

 ARDEN  CLUB  Newsletter

For more information: [www.gardenclubdearborn.org](http://www.gardenclubdearborn.org) / newsletter editor: [sdkammer@aol.com](mailto:sdkammer@aol.com)



The Top O' the Morning' to everyone! Please be sure to join us on Monday, March 13 at 12:00 for our regular Garden Club meeting. Our presenters will be Marlene Bankwitz and Denise Rose. Marlene just recently became a member of the Garden Club of Dearborn. Her husband, Keith, has been a member since 2018. Denise is a Master Gardener and volunteers at the gardens at both the Henry Ford Estate and the Oudolf Gardens on Belle Isle. Keith and Marlene travel extensively. He is an accomplished photographer. Marlene and Denise will show some of Keith's "Flowers of the World" photos.

Our Valentine potluck luncheon was a great success! 22 members and six guests attended. In addition to a delicious, beautifully prepared and served buffet, our meeting room was all decked out for the holiday. Linda Johnson and her husband constructed lovely centerpieces for the tables as well as additional centerpieces for raffle prizes. Carol McGarvey made and donated a pretty heart-shaped pillow. Carol Chrzastek contributed a Valentine-themed hand embroidered table runner. The raffle generated more than \$100 to add to the Club's treasury.

Our speaker was Michele Hodges, President and CEO of the Belle Isle Conservancy. The Conservatory, opened 1904, is currently undergoing the second phase of major restoration work. The structure is now covered with scaffolding and shrink wrap and will be closed to visitors into 2024. Michele's talk was a fascinating look behind the scenes. She shared several lesser-known facts about this true jewel in our area – including the fact that most of us know Detroit was a final stop for many escaped slaves prior to the civil war – with Belle Isle being one of the last stops on the Underground Railroad.



GCD President Rose Wiggle with Michele Hodges

The Belle Isle Aquarium, also opened in 1904, was one of only three public aquariums in the world. The rare, green glass tile on the walls and ceilings was designed to give visitors the sense of being under water. During Prohibition, being directly across the river from Canada, the Island made a convenient stop for bootleggers bringing liquor into the States. Who knew there was a speakeasy in the basement of the aquarium!?

The huge, James Scott Memorial Fountain has an interesting backstory. Mr. Scott was a bit of a raconteur – not thought to be an example of a fine citizen – but left his very large fortune to the City of Detroit. On the condition that a life size statue of him be erected. It took 15 years, but the City finally decided to spend Mr. Scott's money and put the fountain and statue on the southern end of Belle Isle.

Our April meeting will be at **6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 11**. Our speaker will be Lara Edwards from Friends of the Rouge. Lara is the Development Director at FOTR and will talk about the impact the organization has on improving the river.

Marietta Lynch, Nominating Chair, is again looking for those willing to serve in various capacities for our next fiscal year. Please give consideration to serving in these important positions. Our Club needs your participation.

Eva Gogola, web administrator, is looking for member feedback regarding the [www.gardenclubdearborn.org](http://www.gardenclubdearborn.org) website. She would really appreciate any feedback, updates or ideas you may have to enhance the site. Eva is open to all and any ideas.

With Easter and Mother's Day fast approaching, many people will be giving and receiving potted plants and cut flower bouquets, especially flowering spring bulbs. Some of the most popular flowers are also some of the most dangerous for our pets. Any type of lily from Easter lilies to lilies of the valley are highly toxic. Please help keep everyone safe. Thanks to Cynthia Casillas for this important reminder.



