

OPEN GATE GARDEN CLUB OF MICHIGAN

August 2024 Newsletter

SAVE THE DATE: The summer picnic is being hosted by Leslie Ryan on August 21st at 6 pm. The address is 500 East Ratalee Lake Road in Holly. Her email address is tgrljr74@comcast.net. Everyone should bring a dish to pass. Come and enjoy spending a late summer afternoon in her beautiful gardens.

ST. JOHN GARDENS: Karen Poloski and her volunteers have done an outstanding job on the grounds of St. John parish.



GARDEN TOUR: The 2024 Open Gate Garden Tour, under the amazing leadership of Amy Doyle, along with committee chairpersons Patsy Essenmacher, Michelle Kusnier, Debbie Tegard-Harroun, Tina Imeson, Ann Barth, Skip Getz-Walsh and 53 terrific volunteers welcomed close to 400 visitors to the beautiful gardens on the tour.

The winner of the bench.
View more images of the

gardens on the tour at

<https://opengategardenclub.com/garden-tour>



Open Gate Garden Club Board Meeting June 15, 2024

5:05 p.m. St John Activity Center Library

In attendance: Kim Alexander, Ann Barth, Ray Barth, Lynn Behr, Amy Doyle, Nicolette Ellinghausen, Norm and Nancy Kilgore, Pat Laycock, Pat Manion, Lynn Ronthi, Leslie Ryan, Deb Scribner, Debbie Tegard-Harroun,

1. Amy Doyle reported on the status of preparation for the 2024 Summer Garden Tour. Still need to get the bench (prize), still some openings on various schedules, need to buy other gifts, tickets are out for sale. Leslie and Pat Manion will work together to make Pay Pal an option for next year's tour.
2. Financial Report was distributed to all present. Finance Committee will follow up as necessary.
3. Debbie Tegard-Harroun talked about the need for speakers to end on time. Too often, because the presentations run long, members begin leaving and cleaning up immediately after presentation. Members should remain for the drawing for door prizes. A reminder should be made at the beginning of the presentation that the meeting needs to continue until door prizes are awarded. Members need to remain respectfully quiet, and hospitality members should wait until after that time to begin clean up.
4. Norm and Nancy Kilgour reported on membership. In the next week or two phone calls will be made to members who have not yet renewed. Membership numbers are trending downward: 130 in the past, current membership 107. Current members need to reach out to new and perspective members to make the Club more welcoming and inclusive. For those members who want newsletter and minutes mailed to them, that function will now become the responsibility of the Club Secretary.
5. Thank you to Lynne Ronthi for her years as Hospitality Chair. A list of responsibilities was handed out. Lynne will continue to buy supplies; Patti O'Keefe will act as advisor. Ann Barth will present the revised Hospitality process at tonight's meeting. Beginning with the September meeting, there will be a monthly chairperson, supported by about 8-10 members who will be responsible for each month's food. A list of chairpersons will be identified in the annual membership booklet with their respective month's assignment.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Open Gate Garden Club Member Meeting June 15, 2024

6:19 p.m. St John Activity Center

Thanks to the hospitality group for potluck contributions: 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.

Welcome to new members: Clare Case and Sandy

Karen Hall invited anyone to come take plants from her front yard the 1st week of July.

Check out <https://www.michigangardener.com/> for a great article featuring Dave and Julie Buttigieg. Congratulations on your recognition.

6:50 p.m. Speaker Presentation (due to scheduling conflict, the presentation preceded the business meeting) **Susan Betz: Native Plants and Herbs**

- A. Over the years there has been a change in gardening techniques and even terminology
- B. We now learn **from** nature, not about nature
- C. More than just providing beauty, plants work together
- D. Bio-Productive gardening
- E. There is diversity among and within the same species (i.e. Milkweeds: Swamp, Butterfly, Common, World)
- F. Traditional ecological knowledge: Respect, Reciprocity, Responsibility
- G. Native herbs are those that existed in North America prior to European settlement, has past or present useful properties, includes trees, shrubs, vines, herbs, excluded crop vegetables and trees used for lumber
- H. Naturalized plants are those brought over to American as opposed to "Native"
- I. Nativars are cultivated variety of Native plants.
- J. Invasive species examples include: tree of Heaven, garlic mustard, butterfly bush
- K. Pollinator gardens invite, specifically, bees.
- L. Share gardening in communities
- M. For more information go to the Herb Society of America website:
<https://www.herbsociety.org/> and/or visit the East Michigan Native Plants LLC, 5320 N New Lothrop Rd, Durand, MI 48429

7:35 Break

7:42 p.m. Business Meeting

1. Amy Doyle reported on the 2024 Summer Garden Tour: Still need 2 more hosts. Tickets were handed out to members in attendance
2. Karen Poloski needs one more person to care for a small strip of shrubs (between old cemetery and sidewalk on Adelaide)
3. The Summer Picnic is set for August 21 at 6 p.m. at Leslie Ryan's house: 500 E Rattalee Lake Rd, Holly, MI 48442. Sign Up sheets available to help.
4. Norm and Nancy Kilgour requested that members provide information and payment as soon as possible as the membership book goes to press August 1.
5. Thanks to Lynne Ronthi who is stepping down after 3 years as Hospitality Chair.
 - a. There were signup sheets at each table
 - b. Need a "leader" from each table to volunteer for just one month
 - c. Other members at each table report to that leader and sign up for what they will bring to hospitality on their given month. That's it: Just One and Done. No need to sign up for multiple months.
 - d. Months of September (Pat Manion) and October (Lynne Behr) are already covered
 - e. Lynn Ronthi will still be responsible for supplies. Patti O'Keefe will be available to Mentor
 - f. Complete instructions are available online at <https://opengategardenclub.com/garden-club-documents> (Hospitality Chair Responsibilities)

Door Prizes: Books and decorator item

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