

OPEN GATE GARDEN CLUB OF MICHIGAN

September 2025 Newsletter

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

September 3rd

Mini Tour
2-6 pm
Dave and Julie Buttigieg's Gardens
7154 Cliffwood Court
Fenton, MI 48430

Photo taken by
Kim Fischer



September 10th

Perennial Exchange
6 pm
Betty Sheehy's Home
1081 Crooked Lake
Fenton, MI 48430

Bring one or more perennials you have divided or just don't have room for anymore. Please label and indicate sun or shade. The rules are simple: take a number and then when your number is called, choose a plant. This is also an opportunity to bring any house plants or perennials you wish to donate to the St. John's Applefest Plant Sale.

September 24th

New Member Reception (only for new members)
5:30 pm
Meeting at Large
St John Activity Center
6:15 pm
Program: Carol Brodbeck of the Michigan Master Gardener Association speaking on House Plants TLC

HOSPITALITY: The September hospitality team is being led by Lynn Behr. Team members are Kathy Girgen, Kim Fisher, Tina Imeson, Deb Vargo, Leslie Ryan, Nati Horton, Gary Horton, Linda Rice, Cindy Cloutier, Patti O'Keefe, and Jeanne Martin.

MEMBERSHIP: The annual yearbook will be distributed at the September 14th meeting. This booklet contains all the meeting and event dates for the 2025-2026 calendar. Also included is information about the club, including officers, board members, committee chairs, a directory of all members, and lists of the volunteer's providing food for each meeting.

ST. JOHN GARDENS: Karen Poloski and her team of volunteers have planted and kept the gardens looking beautiful despite the heat and sporadic rain of this summer. Because of the work put into planting and maintaining the gardens, the Garden Club is able to use the St. John's Activity Center for meetings, storage of supplies and the Garden Tour Afterglow. When each area has a team of 4, each

team member only needs to put in about 2 hours a month. It was tough this year because some of the volunteers needed to put in way



more time because there were not enough volunteers to help. There will be a garden clean-up event toward the end of summer. Each club member is encouraged to attend the clean-up, help if you have time and/or have Karen show you around the garden areas and explain what will be needed next year.



SAVE THE DATE: All members who wish to find out more about becoming a team leader or who want to co-chair this committee with Karen are invited to a meeting at Karen's home on September

17th at 6:30 pm.

Karen's address is 9045 Hickory Ridge Rd, Holly, MI, 48442

GARDEN TOUR: Kay Baxter and Pat Manion offer Kudos, hugs and heartfelt thanks to all the amazing garden club members and homeowners who made the 2025 tour a success. Over 60 of our members volunteered, many for two or three roles. For example, garden groomers were also hosts and then helped with the AfterGlow!



Our Chairpersons included: Printing and Publications-**Pat Manion**, Ticket Sales and Distribution- **Geno Essenmacher**, Ask a Gardener-**Judy Lytle**, Publicity-**Tina Imeson**, Refreshments-**Marnie-Boehlke**, Garden Hosts- **DebbieTegard-Haroun**, AfterGlow-**Skip Getz-Walsh**, Poster and Flyer Distribution-**Betty Sheehy**, Bench Set up and Delivery-**Janice and Paul**, Set Up and Sign Distribution Day of tour-**Ray Barth**, Equipment Distribution and Storage-**Ray Barth**, Museum Ticket Sales and Distribution-**Ann Barth**, Garden Acquisition, Description and Homeowner Liaison- **Patsy Essenmacher and Nicolette Ellinghausen**, Grooming and Labeling- **Kathy Girgen**.



Winner of Garden Bench was Katrina Slabchuck of Grand Blanc. Pictured with Sabrina is Janice Cooley, who along with her husband Paul Stedman assembled the bench, and delivered it to Garden 1 for the tour and then delivered it to the winner.

We had about 430 people tour the gardens on Sunday and about 40 for the Friday Preview. Our net income was \$4,004. Most of our attendees were from the Linden and Fenton areas, plus we had attendees from 15 other Michigan counties.

Skip and his team hosted a Mexican themed AfterGlow for all tour volunteers and homeowners the Wednesday after the tour. The decorations, food and camaraderie were enjoyed by all.



MICHIGAN GARDEN CLUBS, INC: OGGC is now a member of the Michigan Garden Clubs.

<https://migardenclubs.org/> . We are in Region 6. The Farmington Garden Club is offering a workshop on October 15th, 2025. Attached to this email is the registration form. Make out a check to the Open Gate Garden Club and give to Leslie. She will then write a check to the Farmington Club

Theme: *CONSERVE TO PRESERVE*

Host: Farmington Garden Club

Date: October 15, 2025; 9:30 – 2:30

Place: Farmington Hills Manor, 23666 Orchard Lake Rd,
Farmington Hills, MI

Cost: \$40 (payable to your club; due by October 1st)

Featuring: Speakers, Vendors, Luncheon, Raffle Baskets,
Door Prizes

Two Speakers

Keynote Speaker is Jan Bills, author, national speaker, certified landscape designer, advanced master gardener, and entrepreneur. Jan says gardens should be our love, not our labor of love! Discover how Sustainable Gardening includes a variety of practices that respond to environmental concerns.

Ten Vendors

Hand-crafted items, Garden Art, Bakery Goods, Spices, Jewelry
And much more