

GARDEN CLUB Newsletter

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

Happy Thanksgiving! There is much to be grateful for - our Club is growing with new members; meetings and other activities are well attended; speakers have provided us with interesting, useful information; we're able to make a positive impact on our community.



Our October meeting was attended by 19 members and two guests. Carol Chrzastek distributed our new, updated Directory. The Directory has been submitted to the Michigan Garden Club for a possible award. There are various categories of projects that qualify MGC member clubs for awards that allow clubs to accumulate points toward levels of distinction. Last year our Club achieved the Diamond level because of our growth, accomplishments, and activities in our community. Hurray for us!

Laurine Griffin, Treasurer, reported that the raffle license for the Holly Berry Brunch has been obtained from the State of Michigan. Laurine also wanted to remind everyone that English Gardens' Flower of the Month program is \$35 for a one-year subscription. Our Club receives \$5 for each subscription sold.



Mary Bugeia, Vice President of External Affairs noted that Terri Bungee will again work with local elementary schools and the Woodsy Owl poster contest. Our Club awards cash prizes to students for winning posters. Past participants' posters have advanced to the state level for judging. An award of \$1,000 and a trip to Washington DC is also possible through the National Garden Club.

Our speaker for October was Cheryl English of Black Cat Pottery. Cheryl is, among other accomplishments, an Advanced Master Gardener and a potter. She talked to us about gardening for birds - how to provide not only food but also shelter, water, and



materials. She described various birds' mating and nesting habits and how gardening and landscaping support them. She brought along some of her pottery pieces including bird houses, garden lanterns, and small dishes molded on various leaves for purchase. There was some early Christmas shopping happening.



Our Club recently made a donation to the Environmental Interpretive Center (EIC) on the grounds of UM-Dearborn. We received the following thank you note.

“Dear Members of the Garden Club of Dearborn.

On behalf of the EIC staff, I want to thank you very much for your donation. We were able to purchase plants with it for our Rain Garden restoration.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank the volunteers who have agreed to maintain the Pollinator-Enabling Garden.

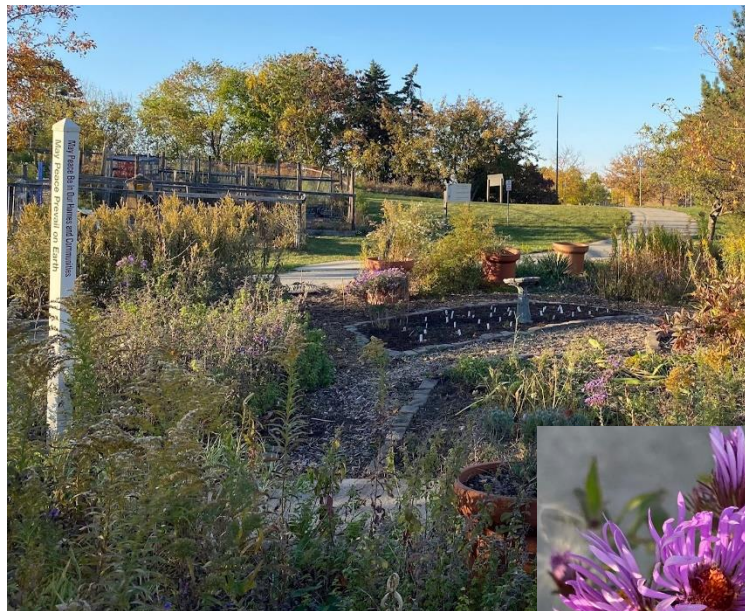
We look forward to working with you.

Thank you again.

Claudia Walters, Ph.D.

Director, Environmental Interpretive Center”

The PEG Study Group has been working steadily on the gardens. Some fall cleanup has been done in the raised beds. The compost bins have been removed.





