

OPEN GATE GARDEN CLUB OF MICHIGAN

June 2025 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING:

June 18, 2025:

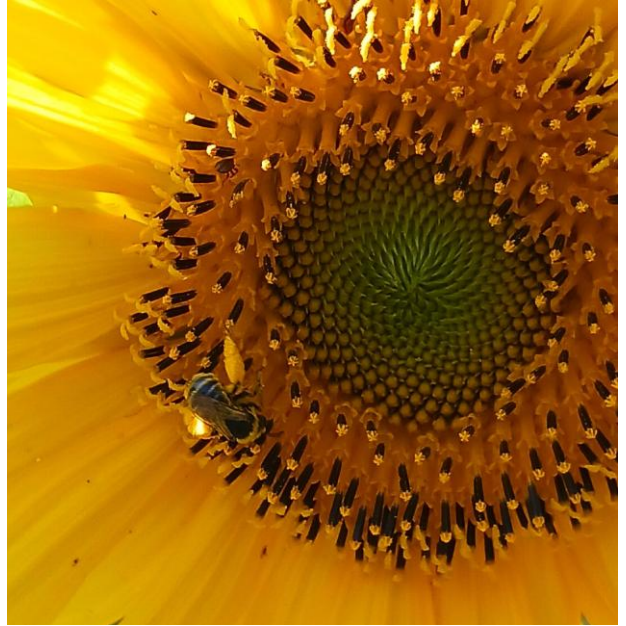
General meeting at 6:15 pm

LOCATION: Maryville Retreat Center
Building 3, San Damiano Center

TOPIC: Choosing, Growing, Preserving, and the various methods of Using herbs. There will be displays, dried and fresh herbs, and small herbal “tastings” with Spa Water.

Speaker: Herb Society of America, Southern Michigan Unit

Photo by Kathy Girgen



The Maryville Retreat Center, Building 3 (San Damiano Center) is at 18307 Taylor Lake Road, Holly, Michigan 48442. The center will be providing a meal for us. <https://maryvilleretreatcenter.org/>

MEMBERSHIP: We will be collecting dues at the June meeting. Membership New/Renewal Forms will be available. Or you can download a membership form from the web site before the meeting. <https://opengategardenclub.com/membership>

ST. JOHN GARDENS: Fr. Robert wrote this in the Bulletin recently “ I am so thankful to the Open Gate Garden Club for all the work they have been doing around the campus this spring. Each year I am impressed and each year it gets even better. I know from my experience at my last parish how much effort it takes, and I am so very grateful! “

GARDEN TOUR:

- Sign-in sheets will be available at the June meeting. We still have a few openings on Refreshments, Set-up and Directional Signs, Hosts, and Grooming/Labeling
- All tour **volunteers** are invited to attend the Garden Preview on July 18th. We will meet at the St. John parking lot at 530 pm and carpool to visit all of the gardens on the tour.
- Tour volunteers are also invited to an AfterGlow meal on July 23rd at 6 pm held at St. Joh’s Activity Center.
- Free tour tickets will be distributed to members who attend the June meeting. Members will receive 2 tickets, 3 tickets if there is a household member on your membership. If you are

unable to attend the June meeting, your tickets will be available on the morning of the tour at the Fenton Museum.

MINI TOURS:

- June 25th at 6 pm Mini Tour will be at Patsy and Geno Essenmacher's home, 123 Nicole in Linden.
- July 8th Mini tour at 6 pm will be at Jim Pabst's home at 133368 Hawks Wood Trail in Fenton.
- These are amazing properties with extensive, beautiful gardens. Please join other garden club members for an opportunity to visit with each other while viewing these lovely gardens.

MICHIGAN GARDEN CLUBS, INC: OGGC is now a member of the Michigan Garden Clubs. One of the many benefits is a list of all the garden tours of their members in MI. This is the link.

<https://conta.cc/4mWzy9k>

Open Gate Garden Club Board Meeting May 21, 2025

5:02 p.m. St John Activity Center Library

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

1. Pat Manion presented information on Pay Pal for the Garden Tour this summer.
 - a. Effective June 1, PayPal will be on the OGGC website via a QR code.
 - b. Pat will check to see how to get multiple tickets.
 - c. When ticket is paid for on PayPal, the recipient will receive an email with attachment indicating garden addresses, description, etc.
 - d. When guests present their e-ticket at the first garden they visit, they will be entered into the drawing.
 - e. Tickets can also be purchased the day of the event at the Museum.
2. Pat Manion presented information about Michigan Garden Club (MGC):
 - a. \$6 dues, per OGGC member (currently around 90) include \$5 for Michigan Garden Club, \$1 for National Garden Club (NGC) <https://gardenclub.org/> .
 - b. Includes insurance which would eliminate the need for OGGC getting its own insurance (\$300+)
 - c. OGGC would then qualify as 501c3 organization
 - d. List of speakers and outings for club program planning
 - e. Ability to publicize our events to all MGC members
 - f. List of all garden tours/walks/events publicized in June
 - g. MGC does not share our personal or financial information with any other entities

Motion to participate in Michigan Gardener for one year made by Pat Manion, seconded by Ray Barth. Motion carried unanimously

3. Discussion about changing by-law Article IV(Dues), Section 2 (Renewal dates). What should the start date be? Should dues be pro-rates as needed? New members need mentors. Norm Kilgour will write up details to present in the future.
4. Due to conflict with meeting location/date, the September meeting date needs to change to September 24th
5. Marnie Boehlke will bring a suggestion box to future meetings.

