

Welcome back everyone!

It takes many people to make our club a successful one. For those of you who were not able to attend the **Annual Meeting**, details of changes in elected officers are included on page 2. This looks like a great team to lead our club.

Thank you for the many get-well wishes after my accident. On July 4th I tripped on a tree stump, was propelled into the side of the garage and broke my left arm. After the surgical insertion of a rod from my shoulder to above the elbow, I underwent a few weeks of recovery. Needless to say, after being out of commission for the month of July, I'm looking forward to returning to Garden Club. Many thanks to *Elena Lovelace* for covering for me in several instances, and *Mindy Delano* for arranging the Program schedule for the year.

As a result of my injuries, the flower show had to be cancelled. Although I regret that it did not occur as scheduled, I want to thank *Mary Dietrich* and *Mary Lenart* who assisted me in the development of an impressive schedule. Thanks also to *Sandy Butler*, who was ready to print the schedule. I've heard from some of you that you had plants ready to enter and were offering to create designs. We will be considering whether to have a practice / mini show.

The *Enabling Gardners* keep on working through the summer. On August 8, I attended their **Garden Tea** and was impressed with the variety and condition of flowers they have planted. Thank you *Judy Chandler* for taking the leadership for this important activity.

Mindy has planned a delightful program and project for September. Each of us will be able to plant a "hens & chicks" succulent to take home as a gift. And the *Late Bloomers* will arrange the **Welcome Back Tea**.

If you haven't looked at our [website: gardenclubdearborn.org](http://gardenclubdearborn.org), please do to see how beautiful it is. Thank you to Elena Lovelace, for championing this improvement. See you at our next meeting!

Mary Bugeia , President



A Whirl of Teacups with Clatter and Chatter

On **September 11th**, Garden Club members

will be able to sit back and enjoy tea with delicious little "somethings" while chit-chatting with their old friends and buddies.

It's important to bring a teacup to the event, because the ladies of days yonder would throw their noses in the air if presented with styrofoam as a drinking vessel.

Tables will have a surprise or two for our members.

Outrageous outfits and hats are appropriate, but also rubber garden boots with destruction jeans are acceptable too.

In addition to the amazing tea, we will actually have a short presentation on the **new, incredible color changing hens and chicks**, called **Chick Charms** (see *Horticulture News* - page 3).

It's our **Make and Take project!** Chick Charms will be planted in a **second teacup**.

Be cautious so you won't spill soil or pebbles on your outfit, or just ask the one wearing garden boots to do the planting!

2017 Annual Meeting

At the Annual Meeting in June, several newly elected offices and board members were inducted.

Joining *Mary Bugeia* as *President* for another two-year term are:

- Mindy Delano - Vice President Programs
- Carol McGarvey - Vice President Membership
- Carmen Gudan - Vice President External Affairs

Other elected officers returning to positions are

- Judy Chandler, Recording Secretary
- Laurine Griffin, Treasurer
- Elena Lovelace - Communications

Elena Lovelace and Suzanne Singleton were appointed to the Advisory Board to serve 4 year terms

Thank you to all the members who hold Committee Chairs for the coming year!

Please refer to GCD Yearbook for the dates of future programs and events

Happy Birthday!

Karen Marzonie	2 Sep
Helen Petricko	3 Sep
Sue Fradkin	4 Sep
Betty Gorka	9 Sep
Shirley Barrick	10 Sep
Linda Stechison	15 Sep
Mary Lenart-Kirchoff	22 Sep
Betty Brown	24 Sep
Carolyn Lashchuk	26 Sep

21st Annual HBB Plans Underway



In months ahead, *Mary Bugeia* will have lunch tickets for the 2017 **Holly Berry Brunch** for sale.

Members are reminded to please start looking for items to donate to our famous raffle. Take advantage of end of season sales to buy a garden themed gift.

If you would like to volunteer to contact donors and vendors for this major fundraising event, please contact *Kathy Gapa*. 271-1572, or gapakathleen@yahoo.com

Farewell to a Great Friend and 34-year Member of GCD

Recently, our dear friend, *Jean Johnston* passed away. As a member of Garden Club of Dearborn for 34 years, Jean lent a hand to many projects, always with a cheerful disposition. Many will remember how she played the piano for sing-a longs at holidays.

Jean's family has suggested donations in her name to the Garden Club of Dearborn.

Chick Charms

By Mindy Delano, Horticulture Chair

*Some are little, some are fast growers, and some already have lots of baby chicks, but **Hens and Chicks** are an irresistible plant you can start at home. There are about 13 varieties to choose. Hens and chicks are called **Sempervivum**, a group of succulents. They have a rosette shape and produce numerous chicks. Chicks may be dime-size and the hen can grow to the size of a small plate.*

Outside, ideal temps are 65-75 degrees and beyond that, they fall into semi-dormant state. Plant in full to part sun. They are very, very difficult to kill so I'm sure you can handle them, and enjoy them. They love rockery, good drainage if not in rockery.

Divide every 2 years to prevent overcrowding. Just pull gently to separate the chicks, clean root, and plop chick into a new pot or planting area. It's that simple!

- Outside, in the ground, some gardeners put leaf mulch over them, others just leave them alone.

Indoors, they can grow in a pot with special Succulent soil mix, such as Hoffman's.

- Water well so the leaves can drink can store water. Allow to dry between waterings. You may add water soluble fertilizer every month or so.
- The hen eventually dies after all those chicks; this occurs every 2-4 years. It will grow a tall center stalk that blooms before it dies. Discard it then.
- Before winter, outside pots should be placed in the garage or on the porch near your house.
- To propagate without a chick on the hen, gently pull off the leaf or petal on the bottom and let dry for 3 days to form a callous on the wound. Place in a pot of prepared soil, and at the root end, slightly push into the soil, but don't plant it. Allow root to grow 40-60 days; it will be pink in color.
- Mist with water daily. After 60 days, plant normally. Note: you may do this propagation at the Garden Club, and exchange new leaves with your fellow gardener, to make a new collection of chicks. Put the petals in the small plastic bags to transport home, but don't forget to remove them for the drying stage since you don't want rot.

Enjoy this venture into Chick Charms, and truly make a hobby of it!

Besides these brand new plants, there are other hens and chicks available on the market, through online ordering, catalog mail-order, or nurseries. Chick Charms are very expensive because they are new last year. I've scouted everywhere for them for the best cost saving, since often they sell for \$10-12 per tiny pot.

Most nurseries do not have them yet. Chick Charms have been hybridized in western Michigan at Garden Crossings, and at Great Plants in 2016.

Chick Charm Project

Bring a second teacup from home for this project. When selecting a teacup or other container from home, make sure it is big enough to allow growth. If you find your teacup or vessel too tiny, you can pick an alternate at the table. A "lottery" type call will be announced and you can come up and choose your chick; then be seated until everyone gets a chick. Meanwhile, you are welcome to pass your chick around and show it off. After all, it is your new baby! An assembly line will take place.

Some tips to plant your own in a teacup or other suitable container.

Step 1: Place pea gravel on bottom

Step 2: Add potting succulent soil mix. Make a hole with finger for chick.

Step 3: Plant the chick.

Step 4: Water chick and add water soluble fertilizer.

Step 5: Adorn top of soil with tiny, attractive stones to avoid rot.



For future related gardening events, consult www.michigangardener.com/