

THE

Garden Club of Dearborn

June 2026

NEWSLETTER

President's Corner

BOARD MEETING

August 5, 2026
10:00 a.m.
McFadden Ross House

Upcoming Events

Henry Ford Cent. Library
Raingarden Spruce Up
Class – July 15

English Gardens

July & Aug.
Seminars & Workshop:
Hydrangeas Unfiltered
Sansevieria Garden
Summer Garden Rescue

July Birthdays:

6 Paulette Baumgart
13 Mindy Delano
13 Max Ullrich
14 Adel Parzianello
19 Sherry Kammer
30 Cynthia Jackson

August Birthdays:

3 Susan Seta
15 Diane Rebori
17 Susan Kingston
19 Carole Hogg
24 Shelly Larabell
24 Helen Ross
26 Carmen Gudan
29 Heather Yeaw
31 Katrina Harris

Editor:

Mariya Fogarasi

Chief Photographer:

Otto Baumgart

www.gardenclubdearborn.org



Rose Wiggle

Another Garden Club of Dearborn season has come and gone and we now look forward to the 2026-2027 season. We had a successful 2025-2026 that included various community events, an increase in membership, and an interesting variety of schedule speakers. This included our most recent speaker Mike Solomon and his very interesting talk on "Gardening as an Ecosystem" which focused on mushrooms and their many varieties. We wrapped-up this season with a wonderful June meeting and luncheon at Park Place.

Just a reminder that your 2026-27 GCD membership dues remain at \$30 and payment along with the membership form – posted on our website www.gardenclubdearborn.org - can be sent to Treasurer, Laurine Griffin by the end of July.

We hope to have the new/updated GCD Yearbooks (directory) available at the September 2026 General Meeting. Remember to refer to the yearbook when you have questions regarding general & board meeting dates, members' birthdays/addresses plus general Club information and the GCD by-laws. This is a valuable resource that we hope you make good use of once received.

Now it's time to relax and enjoy the beauty of your gardens, friends, family, etc. Enjoy your time and if you have any thoughts, ideas, speaker suggestions, etc. please feel free to drop me a line. It has been an honor to serve the club this past year and I look forward to another growing season as your President. We have a wonderful group any garden club would be most proud of. Happy Summer and see you all soon!!

Next General Meeting & Potluck

September 14, 2026 – 11:00 am
First Presbyterian Church Dearborn

Speaker: Mary Spencer - Cook, Instructor & Owner of "Taste: A Cook's Place" - Presenting: *Cooking with Garden Vegetables.*

Hosts: Mariya Fogarasi & Kim Gucwa

Our Garden Club of Dearborn met for the final time this year at Park Place for a lovely buffet luncheon and informative talk by Mike Solomon, a 2023 graduate of University of Michigan-Dearborn (B.S. in Envir. Studies) who spends much of his free time outdoors, hiking, fishing, foraging, and exploring. Once again, Kim Kovacs-Gucwa secured another great speaker whose topic was relevant to anyone interested in gardening and Ron Wiggle helped to make sure everything technical ran smoothly. I am more than grateful to Linda Johnson for summarizing what I am sure was a wonderful talk in my absence.

MIKE SOLOMON'S "GARDENING as an ECOSYSTEM"

Submitted by: Linda Johnson

Mike Solomon came to speak to us from the University of Michigan Dearborn Environmental Interpretive Center where he is an Interpretive Naturalist who talks to school groups about the joys of Nature.



M. Solomon

His topic "Gardening as an Ecosystem" focused on fungi and how their many varieties have characteristics of both plants and animals, adapting to many environments. Like plants, fungi have root-like structures called mycelium to get nourishment. However, they do not produce food through photosynthesis and must

take in food by eating other organisms such as nematodes, microscopic worm-like creatures.

Mike is so enthusiastic about fungi that he grows them in his home garden on wood chips and decaying tree branches. Accompanying this article are pictures of one of his wine cap mushrooms growing on wood chips and little shelf mushrooms emerging from a hill of tree parts topped off by clumps of daisies and hostas. Perennials such as daisies and hostas are very compatible with growing mushrooms.

