

OPEN GATE GARDEN CLUB OF MICHIGAN

October 2025 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING: October 15, 2025

LOCATION: Father Harvey Activity Center

TOPIC: Backyard Birds

Speaker: Lee Burton, Sierra Club

Photo by Jim Pabst

HOSPITALITY: Our meetings are greatly enhanced by the amazing hospitality table full of delicious food provided by our monthly volunteers. Note where your name is on the lists below and put it in your calendar. If you do not see your name on the lists below, please choose a month or two to contribute a dish to pass. We have a number of new members, so as a refresher to expectations, please bring a dish to pass equivalent to a 9x13 pan (24 ½ cup servings) or 24 individual items (cookies, brownies, meatballs).



2025-2026

Hospitality List

9/24/2025

Lynn Behr *
Kathy Girgen
Kim Fisher
Tina Imeson
Deb Vargo
Leslie Ryan
Nati Horton
Gary Horton
Linda Rice
Cindy Cloutier
Patti O'Keefe
Jeanne Martin

10/15/2025

Ray Barth*
Linda Roeser
Jeanne Martin
Sherry Lahey
Susan Bammert
Patsy Essenmacher
Geno Essenmacher
Jim Pabst
Jim Rolls
Patti O'Keefe

11/19/2025

Martha Romanowski *
Debbie Wasylyshyn
Carla Goll
Sandy Wanger
Jim Fornash
Kim Alexander
Kathryn Wright
Jeanne Martin
Karen Maxson
Patti O'Keefe

1/21/2026

Nicolette Ellinghausen*
Karen Poloski
Cara Wahl
Skip Walsh
Amy Doyle
Melody Miller
Julie Buttigieg
Dave Buttigieg
Jim Fornash

2/18/2026

Dan Czmer
 Norm Kilgour
 Nancy Kilgour
 Ann Barth*
 Carmi Murray
 Deanna McCrate
 Becky Eberhard
 Deb Scribner
 Patti O'Keefe

3/18/2026

Karen Hall*
 Linda Van Camp
 Debbie Tegard-Harroun
 Nicolette Ellinghausen
 Karen Poloski
 Judy Lytle
 Kim Church

4/15/2026

Pat Manion*
 MK Schmelzer
 Pat Laycock
 Kay Baxter
 Judy Lytle
 Joan Runyan
 Betty Sheehy
 Amy Doyle
 Melody Miller

5/20/2026

Lisa Rolls
 Kim Alexander
 Deb Henyon
 Nicolette Ellinghausen
 Patti O'Keefe *
 Greta Gatzko Evo
 Betty Sheehy
 Deb Scribner
 Jeanne Martin
 Nati Horton
 Pat Manion

6/17/2026

Julie Buttigieg Betty Sheehy
 Dave Buttigieg Janice Cooley
 Patti O'Keefe
 Jeanne Martin
 Betty Sheehy

MEMBERSHIP: We have 10 new members this year. They each have a mentor. But if you see a person you do not know, please approach them, introduce yourself and welcome them to the club. If there are empty seats at your table, please invite them to join your group. This makes all the difference to someone new! Our new members are **Pam Bunka Kim Church Mike Dietz Paul Dolza**
Becky Eberhard Breta Gatzke-Evo Randy Redmond Dottie Roux Kathleen Schwach
Sarah Trimmer-Dolza Brian Varcoe

YEARBOOKS: For those members who could not attend the September meeting, your Yearbooks will be available to pick up at the October meeting.

YEARBOOK CORRECTIONS: The following are corrections in the list of members in the Yearbook. Please update your yearbook. A final typed list of additions and corrections will be available at the November meeting.

Nicolette Ellinghausen	1424 N Town Commons Blvd
Geno Essenmacher	genorefess@outlook.com
Patsy Essenmacher	patsylmsw@outlook.com
Kim Fischer (remove R)	
Skip Getz-Walsh	782 Spencer Lane, Linden, MI 48351
Tom Getz-Walsh	782 Spencer Lane, Linden, MI 48351
Carla Goll	59 Chinkapin Rill, Fenton, MI 48430 810.449.4781 carlagoll13@gmail.com
Linda Roeser	lsroeser@hoymail.com

ST. JOHN GARDENS: Fall Cleanup and mulching will be on Saturday the 18th at 9:30 am if not raining. In case of rainout the backup date is Saturday the 25th. We need volunteers to strip out annuals and to help spread mulch. The mulch will be distributed in small piles at each bed the night before. Bring a bucket and shovel to help spread. All help is appreciated! **This is also an opportunity for those who are not familiar with the**

gardens that the club maintains at St. John to check them out and talk to Karen about volunteering for next year's growing season.

SILENT AUCTION: Reminder that the Silent Auction fundraiser will be held at the November Meeting. You can find more information at the www.opengategardenclub.com web site on the Club Documents page in the minutes of the September meeting below.

