

OPEN GATE GARDEN CLUB OF MICHIGAN

June 2026 Newsletter



Photo by Debbie Tegard-Harroun

BOARD MEETING: June 17, 5 PM in the Activity Center Library

Finance Report

NEXT MEETING: June 17, 2026, 6:15 PM

Recognition Awards

LOCATION: Father Harvey Activity Center

PROGRAM: Cut Flowers

SPEAKER: Roxanne Gabriel from Wojos Nursery

HOSPITALITY: Those who signed up for hospitality in June are Julie Buttigieg, Dave Buttigieg, Patti O'Keefe, Jeanne Martin, Betty Sheehy, and Janice Cooley. Patti needs at least 4 more people to bring a food offering to the June meeting. Please call her if you are willing to contribute and what you will bring. Her phone number is 810.516.8793. Thanks

GARDEN TOUR: Add the following dates to your calendars today! **July 17th** is the Preview night for all volunteers, **July 19th** is the day of the Tour, and **July 22nd** is the Afterglow party for all volunteers.

VOLUNTEER SIGN IN SHEETS will be available at this meeting. Opportunities to volunteer include help before, during, and after the day of the tour.

GARDEN TOUR TICKETS FOR MEMBERS will be distributed at the June meeting. If you are not present at this meeting, you will be able to pick up your tickets at the museum on the day of the tour.

DOWNLOAD A COPY of the attached poster and post on your Facebook page or any groups you may participate in. Help get the word out!

MEMBERSHIP: Norm and Nancy will have membership renewal forms in the back of the meeting room at the April, May and June meetings. There is a membership form attached to this email and there is one available on the Web site for download, www.opengategardenclub.com Follow the signs to their table.

PLEASE SIGN UP TO HELP Kathy Girgen represent the Garden Club by helping with a fun activity at the Fenton Arts Council LAFF Pathways Paddle and Peddle event on June 13th.
<https://volunteersignup.org/E4FAA> Please give 2 hours of time having fun and representing our club.

ST. JOHN'S GARDENS SPRING CLEANUP: some of these pictures did not make it to the email last month. They were on the pdf of the newsletter, but not the body of the email. There were so many members who helped.



NOVEMBER SILENT AUCTION: Please be thinking about donations for our Silent Auction as you clean out, clear out, and sort out your garden possessions, garage and home. These places are great resources for auction treasures. If you have any questions please contact Lynn Behr.

SUMMER PICNIC: Save the Date! Summer Picnic is on August 19th at Kim Fischer's home.

TOUR OPPORTUNITY: Let Lynn Behr know if you are interested in going on this tour.



Mid-Michigan Fall Color Tour

Featuring: Dow Gardens and the Longest Canopy Walk and more...

[CLICK HERE TO GET ON THE INTEREST LIST](#)

Join Davison Travelers on October 17th as we head up to Mid-Michigan to tour Marshall M. Frederick's Sculpture Museum, enjoy a Polish lunch buffet at Krzysiak's House Restaurant, and witness amazing Fall Colors at Dow Gardens and the Longest Canopy Walk. Our first stop takes us to the campus of SVSU and Marshall M. Frederick's Sculpture Museum. The main gallery is a stunning, light-filled space housing over 200 of Frederick's monumental figurative sculptures, public memorials, and striking white plaster molds used in the bronze casting process. See a replica of Frederick's Studio complete with the exotic tools, sketches, and casting equipment he used to create his masterpieces. Frederick is nationally and internationally known for works like the *Spirit of Detroit*, *Christ on the Cross* (located at The Cross in the Woods), and various whimsical animal sculptures. Next, I hope you brought your appetite along because you're about to have a delicious Polish buffet that has been a Bay City favorite since 1973. Now for our final stop to Dow Gardens and the Longest Canopy Walk. Fall is the perfect time to visit, as the elevated pathways offer spectacular views of the changing tree leaves, re-established orchards, and scenic forest ponds.

Saturday, October 17th, 2026

Price: \$85.00 Per Person

Trip Includes:

- Deluxe motor coach transportation to Mid-Michigan
- Escorted by John Henry of Route 23 Tours
- Polish lunch buffet at Krzysiak's House Restaurant
- Guided Tour of Marshall M. Frederick's Sculpture Museum
- Admission and Tour Dow Gardens and the Longest Canopy Walk



The link to learn more about these programs is

<https://www.sevenponds.org/spring-programs-2026>

Open Gate Garden Club Member Meeting May 20, 2026

Welcome to Visitors and New Member: Ann Barth welcomes two visitors: Lea Day and Mary Ann.

Welcome to new member Diana Beckmeyer

St. John's Gardens: Karen Polaski compliments the volunteers on the quality of the gardens. If she needs more volunteers she will call people. The President offers Kudos to Karen Poloski for the dedication of her time and talent as she leads the teams at the gardens at St. Johns.

Nominations Committee: Kathy Gergen announced the candidates for officers and called for a vote of the members present to accept the slate of officers as announced. Elected as follows:

- President – Ann Barth
- Vice President – Norman Kilgour
- Secretary – Nicolette Ellinghausen
- Treasurer – Kathy Gergen.

Garden Tour: Kay Baxter reminds those present that there are signup sheets on the tables by the door. There are still openings that need to be filled. The tour tickets for garden club members will be distributed at the June Meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting, you can pick up your tickets at the Museum on the day of the tour. Reminder that each member receives 2 tickets

Hospitality Sheets: Hospitality sheets for each meeting in the 2026-2027 membership year were distributed at each table for initial signups. They will be redistributed at the June meeting if necessary to complete the optimum number of members needed to provide food.

Kale salad: Request from those present for the recipe of the kale salad. The member providing the salad shared that she bought it from VG's :-)

Retired and ill members: Norm Kilgour received an email from Pam Trevethan thanking him for sending them the newsletters. He reminded those present that sending a card, an email, phone call or text message to those who no longer can attend the meeting is a kindness that would be appreciated. Lynn Behr reminded us that cards were available at the December Holiday Party for members to sign and write a note to some retired and ill members. These cards were then mailed by Lynn.

Michigan Garden Club: Ann Barth attended the Leadership Meeting in Frankenmuth. She also reminded those present of the annual conference and Flower Show in Ann Arbor on June 7th and 8th. Information can be found on their website. <https://migardenclubs.org/its-time-to-enter-the-2026-flower-show/>

Presentation: The speaker had a family emergency and cancelled their presentation. Ray Barth was able to download a video presentation from the Michigan Garden Club Archives. This presentation was "Succulents" by Nancy Hunt. She discussed the types of succulents and their value in container gardening.

Door Prize: A book was won by Lisa Rolls, and a cute little pot was won by Joan Runyan.

Minutes submitted by Pat Manion

