

# OPEN GATE GARDEN CLUB OF MICHIGAN

## May 2026 Newsletter



Photo by Debbie Tegard-Harroun

NEXT MEETING: May 20, 2026, 6:15 PM  
LOCATION: Father Harvey Activity Center  
PROGRAM: Orchids  
SPEAKER: Kathy Mykolajenko

**HOSPITALITY:** Note where your name is on this list and put it in your calendar. Patti needs 2 more people to bring a food offering to the May meeting. Let her know if you can contribute. Thanks

Hospitality

**5/20/2026**

Lisa Rolls

Nicolette Ellinghausen

Patti O'Keefe \*

Greta Gatzko Evo

Betty Sheehy

Deb Scribner

Jeanne Martin

Nati Horton

**6/17/2026**

Julie Buttigieg

Dave

Buttigieg

Patti O'Keefe

Jeanne Martin

Betty Sheehy

Janice Cooley

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** Will occur at this meeting. The slate includes Ann Barth for President, Norm Kilgour for Vice-President, Nicolette Ellinghausen for Secretary and Kathy Girgen for Treasurer.

**GARDEN TOUR:** Add the following dates to your calendars today! **July 17<sup>th</sup>** is the Preview night for all volunteers, **July 19<sup>th</sup>** is the day of the Tour, and **July 22<sup>nd</sup>** is the Afterglow party for all volunteers. VOLUNTEER SIGN IN SHEETS will be available at this meeting. Opportunities to volunteer include help before, during, and after the day of the tour.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Norm and Nancy will have membership renewal forms in the back of the meeting room at the April, May and June meetings. There is a membership form attached to this email and there is one available on the Web site for download, [www.opengategardenclub.com](http://www.opengategardenclub.com) Follow the signs to their table.

**ST. JOHN'S GARDENS SPRING CLEANUP:** On a rainy, chilly April 18<sup>th</sup> at 0900 the following members cleaned and mulched beds around the rectory and chapel.







The following links will give you all the information you need to decide if you want to attend this Michigan Garden conference and flower show on June 7 and 8 in Ann Arbor. There are some interesting speakers,

<https://migardenclubs.org/its-time-to-enter-the-2026-flower-show/>

<https://migardenclubs.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/2026-Annual-Conference-Schedule-Overview-for-Website.pdf>

**Open Gate Garden Club Member Meeting**  
**April 15, 2026**

**6:20 p.m.** St John Activity Center

- Welcome to visitors Bill Kramer and Adrian Barnesnd.
- Welcome to new members Barbara Lund and Patti Wilmarth
- Thanks to hospitality group for potluck contributions: Kay Baxter, Amy Doyle, Pat Laycock, Judy Lyttle, **Pat Manion**, Melody Miller, MK Schmelzer, Joan Runyan, Betty Sheehy, Patti O'Keefe

**6:25 p.m.** dinner

**7:00 p.m.** Business Meeting

1. Marnie Boehlke asked if anyone would like to offer their garden to 9 little visitors in July. Please contact Marnie if you'd like to volunteer your garden.
2. Pat Laycock reminded members of WOJO days: May 7<sup>th</sup> and May 21<sup>st</sup>. If you mention at the cash register that you're from OGGC, 10% of your purchase price will be donated to the club. You can't solicit patrons in the parking lot, but feel free to invite friends and family to participate.
3. Patsy Essenmacher announced that St John parish grounds will be on the Garden Tour this year. She also asked for suggestions for one more garden.
4. Kay Baxter asked members to sign up for volunteer opportunities for the Garden Tour.
5. Kathy Girgen announced officer nominations: Ann Barth (President), Norm Kilgour (Vice President), Nicolette Ellinghausen (Secretary) and Kathy Girgen (Treasurer). All positions were approved as nominated.
6. Kim Alexander announced the two donations that were approved for this year:
  - a. \$500 for Maryville Retreat Center (submitted by Nicolette Ellinghausen)
  - b. \$1,000 for Glenwood Heritage Fund (submitted by Linda Roeser)
7. Kim Alexander also asked for a volunteer for a mini-garden tour. Anyone interested, please contact Kim.
8. Karen Polaski mentioned that Spring cleanup on the Church grounds will be April 18<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 9 a.m. (weather dependent). This will mainly be spreading mulch.
9. Ann Barth announced that she and Nicolette will attend the Michigan Garden Club April Leaders' meeting in Frankenmuth. The June District 6 meeting will be in Ann Arbor.

### **7:20 p.m. Break**

**7:30 p.m. Speaker Presentation** – Pat Manion presented “War and Peace”, Plants that are pretty darn deer resistant.

1. There are two kinds of deer:
  - a. Country Deer – Thrive in rural areas, prefer dense cover, smaller, wary of humans, usually one have one fawn
  - b. City Deer – Not afraid of humans, bed down in people's properties, multiple fawns
2. Rotate the following deterrents:
  - a. Spray repellents, Bobbex, green screen bags
  - b. Create noise and movement
  - c. Fences/barriers
  - d. Fishing line (18”, 30”, 48” high)
  - e. Rope with bells
  - f. Wind Chimes
  - g. Scatter human or dog hair

3. Change plants to accommodate your specific herd
4. Patience – Hold on for a few years

Door Prizes:

Book – Betty Sheehy

Planter – Julie Buttigie

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm

