

# OPEN GATE GARDEN CLUB OF MICHIGAN

March 2025

## Newsletter

**NEXT MEETING: March 19, 2025**

**LOCATION: Father Harvey  
Activity Center**

**TOPIC: What's New for 2025**

Speaker: George Papadelis

**HOSPITALITY:** Judy Lytle is the leader. Nati Horton, Gary Horton, Emma Meachem, Nicolette Ellinghausen, Debbie Tegard-Harroun, Hugh Harroun, Jim Douglas, Patti Okeefe, and Pam Trevethan have signed up to bring food along with helping to set up or cleanup, and or greet. Please call Judy at 810.714.3462 with any questions.



1<sup>st</sup> place winter scene by Patsy Essenmacher

**DONATIONS** Community Donation request submissions due to Kim Alexander by March 25, 2025. This is an opportunity for our club to support community endeavors that are near and dear to your hearts. Nominations should exemplify Open Gate Garden Club's mission:

- \* Encourage all phases of home gardening
- \* Promote community projects that utilize environmental responsibility
- \* Inspire a love of nature and beauty.

Please include the form attached as well March 26, 2025!

See attached Donation Nomination Form or download form here.

<https://opengategardenclub.com/garden-club-documents>

**FENTON COMMUNITY EXPO:** A big thank you to all who worked at the Community Expo. We added new members, and 2 homeowners volunteered their gardens to be on the 2026 tour. We gave away indoor azalea plants, small pipe cleaner flowers created by our members and Save the Date flyers for the garden tour. In recent years we have added new members who have become active in our club. This year we hope more potential new members will attend the March meeting.

## LOOSE FIELD TRIPS

The February Loose Field Trip was joined by these Garden Club Members. The next Field Trip offered by Loose is a trip to Lansing



**Where:**

State Capitol Building in Lansing  
Horrocks Farm Market in Lansing

**When:**

Tuesday, August 12  
(Depart: 8:30 am Return: 4:30 pm)

**Who:** Loose travel is open  
to all ages!

**How Much:** \$55 per person

Call or stop in for tickets today!  
810 - 735 - 9406

## SPRING IS COMING



Open Gate Garden Club Member Meeting  
February 19, 2025



## **6:20 p.m. St John Activity Center**

- Vice President, Marnie Boehlke presided in the absence of President, Ann Barth
- Thanks to the hospitality group for potluck contributions: Jim Douglas, Deanna McCrate, Karen Maxson, Patti O'Keefe, Karen Poloski, Lynn Ronthi, Grace Sexton, Deb Vargo

## **6:25 p.m. dinner**

## **6:50 p.m. Business Meeting**

1. Sign-up sheets are available for the Fenton Expo; Looking for people to work on March 1 from 9:45 until noon and on March 2 from 1045-130 and 1:30 until 4 pm. OGGC will offer freebies (pipe cleaner flowers), \$20 Membership (half year), and Garden Tour flyers. Thanks to Lynn Behr and helpers for making over 200 pipe cleaner flowers for the giveaways.
2. Thanks to all the members who've already contributed to this year's Garden Tour.
3. Let Norm Kilgour if you're interested in any officer positions (President, Vice President, Treasurer, or Secretary). Officers will be announced at the April meeting.
4. Kim Alexander requested that all Donation Requests (form available on our website under GARDEN CLUB DOCUMENTS) be submitted no later than March 26<sup>th</sup>. Signup sheets are available for the committee to vote on donations.
5. Also, let Kim Alexander know if you'd like to volunteer your home/garden for the summer mini-tours.
6. Contact Marnie Boehlke if you have ideas for, or want to help with, Special Events.
7. Members submitted and voted on photos to be featured in our member book. Debbie Tegard-Harroun announced the winners:

Front Cover – Jim Pabst; Lilac with Butterfly

Back Cover – Kim Fischer; Coneflower with Butterfly

Spring;

#1 Pat O'Sullivan; Purple Flower

with Monarch

#2 Kay Baxter; Robin Eggs

#3 Kim Alexander; Fawn

Summer;

#1 Geno Essenmacher; Statue

with Roses

#2 Kathy Girgen; Bee in

Sunflower

#3 Linda Rice; Balloon Flower

with Bee

Fall;

#1 Jim Pabst; Autumn Branches

#2 Linda Rice; Lake View

#3 Kim Fischer; Grapes

Winter;

#1 Patsy Essenmacher; Siberian Iris in

Snow

#2 Ann Barth; Swans on Lake

#3 Hugh Harroun; Winter Arbor

8. Judy Lytle provided information on programs at Wojo's in Ortonville.
9. Dick Johnson is at Wellbridge after he fell and injured himself. Get well wishes would be appreciated.

**7:10 p.m. Break**

**7:30 p.m. Speaker Presentation** – Jerry and Chuck Hall from Hall's Greenhouse, 9258 Linden Rd, Swartz Creek, MI 48473

1. Hall's Greenhouse was started in 1965 with 2.25 acres. They currently produce over ½ million plants, 1000 varieties each year. They pride themselves on customer service.
2. Look for them to open their new location (Formerly Maher) on Beard Road in Byron.
3. There are over 150 types of petunias and 84 types of geraniums.
4. Hall's has staff to help you custom build your own containers.
5. The latest petunia hybrid is "Firefly", which is bio-luminescent in the dark (white during the day).
6. "Hidden Gems" are those plants that are
  - a. New cultivars, with little or no marketing yet
  - b. Nondescript in April/May, but WOW in July-Sept
  - c. New varieties, whole new class
  - d. Improved growth habits, ease of care, disease resistant
  - e. New colors to existing product lines
7. Hidden Gems highlighted included:
  - a. Portulaca Nano Orange – good for pouches, full sun
  - b. Mezoo Training Red – thick foliage
  - c. Scaevola Scalora – attracts butterfly, deer resistant
  - d. Cora Cascade vinca – no deadheading, drought tolerant
  - e. EnViva Pechoa – full sun
  - f. Jolt Interspecific Dianthus
  - g. Hummingbird Falls Salvia – no deadheading but will drop flowers
  - h. Venti Dahlia, Veracruz Dahlia – double, double
  - i. Cannova Canna – 30-48" tall, plant in the center of a planter for height
8. "Honorable Mention" – these are still good, but they've mostly reached their peak: Sunpatiens, Beacon Impatiens (mildew resistant), Compact Sweet Potato vines (smaller), Lantana (drought tolerant), Coleus, Begonias (no deadheading, drought resistant), Double Impatiens, Sunflowers
9. Deer Out and Bobbex were two deer repellants that were recommended

Door Prizes: Book – Mary Kaye Schmelzer

Butterfly seeds – Deb Vargo

Shady Wildflowers – Judy Lytle

Meeting adjourned at **8:20 p.m.**