

Detroit Garden Center
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www.detroitgardencenter.org



Detroit Garden Center Bulletin

The Detroit Garden Center is a 501c3 non-profit educational institution serving metropolitan Detroit since 1932 in areas of gardening, beautification, and horticulture through lectures, tours, workshops, outreach programs, and an extensive horticulture library.

Volume 70 Number 4
Fall 2018

From the President, Ronald J. Smith

Fall is a season of bright colors and changing weather. Our fall gardening tasks for DGC were a bit more difficult this year due to the raining days. Fortunately for us, the Alternatives For Girls gardens were readied in late September (along with garlic being planted) and we avoided unpleasant weather. The asters in the Native Planting created a sea of beautiful purple this fall. In addition, twenty purple and two white Baptisia were planted to form a hedge alongside the parking lot facing Woodbridge St. Royanne Johnson also planted a thimbleberry bush along with a few other plants, which added a new variety of interest to the Native Planting.

Our *Gardens and Arts In the "D"* tour was very well received. (There even was a waiting list for additional attendees!) The weather that day was perfect for touring the city. 34 participants were introduced to secret gems just west of downtown Detroit. Watch for information in early summer for a 2019 Detroit Tour.

I want to thank Stella Heatley, who graciously submitted her descriptive and entertaining daily journal of our June 2018 trip to the Golden Horseshoe Ontario, Canada and Buffalo, NY. You will find her written thoughts in this newsletter. The trip brochure for the 2019 Garden Tour to Portland, Oregon was mailed in mid October. We are very fortunate to have Lois Moss as our tour guide and trip organizer. The itinerary she has laid out provides the opportunity to visit some of the best gardening areas in northwest Oregon. Please share the trip brochure with friends and encourage them to join you on the trip. The trip information can also be found on the website. This is one trip you'll not want to miss!

The DGC website is currently under construction and will be completed in December. At this time, there is a marker page and information is still available on the website: www.detroitgardencenter.org. DGC will be managing the website once it's completed. Bill Auch set up the original DGC website and managed it for many years. I'm very grateful for all his time and effort. Thank you Bill for your help with the website transition process.

It's our Membership Renewal Time! The membership year for DGC is January 1 - December 31. Renewal letters were mailed in early November. Please complete all the information on the remittance envelope. Don't forget that giving a membership to a friend, coworker or relative is a nice holiday gift. If you are not sure that you renewed for 2019, check the mailing label on this newsletter. If you see 12/19 on the lower right corner, your membership for 2019 is paid. If you see 12/18, your membership will expire on 12/31/2018.

Our Holiday gathering is on December 9th, and I look forward to seeing you there!

Golden Horseshoe Tour of Ontario, Canada, June 18 - June 22, 2018
Travel Journal of DGC Member, Stella Heatley

Monday, June 18th Thirty Detroit Garden Center travelers sat quietly on the bus whilst the bus driver checked each person's passport or enhanced drivers' license before leaving Grosse Pointe, headed to Canada.

The weather in Michigan was very hot and humid even early in the morning, the forecast for extreme high temperatures, heavy rains and thunderstorms, not very promising for the first day of trip. Crossing the Blue Water bridge into Canada everyone had to exit the bus, show passport and return to the bus, repeated three more times as we crossed the USA/Canada border. All aboard and on our way to pick up our tour guide, Margaret Dailey -Plouffe. We passed mile after mile of farmland and an astonishing number of wind turbines.

