

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

The next Garden Club of Dearborn General Meeting before we break for the summer is scheduled for **Monday, June 26 at 11:30 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn.** This meeting will include the installation of the 2023-2025 Club officers and will be catered by Szegedi's. The meal cost is \$20 per person with *check made payable to the Garden Club of Dearborn and sent to Laurine Griffin, 22750 Alexandrine Street, Dearborn, MI 28124.* This should be a fun event with good food, good friends and door prizes!!

Garden Club members Laurine Griffin, Rose Wiggle, Jo West and Carol Chrzastek attended the 2023 Friends of the Detroit River Spring Riverkeeper Dinner which marked two decades of the Riverkeeper program. The Riverkeeper is responsible for patrolling the river by boat, looking for water pollution and other related problems that affect the river and its natural habitats. Laurine's late husband Don was a founding member of The Friends of the Detroit River which was formed by a small group of concerned citizens who assembled to prevent the establishment of a deep injection well into the Detroit River, as well as preventing the development of a marina and golf course on the 410-acre Humbug Marsh. The dinner program highlighted some of the many accomplishments that have been achieved over the last 20 years. Laurine met with U.S. Representative, Debbie Dingell, who talked about her last husband, Congressman John Dingell's long-standing relationship with the group. The four Garden Club members pitched in at the event and sold approx. 1,000 raffle tickets to benefit the River Keeper Program.



L. Griffin & D. Dingell



K. Kovacs-Gucwa, R. Wiggle & M. Lynch

We are always happy when new members join the Club and in April we welcomed on board Kim Kovacs-Gucwa as an official member of the Garden Club of Dearborn. Kim was inducted at the General Meeting held the evening of April 11th. President Rose Wiggle and Nominating Chair Marietta Lynch presented Kim with a lovely pot of planted tulips. We are proud to have Kim as a new member of our team. *Welcome Kim!*

In mid-May member Cynthia Casillas was approached by the Girl Scouts from Troop 77523 and asked for help in establishing a butterfly garden at Lindbergh School. The Garden Club of Dearborn made a financial contribution to the Troop who were then able to purchase various items that would attract butterflies to the area. The Scouts worked diligently and even had to cut out large roots before planting. The Troop planted three Arborvitae Shrubs and a Smoke Tree. A job well done!



GCD members once again planted and cared for the large containers at the Dingell Train Station and the Henry Ford Centennial Library. A red, white and blue color theme was selected for the spring plantings. Mary Bugeia and Sherry Kammer filled the two large cement planters located in the back of the Henry Ford Centennial Library. Carmen Gudan and Mary Bugeia later filled the planters at the John Dingell Train Station with a variety of flowers and plants that travelers can enjoy throughout the summer months. Thanks Ladies!!

Member Terri Bungee, Youth Education Representative, once again promoted the “Smokey Bear & Woodsy Own Youth Poster Contest” locally to the students at Lindbergh Elementary School in Dearborn on behalf of the Garden Club of Dearborn. Pictured here are this year’s poster winners along with their teacher. The winning students received \$35, \$25 and \$15 respectively for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place donated by the Club. Congratulations to Ms. Brown and her talented “design” students!





C. Randall & T. Bungee

Teacher Christine Randall received a check from the GCD presented by Terri Bungee who worked with the Nowlin School toward their goal of establishing a sensory garden for autistic students. A sensory garden is a carefully planned space designed to invoke and indulge all five senses - sight, smell, hearing, taste and touch - using plants and decor, resulting in an immersive experience.

The role of a sensory garden is to trigger several neurological experiences, both familiar and new and is ideal for children,

especially those with autism. It offers them a safe environment to explore every stimulus and boost sensory development. In addition to the money, the school also received many sensory garden specific plants donated by Club members which Terri delivered in time for the student planting.



R. Wiggle

At the May 15th General Meeting, member Ron Wiggle was the featured speaker and gave a talk about his favorite desert flowers found in the Canyonlands of Utah. When in Utah Ron regularly gives friends and family guided tours of the Canyonlands area pointing out the various plants, flowers, cryptobiotic soil and scenery. Ron's presentation highlighted many desert spring flowers which included Utah's state flower (Sego Lily), several species of primrose, flowering cactus and yucca, sunflowers, and many more. Desert flowers were especially abundant this spring in the Canyonlands region.

Many members and guests turned out to hear Ron's talk which received positive reviews by all. Thanks to Ron for an informative and entertaining slide presentation.