Mike orders spores from the online source *North Spore* (northspore.com) and especially likes to grow their wine caps (*stropharia rugosoannulata*). He recommends sauteing them and other edible mushrooms such as morels in butter for a special treat.

In addition to giving tips on how to grow mushrooms in our gardens, Mike also shared a number of other interesting items listed below:

- Morel mushrooms may be found in Michigan from mid-April to early June. They are most often discovered in damp wooded areas but can be also found at burn sites.
- Predatory mushrooms like oyster mushrooms can trap and eat little nematodes that are harmful to plants' root systems.
- Fungi roots spread continuously, so they can touch more soil than plants can.

- When asked about what mushrooms in the wild are safe to eat, Mike recommended identifying the mushroom in question with an app such as iNaturalist and then checking a mushroom guidebook for safety details.
- Jeff Lowenfels is an author who has written two very informative books: *Teaming With Nutrients*, followed by *Teaming With Fungi*.

What an interesting presentation! Thanks to Mike Solomon, we'll never look at (or eat) mushrooms in the same way again.



DEARBORN'S URBAN FORESTRY COMMITTEE REPORT

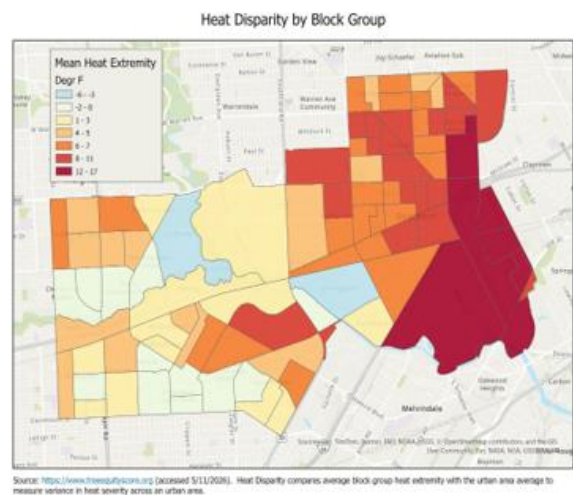
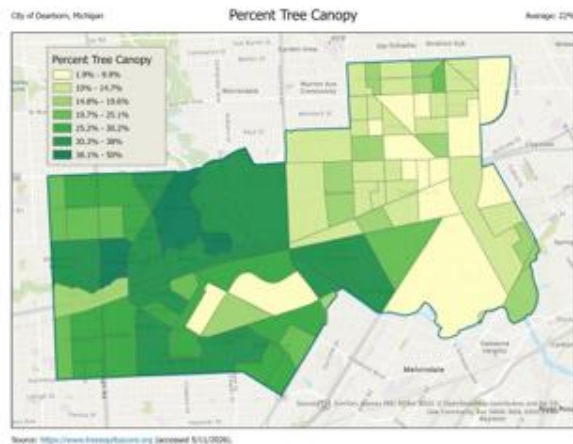
Submitted by: Heather Yeaw

On Thursday, June 18 the Urban Forestry Committee of the Environmental Commission held a presentation to inform the public of their proposals at the Henry Ford Centennial Library auditorium. The committee members explained Dearborn's history as a tree city and spoke about the challenges facing the city in caring for the current urban forest. West Dearborn has an average of 25% or higher tree canopy but the East side has much lower percentages. A lot of this is because of higher industrial zoning on the East side leading to more concrete infrastructure and also small easements on which planting trees is difficult. The incidence of asthma is also higher than the national average in most of Dearborn.

The committee is putting forward a plan to request a formal charge from the city to implement plans including creating a position for a city arborist and a "Tree Board" of citizen and professional advisors, hiring a company to document the trees owned by the city, educate citizens about the importance of trees and the environment, and collaborate with state, regional and local neighboring communities in creating

a vision for Dearborn's future. The next meeting of the Environmental Commission is on July 15 in the City Council Chambers where they will discuss next steps and decide if the proposal is ready to be submitted to the city for consideration.