On arrival at Cuddy Gardens our tour guide welcomed us with juice and muffins. The gardens are part of Fanshawe College where horticultural technicians are trained in all aspects of growing plants. Originally a rural Ontario farm, owner Mr. (Mac) Cuddy made a great success of breeding and selling turkeys, their eggs, selling all over the world. In 2007 the farm was left to the college (no chemical fertilizers are used) with mulch generously used throughout the extensive gardens. Several plants found in the garden are on the endangered indigenous list: Cucumber Magnolia and the yellow Trillium. Rock, rose, woodland, perennial and water gardens featured many interesting plants. A Native Bee House, made for a craft exhibit by the students, now sited in a flower meadow was of great interest to us! Lots of spaces filled with a great variety of items to accommodate the native bees were not only serving a much needed purpose but were attractive, interesting shapes, textures, a peak roof held low growing colourful grassed and stonecrop plants. Onto Whistling Gardens, near Wilsonville, we passed through hay country, green seas of gently waving grasses, some already cut, dried and baled into huge rolls. On arrival rumbles of thunder, dark skies and increasing gusts of wind hurried us to a tent where a lunch of salads and sandwiches awaited us. A loud clap of thunder and down came heavy rain. Calls for "help" came from the peacocks in the nearby aviary, their call strident amongst the softer calls of the ornamental game birds disturbed by the lashing rain and rumbles of thunder as the storm passed overhead. The gardens are private, owned by Darren Heimbecker, a talented, creative, energetic man who worked as a composer of musical entertainments for Yani and his orchestra. Feeling the need for a change in his creative talents, he purchased a farm and old stone farmhouse from an internet sale posting. In 2003 work commenced. He called it Whistling Gardens for the Trumpeter swans (also known as Whistling Swans) he spent time counting whilst working for the Canadian government. Darren and a volunteer gardener took us around the gardens, umbrellas on hand for the rain showers. Open to the public in 2012, the gardens have the largest peony collection, over one thousand. The conifer presented an amazing variety of shape, form and colours, some only to be seen here. We assembled under a canopy to view the water fountain, designed and built by Darren (ideas from fountains in Versailles and St Petersburg). The stone walled fountain was built into an incline of earth, with trees, shrubs, and

Our Sincerest Thank You for Your Contributions!

The following individuals made monetary contributions to
Detroit Garden Center since July 2018
Native Planting: Mary McHale

**The following individuals made donations of their time and talents to
Detroit Garden Center since July 2018**

Alternatives For Girls: Rhonda Adams, Audrey Branam, Marcia Geibel, Carlene Fowlkes, Chloe Hardnett, Lula Niforos, Ronald Smith, Eric VanPoucker

Mailing: Liz Cheslock, Marcia Geibel, Royanne Johnson, Karen A Shea, Wendy Jennings

Newsletter: Stella Heatley, Jim Odell, Ronald Smith, Eric VanPoucker

Native Planting: Carlene Fowlkes, Royanne Johnson, Ronald Smith, Eric VanPoucker

Planning Committee: Cheryl English, Marcia Geibel, Liz Hardwick, Royanne Johnson, Karen A Shea
Ronald Smith

Tech Support: Bill Auch, Tony D'Onofino

Membership and Event Registration Form

Memberships: \$25 Active____ \$20 Senior____ \$45 Family____ \$50 Contributing____

Wreath Workshop - December 8, 2018 Members \$20.00 _____ Non-Members \$25.00 _____

Holiday Gathering - December 9, 2018 RSVP_____ (Include Number of Guests)

Name(s) _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip Code _____

Phone w/area code _____ Email _____

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grass surrounding it. Darren composed a musical piece to accompany the water display. We were treated to a wonderful performance of jets of water leaping, bouncing, bobbing, waving and dancing to the music, quite entrancing.

Onto our last stop of the day, Bonnieheath Estate Lavender and Winery. We were warmly greeted by Lucy, a dog of unknown terrier heritage, and Anita, owner of Bonnieheath. Dark clouds and rumbles of thunder made us hurry into the lavender distilling building. Anita explained the process from lavender gathering, bunching, drying, separation of flowers from stalk to the distilling into precious oil. Originally a tobacco farm, it was closed down by the Canadian Federal Government which left the owners to rethink how to make a living. The sandy loam soil would be ideal for growing lavender or grapes. Why not both? A wine tasting of their wines made from grapes grown on the farm was enjoyed by all. We boarded the bus, dashing through the torrents of rain and mini rivers from the monsoon rain that created very difficult driving conditions for our driver, Erin, who calmly and safely delivered us to our hotel.

