

Garden City Garden Club

Summer Flowering Bulbs

With Dan Sparks from Vanenberg Bulb Company

Tuesday, March 20, 2018 7:00 pm

Maplewood Community Center 31735 Maplewood, Garden City

The program is free to the public

Are you missing out on some fabulous summer flowers?

Join us and learn about growing tender bulbs such as
Cannas, Dahlias, Calla Lilly's and more!

When is it safe to plant?

Did you know Dahlias range in size from 12 to 36 inches?

What plants are for the shade, what are for the sun?

How do you store bulbs in the winter?

Join us and find the answers!

From President Pat

I think we are all ready for spring and gardening! Mother Nature teased us with a couple warm days. I was able to trim my redbird dogwood bushes and cut down my ornamental grasses. I hope everyone can join us at our monthly meetings, and don't forget bring a friend! In April, you have a chance to attend two meetings, one in Garden City and one in Dearborn Heights. The joint meeting with Dearborn Heights, Garden City and Military Hills Garden Clubs should be a very interesting meeting. For any of you who have not been downtown to the Riverwalk, you are in for a treat. More information is in the newsletter.

The May meeting will be Gardening 101. We are hoping that club members submit their questions and we are also hoping we encourage the public to attend. I hope to have the flyer ready by our March meeting.

I visited the Butterfly Garden at City Park and our "Butterfly Tulip Garden" is beginning to pop out! I can actually make out the shape of a butterfly. I am really excited to continue working on this project and making our "Butterfly Garden" a beautiful and educational site.



Garden City Garden Club Minutes February 20, 2018 Sue Orzel, Secretary

Pat McKarge brought the new design for our brochures. Stacy Karafotis will check into getting it printed correctly.

Pat announced that we are working on updating the Garden Club website. A lot of information needs to be updated. We will be working with Kerry Partin.

March Meeting: Bulbs

April Meeting: Hydrangea's and 2nd meeting (joint meeting) in Dearborn Heights

May 19 we will plant Gardenville

May 26 we will plant at the Commons

June 3, Plant and Bake Sale at the Flea Circus—fundraiser for Belle Isle Garden and Scholarship Fund.

Discussion on the "Prettiest Porch in Garden City" contest. Decision was made that the "porch" had to be viewable from the street, must incorporate live plants in the design. If a lot of our members get involved we will get judges from outside the club. Awards will be gift certificates from Barson's Greenhouse. Awards will be given out July 20 at the Garden Walk Preview night, Friday, July 20.

July 21 is the Garden Walk.

May Meeting: Gardening 101. Garden Club members should give Stacy and Pat any questions they may want answered.

Speaker: Debbie Barson, from Barson's Greenhouse. Debbie talked about how and when to start seeds indoors and she gave out a handout and we got to pick out several packets of seeds to take home.

We ended the meeting with "Five Questions".

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.



- **Late Spring and Summer: Eat Your Yard Initiative— Let's help educate people to plant vegetables in their yards!**
- Sunday, March 18, Garden City Lions Pancake Breakfast 8 am to 11:30 am Garden City Moose Lodge 29137 Ford Road Fundraiser, \$5 for adults, \$2.00 for Kids 12 and under
- May 5 Lucky Squirrel Market Downtown Garden City
- **Saturday, May 19 in the morning — Garden Club members plant at Gardenville**
- Saturday, May 19, 10 am to 12 pm at the Westland Public Library Plant Swap
- **Saturday, May 26 in the morning — Garden Club members plant at the Commons Downtown Garden City**
- May 22 Lucky Squirrel Market Downtown Garden City
- **Saturday, June 2 Garden City Garden Club Plant and Bake Sale at the Flea Circus Fundraiser for the Oudolf Garden on Belle Isle and our Scholarship Fund**
- **June 15 through July 15— Garden City Garden Club Prettiest Front Porch Contest**
- **July 20 — Garden Walk Preview Night—and Awards for Prettiest Front Porch Contest**
- **July 21 — Garden Walk**
- **October 13 — Annual Chili Cook-off — Garden Club usually has a bake sale at the event**



Garden City Garden Club

The Care of Hydrangeas Demystified

By Advanced Master Gardener

Stacy Karafotis

Tuesday, April 17, 2018 7:00 pm

Maplewood Community Center 31735 Maplewood, Garden City

The program is free to the public

Did you know there are six main types of hydrangeas?

Which hydrangeas are the most sun tolerant?

Is it easier to change a hydrangea from pink to blue than from blue to pink?

How do you prune the different types of hydrangea's?

