

# OPEN GATE GARDEN CLUB OF MICHIGAN

## March 2026 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING: March 18, 2026, 6:15 PM

LOCATION: Father Harvey Activity Center

PROGRAM: Make a Difference in your Yard and Beyond

SPEAKER: Donna Frowley

Photo by Linda Rice



### Hospitality List

#### 3/18/2026

Karen Hall\*  
Linda Van Camp  
Debbie Tegard-Harroun  
Nicolette Ellinghausen  
Karen Poloski  
Judy Lytle  
Mike Dietz  
Shellie Smith

#### 4/15/2026

Pat Manion\*  
MK Schmelzer  
Pat Laycock  
Kay Baxter  
Judy Lytle  
Joan Runyan  
Betty Sheehy  
Amy Doyle  
Melody Miller

#### 5/20/2026

Lisa Rolls  
Nicolette Ellinghausen  
Patti O'Keefe \*  
Greta Gatzko Evo  
Betty Sheehy  
Deb Scribner  
Jeanne Martin  
Nati Horton

#### 6/17/2026

Julie Buttigieg  
Dave Buttigieg  
Patti O'Keefe  
Jeanne Martin  
Betty Sheehy  
Janice Cooley

**HOSPITALITY:** Note where your name is on this list and put it in your calendar. If you do not see your name on one of these lists, please choose a month or two to contribute a dish to pass.

**BYLAW AMENDMENT:** Remember to vote on the change. You can return the ballot that you received in a previous email by mail or text or email your vote to Ann Barth 248.797.3533, or turn in your ballot in person at the meeting. Ballots will be available at the meeting. Current bylaws can be found by clicking <https://opengategardenclub.com/garden-club-documents>

### Proposed changes to the OGGC Bylaws

**Current Article III Section 2:** New members will be accepted at the beginning of each program year in September if openings are available. Recommendation: *New members will be accepted throughout the year if openings are available. Membership for all members ends on August 31 each year.*

Reason for change: To update the bylaws to reflect we are currently accepting members throughout the year. Adding the language that the year ends on a specific date, confirms membership year or partial year is over at that point.

**Current Article IV Section I:** Annual membership dues shall be assessed in an amount to be determined by the Board. Recommendation: *Membership dues shall be assessed in an amount to be determined by the Board.*

Reason for the change: Removal of the word **Annual** because we may have partial year members.

**Current Article IV Section 2:** Renewal of dues for current members begins at the April meeting and continues at the May meeting with payment in full by May 31. Effective June 1, those who have not submitted their dues will be removed from the membership roll for the new program year beginning in September. Recommendation: *Collection of dues for the new program year for current members will begin at the April meeting and continues at the May and June meetings. Effective July 1 for those who have not submitted their dues, their names may not be included in the yearbook for the upcoming year. Membership will continue in the new program year when payment is received.*

Reason for the change: Changes to reflect that we have a June meeting and we will continue to collect dues.

**PHOTO CONTEST:** Congratulations to the winners of this year's photo contest! The night started out slowly, and then suddenly, one by one the entries started to arrive. We had 57 entries, just shy of matching last year's contest. Try as we might to not only match but exceed last year, alas it was not meant to be. Something to strive for next year.

Competition was intense, as all pictures were stunning. For the first time in our Contest's history, the front and back of our yearbook will highlight the talents of one of our couples. Congratulations to Geno and Patsy Essenmacher. Perhaps this will be the start of a new trend? We had a variety of winners in the seasonal categories, repeat contestants as well as a new member with a single entry. It just goes to show that anyone can win. But you can't win if you don't enter. My suggestion is to start snapping those pictures! The next contest will be here before you know it.

And the winners are: Front cover of the yearbook: Patsy Essenmacher                      Back cover: Geno Essenmacher

Spring:	#1 Linda Rice	#2 Martha Romanowski	#3 Debbie Tegard-Harroun
Summer:	#1 Linda Rice	#2 Lynn Behr	#3 Geno Essenmacher
Fall:	#1 Pam Bunka	#2 Ann Barth	#3 Ray Barth
Winter:	#1 Patsy Essenmacher	#2 Martha Romanowski	#3 Linda Rice

**FENTON EXPO:** The Open Gate Garden Club was well represented by the following members at the 2026 Fenton Expo.

Kim Church chaired this event with the help and support of Ann Barth, Cara Wahl, Deanna McCrate, Mary Kay Schmelzer, Nancy Kilgour, Skip Getz-Walsh, Jim McCrate, Carmi Murray, Lisa Rolls.

The sweet little flowers that were given to visitors were made by Karen Hall, Kay Baxter, Kim Fischer, Kathy Girgen, Ann Barth, Kim Alexander, Lynn Behr, Linda Van Camp, Skip Getz-Walsh, Kim Church, and Tina Imeson.



**BUTTERFLIES IN BLOOM:** There are still 7 seats available for the Loose Bus Trip to Meijer Gardens. Trip begins at :830 and returns at 5:00 pm ish.. Tickets cost \$73. If interested call Gwen Fannon at Loose 810.735.9406 ext 104.

**SILENT AUCTION:** A reminder that when you are doing your home and garden spring cleaning put aside any items that you no longer need for the Silent Auction next November.