Ruth Ann Johnson, 61 years
Helen Ross, 56 years
Meredith Scharf, 53 years
Phyllis Brim, 50 years
Anina Bachrach, 47 years
Sandy Butler, 40 years
Mary Bugeia, 38 years
Judy Henn, 27 years



Here's to longevity!

Over the years, the age demographics of our Club continues to shift. Today it includes members from a wider range of age groups who share a passion for gardening. Today, we salute our longest running members and thank them for their years with our club:

Many of us will never know how many hours or how much effort these ladies put in over the years, we may never know which positions they held, which flower shows they entered, which ideas they brought to enhance or promote our club but we do know of their loyalty. Many, many thanks for choosing the Garden Club of Dearborn!

Please remember that we are collecting baskets for our Holly Berry Brunch prizes, especially larger baskets. When you are out and about at garage sales, in thrift shops or anywhere else, think of how beautiful the baskets will look with prizes and ribbons.



Terri Bungee distributed the last of the checks and monies we allocate for our Dearborn schools to promote their gardening efforts.

Terri has done a great job – it's not always easy getting responses from the schools but she never gives up and tries to come up with even more participants every year. One check went to April Aiosa and her student helper, Ezra, at Edsel Ford High School; the other went to Erin Smith, Girl Scout troop leader and garden coordinator at Lindbergh Elementary School.



Because of Terri's additional work promoting the Smokey Bear Woodsy Owl poster contest, Linda Johnson presented

her with an embroidered cap (Mariya Fogarasi had previously given Terri a Smokey Bear shot glass at the March board meeting). You are the best school contact we have, Terri!



A. Aiosa, Ezra & T. Bungee



T. Bungee & E. Smith

Janet Damian is also working with Edsel Ford teacher April Aiosa, Donna Kolojeskie, and Craig Gorkiewicz. planting winter sowed plants. The Garden Club money will be used to mulch the newly planted flower bed.



A. Aiosa, D. Kolojeskie, J. Damian & C. Gorkiewicz



2026 MGC ANNUAL CONF. & FLOWER SHOW MEETING SUMMARY

by Linda Johnson, GCD District 1 Representative

Do you enjoy listening to plant and garden experts present the latest horticultural information in entertaining ways? Do you like socializing with other gardeners from throughout Michigan? How about a little getaway from your everyday responsibilities at home? If you answered YES to any or all of these questions, then think about attending next year's Michigan Garden Clubs 96th Annual Conference in Lansing on June 6th, 7th, and 8th. It will be held at the Hilton Doubletree, and the theme will be "When You Can't Find the Sun, Be the Sunshine."

This year's conference theme was "Together We Grow" and President Rose Wiggle and I attended as your Delegate and Alternate on June 7th and 8th. The 95th Annual Meeting, Conference, and Flower Show was held in Ann Arbor at the Hilton Doubletree. We stayed at the host hotel and enjoyed a jam-packed two days, filled with a variety of activities. This article summarizes the conference in words and pictures.

Almost 200 Michigan Garden Clubs members attended this very well-organized conference. The business meeting portions moved along efficiently and the four speakers were outstanding. After a very tasty chicken dinner on Sunday, John Blair presented slides and great instructions on building butterfly gardens and creating habitats for pollinators.

Monday's keynote speaker was Bonnie Satterthwaite, a representative from Espoma Organic Gardening Materials. She spoke about the advantages of organic gardening. On Monday afternoon, there were breakout sessions led by Dr. Shikka Singh, a biologist who spoke about Great Lakes environmental issues, and by Josh Miller from Proven Winners Garden Center Suppliers. He presented many ways to create eye-catching gardens using colorful annuals. Another Monday afternoon choice was a Make and Take Workshop. Participants were given kits with everything needed to create a Garden Suncatcher from fishing line, beads, mirrors, tiles, and a crystal prism. The one that I created is pictured next to a rose for size comparison.

