

Garden Club Journal

Editor: Suzanne Singleton

March 2017

February 13th we had a wonderful Valentine celebration with the "Late Bloomers" providing the beautiful and sumptuous TEA. **Thank you** ladies. Each member filled a plastic heart with dried flowers as a keepsake. We also **welcomed** two new members - **Julia Casey and Elaine Trocino**. Then, we played 'Flower Bingo' which was fun and educational. I don't know if a Rocky Mountain Columbine is any different than the ones I have in my yard. And, **thank you, Otto** for taking the pictures of our activities.

In March, our **speaker will be Cheryl English**, an Advanced Master Gardener, who will describe **how to make our yards a haven for bees, butterflies, and birds**. Cheryl is a contributing writer to the Michigan Gardener and a board member of the Wildflower Association of Michigan. Besides gardening, she is an artist and owner of Black Cat Pottery.

Carol Brodbeck, MGC Vice President, and Ruth Moline, District 1 Director are encouraging us to schedule a **Flower Show**. In addition to giving us the experience of showcasing our members ability to grow flowers and also design arrangements, it provides an opportunity for Michigan Garden Club members to practice their judging skills and earn credentials to continue to be a judge.

We have casually thought about having a show June 24 (or some other date this year). It has been suggested to have a Small Flower Show combined with a Garden Walk. Some members have experienced a flower show and others have not so I would like to encourage our club to plan one. Helen Petricko mentioned that she hoped our club would schedule one because she misses the ones she experienced the several winters that she traveled to Florida.

We need to choose a theme for the design portion of a show. Exhibits would need 4 entries in each category to compete. Horticulture can have any number in each classification. Members need to own the horticulture specimens three months, so start sprucing and shaping your houseplants. Gardens too will have to be groomed and hopefully all the plants you anticipated blooming will be at their peak by the last week of June.

Mary Bugeia, President

Board Meeting

March 1, 2017, 10:00 am
McFadden Ross

General Meeting

March 13, 2017, 12:00 noon
First Presbyterian Church - Brady

- **Program:** Cheryl English - Pollinators
- **Exhibits Table**

Artistic - Lively Spring and St Patrick's Day Decorations

Horticulture - Early bloomers

Horticulture Therapy

March 8,, 2017 at 9:45 am -
Oakwood Common Assisted
Living - Arrangement by Judy
Henn



"A garden is built one spring at a time."

Author unknown



Members of the **Late Bloomers Study Group** hosted the annual Valentine's Tea at the General Meeting on February 13, 2017. Standing, l to r, are: Meredith Scharf, Sharon Snider, Donna Wallace, Mary Ellen Zell, Barbara Hayes, Laurine Griffin, Sandy Bruce, Helen Ross, Bettysue Pisula, Helen Petricko, and Judy Henn.

The **Valentine Project** for the General Meeting was a colorful bouquet of dried flowers and leaves encased in a heart-shaped container. Mary Lenart and Pat Knoop provided dried flowers and leaves from their yards and from the Enabling Garden. Two Enabling Garden members, Judy Chandler and Mindy Delano, assisted members in making the Valentine hearts.



Happy Birthday!

Kathy Gapa	5 March
Terri Bungi	17 March
Jennie Somers	20 March
Eleanor Dolega	27 March
Suzanne Singleton	27 March
Sharon Snider	29 March



Garden Club members are needed to serve on this years Nominating Committee.

Contact: Mary Bugeia, President

President Mary Bugeia and Sponsors welcomed new members Julia Casey and Elaine Trocino to Garden Club of Dearborn at the February 13 General Meeting. Pictured from left to right are: Mary Bugeia, President; Helen Ross, Julia Casey, Barbara Hayes, Elaine Trocino, Rose Wiggle, and Judy Henn.

Course II of the Landscape Design School will be held **April 24-25, 2017** at Haven Church, 5350 N. Sprinkle Road, Kalamazoo, 49004. The Landscape Design Study Courses offer a series of four 10-hour courses scheduled for two days of instruction. Courses need not be taken in succession, and Garden Club members completing the series (4 courses) are awarded the designation of NGC Landscape Design Consultant.