Kneeshaw
&
Jeremy



Mikulec, Polcyn, Griffin, Pizzamenti, Kneeshaw, J. Spencer, Wiggle, Johnson
Rense, L. Spencer, Bugeia, Kammer

On October 8 several Club members took a “field trip” to Belle Isle to see the Oudolf Gardens, the Conservatory, and the newly re-opened Aquarium. A shy octopus is a new resident at the Aquarium. In the Oudolf Gardens we were fortunate enough to encounter Richard Thomas who described himself as the “Head Ho” or head horticulturalist in charge of the gardens and Denise Rose, a volunteer working in the rain garden area. Denise also volunteers in the gardens at the Ford Estate. By a happy coincidence at the District 1 meeting, some of our members sat with Sheila Kneeshaw of the Southfield Garden Club. We talked about our plans to visit Belle Isle and learned Sheila is a volunteer in the Conservatory. She met us at the entrance to the Conservatory and gave us a private tour of the facility. Among many other trees, plants, and vines, she pointed out a sausage tree, a chocolate tree, a Venus flytrap, and a sensitive plant that cringed away when lightly touched. Did you know that when crumpled, the leaves of a lemon tree smell like fresh lemons?

Mary Bugeia and Carmen Gudan recently removed the summer plants at the Centennial Library and the Dingell Transit Center and replaced them with chrysanthemums for fall. Unfortunately, one of the train station planters has been damaged by careless smokers. Mary was able to salvage the planter and refresh it.



Carol with her On Point quilt

Our Club's own Carol McGarvey displayed four beautiful quilts that she made at the recent October Quilted Tree fundraiser. The event was put on by The General Henry Dearborn Quilting Society at First Presbyterian Church in Dearborn.

On Point is a classical ballet technique in which a dancer supports all body weight on the tips of their toes.

On Point is a quilting technique in which the blocks are placed on one of the points.

According to Carol, "Sometimes our lives can be challenging...a whirlwind of chaos and we are not always On Point...notice the hot pink swirls....and the movement on the backside of the quilt. My sister is a dance instructor/studio owner, and this quilt is for her....may she always find her step and stay On Point as she journeys through some challenging days of her life!"

Soulful Stitching (as seen on the right) is a Kawandi or Siddi style sampler quilt. These quilts are made by women of the Siddi ethnic group in India, which are descendants of early African migrants/slaves. The top layer is composed of small re-purposed pieces of fabrics hand stitched to the other layers...unlike most quilts that are made as 3 separate layers, then stitched together. The stitching on this Kawandi or Siddi style quilt begins on the outside edge and finishes in the center. No Kawandi or Siddi quilt is properly finished, until each corner has a Phula, a decorative folded flower.



Carol noted that "Using the African fabric that I purchased, inspired me to try a new quilting technique. Including my "scraps" of coordinating fabric I began the rhythmic form of stitching. I found this form of hand stitching to be very relaxing and offered tranquility for the soul."

We're going to be quite busy in the next few months. Our next meeting on Monday, November 14 at 12:00 noon will be a wreath making workshop to benefit the Festival of Trees and Children's Hospital of Michigan. Bring your 22" - 24" wreath or small tabletop tree, decorations, and glue gun. We'll take photos of our finished creations for next month's newsletter. Last year all the wreaths and trees made by our Club members were sold.

The Holly Berry Brunch will be held on Saturday, December 10, 2022 at Park Place in Dearborn. Tickets are still available at \$35 each. Please contact Mary Bugeia at 313-613-0870 to purchase. There will be delicious food, a cash bar, a raffle of beautiful gift baskets, a silent auction, and 50/50 raffle. Remember to bring your small self-stick address labels for all those raffle tickets! Donations of items for gift baskets or silent auction valued at \$30 or more can be made until November 25. Please contact Terri Bungee, Cynthia Casillas or Carol Chrzastek for more information or if you have any questions.



DECEMBER 2022

Marti Biscaro	Liz Kedzior
Cynthia Casillas	Michelle Mikulec
Henrietta Flanz	Jo West

JANUARY 2023

Keith Bankwitz	Meredith Scharf
Sandy Butler	John Spencer
Mary Dietrich	Wanda Unis Flaim
Christine Dobrovich	Rose Wiggle
Cynthia Pampeit	

GENERAL MEETING
November 14 – Noon at the First Presbyterian Church Dearborn