

# Garden Club Journal

Editor: Suzanne Singleton

February 2017

Our January program presentation by **Carol Brodbeck** was certainly interesting. Knowing where certain vegetables originated and how the people of that location depended upon them, propagated them, and taught generations to best use them gave me a better appreciation of vegetables and fruits. Carol's appearance as a new settler in the wilderness of the United States was a unique method of presentation.

**Ms. Brodbeck will advance to become President of the Michigan Garden Clubs at the State Convention in June**, and we were privileged to have her visit us and learn more about her. Her remarkable background includes graduating with a B.S. degree in Biological Sciences. Her career started at Parke-Davis Pharmaceutical Company in Detroit where she assisted in research developing the influenza vaccine. She helped develop computer systems for pharmaceutical research and became a computer consultant. After retiring in 2000, she has been volunteering for a variety of organizations, including her church, and the Michigan Garden Clubs. She completed the MSU Master Gardener program. In 2006, she was certified as a Human Behavior Consultant which is demonstrated in her gracious personality

At our February 13th meeting we will have a **Valentine Tea arranged by the Late Bloomers Study Group. Pat Knoop** and **Sharon Olshansky** will lead us in a fun game of Flower Bingo and they have a dozen prizes. Another surprise project is being planned by **Mary Lenart Kirchoff** and **Pat Knoop**. As members arrive they will be given a lovely plastic heart favor and instructed to fill it with dried flowers saved from the **Enabling Garden**. The flower bingo game was introduced to us by Patti Mack a few years ago. She had shoulder surgery on January 13 and we hope she will be able to join us in February.

Once again, I wish to thank everyone for their efforts at making the **Holly Berry Brunch** successful. We raised \$17,000 to enable us to donate to the several organizations and City beautification projects.

Hope to see you soon. Mary Bugeia



## **Board Meeting**

February 1, 2017, 10:00 am  
McFadden Ross

## **General Meeting:**

February 13, 2017, 12:00 noon

- Program - Valentine Project , Flower Bingo, Valentine Tea

## **Exhibits**

- **Artistic** - Nature's reminder - share your heart! Heart shaped wreaths, old fashioned Valentines or a poem
- **Horticulture** - Name plants in your garden with heart shaped leaves or blooms

## **Horticulture Therapy**

- Feb. 8, 2017 at 9:45 am - Oakwood Common Assisted Living
- Arrangement by Gloria Rusin



## General Meeting Notes:

The featured speaker at January's General Meeting was **Carol Brodbeck, 1st Vice President and incoming President of Michigan Garden Clubs**. Dressed in full revolutionary period costume, "Polly" depicted the typical role of a hard-working farmer's wife while describing the history of various fruits and vegetables commonly found in backyard gardens today, from cabbage to leeks, to lettuce.



*Carol Brodbeck, guest speaker at the GCD January General Meeting, was introduced by Sharon Olshansky, a member of the GCD Board of Directors.*

## Educational Opportunities at DHM

**Mason Christensen**, who recently joined the **Dearborn Historical Museum** as Archivist and Communications Specialist, shared news regarding upcoming programs and educational opportunities to support the Museum. Mason distributed copies of an informational pamphlet designed by the Museum, containing a membership application and membership levels. *For more information, visit [www.theDHM.com/membership](http://www.theDHM.com/membership).*

Questions? Call Mason at 313-565-3000



## Horticulture: Linden Trees (Tea Recipe)

Contributed by Marie Komnenic, Member of Garden Club

**Linden trees** (also known as Tilia trees) are **grand deciduous trees** that can grow up to 130 feet tall and consist of over 30 types of species in the Linden family. They feature highly distinguishable leaves that are heart-shaped and asymmetrical. Linden trees also bear tiny pea-shaped fruit that hang from a greenish-yellow branch and contain many seeds.

**A noteworthy characteristic** of the Linden tree includes its' fragrant droopy butter yellow flowers which appear in the summer and attract bees for pollination purposes. These trees provide an ideal canopy to play a game of chess under or to catch an afternoon catnap beneath. In their youth, Linden trees have a pyramidal shape, though as the tree grows it develops a more rounded crown. Another unique feature is found in the gray brown bark, which is soft and malleable, while the grain is straight.