THANK YOU: The Vista Center Gardens sends a thank you to the Open Gate Garden Club for the generous donation of the Vista Center Gardens. The following images show the garden plots throughout the year.





FREE: If you have a greenhouse, a large sunroom or a home with vaulted ceilings, there is a 7-year-old braided tropical hibiscus, looking for a new home. You would need to transport it to your location.

Please call or text Paul Doza at 248.390.8829.

Open Gate Garden Club Member Meeting
Sept 24, 2025

6:15 p.m. St John Activity Center

6:20 p.m. Dinner

7:00 p.m. Business Meeting

1. Patsy Essenmacher asked members to contact her with suggestions for homes for the 2026 Garden Tour. To date only a few homes are confirmed, with 7 already for 2027.
2. Pat Manion reported on the 2025 Garden Tour:
 - a. 430 Attendees (389 tickets sold)
 - b. Net Profit \$4,004, \$1,637 on-line sales
 - c. Fiesta Themed Afterglow
 - d. Kay Baxter to Chair beginning next year
 - e. 3rd Sunday in July (July 19th)
3. Karen Poloski reported on grounds maintenance
 - a. Fall cleanup is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, October 18th
 - b. Emphasis will be on spreading mulch around the Main Church
 - c. Volunteers are asked to bring shovels, etc.
 - d. Sign-up sheets will be available later this year for adopt-a-garden 2026 (May-Sept); volunteers will be working in teams
4. Welcome to New Members!
5. Thanks to Sue Bammert (Summer Picnic) and Betty Sheehy (Yearbook)
6. Lynn Behr spoke about the Annual Silent Auction
 - a. \$2,305 was raised from last year's auction
 - b. November 19th will be this year's event
 - c. Bring goods to be auctioned off; suggestions include: services, yard art, baked goods, local vendor certificates, etc
 - d. Sign-up sheets are available for set up, cashier, take down, 50/50 raffle, etc.

- e. Look at the OGGC (<https://opengategardenclub.com>) webpage for more information
 - f. Christmas Party sign-up sheets are also available
7. Thanks to Lynn Behr, Patsy & Gino Essenmacher, and Julie & Dave Buttigieg for hosting mini-garden tours this year.
 8. There was a sheet at the entrance to make corrections to this year's Yearbook.
 9. Karen Hall offered a free home to anyone who could care for a very large geranium.

7:20 p.m. Break

7:34 p.m. Speaker Presentation – Carol Sue Brodbeck, XPressively yours, LLC, Growing Houseplants

Email Address: brodbeck@aol.com

Address: 6410 Crane Rd.

Home Phone: 734-434-3795

Best Way to Contact Me: Email, Home Phone

1. Benefits of houseplants include improving your whole outlook on work, and houseplants clean the air of pollutants
2. When purchasing plants READ THE LABEL to help assure success in growing conditions, etc.
3. Roots of a plant store food; water beyond drip line (go farther out)
4. Use the appropriate size container
5. Use Potting Soil for appropriate nutrients, drainage, etc.
6. Growing needs for plants include:
 - a. Light
 - i. Plants use light for energy during photosynthesis
 - ii. Brighter location, more vigorously it will grow
 - iii. Darker location, use less water & fertilizer
 - iv. Southern exposure: flowering plants
 - v. Western exposure: plants that tolerate heat
 - vi. Norther exposure: foliage plants
 - vii. Too much light – leaves turn pale/yellow/brown' may curl downward; looks like overwatering; wilts during heat of day
 - viii. Too little light – leggy growth, leaves are fewer and smaller
 - ix. Artificial light – do NOT use incandescent lights. Use fluorescent, LED, grow-lights. Keep artificial lights on only 12-14 hours/day (16-18 for flowering plants); use timers to assure that plants don't get too much light.
 - b. Temperature
 - i. 70-78 during the day
 - ii. 60-69 at night
 - iii. Coolness plus dampness can kill plants

c. Water

- i. Even moisture for most plants
- ii. Do not use water from a water softener
- iii. Use room temperature water (not ice)
- iv. Rainwater or melted snow is ideal
- v. Use watering can w/spout rather than showerhead; water the soil, not the plant
- vi. Water during the day; before nightfall
- vii. Do not allow water to remain in saucer; good soaking once a month
- viii. More water during growing season; less during rest season

d. Humidity

- i. 30-40%
- ii. Higher for philodendron
- iii. Humidity can help prevent spider mites

e. Air Circulation

- i. Open windows on mild winter days
- ii. Use a small fan

f. Fertilizer/nutrients

- i. Nitrogen – vigorous growth; good leaf color
- ii. Phosphorus – strong roots, produce flowers
- iii. Potassium/Potash – helps absorption of other nutrients
- iv. Other major nutrients – carbon, hydrogen, oxygen

7. Isolate/acclimate newly purchased plants for several days