Open Gate Garden Club Member Meeting May 21, 2025

6:18 p.m. St John Activity Center

- New Member Jen Stella introduced. Guest Michael Dietz introduced.
- Next month's meeting (June 18th) will be hosted, at Maryville Retreat Center, 18307 Taylor Lake Road, Holly, MI 48442. Look forward to a Spaghetti dinner.
- Thanks to hospitality group for potluck contributions:
- Sign-up sheets are available for routine garden maintenance of St John grounds. More perennials have been planted. There are 4 teams, to work 4 times each during the year; weed, deadhead, water as necessary.

6:25 p.m. Dinner

6:57 p.m. Business Meeting

1. Pat Laycock announced Wojo's last date: Thurs, May 22. OGGC receives 10% of sales IF buyer mentions Open Gate Garden Club.
2. Kathy Girgen asked for more volunteers for the May 22 Farmers' Market.
3. Karen Poloski asked if anyone found a pair of garden shears.
4. Pat Manion posted sign-up sheets for the Garden Tour; lots of opportunities.
5. Pat also announced that she had 5 bags of potting soil and LARGE pots available for free.
6. Patsy Essenmacher informed us that one of the Garden Home Tour owners backed out of the tour. Thanks to Jim Pabst for stepping up in offering his home as a beautiful alternate.
7. Ann Barth advised all members that the September meeting date has been moved from Sept 21 to **SEPT 28th**.
8. Hospitality sheets were handed out to each table to fill in for next year. Final information will be included in next year's member book.
9. Lynn Ronthi will be taking a year off from her duties as hospitality chair. Thanks so much for so many years of faithful service.
10. Kim Alexander announced two mini-tours:
 - a. June 25th – Essenmachers (123 Nicole, Linden)
 - b. July 8th – Jim Pabst (13368 Hawk Woods Trail, Fenton)
11. Ann Barth provided information about Open Gate Garden Club joining the Michigan Garden Club. We will try this option for one year. Some benefits include:
 - a. Eligibility as 501c3 organization

- b. Dues include insurance, eliminating the need for us to have our own insurance
 - c. 3 clubs in Genesee County, 8 clubs in Oakland County, 2 in Livingston County
 - d. List of speakers and outings available for our club to access
 - e. Member subscriptions to Michigan and National Garden Club publications
 - f. Ability to publicize our events to all member garden clubs in the state
12. Norm Kilgour announced candidates for officers. Elected as follows:
- a. President – Ann Barth
 - b. Vice President – Marnie Boehlke
 - c. Secretary – Nicolette Ellinghausen
 - d. Treasurer – Leslie Ryan
13. *Lynn Behr displayed two lovely rose plants donated by Linden Community Garden for door prizes.
14. Betty Sheehy asked for volunteers for distribution of flyers and posters for the Garden Tour.
15. Skip Getz-Walsh requested volunteers for the afterglow committee
16. Ann Barth needs a headcount for next month's (June) meeting since it will be hosted (not potluck).

7:20 p.m. Break

7:40 p.m. Speaker Presentation – “Gardening in Harmony”; keeping deer & rabbit out of your garden, presented by the Program Director of Howell Nature Center.

- Repellants include:
 - Strong smells, i.e. mints, lavender, bee balm, Russian sage
 - Fuzzy plants, i.e. lamb's ear, astilbe
 - Toxics, i.e. columbine, foxglove, yew
- Barriers: Fences, 8' high...Underground “dig” barriers to repel rabbits, ground hogs, moles, and voles...Tree wraps
- Sights/sounds – motion activated sound, lights, or water (i.e. TBVECHI brand)
- “Predators” (reapply after rain or every few weeks):
 - Granular coyote/fox urine (try to use male urine)
 - Coffee grounds (stay away from fragrant grounds i.e. blueberry)
 - Owl statues (move these occasionally)
- Remove nesting spaces (i.e. under decks, piles of wood chips)
- For chipmunks – repellent sprays (i.e. cayenne pepper/Dawn dish soap/water mix)
- For tulips – deer like these; try growing “smelly” plants around tulips
- Owls (Great Horned, Screech, Barred) are cavity nesters; attracted to red light

8:25 p.m. Door Prizes

*Rose Plants – Martha Romanowski and Cindy Cloutier

Book – Linda VanCamp

Assorted hand care products – Debbie Scribner

8:30 p.m. Meeting ended

Motion to adjourn at 5:55 p.m.