*Plant Guide For Pet Owners*

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### Poisonous Plants

- Daffodil
- Castor Bean
- Easter Lily
- Sago Palm
- Star Gazer Lily
- Tiger Lily
- Cyclamen
- Azalea



### Toxic Plants

- Aloe
- Begonia
- Bird of Paradise
- Bougainvillea
- Calla Lily
- Carnation
- Chrysanthemum
- Coleus
- Cosmos
- Dumb cane
- Elephant ear
- Fleabane
- Gardenia
- Geranium
- Hibiscus
- Hydrangea
- Iris
- Mother-In-Law Tongue
- Pansy
- Peace Lily
- Pinks (Dianthus)
- Plumbago
- Poinsettia
- Primrose

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### Pet-Friendly Plants

- Alyssum
- Blue Daisy
- Boston Fern
- Bottlebrush tree
- Camelia
- Canna
- Ceolsia Plumosa
- Christmas Cactus
- Coreopsis
- Echevaria Succulents
- Gerber Daisy
- Gloxinia
- Impatiens
- Marigold
- Nasturtium
- Pampas Grass
- Persian Violet
- Petunia
- Polkadot Plant/Baby Tears
- Rose
- Snap Dragons
- Spider Plant
- Start Jasmine
- Sunflower
- Sword Fern
- Viola
- Zinnia

UPCOMING EVENTS:



Home, Garden and Shopping Expo with Food Trucks. Home improvement experts – landscaping professionals – shop for home goods, beautiful plants and flowers – Food trucks in parking lot. Sunday, March 12 at Dearborn Park Place, 23400 Park Street from 11 am - 3 pm.

Plant & Seed Swap at The Dearborn Shop, 21906 Garrison, Saturday March 25 from 11 am – 2:30 pm. Event put on by The Dearborn Shop and Nibbles of Many Sweets.

MGC District 1 - Spring Leadership Conference, Thursday, May 18 at the Southfield Public Library, 26300 Evergreen Road. Hosted by the Southfield Parks & Garden Club, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

2023 Michigan Garden Clubs Annual Conference, June 6 & 7. “Hand Picked Just for You: Make the Member Connection” at the Sheraton Grand Rapids Airport Hotel on 28<sup>th</sup> Street. Keynote Speaker: Neal Sanders Mystery Gardening Author.



**MARCH**

Otto Baumgart	Mary Ellen Matigian
Terri Bungee	Judy Polcyn
Eleanor Dolega	Jennie Somers
Mariya Fogarasi	Sharon Snider



# Valentine's Day Potluck Memories

February 13, 2023



Linda Johnson



Mary Ellen Matigian



Carol McGarvey & Rose Wiggle



Terri Bungee

Christine Dobrovich

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Mary Bugeia, Cynthia Casillas, Sandy Butler & Chris Matthews



Judy Polcyn & Linda Johnson

# POTLUCK RECIPE REQUEST

## **Chicken Breasts Marsala**

Submitted by: Rose Wiggle

1 cup fresh mushrooms  
2 tbl. butter  
8 skinned chicken breasts  
1/3 c. flour  
1/3 c. butter  
1/2 cup Marsala wine (I used sweet)  
1/3 c. chicken broth  
1/4 tsp. salt  
1/8 tsp. pepper  
1/2 c. shredded fontina or mozzarella cheese  
1/4 c. chopped green onions  
1/2 c. grated Parmesan cheese



Cook mushrooms in 2 tbl. butter stirring constantly until tender remove from heat and set aside.

Cut each chicken breast half in half lengthwise.

Place chicken between 2 sheets of heavy-duty plastic wrap flatten to 1/8 in. thickness

Dredge chicken lightly in flour cook over medium heat 3 to 4 min. on each side until golden.

Place chicken in a lightly greased 13/9 baking dish overlapping edges. Repeat procedure with remaining chicken and butter.

Reserve pan drippings in skillet. Sprinkle reserved mushrooms over chicken. Add wine and broth to pan drippings, bring to a boil reduce heat and simmer uncovered 8 min. Stir in salt and pepper.

Pour sauce evenly over the chicken.

Combine cheeses and green onion, sprinkle over chicken

*Bake uncovered at 375 for 20 min. Broil 6 in. from heat 1-2 min or until lightly browned.*