

OPEN GATE GARDEN CLUB OF MICHIGAN

August 2026 Newsletter



Photo by Lynn Behr

NEXT MEETING: September 23, 2026, 6:15 PM

LOCATION: Father Harvey Activity Center

PROGRAM: Windowsill Orchids

SPEAKER: Ray Kondel

HOSPITALITY: Kim Church is the leader for the September Hospitality. The volunteers to bring a dish to pass for this meeting are Kathy Girgen, Lynn Behr, Diana Beckemey, Kim Fisher, Karen Hall, Patti O'Keefe, Jeanne Martin, Linda Rice, Jim Fornash, Deb Henyen, Joan Runyan and Nicolette Ellinghausen. Call/text Kim if you have any questions at 248.8180722.

SEND YOUR OUTSTANDING RECEIPTS FOR REIMBURSEMENT TO LESLIE ASAP:

The treasurer needs to close out the books by the end of the month.

OPEN POSITIONS: The club needs volunteers for the following opportunities: Chair the Fenton Expo in March, Nomination Chair, Obtain and reconfirm store discounts, and host the Spring Plant Exchange and the Summer Picnic. Please speak with Ann Barth if you have questions or are interested.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: Kim Church



Kim Church received the volunteer of the year award at the summer picnic. Kim is pictured on the right of our president Ann Barth.

FALL PLANT EXCHANGE: The plant exchange will be held at Patti O'Keefe's home on September 16th at 12108 Margaret Drive in Fenton. at 6PM. As you divide your perennials, be sure to save any extras to bring to the plant exchange.



FOLLOW THE LINK BELOW FOR MORE INFO RE THIS EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY:

<https://migardenclubs.org/ngc-2026-central-region-virtual-fall-festival/>

Open Gate Garden Club Member Meeting June 17, 2026

6:24 p.m.

- Hospitality contributors were recognized
- New members and visitors were greeted

- Thank you notes for donations were received from Glenwood Heritage Fund and Maryville Retreat Center.
- Members were requested to sign up for Garden Tour
- Membership table was set up for last time this year. After tonight's meeting, send checks to Norm/Nancy Kilgour. Deadline for signup is July 1st; after that date names will not go into the member book.
- Garden Tour Afterglow dinner (July 22nd) needs more volunteers. Contact Kim Fischer

6:30 p.m. Dinner

6:55 p.m. Business Meeting

1. Kim Alexander requested volunteers for mini-tour for the month of August.
2. Karen Poloski's dog was hit by a car so she will be unavailable for the next month or two to groom the St John ground. Ann Barth, Jim Pabst, Sue Bammer and Debbie Tegard-Harroun have picked up more of the responsibilities in Karen's absence.
3. Pat Laycock spoke about the Garden Tour.
 - a. More hosts are required for the P.M. shifts.
 - b. Tickets not picked up by members tonight will be available at the museum
4. Ann Barth talked about the Michigan Garden Club convention in Ann Arbor. There were a number of exhibits and talks. OGGC Garden Tour was published during the convention.
5. The bus tour to Frederick Meijer Garden was a success
6. By Law changes are being considered. More information will be available at future meetings.

7:15 p.m. Break

7:25 p.m. Speaker Presentation – Roxanne Gabriel from Wojos spoke about cut flowers.

1. Hydrangeas:
 - PG variety Hydrangeas are best for cut flowers. Not all hydrangeas can turn to blue, only light pink like Morning Sun (not panicles).
 - PW Puffer Fish Hydrangeas will be next year's featured hydrangea
 - Little Lime Punch – start out white, 2nd generation turns to various shades of pink/red
 - Don't pick hydrangeas early; the buds will turn brown and die.
2. When picking flowers for cut flowers:

- Use a bucket of hot (not boiling) water and cut the stems at an angle.
- Use very sharp knife or scissors
- 3. To revive wilted roses, put very warm water on a sheet pan and lay stem in the water
- 4. To dry roses:
 - Use orange roses to dry to red
 - Yellow/white roses don't dry well
 - Red roses dry 2 shades darker
- 5. Good options for cut flowers include
 - Delphinium
 - Larkspur
 - Asters
 - Strawflowers
 - Snapdragon
 - Dianthus
 - Hosta
 - Birchbark
 - Red twig Dogwood
- 6. To kill off trumpet vines use brush killer or horticultural vinegar (30-45%) ; but those options will also kill off any other vegetation that it touches
- 7. To kill Japanese Beetle, use nematodes

8:15 p.m. Door Prizes

Decorating with Flowers book – Dottie

Dragon Fly stakes – Jim Pabst

1993 1st edition issue of Country Living Magazine – Pat Laycock

8:20 p.m. Meeting ended

Open Gate Garden Club Board Meeting **June 17, 2026**

5:18 p.m. St John Activity Center Library

In attendance: Kim Alexander, Ann Barth, Ray Barth, Nicolette Ellinghausen, Kathy Girgen, Norm and Nancy Kilgour, Pat Laycock, Leslie Ryan, Deb Scribner, Debbie Tegard-Harroun

1. Leslie told the Board that Pay Pal is all set for this year's Garden Tour. Guests can now purchase more than one ticket at a time.
2. Handouts were provided for 2024-2025 Financials. Discussions included Speakers, Facility usage, Sunshine/Postage, Greenhouse (Wojo's) discounts, summer picnic
3. A copy of proposed By-Law changes was handed out
 - a. Will OGGC continue to be member of Michigan Garden Club?
 - b. Michigan Garden Club insurance policy does cover homeowners during the tour (unless a member of OGGC)
 - c. Other questions about Michigan Garden Club
 - d. Motion to add "Member of Michigan Garden Club" to Member booklet was carried.
 - e. Additional discussion required on By Law changes.
4. Pat Laycock told the Board that Garden Tour tickets will be handed out at member meeting tonight.
 - a. Married/couple get 3 tickets
 - b. Other members get 2 tickets
 - c. Members who joined after March 1 get 1 ticket
5. It was noted that Pat Manion currently acts as Historian

Meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.