



THE

Garden Club of Dearborn

May 2026

NEWSLETTER

President's Corner

BOARD MEETING

June 3, 2026
10:00 a.m.
McFadden Ross House

Upcoming Events
MGC Annual Conference
& Flower Show
Ann Arbor, MI
June 7 & 8
Registration Req'd

English Gardens
Free Ladybug Giveaway
June 13
Summer Floral Wreath
Workshop - Cost \$40
June 14

May Birthdays:
9 Claudia Meyer
11 Phyllis Brim
21 Marietta Lynch
21 Carol Chrzastek
30 Kim Kovacs-Gucwa

June Birthdays:
1 Virginia Blanton
1 Sheila Brooks
1 Michele Featherston
4 Cheryl Pizzimenti
6 Christine Berryman
7 Mary Bugeia
8 Shawn Tambeau
14 Eva Gogola
14 Judy Henn
25 Katie Sanfilippo
28 Cheryl Singley

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Mariya Fogarasi

Chief Photographer:
Otto Baumgart

www.gardenclubdearborn.org



Rose Wiggle

Welcome Spring!

A happy belated Mother's Day to all. I think it's safe to say with the passing of this special day, we should be well done with frost warnings and finally stepping into Spring and warmer weather. Now comes the fun part of the season – going from nursery to nursery to see what's new and selecting all the lovely plants, veggies, shrubs, etc. that will make their way back home for planting.

Don't forget in your travels to keep an eye out at garage sales, flea markets and resale shops for pottery, fountains, bird baths/feeders and statuary. These simple elements add beauty and design to any garden and invite a bit of mother nature into your surroundings as well.

This year the Michigan Garden Club's Annual Conference and Garden Show will be held close to home in Ann Arbor on June 7 & 8. Plan to stop in and spend the day to hear the speakers and shop the vendors while mingling with fellow gardeners.

Our Garden Club of Dearborn's June Meeting will be a luncheon held at Park Place in Dearborn on Monday, June 15 at 11:00 a.m. We hope to see everyone there to wrap up the 2025-2026 season. It will be a fun and relaxing way to spend a few hours before we go our separate ways till we meet back up in September.

Next General Meeting & Luncheon

June 15, 2026 – 11:00 am
Park Place Banquet Center
23400 Park Street - Dearborn, MI 48124

Speaker: Mike Solomon – Naturalist and Certified Interpretive Guide at UofM Dearborn Environmental Interpretive Center.
Topic: Gardening as an Ecosystem

Host: Mary Bugeia & Committee Members

Our Garden Club plans two evening meetings each year to accommodate those in the working world or with daytime commitments. We are never sure just how many will attend but our meeting on May 12 had all the makings of a total success: with thirty members and eight guests, a delicious and spectacular buffet plus decorated table celebrating America's upcoming 250th birthday, along with a gifted speaker, we hit the jackpot. The atmosphere was festive from the word "go"!



After President Rose Wiggle opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed our speaker, Brian Peterson, Mary Bugeia read about the dogwood from the book "100 Flowers and How They Got Their Names" by Diana Wells. To highlight but a few qualities, dogwood was supposedly used to build the famous Trojan Horse. The dogwood was valued by the Greeks for its exceptionally hard wood and was also used to make javelins and spearheads.

The name "dogwood" has to do with its medicinal and edible qualities. The berries of the "Cornus mas" are said to be edible and were supposedly fed to Odysseus' men when they were changed into pigs by Circe. The English dogwood was called "the Doggeberry tree because the berries are not fit to be eaten or given to a dogge" and two more British writers claimed its leaves in some form could be used to wash fleas from dogs or to bathe mangy dogs.

Our American eastern dogwood is believed by some to be yet another "Crucifixion" tree although it is not native to the Middle East or Europe. Its leaf-like organs that look like flower petals are shaped like a cross and at the base of each is a brown stain, like a blood spot made by a nail. There is so much more; this is but a small excerpt from the reading.



