

# OPEN GATE GARDEN CLUB OF MICHIGAN

February 2025

## Newsletter

**NEXT MEETING: February 19, 2025**

**LOCATION: Father Harvey Activity Center**

**TOPIC: Bees and Beekeeping**

Speaker: Jerry and Chuck from Hall's Nursery



**HOSPITALITY:** Karen Maxon is the leader. Karen Poloski, Lynne Ronthi, Patti O'Keefe, Jim Douglas, Deanna McCrate, Jim McCrate, Grace Sexton, Ann Barth, Deb Vargo, and Ray Barth have signed up to bring food along with helping to set up or cleanup, and or greet. Please text or call Karen at 810.845.1720 with any questions.

**DONATIONS** Are you active in another community organization? Does that organization have a project Open Gate Garden Club should support?? Please consider nominating your group for an Open Gate Garden Club Community Donation! Each nomination should exemplify the club's objectives:

- \*Encourage all phases of home gardening
- \*Promote community projects utilizing environmental responsibility
- \*Inspire a love of nature and beauty.

Nominations must be submitted to Kim Alexander, Donations Chair, by March 26, 2025! See attached Donation Nomination Form or download form here.

## FENTON COMMUNITY EXPO

We need volunteers to work at the OGGC Booth. This is a wonderful way to share the contributions of the club to the community and to recruit new members.

Saturday 3/1 from 9:45 to 12 pm  
Sunday 3/2 from 10:45 to 1:30 pm  
Sunday 3/2 from 1:30 until 4 pm.



If interested can call or text Ann Barth at 248-797-3533.

## PHOTO CONTEST

*Gather pictures to enter, into our February contest. We're all taking pictures with our cell phones so bring in your best shots to share, with your fellow garden club members. The more entries, the more fun!*

- Each member may submit one photo per season: spring, summer, fall & winter.
- Photos should be printed out and submitted with your name and category recorded on the back, ex; John Smith / Spring.
- Photos should be no larger than 5" x 7".
- Photos should avoid humans, or domesticated animals. We welcome nature: deer, squirrels, birds, insects, etc.

*Once the contest is finished and your submission is selected, it is up to you to submit your digital image of the winning photo to Debbie Tegard-Harroun. \* Digital images are necessary for newsletter and website publishing.*

*The top two winning photos will grace the front & back cover of next year's membership book! Those not able to attend our February meeting may submit their selections to Debbie Tegard-Harroun prior to meeting. \*Do not send via email, as printing them will not be possible.*

## Open Gate Garden Club Member Meeting January 15, 2025

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

- Welcome Doris Parsons and Dick Johnson's daughter
- Thanks to the hospitality group for potluck contributions: Carla Goll, Nancy Kilgour, Norm Kilgour, Jerry Loviska, Patti O'Keefe, Sandee Shoemaker, Doug Spaulding, Debbie Wasylyshyn, Sandie Wender
- Dick Johnson read one of his poems.

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

### **6:55 p.m.** Business Meeting

1. Sign-up sheets are available for the Fenton Expo; Looking for people to work on March 1 from 9:45 until noon and on March 2 from 1045-130 and 1:30 until 4 pm. OGGC will offer freebies (pipe cleaner flowers), \$20 Membership (half year), and Garden Tour tickets. Contact Lynn Behr if you want to work on the pipe cleaner flowers.
2. Based on the survey of members about things to do, suggestions were made for book club, travel, meals, possibly a car caravan in April to Holland, MI for the Tulip Festival, etc. Marnie Boehlke will be our Special Events Chair. Contact Marnie if you have specific ideas.
3. Flint Institute of Arts (FIA) will have a "Hot Shop" program on Feb 14<sup>th</sup> where you can make your own glass creations. The event includes a docent tour and box lunch.
4. Pay Pal will be available for payments for the 2025 Garden Tour.

5. A Jan 21<sup>st</sup> tour of the grounds of Maryville Retreat Center (18307 Taylor Lake Rd, Holly, MI 48442) was noted. This event was subsequently modified because the weather was too cold for the grounds tour. Reminder to members: the June meeting will be at Maryville Retreat Center; they will provide dinner.
6. The February meeting will include the annual photo contest. Rules include:
  - a. Photos no larger than 5x7
  - b. Must be printed for the contest and digital for publication
  - c. No people or domestic animals
  - d. Are allowed to be more than one year old.

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

## **7:30 p.m. Speaker Presentation** – Trees & Shrubs by Gary Eichen (suggested website: [www.savATree.com](http://www.savATree.com))

1. Our area (Fenton) is considered “Urban” forestry. Based on pollution levels, Fenton has lots of trees that “clean” the air.
2. Plants put back oxygen into the atmosphere.
3. Best time to plant trees is 20 years ago; next best time...NOW.
4. Microbes are critical to plant growth.
5. Trees are grown best with their own species.
6. Soil is a living substance; dirt is just dirt.
7. Create a soil profile conducive to improvement of root structure.
8. Nitrogen is all about *vertical* growth which must be **balanced** with *horizontal* growth.
9. Test soil (for trees & shrubs): <https://hometownsoiltest.msu.edu/get-started>
10. Do not use artificially colored mulch. Use natural cedar or cypress.
11. Mulch WIDE (i.e. 2' or to drip line), **not** DEEP.
12. When you purchase a tree, get rid of the burlap which surrounds the root ball. The burlap won't let sufficient water into the roots. Burlap doesn't biodegrade.
13. Water about once a week (in the absence of rain); no more.
14. Diversify your plant choices.

## **Door Prizes:**

- Book – Debbie Tegard-Harroun
- Garden Bell – Debbie Wasylyshyn

Meeting adjourned at **8:10 p.m.**