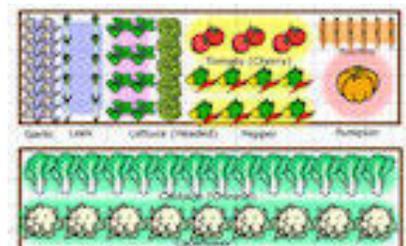
**Linden trees can be found scattered in downtown Dearborn and throughout Greenfield Village** thanks to our neighbor, Henry Ford, who had dozens of these type of vegetation imported from Central Europe. Particular European countries that boast these trees include Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Russia & northern Yugoslavia. In addition to attracting bees, Lindens are very popular with cabinet makers who cherish their straight grain. Carvers treasure the wood and find the pliable bark ideal for making musical instruments, such as guitars and flutes. Other popular uses for Linden trees include perfume, medicines, additives to hot baths & flavoring for teas/oils. Linden tea aids in a variety of health ailments including anxiety, insomnia, digestive tract issues, common cold, boosting one's immune system, kidney health & fever reduction.

**To make your own tea**, simply choose a Linden tree in full bloom (end of June/beginning of July) when the blooms are open and fragrant. Pinch the bud at the point beyond the bloom and pull downward with your pointer finger and thumb. Completely dry the flowers in warm, dry area on a linen towel or paper sheet for 3-4 weeks minimum. Once blooms have thoroughly dried, store in a brown paper bag to prevent mold/mildew growth. Boil hot water with linden flowers to your taste, depending on strength of tea. Allow leaves to steep as the tea will thicken over time transforming into a honey like consistency. Allow flowers to steep overnight in order to maximize the true benefits. Drain the flowers from the water and enjoy!

## Planning for a Vegetable Garden

**There is always something to do in the yard no matter the weather.** January usually gives us a few warm days that bring on a thaw. It is in January that you can rake your yard gently and collect any debris that squirrels may have left in your yard or maybe the wind deposited papers or tree limbs. With that in mind, a few suggestions for February:

- ▶ Check mulch and add more if necessary
- ▶ Push back into the ground any plants that have pulled free
- ▶ Do not walk on frozen lawn
- ▶ Order bulbs, seeds for spring planting
- ▶ Plan and design your garden



*Inspired by our January guest speaker? For more information about planning a vegetable garden, see [gardenplanner.almanac.com](http://gardenplanner.almanac.com).*

## Getting to Know You: Study Groups



The **Moon Flowers Study Group** meets monthly in the evenings to converse, enjoy refreshments and learn about a related gardening topics together. In *November*, members of the the study group watched a video on the life cycle and migratory path of the Monarch Butterfly. In *December* members viewed a video on how to detect virus in your *Hosta* and how to prevent the spread of related disease in your garden. L to R: Judy Henn, Sue Singleton, Carol Chrzastek ,Wanda Unis-Flaim, Elena Lovelace, and Julia Casey



In January, Members of the **Late Bloomers Study Group** met at the home of Barbara Hayes to enjoy their Annual Epiphany (Twelfth Night) Luncheon: Seated left to right are Marie Komnenic; Barbara Hayes; Helen Ross; Verdella Faitel; Helen Petricko; and Bettysue Pisula. Standing are: l-r Judy Henn; Elena Lovelace; and Julia Casey. The Late Bloomers will host the Valentine Tea this month.

**New to Garden Club and want to join a Study Group?** Check your directory to find the names of Study Group Leaders, and arrange to attend the Group's next meeting. If you need assistance, please contact Elena Lovelace, Vice President, Membership.

## Mark Your Calendars - Events in February/March

- ★ February 1st, 7pm - Edsel and Eleanor Ford Wedding 100th Anniversary - McFadden Ross
- ★ February 6, 2016 at 1pm English Gardens Free Seminar: Fairy and Miniature Gardens
- ★ February 13th, Noon - Garden Club Valentine Tea - First Presbyterian, Brady
- ★ February 18th, 7pm - Euchre Tournament (Historical Museum Fundraiser), O'Kelly Banquet Hall, 23663 Park ; pre-register at the Dearborn Historical Museum office at 915 Brady St. The event is limited to 120 registrants
- ★ March 1, 7pm - The History of the Ford Rouge Plant Railroad - McFadden Ross House