After guest introductions (our speaker, Brian Peterson, his partner Brian Roest-Peterson, their two fellows from Colombia and El Salvador – Paula Forero Téllet and Mirna Vargas Salmeron, Paul Gucwa, David Hughes, Edward Meyer, and Bruce Singley), Katrina Harris announced free lemon balm from her garden and said she has much more at home for anyone interested, as well as seed packets.



Our treasurer, Laurine Griffin, is accepting membership dues of \$30 for the upcoming 2026-2027 year. While the preferred method of payment will be to Carol Chrzastek (VP membership) in Laurine's absence at the June luncheon, a check can also be sent to Carol at her home address and she is also willing to pick up checks.

You Are Invited to Attend...

The Garden Club Annual Meeting
Monday, June 15 at 11am
Park Place Banquet Hall
23400 Park Street, Dearborn

Luncheon menu includes: Park Place chicken breast, green beans Almondine, roasted red skin potatoes, Michigan salad, rolls/butter, veggie tray, and dessert.

Business meeting/ Program speaker: Mike Solomon, Naturalist and Certified Interpretive Guide at U of M, Dearborn will be speaking on "Gardening as an Ecosystem" with a focus on mushrooms, incorporating ecological principles of the Soil Food Web.

The cost is \$25. Please contact Mary Bugeia for reservations at 313-613-0870. Make your check to Garden Club of Dearborn and mail to 7 Cherry Hill Court, Dearborn MI 48124. If you cannot get your check to Mary but want to reserve a place, please let her know; your \$25 will be due regardless of whether you attend or not. We hope to see everyone there for our final meeting!

You are Invited to Attend

*The Garden Club of Dearborn
 Annual Luncheon Meeting
 Monday, June 15, 11:00 a.m.
 Park Place Banquet Hall
 23400 Park Street, Dearborn, MI*

Luncheon Menu:
 Park Place Chicken Breast
 Green Beans Almondine
 Roasted Red Skin Potatoes
 Michigan Salad
 Veggie Tray
 Rolls & Butter
 Dessert

BUSINESS MEETING – Year Review & Preview

Program/Speaker: Mike Solomon – Naturalist and Certified Interpretive Guide at UofM Dearborn.
Topic: "Gardening as an Ecosystem" with a focus on mushrooms - incorporating ecological principles of the Soil Food Web.

Luncheon Cost \$25

Reservations: Mary Bugeia – Phone: 313 613 0870
Make Check Payable To: Garden Club of Dearborn
Mail To: Mary Bugeia, 7 Cherry Hill Court, Dearborn, MI 48124

In addition to Club Treasurer Laurine Griffin sending out all annual donation checks, Vice President of External Affairs Terri Bungee has been busy distributing checks to the schools we support. Long Elementary needed tools and flowers; DuVall and Nowlin Elementary schools both are using the donations for planting and butterfly houses. McCullough-Unis wants to beautify the area outside and around the school and will buy soil, mulch, and soil conditioners. Edsel Ford has a pollinator garden in its interior courtyard and will use funds for this as well as putting up a bee hotel (for Mason bees). This is a pivotal purpose of our Club – outreach to the

schools with teaching enthusiastic gardening to students. Terri tries to get the schools to look at each other’s projects for ideas, too.



T. Bungee, W. Unis Flaim & D. Nessel-Teacher
McCullough-Unis School



T. Bungee & M. Mulier-Teacher
Long Elementary



T. Bungee & Parents – Duvall School

When Brian Peterson took the floor, everyone was immediately captivated by how he was able to win enough money to start Bees in the D, a non-profit that’s “turning the yards and rooftops of Detroit into homespun apiaries.” For a fascinating overlook at how the non-profit was founded with money won on “Wheel of Fortune”, look up the article “Bees in the D, Meet the Makers, Made in Michigan”. Brian is a fifth-grade science teacher in Rochester Hills who has won multiple teaching awards and whose students are very lucky indeed! Bestowing on us all the title “Ambassadors of Bees”, he emphasized how we can be a voice for the honeybee and detailed the difference between bees and wasps. Some of the facts he shared with us are:

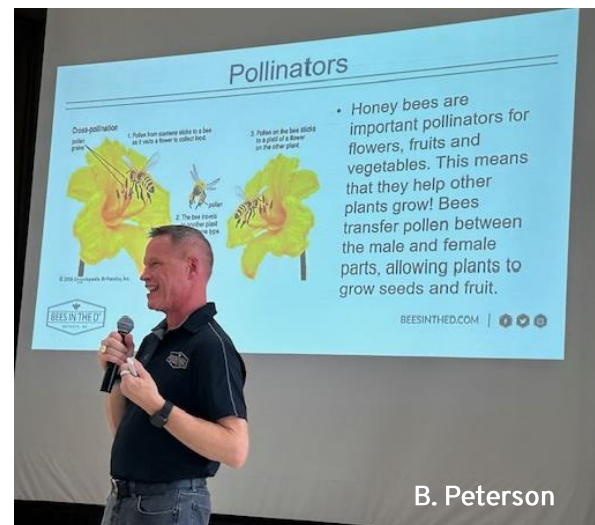
- The entire USA has 4,000 species of bees; the world has 20,000.
- In many countries and cities, honeybees are now considered “livestock” as opposed to anything exotic because we need pollinators. Brian’s team has helped some cities overturn their ordinances to allow beekeeping.

- With parasites, climate change, and disease, there are now less beekeepers in the U.S.
- Honeybees were brought over from Europe in the 1600's and the entire food industry would crash without them! Amazingly, one hive can contain up to 80,000 bees!
- Brian took us through a hive, explaining the status, life, and job of the queen bee and the worker bees. Beekeepers must always leave 80-110 lbs. of honey in the hive or the bees will starve during winter months.
- The money isn't in honey, it's in pollination. For instance, Blue Diamond in California will pay beekeepers to place their hives around the trees for two weeks. Hives are then moved to Washington state for a different crop though this is very hard on the bees.
- Did you know that 80% of all commercial beekeepers are needed for California almond trees?!
- And if you buy honey from China, you are basically eating corn syrup. Check the label!

Summing up the situation in and around Detroit, bees do very well in urban environments with a lot less pesticides. Bees in the D has 150 hives at 50 locations, mostly in Detroit. In Dearborn, we have two hives on The Henry hotel rooftop and three next to the former Ford World HQ. Honey is a "superfood", a nectar of the gods, and has been used to treat sore throats, coughs, wounds. Various medical uses are thriving including one for cancer research involving the stingers killing cancer cells. There is no end to the potential benefits of bees and honey!

Once again, hats off to Kim Kovacs-Gucwa for finding and introducing yet another

superb speaker and then working again with Ron Wiggle to provide excellent technical support including the playing of two short videos for everyone to enjoy.



B. Peterson



B. Peterson & R. Wiggle

At the same time our Garden Club was learning about bees and buying honey, Scouting America Troop 1147 and Garden Club members Karen Marzonie and Heather Yeaw gathered at the PEG garden for an evening of hard work and service. With the help of twelve scouts and five adults, the group tackled a variety of cleanup and maintenance projects. Scouts

cleared away old growth from the naturalized prairie area, pulled weeds, and completed general maintenance to help keep the garden healthy and welcoming for everyone in the community. Thanks to them the garden looks refreshed and ready for the season ahead. Thank you, Heather and Karen, for making this happen. *We will have the sign-up sheets for PEG garden maintenance out at the June luncheon and if everyone pitches in for just one week, we'll have the entire summer covered.*



Scouting America Troop 1147



The Salina school Sunflower Planting Day was a big success. Under brilliant sunshine, Garden Club members Janet Damian and Heather Yeaw helped each student plant a sunflower seed to take home (Pat Johnson, who attended our Newcomers' meeting on May 13, is also pictured). Salina also dedicated their new green, all wood play yard called "nature-y-play equipment". Private donations have transformed the

school grounds into a "vibrant, sustainable outdoor learning space".



H. Yeaw & J. Damian – Salina School

At our meeting, Linda Johnson had placed two handouts on tables which alert members to scams. One is titled "The Bad Guys Want to Steal Your Home: Here's How to Outsmart Them" and the second one is titled "Property Alert – a free service provided by Bernard J. Youngblood, Wayne County Register of Deeds". These were also handed out at the recent seniors' luncheon hosted by Wayne County Commissioner, Sam Baydoun. If you would like copies emailed to you or any additional

explanation, please contact Linda Johnson (thank you, Linda, for typing up the concise summary).