S. Butler

Sandy Butler, long standing GCD member, retired this May after completing 24 years as President of the Dearborn Symphony Orchestra, beginning in 1999, and was concurrently, the unpaid executive director until hiring as exec. director in 2021. Until then she managed the daily operations of the organization. She continued to meet regularly with business owners, city officials and service club representatives to promote the orchestra, plan collaborative programs and raise funds. Sandy remains passionate in her beliefs about the value to the community of having a first class orchestra; as well as, the educational value of instrumental music for student achievement. When she first became involved with the symphony, there was a debt of \$30,000. Through her leadership efforts, the symphony currently balances a budget of almost \$300,000. Sandy also

helped build the Dearborn Orchestral Society Endowment Fund.

The Symphony members threw Sandy a retirement party on May 12 at the Dearborn Country Club with a champagne reception and a seated dinner. Many colleagues and friends turned out to pay tribute to Sandy. Symphony musicians were on hand to play some of Sandys favorite pieces in her honor. Sandy wore many hats and did many jobs during her career with the Symphony and will surely be missed. Congratulations Sandy and enjoy your next chapter!



R. Wiggle, GCD President



Johnson, Wiggle, Berryman, West, Chrzastek, Kammer & Griffin

On May 18, several Garden Club of Dearborn members attended the Michigan Garden Clubs District 1 Annual Spring Conference hosted by the Southfield Parks and Garden Club, held at the beautiful Southfield Public Library.

The conference day began with very informative updates from state and district officers about the revamping of the website, Share and Grow Grants, and how the Black Swallowtail Butterfly is on the way to becoming Michigan's State Butterfly. These updates were followed by 2 Breakout Sessions led by 7 discussion facilitators. This very productive day also included a delicious lunch and ended with an optional tour of the nearby Mary Thompson Farmhouse. Attached to this newsletter is NGC & MGC representative Linda Johnson's notes from the conference for your information.

May Birthdays

Phyllis Brim
Carol Chrzastek
Robbin Makled
Kim Kouacs Gucwa



June Birthdays

Christine Berryman
Sheila Brooks
Mary Bugeia
Eva Gogola
Judy Henn
Cheryl Pizzimenti



**Gardening with purpose:
Help save the endangered Karner
Blue butterfly!**



**Wild Lupine is the only host plant this endangered species will feed on.
Planting this beautiful flower in your yard or field is an easy way to help protect the species and enjoy colorful blooms from spring through summer.**

You haven't bought
a plant today.
Well done.
You should reward
yourself with a plant

NOTES from MGC DISTRICT 1 MEETING: MAY 18, 2023

by Linda Johnson, District 1 Representative, Garden Club of Dearborn

On Thursday, May 18, seven of our GCD members attended the Michigan Garden Clubs District 1 Spring Leadership Meeting in the Southfield Public Library. They were: Christine Berryman, Carol Chrzastek, Laurine Griffin, Linda Johnson, Sherry Kammer, Jo West and Rose Wiggle.

The day began with updates from state and district officers. Here is a summary:

- Meetings should be fun and make an effort to include prospective or new members.
- The www.migardenclubs.org website is being revamped to make it more user-friendly.

User name: member/ Password: (email me at jj48203@aol.com to get it)

- Share and Grow grants are available from MGC for community projects: see website
- The Black Swallowtail Butterfly is on its way to becoming Michigan's state butterfly when HB4159 and the Senate Bill both pass.
- The MGC has added 3 new clubs

Upcoming Events:

- June 10: District 1 Flower Arranging Guild will host an exhibit and opportunities to speak with designers from 1:00-5:00 p.m. The event will be at a church in Livonia
- October 5-7: An MGC Flower Show School will be held in Ann Arbor. Details available in late June on MGC website.
- October 19: Fall District 1 Leadership Meeting hosted by Taylor Garden Club at the Lakes of Taylor Country Club

Following the officers' reports, there were 2 Break Out Sessions led by 7 discussion facilitators. They focused on "Educating, mentoring and supporting our youth in the areas of gardening and the environment" and "Conservation and the environment".

Our club appears to be doing well in both areas and our representatives shared what we are doing. However, there are some things that other clubs are doing that we may want to consider.

- Buying bulk seeds (Ferndale uses zinnias), put them in envelopes with directions and the club's name on them, and distribute them in the community.
- Ferndale also does a similar thing with daffodil bulbs in perforated paper bags in the fall.
- Use mugs or china cups instead of paper cups at meetings to cut down on paper waste.
- Use Facebook and Instagram to publicize activities. Note: Our club does not have a Facebook page. Is someone interested in setting one up and keeping it updated?
- Offer hands-on activities to pre-schoolers and grade school children and their families to get them "hooked" on gardening at an early age.
- Advertise Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl Poster Contest in local papers, social media to generate interest. Note: Our contest goes through the Dearborn school system.
- Have a table at a Farmers' Market for kids to plant seeds in paper cups and follow up in a few weeks with a display of what they grew.

The meeting was followed by a lunch and a tour of the nearby Mary Thompson Farmhouse.