

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



GARDEN CLUB Newsletter

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President's Corner

Greetings Fellow Gardeners!

Spring is here and it gives me hope. We have 92.8 days of Spring.

I'm tempted to start clearing my ratty looking flower beds but I know better. I wait until bumblebees appear and then I dig in like no tomorrow.

All winter I've been browsing seed and plant catalogs for new ideas. I really don't need another plant as much as I need to downsize. I like my yard to be manageable to balance my time with other activities.

I was in Florida for several weeks. We stayed in the Nature Coast of Florida on the Gulf coast. The trees were beginning to bloom and leaf out. Lots of pollen in the air and you could see it blowing off the trees. Birds galore!

Beautiful singing every day and all day. It was very different from previous stays. I'd do it again for the peacefulness.

That's what gardening does for me.

It gives me a sense of oneness with nature and that feels good.

The Michigan Garden Clubs will be having their annual conference in Bay City on June 10-11. This will be my first time and I'm excited. Consider going and expanding your horizons.



The next scheduled GCD General Meeting will be held on April 8th at 11:00 am at the First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn. Guest speaker(s): Meadowbrook Garden Club.

PLEASE NOTE:

Our May meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 14 at 6:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn in the church hall with a presentation on the Duvall School butterfly garden. The evening time accommodates our speaker Robbin Makled, who teaches at the school and who will bring students with her to help present "Schooled in Gardening."

Not everyone can use words to turn banana peels, eggshells and coffee grinds into fertile crescents of compost, but Eva Gogola and Valerie Osowski did just that at our last meeting. Combine that with the beautiful voice of Mariah Berryman and you have all the ingredients for a lovely early Spring meeting. Our club, composed of forty attendees including guests Valerie Osowski, Mariah Berryman and Jean Burns, welcomed Mary Calder as a new member. Rose Wiggle presented Mary with a lovely pot of yellow chrysanthemums. We are proud to have her as member of our Club. Welcome Mary!



The raffle prizes were appropriately themed: a wooden rabbit went to Jean Burns and a bunny welcome sign went to Mary Bugeia. Two St. Patrick's Day shamrocks made of silk flowers with gnomes were won by Terri Bungee and Shaun Tambeau, and a live shamrock plant was won by Kim Kovacs-Gucwa. Many of us wore shades of green to celebrate March 17th, the day on which we all know that “everyone is Irish”!



Following the business meeting, led by Mary Bugeia in Cynthia's absence, Mariah not only entertained us, but also enchanted us with a concerto piece, “Knoxville Summer of 1915” by Samuel Barber. Written for voice and orchestra, Mariah used the piano reduction. We have been fortunate to have Mariah sing twice for our club. Mariah, daughter of our member Christine Berryman, earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Music from the University of Dayton, received her M.M. in Voice Performance from Ohio University, and is working on her Masters of Arts Administration in Theatre and

Production Management at Ohio University. Many thanks to Mariah for taking the time to be a part of our meeting and float her talents throughout the church hall.

Eva Gogola and Valerie Osowski presented “The Dirt on Dirt, Composting for Garden Success” and gave the phrase “trash to treasure” new meaning with a secret envelope quiz on each table (would you use chicken bones? No! Would you use fruit scraps? Yes!). We learned about compost lasagna, rotating nitrogen-rich green materials with carbon-rich brown materials; how a pitch fork or “tuner” can be used to turn, turn, turn, keeping the compost moist; we learned that compost should never smell – Eva had samples for us to sniff and wrinkle our noses; we learned the basic components, what to use and not to use, and how to enhance our composting efforts. They left no points uncovered and multiple questions proved our interest in the topic and essentially, how to get nutrient-rich topsoil for free. A handout covered the main points.

Eva also demonstrated her desktop composter made by Vitamix which she uses daily to rid her garbage of many pounds that go instead right into her garden. Don't worry if you hear the machine wail every now and then, be careful with sugary items, celery is too stringy, and leeks have too strong a smell. Never, ever overflow the machine.

Eva Gogola is Director of Annual Giving and Advancement Services, Institutional Advancement at the University of Michigan Dearborn and has been a Garden Club member since 2022. Eva has worked at her alma mater in multiple capacities for over two decades and the team she currently directs focuses on fundraising, prospect research, reporting, and development events. Eva earned her undergraduate degree in Communication at UM-Dearborn and a Masters of Library and Information Science from Wayne State University. Eva is a big Tigers and Red Wings fan and enjoys spending time in Detroit.

Valerie Osowski is the Cooper Family Intern and a Student Naturalist at the Environmental Interpretive Center (EIC) at UM-Dearborn. Currently working toward her bachelor's degree in Environmental Sciences with a concentration in Biology and a minor in Sociology, she is also the President of the Student Sustainability Coalition at UM-Dearborn. In her free time, she takes the opportunity to nap, read, and spend time with family and friends. Valerie is also the 2023 Michigan Garden Club scholarship recipient so it was very special to welcome her as one of our presenters.