Our Garden Club has been maintaining the John Dingell train station flowerpots for some time now. Mary Bugeia has planted two pots for this season with gladiola bulbs in the center, surrounded by celosia, a heat-loving annual which thrives in full sun. *We have a sign-up sheet for watering the pots to last through the summer, you need to bring one gallon for each pot and estimate whether your week needs one or more watering. Many thanks, Mary!*



Planted by M. Bugeia

Our club asks members to take turns being hostesses at meetings. Being a hostess includes bringing up name tags, coffee and teas from our storage room, greeting everyone at the door, and providing snacks. We ask for two people per meeting. *There will be a sign-up sheet at the June luncheon, several months are already filled, we need this information for the 2026-2027 directory.*

The beautiful raffle prizes made by Linda Johnson followed the “America 250th birthday” theme and were won by Rose Wiggle and Jo West.



R. Wiggle, L. Johnson & J. West

Update: The Snow Woods neighborhood project of making a community bench out of donated plastics stalled for personal reasons. Neighborhood association president Beth Michel hopes to get this up and running again very soon and expressed thanks to all who donated for many months from our club.

The Dearborn Historical Museum will host the annual Teddy Bear picnic on Saturday, June 27th from 10am – 12 pm. Admission per child is \$5 and includes a bouncy castle, contests, crafts, a teddy bear parade, and face painting. Don't forget to have your child / grandchild bring their favorite teddy bear!

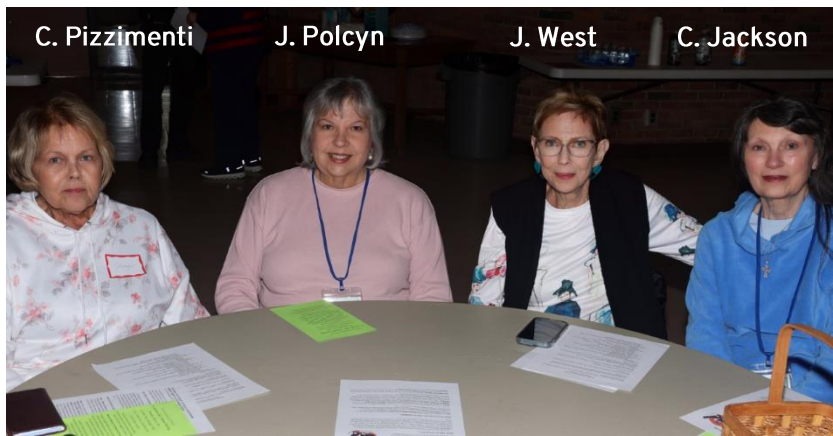
The Arab American National Museum rooftop garden, Al Hadiqa, opens for the season on Saturday, June 6 from 12-5pm. This is combined with the Eid Al-Adha holiday and will feature an artisanal vendor market, summer crafts, refreshments and performances. The Rooftop Rendezvous is open on select Fridays from 6-8 pm through September 27, 2026.

There will be guided garden tours from 6-8pm on Tuesday, July 2 and July 30. Additionally, the rooftop is open all summer during regular museum hours. Several of our members went to explore this lovely unique garden last summer and were impressed with the variety of plants and vegetables.

GCD General Meeting May 12, 2026



M. Lynch



C. Pizzimenti

J. Polcyn

J. West

C. Jackson



K. Sanfilippo

M. Calder

C. Booth



C. Meyer

E. Meyer



M. Mikulec



B. R. Peterson

Mirna Vargas Salmeron

B. Singley

Paula Forero Téllet



B. Peterson

DISTRICT 1 SPRING LEADERSHIP MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

by Linda Johnson, Garden Club of Dearborn District 1 Representative

Why do we belong to Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.? One good reason is the opportunity to share experiences with gardeners in other clubs, especially those in our area.

