

OPEN GATE GARDEN CLUB OF MICHIGAN

September 2024 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING: October 16th, 2024

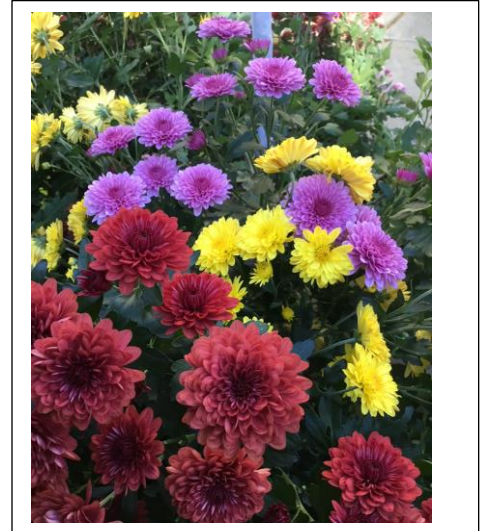
LOCATION: Father Harvey Activity Center

TOPIC: Pruning

SPEAKER: Jan Bils

Two Women and a Hoe

Image of Chrysanthemums by Jim Pabst



HOSPITALITY: Lynn Behr is the chairperson for the October Meeting. She will be reaching out to the following who signed up for October hospitality: Linda Rice, Kathy Girgen, Kim Fischer, Condy Cloutier, Tina Imeson, Deb Scribner and Karen Maxon. She will need 3-4 more volunteers. Please let her know if you can help.

MEMBERSHIP: Yearbooks were distributed to those present at the September 18th meeting. They will be available again at the October 16th meeting. **A reminder that the last 2 pages of the yearbook contain an updated speaker list and additional new members.** Please take a look. Copies of the bylaws were distributed to any of the new members present. You can find a digital copy of the bylaws at <https://opengategardenclub.com/garden-club-documents>

NEW MEMBERS: Welcome! Douglas, Carla Goll, Grace Grishaber, Kathy and Ferd Hampson, Clare Hayes, Debra Henyon, Deanna and Jim McCrate, Mara Markowitz, Amy O'Rourke-Smith, Linda Roeser, Doug Spalding, Deb and Jim Vargo, Sandra Wenger

ST. JOHN GARDENS Fall Cleanup will be October 5 at 9 o'clock. It won't be much, mostly begonia removal, maybe some bulb planting, minimal pruning and tidying ivy along the raised bed. It's been a good garden year. The beds have looked good with lots of positive feedback. Thanks to all for the team's support, you absolutely rocked this year. The variegated sedge grass, 'Ice Dancer', between the sidewalk and the yew hedge is growing a little too well and will most likely need to be pulled back next year, so if anyone wants to lift pieces of it out go ahead. Try not to leave big gaps though but it will grow again next year, and it won't take long for them to invade the yew hedge. Also remember the daffodil bulbs are in there, so try not to spear them. Thanks again for all your work, you folks are awesome! Karen Poloski

GARDEN TOUR: The 2025 Open Gate Club Garden tour will be the Club's 26th tour. Most of the committees have a chairperson who has the institutional knowledge and operational experience necessary to coordinate their individual committees. Thanks to Patsy Essenmacher and Nicolette Ellinghausen the gardens for the 2025 tour have already been chosen and the owners have agreed to participate in the tour. **But an overall chairperson for the entire tour is needed.** Historically the Garden Tour chair serves for 3 years. First year to learn the ropes, second and third to guide the ship.

The person who volunteers to chair the 2025 tour will have 2 critical supports. Amy Doyle, who just completed her third year as chair, is currently completing the updated manual that contains all the operational procedures for the tour. Pat Manion has volunteered to work closely with the new chair from beginning to end. She has been a Garden Tour Chairperson three times and her gardens have been on the tour twice. She has been a volunteer on most of the committees. Pat will prepare the new chair to take over as the tour chairperson for the 2026 tour. Pat will meet with the new chair to review the timeline for the tour at the end of October. Then the coordination of the tour will begin in earnest in March. Please text or email Pat if you are interested or have any questions.

patmanion@charter.net 810.240.4321.

Save the Date: Touch the Earth Garden Club of Grand Blanc invites us to attend a special event on November 12th from 6-8 PM. The topic is Green Up Your Winter with House Plants. See details on the attached document.

Email from Up North: *Hello Open Gate Garden Club Members! Just want to acknowledge and recognize your club from Gaylord, Michigan. Our Edelweiss Garden Club nearly folded in 2021 after the pandemic, so I looked around online for successful clubs and found yours! The fact that you have the capacity for 135 Members is an inspiration. This year, we added 18 New Members in rebuilding our club and now have a Membership of 32 with the anticipation that we will have a few more by the end of the year. We have attracted members of all ages. I am checking with you to see if it would be alright to share your Facebook and Website with our other northern Michigan Garden Clubs as it has been very helpful to us.*

Congratulations to your leaders and membership for their dedication and accomplishments!