Following the presentation, Eva and Valerie elaborated on programs at the University of Michigan-Dearborn Environmental Interpretive Center whose three miles of trails encourage nature watching and especially bird watching including migratory birds and waterfowl at the lake. Educational programs host school field trips and have recently included the science and fun of the maple syrup season complete with the boiling process.

Valerie also described her current project: improving rain gardens around the building and collecting information on bird strikes (birds that fly into windows). She is part of a project starting a seed library and teaching about seeds, both for the garden and for storage tips.



Our Holly Berry Brunch is moving to a new venue! On December 7th, the doors at the “DoubleTree by Hilton” hotel will open for our biggest annual fundraiser.

Located just off Ford Road next to Southfield Freeway, this hotel will allow for more space in a holiday setting. A committee is in place but to date, we have no one to chair the event. Wanted! One Chair or two Co-Chairs for this year's event! After ten years of presiding over the HBB, Carol Chrzastek is stepping down. The committee will be available for advice and you would have plenty of support. Please consider volunteering and helping out for our premiere annual event.

Every year, our Garden Club gives – our budget permitting - annual donations of support to a few select organizations. We recently received thank you notes from the Oudolf Gardens on Belle Isle, the University of Michigan Environmental Interpretive Center and Friends of the Rouge. We would like to share the words from Friends of the Rouge, so well-written to our Treasurer, Laurine Griffin, and especially heartfelt:

Dear Laurine and the amazing members of the Garden Club of Dearborn, while the Holly Berry Brunch is a highlight of December, its impact – and your special kindness – is felt all year long.

Thank you for being such a remarkable group and for the absolute honor of our generous donation. Your loyal support of your hometown river and your Friends of the Rouge team is a badge of pride – and dearly appreciated.

Thanks to your kindness, as many as 250 new, joyful, Michigan plants and saplings will dot the Rouge River and provide a healthier habitat for songbirds and pollinators. Thanks to you, your river just got cleaner, cleaner and more vibrant. And thanks to you, new Rouge River rain gardens will be planted for less flooding and a more beautiful community.

Thank you, amazing gardeners of the Garden Club of Dearborn. You are truly remarkable friends!

In loving thanks, Lara

Friends of the Detroit River are hosting its annual fundraiser, the Riverkeeper Dinner, on Saturday, April 6th at 6pm at the Wyandotte Boat Club. The event includes dinner, a program, live entertainment, door prizes, a raffle, and a silent auction. Information is available at www.detroitriver.org/events.

The Dearborn Symphony Orchestra “Kangaroo Court” fundraiser takes place on Sunday, April 21st at 2pm with gift baskets, a 50/50 raffle, and buffet dinner at Park Place. For more information visit their website and note the RSVP’s are due by April 14.



Your Garden Club wishes a very Happy Easter weekend to all!

Southeast Michigan 2024 Spring Native Plant Sales



Argus Farm Stop

- Daily sales available 8 a.m.-7 p.m. mid-May through July
- www.argusfarmstop.com

Blue Heron Headwaters Land Conservancy

- In-person sale 10 a.m.-4 p.m. June 1
- www.blueheronheadwaters.org

Clinton River Watershed Council/Plants for Ecology

- TBD, check back later in the spring.

Cranbrook House and Gardens Native Plant Sale

- Shop in-person 10 a.m.-5 p.m. May 19 and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. May 20
- <https://housegardens.cranbrook.edu/events/spring-plant-sale>

Detroit Wildflower Nursery

- Online sales begin in May with in-person available by appointment only May 4-Oct. 27 www.detroitwildflowers.com

East Michigan Native Plants

- Online ordering available now
- Shipping begins May 13; deliveries begin May 14
- Online order pickup at nursery begins May 15
- On-site nursery shopping (by appointment only) begins May 15
- www.eastmichnatives.com

Feral Flora

- 2024 Retail Catalog available online now
- www.feral-flora.com/about-our-plants/

Friends of the Rouge Native Plant Kits

- Mail order deadline: March 29
- Plants arrive in June
- Pickup order deadline: April 29
- Pick up orders from noon-4 p.m. May 18 at Canton DPW, 4847 S Sheldon Road, Canton
- Same-day native plant sale: noon-4 p.m. May 18 at Canton DPW, 4847 S Sheldon Road, Canton
- <http://therouge.org/native-plants-for-birds-bees-and-butterflies/>

Green Things Farm Collective

- Annual Plant Sale TBD, check back later in the spring.
- www.greenthingsfarm.com

Michiganense Natives

- Grand opening: May 18
- www.michiganensenatives.com

North Oakland Wild Ones Native Plant Sale

- 10 a.m.-4 p.m. May 31-June 1 (Rochester location TBD)
- <https://northoakland.wildones.org/2024-native-plant-sale/>