On a sunny April 22 Earth Day, nine of us from the Garden Club of Dearborn joined 91 other gardeners from 17 of the 26 clubs in District 1 for a Spring Leadership Meeting. It was hosted by the Livonia Garden Club and held in Redford Township at Stefan's Banquets on West Chicago, a very nice venue similar to Park Place that served us a tasty continental breakfast and delicious lunch buffet.

The District 1 gatherings are held in the Spring and Fall and welcome all Michigan Garden Club, Inc. members. Our club was very well represented by two new members, Cheryl Singley and Katie Sanfilippo as well as long-time members Jo West and Carol McGarvey, President Rose Wiggle, Treasurer Laurine Griffin, Parliamentarian Mary Bugeia, Newsletter Editor Mariya Fogarasi, and National and Michigan Garden Club Representative Linda Johnson. Everyone agreed that attending this event was both informative and entertaining.

The day-long meeting was titled "Watch Your Garden Grow: From Seedlings to Showstoppers". The morning focused on growing membership and the afternoon on growing leaders. The dynamic duo of Dr. Carolyn Block (our District 1 Director's talented daughter) and Lindsay Pack used a nice mix of presentation and group participation to focus on how to attract new members and to encourage the development of leadership within the current group. They stressed the importance of building leadership succession to keep our clubs vibrant into the future.

It was very gratifying to see that many of the suggestions offered were already in place in our club, but there were a few areas that we may want to take a closer look at. These include:

- Being more visible on social media such as Instagram and Facebook
- Encouraging people at all stages of life to join (We're getting better at this, but it would be nice to have some more young people to carry the club into the future).
- Structuring plenty of group activities that call on every member to be involved at some level: "One flower is beautiful, but a bouquet is even lovelier".

Dr. Block gave some very inspiring remarks, and she was kind enough to give me a printed copy to share in our newsletter.

It was a very productive day! In addition to interacting with other gardeners, being guided by inspirational speakers, and enjoying delicious food, there was time to shop at little vendor booths on the periphery of the room and opportunities to win the terrariums that were the table centerpieces. I was lucky enough to win the one I'm holding in the picture. Dr. Block was presented with a terrarium made by personal friend Judy MacIntyre.

The next District 1 gathering will be on October 15, 2026, hosted by the Ferndale Garden Club. Many of you probably know Ferndale's legendary former president, Dominic Scappaticci and are looking forward to visiting with him and their new president, Sarah ("call me Ranger") Ranger. Whether you are a Seedling or a Showstopper, I encourage you to consider spending October 15 with gardeners from other clubs who share our interest and enthusiasm for making things grow!

Bringing people into the garden is only the beginning.....

(Parting Words of the MGC District 1 Spring Leadership Conference)

Submitted by: Karen Block, MGC District 1 Director

Every single person in this room found their way to gardening because someone, somewhere made it beautiful for them. A grandmother who let you dig in her flower bed. A neighbor who handed you a cutting over the fence. A friend who brought you to your first plant swap. We are all here because someone was generous with their time, their knowledge, and their welcome.

That's all we're talking about today! Being that person for someone else. Opening the door a little wider. Making room at the table. Trusting that what we have here is worth sharing.

Our clubs don't grow by accident. They grow by intention. By the way we greet someone at the door. By the way we ask a quiet newcomer what they love to grow. By the way we let experienced members shine, and by the way we make a total beginner feel like they already belong.

The garden teaches us this every season; you reap what you sow. Sow welcome. Sow invitation. Sow generosity. And watch what grows!

I challenge each and every one of you to write down one name who might love to come to your next meeting. Commit to reaching out to them this week. Non-obligatory language....just "I thought of you"....I think you would love it. Want to come as my guest!!



K. Block (far left) & R. Wiggle (second from right)

MGC District 1 Spring Leadership Meeting – April 22, 2026

C. McGarvey

L. Johnson

K. Sanfilippo

J. West

M. Bugeia

M. Fogarasi

C. Singley

L. Griffin

R. Wiggle



C. Block



L. Johnson



L. Robinson (MGC President) & R. Dush (MGC 1st VP)