

Garden Club Journal

Editor: Suzanne Singleton

December 2016

As I wrote this letter, we experienced unseasonably warm days of November, but signals of snow days are on the way, even though many of the leaves are still on the trees.

Those who attended our **November 14 General Meeting** learned a few tricks about making table centerpieces from **Larry Kulp of English Gardens**.

The 20th Annual Holly Berry Brunch is approaching rapidly. I appreciate the response of the members who donated raffle gifts, or obtained gift certificates from local businesses. **Mary Lou Herrst** obtained sponsorships from area businesses - so please patronize the ones listed in our program. **Sandy Butler** is again assembling all the information to publish the program which will help patrons identify gifts that interest them. **Laurine Griffin** has been storing the gifts and diligently logging in 141 items for the raffle and 19 items for silent auction. **Sharon Snider, Judy Henn, Sandy Bruce** and **Donna Wallace** have transformed the gifts with an inviting array of colorful ribbons and bows. **Laurine** and **Karen Marzonie** numbered them for staging placement. **Kathy Gapa** made arrangements for the Poinsettia center pieces and favors that will adorn the tables in the ballroom at Dearborn Inn. **Thank you to all Holly Berry Brunch volunteers** charged *with* picking up and delivering the gifts, staging the gifts, registration & hospitality, selling 50/25/25 tickets, selling raffle tickets, verifying winners, monitoring the gifts, and the cashiers on this very important day. I have been selling lunch reservations. Most people who buy the tickets say they look forward to our event every year as a way to spark their Holiday mood. The patrons enjoy the beautiful decorations, the friendly atmosphere, and the chance to win something. However, many of the tables have two or three open seats, so our goal of selling 500 lunch tickets is 40 off. Perhaps you can think of another person to invite. The HBB is such a wonderful event because of each of you.

I wish each of you a Thanksgiving Day filled with grateful thoughts and a blessed Christmas Day filled with memorable moments.

Mary Bugeia, President



KEY MEETING DATES

Board Meeting

Dec 7, 10:00 am
McFadden Ross

General Meeting

Mon., Dec 12, Noon
1st Presbyterian Church
Potluck Lunch

Horticulture Therapy:

Wed, Dec 14, 9:45 am
Oakwood Common
Assisted Living -
arrangement by Mary
Dietrich

GCD Honors Mary Lenart Kirchoff as Volunteer of the Year



Mary Lenart Kirchoff, a Garden Club member since 2008, was honored as Garden Club of Dearborn's *Volunteer of the Year* at the Inter-Service Club Council's Annual Luncheon held on November 9th. This honor is based on her volunteer services to the Garden Club and other organizations. In her role as *GCD Awards Chairperson*, Mary researches all possible awards for which GCD is eligible, and guides members in the development of award applications - a responsibility she fulfills with great success and cheerfulness.

GCD receives Central Region Awards

Caring by Planting Pink - 1st place and check for \$25

Sharing Our Gardens - Enabling Garden Tea - 3rd place

Caring Through Garden Therapy
- PRISM Project - Hon. Mention

Sharing the Future - Butterfly Gardens at UM-D - Hon. Mention

Congratulations to Mary Lenart Kirchoff, Awards Chair, and everyone who helped to make these awards possible.

At the General Meeting held on November 14th, Mary distributed copies of award applications submitted through the Michigan Garden Clubs, Central Region, and reported on the results of the applications. Central Region award applications are sent directly to NGC Central Region and all applications for each are judged as a group, regardless of club size. (For NGC and MGC award applications are grouped into club size and judged within their size group) NGC-CR consists of 665 garden clubs plus us, across 7 states.



Moonflowers Study Monarch

On November 10, members of the Moonflowers Study Group met at the home of *Elena Lovelace* to view *Flight of the Butterflies* - a documentary tracing the migratory route of Monarch Butterflies. The film covers Dr. Fred Urquhart's nearly 40-year-long scientific investigation into the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), tracking the details of what is considered one of the longest known insect migrations - the flight of the monarch butterfly from Central Mexico to the United States and Canada and back. The film, which is available through *Netflix*, includes a wonderful scene of thousands of monarch butterflies hanging from trees in the mountains of Mexico as they rest for the winter. *Moonflowers* is a Study Group that meets in the evening hours throughout the year. For more information about joining, please contact *Elena Lovelace*.

Happy Birthday!

Laurine Griffin	1 Dec
Carolyn Hebb	8 Dec
Jo West	8 Dec
Lee Maldgen	8 Dec
Henrietta Flanz	13 Dec
Charlotte Dolan	23 Dec

About the Holly (*Ilex*) Plant

Ilex or **holly**, is a **genus** of 400 to 600 **species** of **flowering plants** in the **family Aquifoliaceae**, and the only living genus in that family.

