



GARDEN



CLUB



ewsletter

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Happy New Year, Garden Club of Dearborn!

All traditional January expectations of a lower-than-average turnout for the Garden Club of Dearborn were dispelled with our January meeting where 25 members welcomed nine guests including Janet Damian, our speaker, and Shawn Tambeau, who together with her little service dog Shay Shay became our latest member. Marietta Lynch presented Shawn with a lovely flowering plant to welcome her into our club.



C. Casillas S. Tambeau M. Lynch

The church hall was filled with everyone connecting and enjoying companionship, hearing a good speaker, sensing positive new year vibes, nibbles, and more. At the end of the meeting, no one wanted to leave! Further guests included Jean Burns, Katrina Harris (who jumped right in, selling raffle tickets and donating a raffle prize), Donna Kolajeskie, Sharon Morton, Rachel Pearson, Debbie Rugenski, and Nick Speth.



Janet Damian Lapko

Thoughts of winter flew out the window when Janet Damian Lapko began to give her talk titled “Native vs. non-native plants, what’s the difference and why does it matter?” Janet has a long history in gardening, starting when she was a child and helping her grandmother, a Romanian immigrant, in Dearborn’s South End on Roulo Street. Gradually, her gardening skills evolved from using chemicals to organics and in 2013, she completed an Urban Roots Garden Leadership Training Course through “Keep Growing Detroit”. From 2011 to 2018, she grew crops with volunteers in the SW Detroit community garden, selling produce at Eastern Market and then furthering her education with a Master Rain Gardener course with Friends of the Rouge in 2021. In 2019, she installed a rain garden at her home and became the O.L. Smith middle school garden coordinator in 2021. Janet was appointed to the City Beautiful Commission in 2022.

Janet started her presentation with a quote by Doug Tallamy, a well-known entomologist, ecologist and conservationist: “In the past, we have asked one thing of our gardens: that they be pretty. Now they have to support life, sequester carbon, feed pollinators and manage water.”

It was a fitting start to a cheer for non-traditional gardening and persuading us to forget the idea of needing a picture-perfect front yard, letting clover grow, and minimizing pesticides and herbicides. Plant a native flower garden so the butterflies will come to you! It need not be “floppy”, it can have a neat border. Plant an acorn! Encourage your neighbors to plant one, too (oaks grow relatively slowly but seedlings come up quickly)! From trees – “all trees are superstars”, and sadly, Dearborn is losing too many “legacy” big trees - to bushes and ivy (did you know that English ivy will suffocate a tree trunk?) - to flowers that provide food and nectar, Janet differentiated between the plants which are native and provide food for birds, animals, and insects, and the invasive species which do more harm than good. Multiple handouts were available to take home.



Rain gardens, about which we hear so much these days, can be elaborate (look at what Friends of the Rouge have done at Lindbergh school or at Henry Ford College) or small. The point, simply put, is to keep rainwater out of our sewers and basements and let it percolate into your garden (look back at our club-wide email on December 27th about Cynthia Casillas’ tip for taking an online Master Rain Gardener class while weather is poor or waiting until April for in-person classes and field trips in Saline).

Emphasizing how we need to consider the bigger picture, Janet’s enthusiasm propelled us all into the new year as she painted pictures with words and encouraged us all to forge ahead on new paths. We also learned about how the City Beautiful commission helps schools and students learn about seed planting, basics unknown to many and always fascinating for young minds.

Laurine Griffin reported a Holly Berry Brunch net profit of \$7,883.39 after a gross income of \$15,350.50. We all know the hard work that went into this and our club can be proud!

All members have new name badges which can either be clipped on to a lapel or simply worn with a clothing friendly lanyard, thus eliminating the unpopular pins.



Terri Bungee showed us the five finalist posters among 115 entries for the annual Smokey the Bear competition sponsored by our club in three Dearborn schools this year. These finalists continue on to the district, and then to the state competition. Final winners are announced in May. Poster theme: *Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!*



Sandy Butler, Paulette Baumgart and Kim Kovacs-Gucwa each won a raffle prize bag containing a can of Starbucks hot cocoa mix, moose munch popcorn and a bag of dark chocolate covered honey grahams, while Rachel Pearson won a lemon-shaped cutting board.



Mary Bugeia installed and planted a lovely seasonal design in our flowerpot at the John Dingell train station, carrying on a project and commitment by our club for the past six years.

Looking for a book to read and prefer to buy used? Friends of the Library Dearborn host a sale on the second Wednesday of each month at the Centennial library from 10-6pm, just turn down the hall to the left of the entrance. Furthermore, books can be donated every Wednesday of the month from 10-1pm; pull your car up to the doors. There will either be a volunteer to help or you can leave them on the signposted dolly just inside the door. Aside from the monthly Wednesday sale, there are always used books up on the first floor for sale. The price is always right, too!

DATE CHANGE: Please note our revised date for the JUNE Garden Club of Dearborn general meeting: we will meet on Monday, June 17th at 11am at the First Presbyterian Church, our regular meeting venue.

On February 12th at 11:00 am we will be enjoying our annual Valentine Tea & Potluck with a Make & Take Bookmark Craft Project. Please bring scissors and tweezers if you can for our craft. **Please wear red!**



January was named for the Roman god “Janus”, the god of beginnings, gates, transition and time. Usually depicted with two faces, he looks back on what has been and forward to what is coming. *Let's look forward to a happy 2024 together!*



Our Garden Club is calling on all members to start saving all plastic tops for the Snow Woods Neighborhood Bench project. Believe it or not, plastic caps and lids can be turned into benches! Each bench requires 20 pounds of caps and lids; acceptable items are listed on the below flyer. Bring your donations to our meetings and we will forward them onward. This is a worthy and environmental project with little effort required.

**FLIP YOUR LIDS FOR
SNOW WOODS NEIGHBORHOOD BENCHES**



The Snow Woods Neighborhood Association is collecting all plastic caps and lids to be turned into benches for the Snow Woods neighborhood. Please start saving all plastic tops.

Each bench required 20 pounds of caps and lids.
PLEASE MAKE SURE THEY ARE CLEAN LIDS/CAPS

ACCEPTABLE CAPS

Medicine Pill Bottle Caps
Drink Bottle Caps (Pop & Water)
Juice Caps
Milk Jug Caps
Flip Top Caps (Like Ketchup)
Spout Caps (Like Mustard)
Hair Spray Caps
Spray Paint Caps
Toothpaste Caps

ACCEPTABLE LIDS

Cottage Cheese
Yogurt Lids
Pringle Can Lids
Coffee Can lids
Peanut Butter Lids
Butter Lids
Ice Cream Bucket Lids
Mayonnaise Jar Lids
Cool Whip Container Lids
Spice Lids

THE ABOVE LISTS ARE JUST EXAMPLES OF WHAT YOU CAN SAVE

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact:

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