



**January Newsletter 2023  
Meeting Jan. 18 at 6:15**

## ***THE OPEN GATE GARDEN CLUB OF MICHIGAN NEWSLETTER***

**Quote of the month: “A garden to walk in and immensity dream in—what more could he ask? A few flowers at his feet and above him the stars”—Victor Hugo**

**Speaker: “Invasive Species”** by Emily Dunith of the North Oakland Headwaters Conservancy

**Hospitality:** Ray and Becky Kondel, Kim Alexander, Debbie Scribner, Julie Buttigieg, Michelle and John Kushnier, Judy Lytle, Debbie and Vick Wasylshyn

### **Minutes of the December Meeting:**

6:15 Meeting started.

Hors d'oeuvres

6:30 Announcements

Garden tour still needs a ticket chairperson.

6:40 Business concluded. On to the fun.

We had a virtual feast. It was awesome. Entertainment by Sweet Adelines of Fenton. They lived up to their names. Great performance. Then on to the Christmas games. To cap off the evening we hand- Hi

crafted fresh evergreen table center pieces to take home.

Thank you to all whose hands made light work of the evening.

8:40 Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting January 18, 2023.

### **February Photo Contest**

Our annual photo contest will be coming up soon, so now is the time to gather your favorite garden pics. Each member may submit one photo, per season (Spring, Summer, Fall, & Winter), for a total of four pictures. They must be printed out for viewing, no larger than 5 x 7. Winning photos must be digital, for submission into newsletters and membership book. Photos may contain any wild animal found in nature, insects,

bugs, or birds, but no people or domesticated animals. On the back of all submissions, please provide your name and season for which your photo represents.

If unable to attend our February meeting, you may submit your photos to Photo Contest Chairperson; Debbie Tegard-Harroun. Either hand in or mail to home address, no emails.

### **Christmas Party Thanks:**

A huge thank you to Lynn Behr and Tina Imeson for our fantastic Christmas Party. They even managed to pull it off from Germany! They both vacationed there before the party and managed to get home just in time for the party. They really have awesome organization skills!

Also thank you to the set up committee consisting of Pat Donar, Kathy Girgen, Lynne Behr, Tom Behr and Tina Imeson.

Lynne Ronthi and Pat Donar took on the duty of table set up. The color scheme this year was silver and blue. Centerpieces for each table consisted of bundles of Christmas greens for our craft project. Everyone took home a centerpiece they made. This was very popular.

Entertainment was provided by the Sweet Adelines.

Clean-up committee consisted of Karen Hall, Karen Maxson, Norm and Nancy Kilgore, Lynne Ronthi, Sandi Shoemake and Jerry Laviska.

### **News our members:**

Gerry Frederick former member lost her husband Tom in December. Our deepest sympathy goes out to you and your family. Gerry was a valued

member of our club and served on several committees. We hope to see her back with us in the future.

### **Silent Auction:**

Our Silent Auction in November brought in \$2033. Thank you to all who donated and purchased and brought a friend. Keep the auction in mind as you spring clean. Treasures, treasures, treasures!



**“ Don’t think a garden loses its ecstasy in winter. It’s quiet but roots are down there riotous”—Rumi**

### **Dealing with Fungus Gnats**

The bane of my existence this winter has been the dreaded fungus gnat (*Bradysia* spp.). These insidious little creature’s larvae love to inhabit overly wet soils. I probably brought it in when I brought in my houseplants for the winter. The adults leave the , often to soil and fly into your mouth, up your nose, and into your pets’ food.

I contemplated burning down the house just to get rid of them!

I read about them in Garden Gate Magazine and I tried some of their suggestions. They helped some. I am happy to report that I’m winning the war. This is what I tried.

- Letting my plants dry out a bit. The gnats are attracted to wet soil. This winter I will water less.
- Set up a sticky trap. The color yellow attracts these lousy things and they fly

into them and die. I ordered them from Amazon. (Cheers from me)

- Use a bt product like Knock out Gnats, or Gnatrol. I haven’t tried these yet.
- Cover the soil with gravel or sand
- Choose potting mix wisely
- Spray with insecticidal soap or Neem oil

I’m glad I didn’t burn down the house and I hope this helps. I wouldn’t want to wish this plague on anyone!

### **Things to do in the Garden:**

January is one of the hardest months for the garden and one of the easiest for gardeners.

Here are some things to do:

- Snow is the gardens best friend. It insulates the plant roots. Carefully brush off evergreens if we get a heavy snowfall.
- Choose and order seeds from all the garden catalogs you are receiving. Try something new this year,
- Get lawnmowers and power equipment serviced. Avoid the Spring rush at centers
- Clean the foliage of your house plants. They will appreciate the extra sunlight from doing so. Also, you may find some hiding bugs so it’s a win/win.
- Continue to feed the birds. They really need us right now.

The Open Gate Garden Club  
3297 W Shiawassee  
Fenton, Michigan 48430