A portion of Monday's meeting was dedicated to honoring the MGC members who had passed away since the last conference. Our own Patsy May Knoop was honored along with other District 1 members in a slide show with their portraits and with the placement of a candle in an evergreen centerpiece by District 1 Director Karen Block. A picture of the candle display celebrating the lives of 43 members from 8 districts accompanies this article.

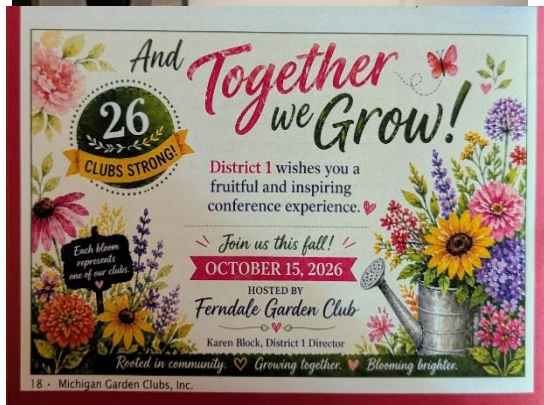
This year's gathering was unique in that it also included an MGC-sanctioned Flower Show where horticulture (plant cuttings), fresh flower arrangements, and even botanical arts and crafts such as bird houses and decorated hats were judged and given ribbons. The judging was done on Sunday, and then the room with the entries was open to everyone on Monday. It showcased all of the imagination and creativity of our fellow club members from throughout the state. Our own District 1 Director Karen Block even won 3 blue ribbons.

In addition to the exquisite Flower Show, conference attendees could also visit a nice assortment of vendors selling everything from natural foods to garden tools. Those feeling lucky could participate in a raffle featuring prizes ranging from a two-night stay in a Traverse City Bed and Breakfast to pots of Proven Winner hydrangeas. There was also a Silent Auction of 14 baskets with themes ranging from "Gotta Love Bees" to "Garden Helpers".

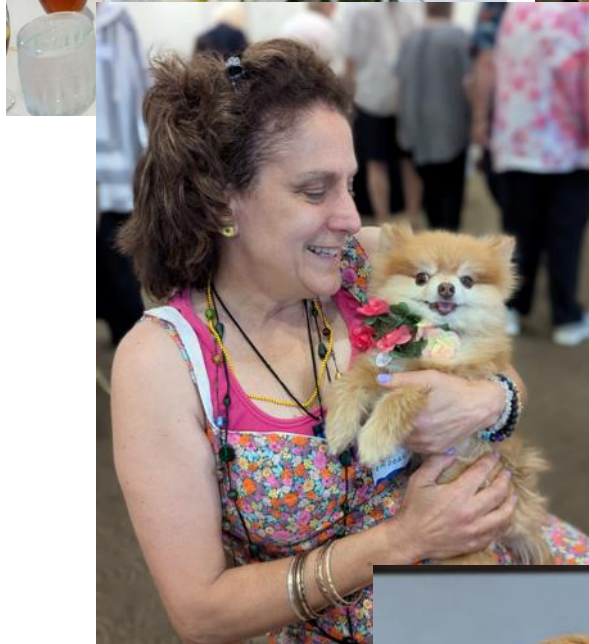
The program booklet included ads from the various districts. Our very colorful District 1 ad featured a bloom representing each of our 26 clubs and announced our October 15 District Conference sponsored by the Ferndale club (Mark your calendars!).

Speaking of important dates, please remember that the MGC state conference will be in Lansing next June. It will be a 3-day event and is not that far to drive. Rose and I hope that we will have a nice-sized delegation representing the Garden Club of Dearborn. The state conferences are very informative (with some of the BEST speakers), inspirational, and FUN! We certainly enjoyed this year's event and highly recommend future ones to all of our fellow members.

2026 MGC ANNUAL CONFERENCE & FLOWER SHOW MEETING



GCD GENERAL MEETING - JUNE 2026



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