

GARDEN CLUB Newsletter

For more information: www.gardenclubdearborn.org / newsletter editor: sdkammer@aol.com

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 12 at 6:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church at 600 N. Brady. As mentioned previously, we've been alternating meeting dates and times to allow those who work during the day and those who prefer not to drive in the evening to attend.

Our speaker will be Cynthia Sohn, Director of Operations at the Henry Ford Estate. She and her colleague, Austin Eighmey, will do a power point presentation and tell us about the ongoing restoration work in the home of Henry and Clara Ford. The house has been closed to the public for some time so this will provide us with an insider's look.

Twenty-four members and five guests attended our meeting on March 14. Several members were celebrating St. Patrick's Day by "wearing of the green". Mary Bugeia, sporting a green derby, called the meeting to order shortly after 12:00. Minutes of February's meeting were read and accepted. Laurine Griffin gave the Treasurer's report which was also accepted. Rose Wiggle officially welcomed new member Shelly Larabell who had joined in 2021— welcome Shelly! Raffle prizes for March were two lovely birdcage style planters each containing a shamrock plant in celebration of the day.



Matthew Bertrand of Friends of the Rouge was our speaker. He is the Senior Restoration Coordinator and Landscape Designer for FOTR. He holds a Masters Degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of Michigan. He presented a fascinating discussion on rain gardens including their purpose, placement, and design. He used slides to show before and after views of various rain gardens in our area. Matthew made members aware of the function and importance of rain gardens and how they may enhance landscaping. Rain gardens help direct

water from non-absorbent areas such as roofs and parking lots into spaces designed to allow the water to be gradually absorbed. The soil and plants in the garden help keep the water from flooding low areas, basements and sewer systems. He noted that a rain garden is not a water garden – rain garden plants need to be able to survive both a lot of water during wet periods and less water during drier periods. Native plants are preferred, but non-natives can be included in the plantings. Many of us felt encouraged to install a rain garden on our own property. Matthew answered many questions from Club members and visitors during and after his talk.



Also at the March 14 meeting, member Linda Johnson shared the display board that she created from pictures taken at the MGC District 1 Fall Conference held on October 21, 2021 at the Country Club of Detroit in Grosse Pointe Farms. Our club was represented by President Mary Bugeia, Laurine Griffin, Karen Marzonie, Jo West, Rose Wiggle, and Linda Johnson. The display board included MGC pictures, along with photographs of autumn floral arrangements created by the talented meeting presenters and shots of the historic country club building. Following the meeting, the club's Landscape Designer - Cassandra Budzik - led the group on a tour of the clubs exquisite grounds. Thanks Linda!

Our Club will be hosting the Michigan Garden Club's District 1 Spring Leadership Meeting on Wednesday, April 27 at Park Place beginning at 10:00 a.m. The theme of this years' meeting is GROW-SHARE-CONNECT and in attendance will be Monica Taylor, MGC President. All of our Club's members are encouraged to attend the Spring Meeting and welcome the leaders and members of other clubs. Topics to be discussed include connecting national, regional, state, and local clubs, attracting new members and retaining current members. There will be an optional daffodil workshop held during lunch. Following the afternoon sessions, Karen Marzonie has kindly offered to take attendees on a tour of the gardens at Fair Lane.



The MGC Spring Meeting cost is \$25 which includes lunch. Please make checks payable to Garden Club of Dearborn and forward to our treasurer, Laurine Griffin. Additionally, we are looking for Club members to help prepare a fresh flower centerpiece which will be used to decorate each table at the meeting. If you are able to do so, please contact Mary Bugeia.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Pat Knoop

Garden Hints from Taunton's Fine Gardening

Gathered for you by Laurine Griffin

After digging up a clump of daylilies, use your garden hose to remove the soil from the tubers. You can then separate the newly clean tubers by rolling them back and forth on the grass.

***** UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS *****

Our Club and some of our members support several other organizations that work to benefit the community.

One of these is the Friends of the Detroit River. The Riverkeeper patrols the river looking for pollution or any other problems that are damaging to the river or its islands. They are also involved in restoration projects along the river and islands. FDR is having its Annual Riverkeeper Dinner on Saturday, April 2 at the Wyandotte Boat Club. Tickets are \$60.00 per person...6:30 Dinner, 7:30 Program. Purchase ticket(s), head to website: detroitriver.org/events or mail a check to the FDR office - Friends of the Detroit River, 20600 Eureka Rd. Ste. 250, Taylor MI 48180-6336. All proceeds will go to support the FDR Riverkeeper Program. Come enjoy dinner, the cash bar, raffle, and silent auction and hear about the FDR restoration projects. Call Laurine Griffin to car pool for this event.

Mark your calendars for Wayne County's Household Hazardous Waste Collection day on April 2 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The collection site will be at Westland Shopping Center 35000 W. Warren in Westland. Check the county's website at www.WayneCounty.com for examples of acceptable items being collected.

