to create an individual potted plant by choosing a pot, plant, and creative decorations. We are requesting donations of suitable pots or teacups/saucers. Pots should be no more than 3.5-4 inches wide and 3.5-4 inches



deep. PLEASE BRING YOUR POT DONATIONS TO THE APRIL GARDEN CLUB MEETING. There will also be a **sign-in sheet** for volunteers to work at the event. The event will be outside under a large tent behind the Fenton Community Center. In case of rain, the event will be moved inside. This is a great opportunity to market the garden tour too and should be a lot of fun! Thanks,
Lynn Behr, Kathy Girgen, Kim Fischer, Ann Barth, Karen Hall and Pat Manion.

Garden Tour: The 2024 Garden Tour is well underway. Please look for sign-up sheets at the next meeting. Many important roles are still open. Please help where you can. If you have any

questions please call, text or email Amy Doyle. Thank you all! It takes many hands for a successful tour! If you are on any form of social media, please post and share the garden tour information. The press release can be found at <https://opengategardenclub.com/garden-tour> on the Open Gate Facebook page or on my FB page.

Thank you! God Bless, Amy

St. John Gardens: First cleanup went extremely well. I can't believe the amount of work 10 people can do. Wow, the church surroundings look fabulous. Thank you, thank you thank you!!!! Next church detail is for planting perennials and continuing the cleanup along Adelaide Street the parish pond garden and the sign beds is **April 27th at 9 AM**. With the final planting of annuals on **May 18th at 9am** and anything leftover for last gardening. After that, I will pass on the care of the gardens to the adopt a garden sign up members (and yes, I am taking one of the beds The cottage garden with roses if anyone wants to join me doubling up is not only fun, but good for coverage during vacation trips.) Speaking of which, I'd like a phone call if there is a gap in care that you can't get covered by a member. My number is **248-983-7366**, (my number in the book is my old number). Special thanks to Nicolette and Anne for their help with the rainy cleanup at Adopt a Pet. I'm so glad I joined this group!! Karen Poloski

Membership: It's that time of year again. Our membership chairpersons, Nancy and Norm will be accepting dues during the April, May, and June meetings. No inflation here; \$40 for singles and \$20 for a second member of the household. Check or cash, please. There will be membership forms available at the meeting or you can download a form from <https://opengategardenclub.com/membership> and scroll to the bottom of the page.

Open Gate Garden Club Member Meeting March 20, 2024

6:20 p.m. St John Activity Center

Thanks to the hospitality group for potluck contributions: Kim Alexander, Linda Blanco, Skip Getz-Walsh, Nati Horton, Judy Lytle, Karen Maxson, Patti O'Keefe, Jim Pabst, Karen Poloski, Linda Rice, Lisa and Jim Rolls, Martha Romanowski, Mark Trevethan, Linda VanCamp, Deb and Vic Wasylyshyn

Welcome to Invitees from Fenton Expo and member's guests: Jim Douglas, Clare Hayes, Linda Gee, Laura Pennington, and Carla Goll

6:50 p.m. Business Meeting

1. Amy Doyle requested volunteers for this year's Garden Tour. Sign up forms were available.
2. Kim Alexander spoke about OGGC donations program. We provide donations to organizations in which members are active. Kim had forms to fill out, plus there was an on-line option provided with the Newsletter. Return to Kim by March 27th. There was also a sign up sheet available for anyone who wanted to be on the donation committee.

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. There are gardens already signed up for May and June. It would be nice to have a garden-a-month. Please consider showcasing your garden.
4. Karen Poloski talked about clean-up for the ground of St John the Evangelist church. She reminded us that the reason we all meet in the Activity Center is quid-pro-quo for maintaining the various flower beds around the property. This spring's clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, April 6th beginning at 9 a.m. Bring your gardening tools. All cleaned up materials will be composted. There will be treats provided. A lengthy sign-up sheet was available for the ongoing summer maintenance of the beds.
5. The Adopt-A-Pet location is in need of Spring cleanup. A sign-up sheet was available for the March 30 at 10 a.m. event.
6. Ann Barth spoke about the success of the Fenton Expo. Thanks to Patsy Essenmacher for setting up everything for the Expo, to Norm and Nancy Kilgour for following up with all the people who signed up at the Expo, and all the volunteers who manned the OGGC table. And thanks to Lynn Behr for the pipe cleaner flowers she made as handouts.
7. Lynn Behr asked members to provide glassware (sufficient to hold about a cup of soil) for the OGGC table at the Fenton Art Council "Spring Expressions" event (Saturday, May 11, 10-4) at the Fenton Community & Cultural Center. We will provide the vessels, soil, plants, etc. for visitors to make their own planters to take home with them.
8. Norm Kilgour asked for volunteers for officers for the 2024-25 season. If you're interested in being an officer, please contact Norm, Joan Runyan or Lynn Behr.
9. May 9th and 16th Wojo's (Davison and Ortonville) will provide 10% of sales to OGGC ***IF*** you tell them ***before check out*** that you're with Open Gate Garden Club. You need to tell the cashier that you would like OGGC to receive a rebate on your purchases. They need to start the purchase with the information.

7:15 p.m. Break

7:20 p.m. Meeting resumed: Kristin Longly and Wendy Bentley provided a wealth of information about Applewood Gardens, 1400 E Kearsley, Flint, MI.

- Built by Charles Steward Mott in 1916 on grounds he purchased specifically because he was attracted to the apple orchards on the property.
- Maintained by the Ruth Rawling Mott Foundation
- Eighteen acres of the original 64 acres includes orchards, formal gardens, green houses.
- Ongoing events include a Taste of Applewood, Bring your Lunch & Learn, Storytime, Educational gardens, and more
- Wendy spoke about the maintenance programs including thinning the trees which promotes next year's harvest.
- 4000 bulbs were planted last year
- There are two fully functioning greenhouses on the property
- In 2020 the gardens immediately in front of the house were completely restored.
- Applewood is open May 2 through October, 11-5 Thu-Sat and 1-4 Sunday
- There are opportunities to volunteer for hands-on work in the gardens. They are also looking for a full-time, paid position.
- Get more information at <https://www.ruthmottfoundation.org/applewood/>.

Door Prizes: Book and decorator item

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