For more information, contact local chairperson, Carol Beckius cbeckius@chartermi.net or 269-372-6950 or LDS State Chair, Terry Harding wsharding@chrtermi.net 231-947-0568.

HORTICULTURE: COOKING AND BAKING USING FLOWERS

Contributed by **Judy Henn**, Former President and Current Member of Garden Club

Have you ever given thought to using flowers in your food? I am sure many people think eating flowers would make them sick. Here are some time-honored ways to use flowers in your food. Be sure they are clean and have not been sprayed with pesticides.

SQUASH BLOSSOMS – cut them up and scramble with eggs. Stuff with cheese, dip in egg, then in flour and deep fry.

NASTURTIUM – they have a peppery flavor. Cut up or put whole in fresh salads

CANDIED ROSE PETALS- make a sweet dessert.

Courtesy of *Bon Appetit* Magazine

Serves 6 to 8

- 3 dozen unsprayed large, fragrant rose petals
- 1 large egg white
- 1 cup superfine sugar

Preparation: Choose the rose petals for color and beauty, and make sure they are completely dry. Beat the egg white in a small bowl just to blend. Brush each petal with egg white on both sides and dip it lightly in the sugar. Put the petals on wire racks or parchment and let dry in a cool, dry place for 2-3 hours or overnight.



Candied Rose Petals

LAVENDER COOKIES

Makes 3 dz.

- ½ Cup each of butter, canola oil, sugar and powdered sugar
- ½ tsp. each of baking soda, salt, vanilla, cream of tartar
- 1 egg
- 1 c flour
- 1 tbsp. Lavender buds
- Sugar for topping

Preparation: Beat butter and oil until well blended. Beat in sugar, powdered sugar, baking soda, cream of tartar and salt. Beat in egg and vanilla, then flour. Stir in Lavender buds. Cover and chill 4-24 hours. Shape into walnut size balls, place 2" apart on ungreased cookie sheet. Flatten balls with bottom of a glass that is dampened and dipped in Lavender sugar. Bake 375 degrees for 8-10 minutes or until lightly browned. *Lavender Sugar:* In food processor put 2 Tbsp. dried Lavender with 1 cup sugar. Store in airtight container.



Lavender Cookies

Did You Know...?

Source: United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service

Pollinators are responsible for assisting over 80% of the world's flowering plants? Without them, humans and wildlife wouldn't have much to eat or look at! Animals that assist plants in their reproduction as pollinators include species of ants, bats, bees, birds, butterflies, flies, moths, and wasps, among others. Wind and water also play a role in the pollination of many plants. Follow these simple steps to create a pollinator-friendly landscape around your home:

- Use a wide variety of plants that bloom from early spring into late fall.
- Avoid modern hybrid flowers, especially those with "doubled" flowers.
- Eliminate pesticides whenever possible.
- Include larval host plants in your landscape.
- Consider including a hummingbird feeder in your landscape.



For more information, see www.fs.fed.us

Mark Your Calendars - Events in March *(also see Michigan Gardener)*

- *March 1, 2017 through April 30, 9am to 5 pm, Frederick Meijer Gardens, Grand Rapids - Fred & Dorothy Fichter Butterflies are Blooming*
- *March 9, 2017 - 7pm "Houseplants" by English Gardens. Ferndale Garden Club at Kulick Community Center. Guests are welcome*
- *March 11, 2017 9am to 4pm, 9th Annual Growing Great Gardens at Taylor Conservatory at Heinz C. Prechter Education and Performing Arts Center; Taylor Garden Club - Register: 313.715.8316 \$55*
- *March 11, 2017 1pm - Free Seminar: Planting Seeds Indoors - English Gardens*
- *March 18, 2017 1pm - Free Seminar: Get a Green, Healthy Lawn - English Gardens*
- *March 18-26, 2017 Navy Pier, Chicago, IL - Chicago Flower & Garden Show, Early Bird Adult Weekend Ticket: \$15 go to www.chicagoflower.com*
- *March 24, 2017 - 10 am - Meadow Brook Hall, Rochester - Herbs, Bring Beauty, Charm & Life to the Garden - Meadow Brook Garden Club \$5*