

GARDEN CLUB OF DEARBORN ◀ FOUNDED 1915 ▶ February 2024
A Member of Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. and National Garden Clubs, Inc.



GARDEN CLUB Newsletter

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President's Corner



I tried something new this winter. It's called Winter Sowing. I saw several demonstrations of the method on the internet. I must try this. Seems pretty simple to do.

Now I have 5 native plant plastic jug nurseries in my garden. This lets the seed stratify without any intervention from me. Just set it in the sun and wait (hope) until spring for the seedling to pop through the soil. Give it a try. It can also be done for early spring tender plants such as vegetables and some annual flowers.

I am passionate about the Native Plant movement. I can't change the world but I can do my part to encourage a more natural place. There are so many species of plants to choose from Michigan. Wildflowers make me happy.

One of our own members, Eva, will be giving an informative and hands-on demonstration about soil in March. If Eva is doing this, I guarantee it will be lively and enjoyable. I bet you never thought talking Dirt would be so fun. 😊 Bring a guest and talk Dirt for the day.

Looking towards spring, keep in mind our club has several gardening opportunities which serve our community. We have the Pollinator Enabling Garden at U of M Dearborn campus. It is handicap accessible and chemical free. Make sure you take a walk over there when the splendor of spring arrives.

Also, we have flowerpots located at the John Dingell Train Station and the Henry Ford Centennial Library.

So you see, it's not a lot of work to make our community a little prettier. Many hands make light work. If you have any activities you would like our club to do, please feel free to share your thoughts with me.

Our next scheduled General Meeting will be March 11 at 11:00 am at the First Presbyterian Church Dearborn. Be sure to attend as the featured speaker will our own Eva Gogola presenting "Get the Dirt on Dirt". Eva and our Garden Club scholarship recipient, Valerie Osowski, will give us a demonstration of the FoodCycler, a desktop composter, and then cover basic backyard composting with all kinds of tips and advice. See you there!!

Michelle Mikulec & Jean Burns



A beautiful pink and red tide swept over the Garden Club of Dearborn as we celebrated Valentine's Day! Anyone entering the church hall was greeted with the most beautifully decorated tables with soft pink tablecloths and exquisitely ribboned vases of life-like roses, babies' breath and peonies on delicate heart-shaped doilies along with small dishes of chocolates. Hosts Linda Johnson and Kim Kovacs-Gucwa ensured that all 31 club members and two visitors, Jean Burns and Mary Calder, felt very special. The pot-luck table was soon laden with tasty contributions and a pink-iced chocolate Valentine's Day cake, and the raffle prizes – themed in red – highlighted the holiday. Visually, our eyes swept over everything and first impressions led to a lovely feeling of

knowing we belong to a very special club whose members go above and beyond to make meetings memorable.

Before Cynthia Casillas started the business meeting, she introduced President Russ Kavalhuna of Henry Ford College, who made his pitch for the upcoming millage renewal in our February 27th election. Speaking eloquently and concisely, President Kavalhuna gave background information (out of 28 community colleges in Michigan, only one – Henry Ford College – is devoted specifically to one city, our city of Dearborn), and explained the need for only a small percentage of our property taxes to keep the college running at the current level for course offerings, salaries, building maintenance costs, and so forth. The amount will not rise with the millage but stay constant. Praising the campus as an extraordinary public resource, he also mentioned the tuition-free policy for high school students and residents over 60 years old – and then endeared himself to everyone in the room when he continued, “but as no one here is over 60, that wouldn't apply to you!”



Russ Kavalhuna & Cynthia Casillas



Three new members, **Rachael Pearson, Cathy Booth & Katrina Harris** were inducted and went home with pretty potted kalanchoe plants presented by Rose Wiggle.

We will restart the “New Members Orientation” to explain and elaborate on the ins and outs of our club, take questions, and introduce ourselves. Planned to last about one hour, the first evening will take place on April 11th in Diane Rebori’s home from 7-8pm.

Linda Johnson showed her prototypes of the promotional card we could leave at garden centers, take to events such as the annual city Senior Expo, or use as a calling card to pique interest in our club. Colorful and alluring, they are sure to promote curiosity. We might even use them during a potential appearance at the Dearborn Summer Market behind Wagner Place which has grown so popular – discussions are underway for how we could use the venue to our advantage, possibly even during National Garden Week from June 2-8 this year.

Bookmark Craft



Cynthia’s craft project, bookmarks with a floral motif, kept us busy with tiny, dried flowers, delicate ferns, ladybugs, butterflies and more. The choices were laid out in buffet style and members could design their own cheery bookmarks with pretty ribbons to take home. Thank you, Cynthia!

Terri Bungee announced that three winners from Lindbergh school are advancing to the state level in the Smokey the Bear – Woodsy Owl poster competition. The three budding artists are Faith Schook (2nd grade), Issa Chamsedine (3rd grade) and Zahra Alghazali (5th grade). What fun to know our efforts are bringing these children pride and joy as they watch their work advance! Terri also mentioned Nowlin school needing a ramp for an area used by autistic children or those who are challenged when they move around, and that our club could possibly support them.



The Valentine-themed raffle prizes made a handsome display before the winning numbers were drawn. Chocolates went to Lynne Spencer and Diane Rebori, vases of roses, babies' breath and lambs' ears went to Mariya Fogarasi and Judy Polcyn, and the "LOVE" table sculptures went to Jean Burns and John Spencer. Our club earned a record \$81 from raffle tickets – bravo Linda Johnson for the alluring prizes!

The Master Gardener Society of Oakland County Educational Conference Committee is pleased to announce that tickets are now on sale for their 10th Annual Garden Conference "Gardening and All That Jazz – Garden Revival." The date is Saturday, April 20, 2024 and it's an all-day seminar from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. The price is \$95 which includes lunch with 2 sides, and beverages, an outstanding garden market with vendors selling horticulture-related gifts, and live luncheon jazz by the Dave Bennett Trio. The registration deadline is Wednesday, April 5, 2024. Participants are encouraged to purchase tickets early as only a limited number of seats are available. Please see the club-wide email from February 5 for further details.

The 2024 Fair Lane Garden Volunteers' Plant Sale dates are Friday, May 17 from 9am to 3pm and Saturday, May 18 from 9am to 1pm at the Fair Lane Estate. Unique perennials, wildflowers, succulents, heirlooms, culinary herbs and tomato plants, water garden plants, bird feeders and bird houses, and some decorative items will be for sale. All proceeds benefit the historic gardens at Fair Lane, home of Clara and Henry Ford. This is an annual up-beat event and lots of fun!

The Michigan Garden Club District 1 meeting will take place on April 24.

The container for our ongoing bottle cap collection was out for donations.

Staying away from Styrofoam cups, Cynthia brought an eco-friendlier alternative for future use.

Mark your calendars! Our annual meeting date has now been set for June 17 in our church hall.

Just after we held our meeting, we learned that our beloved longtime member, Mary Ellen Zell, had passed away at the age of 101. Mary Ellen joined our club in 1996 and was always a lively and enthusiastic contributor, and our thoughts and prayers go out to her family.



Mary Ellen Zell

1922 - 2024

Garden Club of Dearborn

Valentine's Day Potluck Meeting

February 12, 2024





HAPPY
Valentine's Day