Tuesday, June 19th Our destination today is the Royal Botanical Gardens for a full day of guided tours in the large diverse collection of gardens. Our morning tour is the Rock Garden started in 1929 right at the beginning of the Great Depression. Only men with families were employed to help the local economy. A depleted gravel/rock quarry was the chosen site, cleaned out, tons of soil brought in, limestone from the Niagara Escarpment and glacial boulders were placed. A waterway was constructed and paths circling down into the bottom created micro climate pockets for planting a wide variety of plants, trees and shrubs to create what is now a spectacular garden full of interest, colour, bird-song, huge trees, a gentle waterway with different views wherever you looked. Lunch was served in a light, bright private dining area. The afternoon tour took us through a tunnel into colourful formal gardens, rose garden, recently renovated with plantings of hardy bushes with companion plants in the beds for long season colour. Our guide took us through the many gardens pointing out trees and plants of interest in the Woodland, Global, Medicinal, Vegetable, Prehistoric, Scented and Pollinator-Friendly plants gardens. A Dawn Redwood was a magnificent tree, planted on the accession of Queen Elizabeth II to the throne in 1952. During the afternoon a sound alerted me to the WWII Lancaster Bomber aircraft flying low overhead on its return from a memorial flight costing three thousand, five hundred Canadian dollars. Based in Hamilton, Ontario, only two remain in flying condition, the other in England seen in flypasts over Buckingham Palace on State occasions. As we made our way back to the exit I was fascinated with a Analematic Sundial we found near the Medieval Plants garden. Placed at Latitude 43.17N and Longitude 79.52 W it is accurate to within six minutes from April to September. We tested it and it was correct! Made by a local Hamilton doctor, Dr. Paul Lap, an ardent sundial enthusiast, I would love to see one placed on Belle Isle.

Our final garden of the day was a private garden in Waterdown, home of Arie Vanspronsen, an alpine plant specialist. A house on a corner lot, trim, neat and tidy, colourful, full of interesting plants, a greenhouse, so much to look at. Many clematis plants in pots lining the driveway, together with alpine plants alongside the house in pots. The rock garden in the rear garden was in full sun, full of alpine plants of tiny delicacy and colour. Our tour guide, Margaret, served wine and cheese for us to enjoy while we admired the beautiful garden. Four hundred people visited recently on an open day! The owners have received many trillium awards from the Province of Ontario.

28th Annual Winter Gardening Seminar

Saturday, February 2, 2019

9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Historic Lutheran Church, near Detroit's Eastern Market

Gardening guru, Janet Macunovich will share her knowledge and expertise. **Fine Pruning the Landscape** will be the focus of the seminar divided into 3 parts: Tree & Shrub Basics in the "Off Season"; Evergreen Shrub & Tree; and Overgrown Plants. The last session of the day will be **Unusual Plants, Unusually Grown**. Many gardeners love to grow unusual things with disappointed results. Janet will share how to spare your wallet and your green thumb by growing more common, easier things without giving up your position on the cutting-edge.

Registration will begin at 8:30 am along with refreshments. Included in the day is lunch with dessert and vendors for your shopping pleasure. Seminar information will be mailed in early December. Due to the overwhelming response, the number of Seminar participants will be limited. So early registration is highly suggested.