Kind regards,

*Marilyn McIntosh, President
Edelweiss Garden Club, Inc.
2024 Theme: Edelweiss Garden Club Shines!
NGC Theme: Plant America - Go Green
989.858.4470 www.edelweissgardenclub.org*

HAVE A BLACK WALNUT TREE? There is a great web site that will help you choose plantings under and near your tree(s). <https://laidbackgardener.blog/2018/05/26/what-to-grow-under-a-walnut-tree/>

HAVE DEER? We all seem to live in a wildlife preserve these days. Our deer neighbors no longer fear us but treat us as friends who have invited them to dinner!

https://www.canr.msu.edu/ipm/uploads/files/deer_resistant_plants.pdf

Open Gate Garden Club Board Meeting September 19, 2024

5:15 p.m. St John Activity Center Library

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

1. Norm and Nancy reported that there were about 16 members that dropped out, but another 20 new members. Current count: 91. There were some problems with UPS service, costs, etc.
2. Leslie Ryan reported that she has been looking into PayPal as an option for guests to purchase Garden Tour tickets beginning in 2025. PayPal service fee is 3.5%; there is no cost to sign up. According to current IRS rules, anything over \$600 is subject to tax. Multiple questions about ticket information, raffle tickets, etc. Deb Scribner motioned to form a committee to further investigate, seconded by Nicolette Ellinghausen.
3. 2023-2024 Financials were distributed to all present.
4. 2024-2025 Budget was distributed. Deb Scribner motioned to accept, seconded by Norm Kilgore. Motion carried. Budget approved.
5. It was decided that for the November (Silent Auction) meeting, there will be no book or door prize.
6. It was requested that members be quiet while speakers have the floor at the Member Meetings. There have been times when the speaker couldn't be heard, or the door prizes awarded due to distracting conversations. Leslie Ryan said she'd bring a bell to ring to get people's attention.

Motion to adjourn: Deb Scribner, seconded Marnie Boehlke at 5:55 p.m.

Open Gate Garden Club Member Meeting September 19, 2024

6:18 p.m. St John Activity Center

Thanks to the hospitality group for potluck contributions: Pat Laycock, Melody Miller, Amy Doyle, Betty Sheehy, Kay Baxter, Sherry Lahey, Sue Bammert, Marnie Boehlke, Lynne Ronthi, Mark Trevethan, Pat Manion.

Members were requested to check out the Hospitality sign-up sheets for upcoming meetings.

6:52 p.m. Business Meeting

1. Amy Doyle thanked everyone for their help in the 2024 Garden Tour. There were 63 volunteers. Profit (income less expenses) was over \$3200. Approximately 381 tickets were sold.
2. Norm Kilgore reported that membership for this year is 91. He asked that all members review the book closely and get any changes back to him or Nancy as

soon as possible. Norm handed out bylaws to any member who didn't have a copy.

3. Pat Laycock announced that the club received a check from WOJOs for \$125 for participation in last spring's 10% promotion. Members are invited to shop at Davison and/or Ortonville Wojo's on two dates in spring. Mention to the cashier that you are a member of Open Gate Garden Club, and the club receives 10% of members' purchases.
4. Nicolette Ellinghausen asked for volunteers to help plant at Maryville Retreat Center on Saturday, Sept 21.
5. Tina Imeson will have signup sheets and more information about the Christmas Potluck at the October meeting.
6. Linda VanCamp announced that there will be signup sheets at the October meeting for people to set up and clean up. She provided handouts for the Nov 20 Silent Auction:
 - a. List of ideas to be auctioned off
 - b. Information about the event
 - c. Donation Letters to give to merchants
7. Ray Barth explained how simple it is to solicit gift cards from merchants:
 - a. Walk in
 - b. Ask for Manager
 - c. Explain what's being requested
 - d. Provide the Thank You Letter
8. Leslie Ryan announced that there is a form to submit anytime a member requests reimbursement for any expense. Please ask her for a copy or download from the website. <https://opengategardenclub.com/garden-club-documents>
9. Jerry Loviska relayed thanks from Sandy Shoemaker, who is recovering from a recent fall, to all who have reached out with prayers or a card.

Door Prizes: Books won by Pam Trevethan, and Wind Spinner won by Judy Lytle.

7:10 p.m. Break

7:22 p.m. Speaker Presentation – Jill Brzezinski of Buds and Blooms Gardening spoke about **Bulbs**

1. Daffodils – Deer resistant
2. Jonquil – Prefer warm weather
3. Tulips – NOT deer or bunny resistant
4. Scilla/Squill – Blue flower, reseeds readily, deer resistant, low growing ground cover
5. Camassia – Blue, deer resistant, grows 15"-18" tall, spreads quickly
6. Non-Stop Begonia – Start in warmer environment (i.e. indoors)
7. Oriental Lily – Poisonous to cats, susceptible to Lily Leaf Beetle, plant in pots

8. Trumpet Lily – Toxic to humans and animals
9. Orienpet Lily – Toxic to pets, grows 4’-6’ tall
10. Tiger Lily – Toxic to animals, 20+ blooms per stem, 4’-6’ tall
11. Allium – Deer resistant, 3’-4’ tall, pricey (3 bulbs/\$25)
12. Gladiolus – Cut top buds off to force growth to larger flowers. To store bulbs: rinse off, dry off, and put in box w/pine shavings
13. Colchicum – Leaves in Spring, flowers in Fall, plant in partial shade
14. Amaryllis – Toxic to cats. Bring indoors, let go dormant for 6 weeks, and then bring out around Thanksgiving to bloom anew. Just keep bulbs in pot.
15. Fertilizers – Rose Tone or Flower Tone if bulbs remain in ground, Miracle Grow if bulbs are in containers (liquid every 2 weeks, granular once a month)

Contact Jill with any questions at jill@budsandbloomsgardening.com

The meeting was adjourned at **8:10 p.m.**