

# OPEN GATE GARDEN CLUB OF MICHIGAN November 2024 Newsletter



<https://www.mlive.com/weather/2024/10/peak-fall-color-racing-across-michigan-see-where-colors-pops-the-most-now.html>

**NEXT MEETING: November 20th, 2024**

**LOCATION: Father Harvey Activity Center**

**TOPIC: Silent Auction**

**HOSPITALITY:** Mary Kay Schmelzer and Martha Romanowski are the leaders for the November meeting. Leslie Ryan, Patsy and Geno Essenmacher, Debbie Henyon, Carmi Murray, Karen Poloski and Kathy Wright volunteered to provide the evening's hospitality.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Yearbooks were distributed to those present at the September 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. If you have not received your yearbook, Norm and Nancy Kilgour will have your yearbook at the November meeting. Remember to offer warm welcomes to our new members at the meetings: Jim Douglas, Carla Goll, Grace Grishaber, Kathy and Ferd



Hampson, Clare Hayes, Debra Henyon, Deanna and Jim McCrate, Mara Markowitz, Holly Nachtigal, Amy O'Rourke-Smith, Linda Roeser, Doug Spalding, Deb and Jim Vargo, Sandra Wenger.

**GARDEN TOUR:** No one has come forward to co-chair the 2025 tour with the intent to be the 2026 chairperson. Pat Manion (810.240.4321) will be at the November meeting and available to answer any questions about what this entails. Eight gardens have already been accepted participate in the tour next summer. The tour is a major contribution to the community, a fundraiser for the club, and an opportunity for our members to see some terrific home gardens up close and personal!

### **HOLIDAY GATHERING ON DECEMBER 11TH:**

We are looking for the following items:

Rose hips, Frasier fir, Cedar/arborvitae, Spruce, Boxwood, Unusual conifers, White pine  
Need a volunteer for a few committees. Please see sign-up sheets for opportunities to help.

### **SILENT AUCTION ON NOVEMBER 20TH:**

Donation items needed! Be clever and clean out your garden shed, your garage, your closet and donate fun items to the auction.

Items collected at 3:00 on Nov. 20th at St John's.

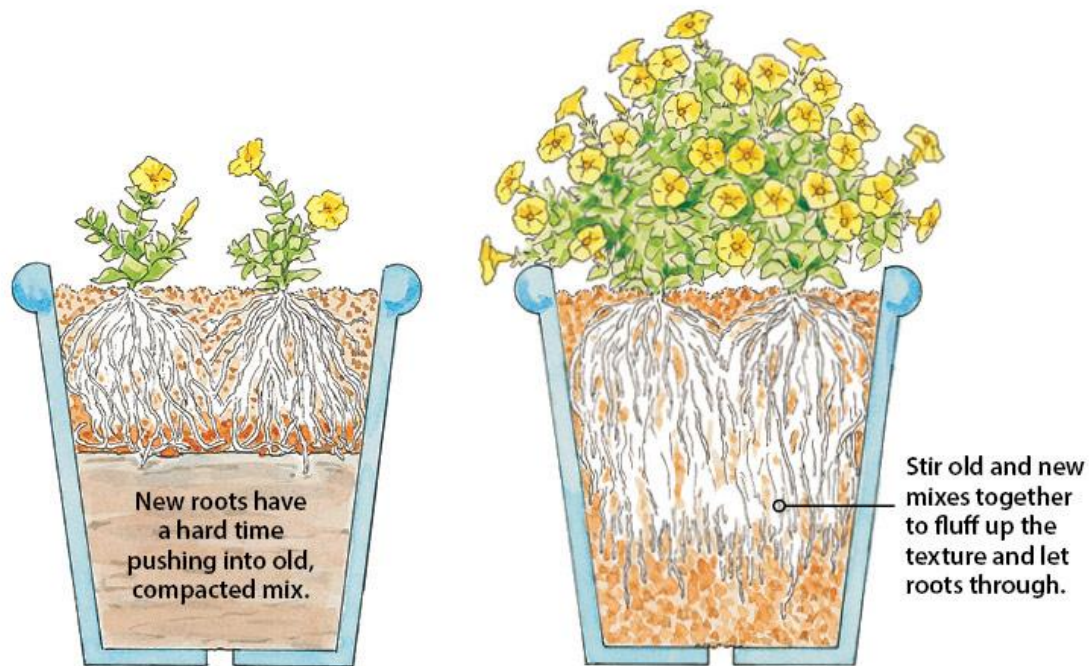
### **WHAT TO DO WITH USED POTTING SOIL**

1. Use it to top existing flower and vegetable garden beds
2. Spread it thinly over the lawn
3. Dump it in newly built raised beds as a start to filling them
4. Add it to your compost bins
5. Save and reuse your potting mix in next year's containers?

<https://www.gardengatemagazine.com/articles/how-to/water-feed/what-should-i-do-with-used-potting-mix/>

You might be tempted to pour new mix overtop the old and call it good. Yes, plant roots will grow easily in new potting mix, but they will struggle to spread out into hard, dry, compacted old mix beneath. Be sure to break up the old material and thoroughly

blend 50% of old with 50% of new. See what a difference it makes?



## **ELEVEN NOVEMBER GARDENING TASKS.**

<https://www.epicgardening.com/november-gardening-tasks/> is summarized below.

1. Pull Out Annuals
2. Preserve Your Bulbs
3. Water if Your Ground isn't Frozen
4. Fertilize and Compost. Some plants do not like to be fertilized this late in the season, so do your research before you apply a chemical fertilizer. If you would rather compost your gardens, this is a great task to do after you have completed your fall clean-up. You can either cover the entire surface of your garden with compost or you can apply compost around what would be the drip line of your plant.
5. Transplant as Needed. Before the leaves of your herbaceous perennials shrivel from the frost, use this time to make any needed divisions or to transplant from one spot to another. Water them regularly until the ground freezes.
6. Plant Spring Bulbs
7. Cut Back Your Perennials or wait until spring before there is any new growth.
8. Wrap Shrubs

9. Don't Forget Containers. Remove the plants from your containers, as well as the potting soil.
10. Weed Your Garden Beds. It is recommended to remove weeds from the beds to reduce their appearance in the spring.
11. Leave Your Dead Leaves Until Spring. A pile of brown leaves in the garden on the ground waiting for pollinators to hibernate and resurface next gardening season. Fallen debris in your garden beds will help protect the beneficial insects in your soil. The ecosystem below the fallen leaves can provide a food source for wildlife in the area and help keep the soil healthy. It also provides cover for bees and other pollinators to rest during the winter.

## **OPEN GATE GARDEN CLUB MEMBER MEETING OCTOBER 16, 2024**

### **6:22 p.m. St John Activity Center**

Norm Kilgour presided in the absence of President Ann Barth

It is with deep regrets we announce the passing of former members Barbara Reynolds and Carmalita Foley. We offer our condolences to their families. We thank them for their services.

Norm read Dick Johnson's poem "October 2007". Dick is recovering from a recent fall. Members were reminded to pick up their year books and give any corrections to Norm or Nancy Kilgour. Updates will be distributed at the November meeting. Copies of the Bylaws are also available upon request.

### **6:23 p.m. dinner**

### **6:52 p.m. Business Meeting**

1. Welcome to new members Deanna McCrate, Jim and Deb Vargo, Grace Sexton, and Carla Goll
2. Thanks to the hospitality group for potluck contributions: Kim Alexander, Lynn Behr (Lead), Cindy Cloutier, Kim Fisher, Kathy Girgen, Karen Hall, Tina Imeson, Nancy Kilgour, Jeanne Martin, Karen Maxson, Patty O'Keefe, Linda Rice. Hospitality sheets are available to people who still want/need to contribute.
3. Lynn Behr reported on the upcoming Christmas Party (December 11<sup>th</sup>).
  - a. Setup begins at 4 p.m.
  - b. Need someone to pick up the main dish
  - c. Need someone to be in charge of beverages
  - d. Need someone for cleanup
  - e. Entertainment (Phil May and a special surprise) and crafts will be featured
4. Lynn Behr reported on the Silent Auction (November 20<sup>th</sup>)
  - a. Setup begins at 3 p.m., through 6 p.m.
  - b. Letters are available for Merchant Donations (i.e. Crumbl, Jersey Mike's, etc); also Business Cards



- c. Suggested items for auction include gift cards, wine, services, books, etc.
  - d. Guests are welcome at this meeting
  - e. Live Auction will include a pontoon boat ride, with dinner
5. Still need chairpersons for Nominations, Garden Tour, and Fenton Expo. Pat Manion and Amy Doyle will be able to assist for the Garden Tour.
  6. Pat Laycock announced an invitation from the Grand Blanc Touch The Earth Garden Club to attend their November 12<sup>th</sup> meeting (6 - 8 p.m.) in the Grand Blanc City Hall. Bring 1 or more houseplants. Contact Pat if you have any questions on this lovely opportunity to share with like-minded gardeners.
  7. Debbie Tegard-Harroun announced that she has some large plants (Angel Trumpets, 8' Ficus Tree, etc.) available for sale. Contact Debbie if you're interested.
  8. Maryville Retreat Center (18307 Taylor Lake Rd, Holly) invited our club to have our June meeting at their facility. They will be providing dinner as a Thank You for our donations and support in the past. A hand vote was taken with the results being very positive. More details to follow.

### **7:25 p.m. Break**

**7:40 p.m. Speaker Presentation** – Jan Bills ([jan@twowomenandahoe.com](mailto:jan@twowomenandahoe.com)) spoke on pruning, and other aspects of creating a pleasing garden/landscape.

1. Do what pleases your soul
2. Everything starts with design. Don't just "wing it"
3. Foliage first (color, texture, etc.), then flowers
4. Bring gardens out 2 ½-3 feet from buildings to provide a "maintenance alley" (space for gardeners to work)
5. Plant in odd numbers; pleasing to the eye
6. Bed edges are important so eye can follow the garden. Edges also keep grass out of garden; soft, large curves
7. Mass planting for impact
8. Plant for Winter interest also.
9. Most important tool for gardeners – TAPE MEASURE (think scale, consider the view inside to out)
10. Right plant, right place
11. Shrubs that bloom in spring (weigela, lilac, viburnum, etc.) should be pruned immediately after flowering
12. Shrubs that do NOT flower, prune any time
13. Hydrangea
  - a. Mophead – prune during summer after flowers fade
  - b. Smooth panicle (cone shape) leaf, oakleaf – prune in late winter/early spring
  - c. Climbing – prune as needed to control growth
14. Solarization – plastic smothers everything
15. Cardboard is a natural weed barrier

Door Prizes: Book – Susan Bammert    Plaque – Lynn Behr

Meeting adjourned at **8:25 p.m.**