

OPEN GATE GARDEN CLUB OF MICHIGAN

June 2024 Newsletter

BOARD MEETING: June 19 at 5 PM

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LOCATION: Father Harvey Activity Center

SPEAKER: Susan Betz

TOPIC: Neighboring with Nature: Native plants for Purpose and Pleasure

Summer photo 1st place winner taken by Linda Rice



JUNE HOSPITALITY: Jeanne Martin, Deb Scribner, Mary Kay Schmelzer, Sherry Lahey, Pat O'Keefe, Kim Alexander, Sandee Shoemaker, Pat Manion, Leslie Ryan, Ray Barth, Nicollette Ellinghausen, Jerry Loviska, Carla Goll.

JUNE MINI TOUR: Linda Rice will host the June Mini tour on June 26th, 10435 Denton Creek Dr.

MEMBERSHIP: Membership renewal deadline getting closer! Norm and Nancy will have extra membership applications at the meeting. Accepting cash and checks!

ST. JOHN GARDENS: Need 4 more members to help with garden maintenance. One person to take provide spraying Bobbex deer repellent and the other three to adopt a garden(s) to hoe the gardens for weeds.

GARDEN TOUR: The 2024 Open Gate Garden Tour is well under-way and I feel like July will come very quickly now! Thank you to all who have already signed up to help!! You are much appreciated! We are doing very well BUT we still need some help.

Please consider volunteering for the following positions:

- We need THREE people for PM hosting at gardens.
- We also need ONE person as a standby host.
- We need several (8) people to help label plants.
- We could use 1 or 2 people as plant experts at the Loose Sr center. (1 each shift)
- Please text or call Amy @ 810.444.7621 or email doyle69@gmail.com if you can help.

ALSO NEW THIS YEAR: Member tickets WILL NOT be automatically mailed this year. Member tour tickets MUST be picked up at the June meeting, they will NOT be mailed. If you cannot pick up your tickets at the meeting, you can pick them up at the A.J. Phillips Museum in Fenton starting at 9:00 am the morning of the Tour, Sunday July 21st 2024. Thank you!

Open Gate Garden Club Member Meeting May 15, 2024

6:24 p.m. St John Activity Center

Thanks to the hospitality group for potluck contributions: Ann Barth, Michelle and John Kusnier, Skip Getz-Walsh, Linda Rice, Kay Baxter, Betty Sheehy, Cindy Cloutier, Jim Pabst, Patti O'Keefe, Debbie Tegard- Harroun, Hugh Harroun, and Pat Manion

Poem by Norm Kilgour read (from Fenton Art Event)

6:55 p.m. Business Meeting

1. Thanks to everyone who helped at the Fenton Art Event on May 11.
2. Fr Robert acknowledged, in St John the Evangelist bulletin, OGGC's service around the grounds.
3. Karen Poloski spoke about the plan to plant perennials, shrubs, annuals, yank out tulips, remove landscape cloth around hydrangeas and other work for May 18 around the church grounds. Roses were donated by Adopt-a-pet
4. Mini-Garden tours are scheduled as follows: Karen Poloski, May 29th and Linda Rice, June 26th. A garden is still needed for August.
5. Amy Doyle referred to sign up sheets for the garden tour. Help is still needed for lots of different activities
6. Karen Poloski announced that oak-leaf compost is available (free) at 2494 White Lake Rd (ask for Chuck)
7. Nancy Kilgour reminded members that dues can be paid this month and next. The deadline is July 31. A form is available on-line.
8. Norm Kilgour announced the following offices were voted and confirmed for the 2024-25 season: President – Ann Barth, Vice President – Marnie Boehlke, Secretary – Nicolette Ellinghausen, Treasurer – Leslie Ryan

7:20 p.m. Speaker Presentation

Emily DuThinh from Blue Heron Headwater Conservancy spoke. Some of the topics discussed included:

- A. Emerald Ash borer is still an active blight
- B. Any systemic insecticide (i.e. Behr) is toxic to insects, bees, birds, etc. It will flush out after a period of time.
- C. The Conservancy was founded in 1972 in Independence Twp, grew to 6 areas and is a 5013C Non-profit organization.
- D. Wetlands moderate severe weather events, purify drinking water, protect water supplies, provide flood protection, and improve air quality.
- E. Property can be donated to Blue Heron Headwater Conservancy in perpetuity, which protected it from development. Property can be donated as a memorial and there are economic benefits in this donation process.
- F. Guided tours are available for some properties
- G. There are health benefits (physical and mental) to working the land.
- H. Native plants are available for sale on June 1 (10 a.m. to 4 p.m., or until gone) at Nieman's on Dixie Hwy (White Lake & Dixie Hwy). Another sale will be scheduled in September.

Door Prizes: Books and decorator item

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