Oakland Conservation District

- Spring Tree & Shrub Sale: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. May 4 (all sales pre-order only by April 12)
- Use Sale Code : Oak2024 for 20% off
- www.oaklandconservationdistrict.org

Plants for Ecology

- Online plant sales will be open from 7 a.m. May 12 through 5 p.m. May 16
- Pick up online orders from 9 a.m.-Noon May 18 at Marshbank Park, West Bloomfield
- Online plant sales will be open from 7 a.m. May 26 through 5 p.m. May 30
- Pick up online orders from 9 a.m.-Noon June 1 at Stage Nature Center, Troy.
- www.plantsforecology.com

Rochester Pollinators

- Native Plant Sale TBD, check back later in the spring.
- www.rochesterpollinators.org

Stage Nature Center/Plants for Ecology

- TBD, check back later in the spring.

Washtenaw County Conservation District

- Native Plant Expo & Marketplace: June 1
- 8-9 a.m. - ticket required for early bird entry
- 9 a.m.-1 p.m. - open and free for all
- Early bird tickets available now: www.washtenawcd.org

West Bloomfield Parks & Rec

- TBD, check back later in the spring.

Wildtype Native Plant Nursery

- Appointment only sale days: May 15-17, May 22-24, Aug. 22-23
- Public sale days with no appointment needed: May 18, May 25, Aug. 24. www.wildtypeplants.com/retail



OAKLAND
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

BREATH of SPRING on a BUDGET

By Linda Johnson

Our holiday decorations have been boxed and put away. Daffodils, tulips and flowering trees are yet to bloom. Yes, it's the drabest time of year in Michigan when our spirits can use a little flower power!

How about creating a little faux flower arrangement of your favorite spring and summer blooms to enjoy in your home or workplace? For inspiration, there are designs galore of all colors and styles on both local and national websites. Locally, check out blossomsbirmingham.com, englishgardens.com, byronsflowers.com, and ashleysflowers.com. National websites include petals.com, ftd.com, amazon.com, 1800flowers.com, and proflowers.com. Plenty of good videos demonstrating how to make a basic arrangement can be found by googling "How to make a flower arrangement", but I'm going to share a few tips about basic supplies needed to make a nice one without breaking the bank.

FLOWERS and FOLIAGE: Rule #1: Don't skimp on quality! Right now the craft stores in our area (Hobby Lobby, Michaels, JoAnn Fabrics and Crafts) are brimming with life-like tulips, daffodils, crocuses, lilacs and other smile makers in every color of the rainbow and many are on sale. I like to shop instore so that I can judge the color and quality, but flowers are also available online. Once you have the selected flowers in hand, it's time to add filler such as little white baby's breath stems and foliage such as ivy if you need it to complete your vision.

FLORAL FOAM: Hidden in the bottoms of most floral arrangements (even in vases) is floral foam to stabilize the stems. It can be cut to size with a sharp knife. There's a good selection at craft stores and a limited choice at Dollar Tree. It can be stuck to the bottom of your vase or container with a loop of Gorilla Tape or other strong adhesive.

CONTAINERS: If you love to recycle like I do, here's where you can let your imagination run wild, help the planet, and save some real money. I love to give a second life to glass maple syrup and wine bottles. Have more mugs than you need? Put some flower foam in the bottoms and add some blooms! How about the teapot or kettle you never use? Fill it up! Today's casual lifestyle rarely calls for using your grandmother's fine china, but it can be given a new life with a dose of flowers. Of course, vases are always a favorite. I'm continuously on the lookout for bargain vases at craft stores and Dollar Tree. The Holiday Market even has an affordable selection in their floral department. Of course, I'm known for being open to adopting vases from friends and family who are looking to give them good homes.

RIBBON: Sometimes a bow will add a nice finishing touch, especially to a vase. I prefer to use wire edge ribbon because it makes the "poofiest" bows, and it's easy to work with. It's available at craft stores and at Dollar Tree.

EMBELLISHMENTS: It's always fun to add birds, bees, butterflies, bunnies, gnomes, or even toothbrushes and dental floss containers as finishing touches to your arrangements. These are also at craft stores and many other places if you keep your eyes open for them.

WIRE CUTTERS: The stems on many flowers are tough little devils—too much for even your best kitchen scissors. You can get a decent pair of wire cutters at a craft store or Home Depot in the \$15 dollar range—another place not to skimp. Like other tools, you get what you pay for. Plus, once they are in your toolbox, they come in handy for other DIY projects!

Here's hoping that these tips and the accompanying pictures of arrangements I've made on my own dining room table inspire you to make some creations of your own. They can bring that much-needed Breath of Spring into your life until the neighborhood is once more in full bloom!

BREATH of SPRING on a BUDGET