Holly - more specifically the European holly, *Ilex aquifolium* - is commonly referenced at **Christmas** time, and is often referred to by the name *Christ's thorn*. In many **Western Christian** cultures, holly is a traditional **Christmas decoration**, used especially in **wreaths** and illustrations, for instance on **Christmas cards**.



Since medieval times the plant has carried a **Christian symbolism**, as expressed in the well-known Christian Christmas carol "**The Holly and the Ivy**", in which the holly represents Jesus and the ivy represents the **Virgin Mary**. Combined with the fact that holly maintains its bright colors during the **Christmas season**, it naturally came to be associated with the Christian holiday.

In **heraldry**, holly is used to symbolize truth. The Norwegian municipality of **Stord** has a yellow twig of holly in its Coat-of-arms. The **Druids** held that "leaves of holly offered protection against evil spirits" and thus "wore holly in their hair". In the **Harry Potter** novels, holly is used as the wood in **Harry's wand**.

The species are **evergreen** or **deciduous** trees, shrubs, and climbers from tropics to temperate zones worldwide.

The **genus *Ilex*** is widespread throughout the **temperate** and **subtropical** regions of the world. It includes species of trees, shrubs, and climbers, with evergreen or deciduous foliage and inconspicuous flowers. Its range was more extended in the **Tertiary** period and many species are adapted to **laurel forest** habitat. It occurs from sea level to more than 6,600 ft with high mountain species. It is a genus of small, **evergreen trees** with smooth, glabrous, or branchlets. The plants are generally slow-growing with some species growing to 25 m (82 ft) tall. The **type species** is the European holly ***Ilex aquifolium*** described by Linnaeus, a Swedish **botanist**, physician, and **zoologist**, who formalized the modern system of naming organisms called **binomial nomenclature**. Plants in this genus have simple, alternate glossy leaves, frequently with a spiny leaf margin. The inconspicuous flower is greenish white, with four petals. The small **fruits** of *Ilex*, although often referred to as **berries**, are technically **drupes**. They range in color from red to brown to black, and rarely green or yellow. The "bones" contain up to ten **seeds** each. Some species produce fruits such as the cultivar 'Nellie R. Stevens'. The fruits ripen in winter and thus provide winter color contrast between the bright red of the fruits and the glossy green evergreen leaves. Hence the cut branches, especially of *I. aquifolium*, are widely used in Christmas decoration. The fruits are generally slightly **toxic** to humans, and can cause **vomiting** and **diarrhea** when ingested. However, they are an important food source for birds and other animals, which help disperse the seeds.

For more information, go to: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holly>

Quantifying the Economic Value of a Volunteer Hour

Based on information from the U.S. Department of Labor, **one volunteer hour has an economic impact of \$23.56.** The total impact of our volunteer hours, when considering all the volunteer labor hours provided by GCD Members is based upon our volunteer efforts in administering Garden Club activities as well as various projects: **Horticulture Therapy at Oakwood Commons**, planting and weekly maintenance of the **Enabling Garden at UM-D**, conducting **the Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest**, planting and weekly maintenance of the **Monarch Way Station at UM-Dearborn**, annual planning and hosting of the **Holly Berry Brunch** fundraiser, weekly preparation of floral arrangements, known as the **PRISM Project** at Beaumont Hospital, Dearborn, and **MGC/NGC projects** which require volunteer hours by Garden Club Members.



Based on hours achieved so far in 2016, GCD will be eligible for a *Triple Diamond Level Club of Distinction*. **Thank you to all GCD Members who have participated in these projects in 2016.**

If you would like to volunteer your time toward GCD projects, please notify Elena Lovelace, Vice President, Membership, or Mary Bugeia, President.

Mark Your Calendars - Events in November/December

- November 20 to November 27, 2016 - **Festival of Trees** (fundraiser for Children's Hospital of Michigan) Performing Arts Center Sunday. Admission: Adults - \$5.00; Children (ages 3-16) \$3.00; Children 2 and under - Free.
- November 20, **Padjeski Art Gallery Reception** benefitting the Dearborn Community Fund. \$20 admission includes admission to the Festival of Trees. The gallery will have many lovely items for sale, made by local artists.
- November 26-January 8; 10:00 am to 4:30 pm - **UM Matthew Botanical Gardens - Avant Garden: Weaving Fashion and Nature Together - Holiday Conservatory Exhibit** - Free admission.
- December 3, 2016 **20th Annual Holly Berry Brunch Fundraiser, Dearborn Inn.** Tickets \$35. Contact Mary Bugeia 313.562.7524
- December 12, 2016 - **Garden Club of Dearborn Potluck Luncheon.** Members are encouraged to bring a food item of their choice to serve 6 people. Contact Elena Lovelace to indicate what you will bring. Luncheon to be followed by Flower Bingo game.