Which hydrangeas bloom on old wood?

Which hydrangeas bloom on new wood?

Join us to find the answers!!

Joint Meeting with Military Hills and Dearborn Heights Garden Clubs

Thursday, April 19, 2018 at 7:00 pm

Canfield Center 1801 N. Beech Daly Road , Dearborn Heights

Detroit Riverwalk (beautiful landscapes)

with Marc Pasco

The Detroit Riverfront Conservancy is a non profit organization responsible for the establishment, improvement, operation, maintenance, security, programming and expansion of the Detroit Riverwalk and associated green spaces. Beautifully landscaped gardens along the river from GM plaza to Rivard place provides visitors with a place to sit, relax, walk, and enjoy urban art pieces while strolling the Riverfront. Join us as Marc Pasco talks about the fabulous new downtown Riverwalk.

There will be refreshments and snacks. Please plan on bringing something to share. The table centerpieces will be raffled off. Dearborn Heights club will be hosting a Mini-Silent Auction table to raise funds to purchase a "TREE".

Feel free to bring a guest. If you haven't seen the Riverwalk in the past year, you are in for a pleasant surprise!



Why mulch? From Michigan State University Extension

Mulch can provide a range of benefits for landscape beds. Here are just a few:

- Conserve soil moisture. Mulch reduces evaporation from the soil surface and helps to ensure that water reaches plant roots instead of going back into the atmosphere.
- Reduce soil temperatures. In a research trial in southwest Michigan, we found that 3 inches of wood chip mulch reduced mid-day soil temperature by 18 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Add organic matter. As mulch breaks down it adds organic matter to the soil, which aids in the soil's ability to retain important plant nutrients such as potassium, magnesium, calcium and iron.
- Weed control. Mulch can help to control weeds, reducing the need for herbicides or hand-weeding.
- Appearance. Neatly applied mulch can improve contrast between beds and lawn, providing a cleaner-looking edge.
- Avoid lawn mower blight and string trimmer trauma. Providing a buffer between mowers and weed wackers reduces the likelihood of trunk damage to trees.

How much mulch should I apply?

Deeper is not always better: 2 to 3 inches of mulch is adequate to get the maximum mulch benefit in most cases. If a site already has mulch from last year, a thin, 1-inch top-dressing is more than adequate. When mulching perennials in the landscape, take care not to spread mulch over the crown of the plants.

What's the best material to use for mulch?

To a large extent, the "best" mulch material is in the eye of the beholder. Most organic materials such as ground bark, ground wood chips or shredded leaves can provide the key benefits of moisture conservation, weed control, thermal insulation and organic matter addition. Therefore, cost, aesthetic appearance and availability are often the deciding factors. Inorganic mulches such as rock or shredded tires do not need to be replaced, but do not add organic matter to the soil.

What about lawn clippings as mulch?

Lawn clippings are a poor choice for mulch since they tend to mat together and impede water penetration if they dry out. In addition, they are unsightly and can produce an unpleasant odor as they decompose. [Michigan State University Extension](#) says a better alternative is to compost your lawn clippings and then use the compost in your garden or as a top-dressed amendment before you apply mulch. Or use a mulching mower that returns the clippings back into your yard.

Is it true that mulch can "tie-up" soil nutrients?

In theory, organic mulches that are low in nitrogen, such as wood chips, can reduce soil nitrogen availability during the process of microbial decomposition. In reality, we see little evidence of this in trees and shrubs. We monitored plant nitrogen in landscape shrubs and found no difference between plants without mulch and those that were mulched with pine, hardwood bark and wood chips. In fact, in a couple of instances, the mulched plants had increased plant nitrogen. The one case where nutrient tie-up could be a concern is with annual bedding plants since they have limited root systems.

Why are some environmental groups pushing for boycott of cypress mulch?

Most cypress mulch comes from trees harvested from wetland areas of Louisiana and Florida. Since these areas are prone to periodic flooding, cypress regeneration can be difficult, raising concerns about the sustainability of cypress harvesting. In Michigan, red pine bark and hardwood bark are ideal alternatives since there are by-products of our local timber industry.

Can cocoa mulch hurt dogs?

As many people are aware, there are chemicals in chocolate that can be poisonous to dogs. Husks from cocoa beans that are sold as mulch can also contain some of these chemicals. It is highly unlikely a pet could ingest enough to cause a serious problem, though some dogs with indiscriminant eating habits (presumably you know if you have one those) might consume enough to cause some vomiting or diarrhea. Bottom line, look for an alternative if your dog likes to eat first and ask questions later.