Mark Your Calendar

December 5, 2018 Detroit Garden Center Board Meeting*

10:00 am Garden Center Office

December 8, 2018 Wreath Workshop

10:00 am Detroit Garden Center Office

December 9, 2018 Holiday Gathering

1:00 pm Belle Isle Nature Center

February 2, 2019 28th Annual Winter Gardening Seminar

9:00 am - 3:30 pm Historic Trinity Lutheran Church

March 30, 2019 Bird Nest Building HQ Workshop

10:00 am Belle Isle Nature Center

*Members are guests are invited to all Detroit Garden Center Board Meetings

Detroit Garden Center Board and Advisors

President: Ronald J Smith

Recording Secretary: Royanne Johnson

Corresponding Secretary: Sue Auch

Treasurer: Kate Kerr

Vice President of Programs: Marcia Geibel

Vice President of Membership: Elizabeth Cheslock

Advisors

Cheryl English, Carlene Fowlkes, Elizabeth Hardwick, Barbara Hayes, Wendy Jennings, Marie Mainwaring, Harriet Murray, Karen A Shea, Carol Whitehead - Garden Club of Michigan

Wednesday, June 20th Our destination today is Dundurn Castle in Burlington Heights overlooking Lake Ontario. Cooler this morning, with misty rain which soon burned off into a pleasant sunny day. Originally the site of a British military fortified camp, this large house was built over what was the gunpowder magazine with many tunnels leading to the underground room. This area became the basement domestic utility rooms which the excellent guide described to us. A hive of busy activity, we were led through the tunnels to see the laundry, dairy, ice hole, large kitchen and many smaller side rooms for provisions, storage, food preparation and pantries to hold supplies for the large household. The kitchen maid and cook had small bedrooms in the kitchen area, male workers slept in the loft, in the barn above the horses and domestic animals. Built for Sir Alan Mac Nab in the 1830's, it reflected the wealth and status of the Premier of the United Canada and his family. The upstairs rooms and bedrooms were to impress guests and comfortable rooms for the family to live in. A big surprise was the gas lighting in the house and running water also, not only upstairs but in the basement servants area. An impressive home! Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, wife of Prince Charles, is a descendant of the family, and paid a visit to the home during a recent official visit to Canada. A short distance from the house, we visited the kitchen garden, which encompassed all the needs of a large household for daily seasonal foods, luxury foods, ornamental foliage and flowers for then house arrangements, herbal, medicinal, fruits for preserves, vegetables for over winter in the root cellar, herbs for drying, cold frames and hot beds for specialty plants. The guide showed us many unusual plants and heritage vegetables. Marshmallow was grown for the sweet root used in fancy desserts at dinner parties. Tarragon was a tooth cleaner and breath freshener, sweet Cecily had an aniseed flavour used in throat, cough and cold elixirs. Small woven bell-like baskets protected seedlings. Lots of rhubarb, raspberry, gooseberry, red, white and black currant bushes. Two resident cats, one a pretty calico, watched us as we passed by.

Leaving the castle, on our way to lunch, we passed a huge nursery covering many acres - wonderful plants we cannot purchase because we are not allowed to take them across the border into the United States.

Arriving at Café Troy, we enjoyed a most delicious lunch of French Canadian tourtiere and a green salad followed by rhubarb and strawberry pie, excellent coffee. Members visited the Donn River Pottery next door and the pretty garden nearby. A few members purchased the large red ceramic Remembrance Poppies for WWII. These were made by the potter as a fund raiser for the local St. George Royal Canadian Legion post.

Onto to Trails End Iris Garden, most of the iris bloom was over but there was much to see, peonies, perennials, two groves of silver birch trees, conifers and sweeping meadows merging into farm fields. Adjoining woodland of large mature oaks, willows and maples made a wind-break, the silence only broken by the birdsong of several Baltimore Orioles high in the birch tree tops. A colourful border alongside an inviting swimming pool contained golden yarrow, golden stonecrop, lavender, daylilies, tiny pink dianthus, a large patch of stately mullein, cerise lynes' drew the eye to a variegated pink beech tree. Much use is made of the limestone rock so readily available in this area.

Last garden of the day was Lotsa of Hosta, approaching the garden we came to railroad crossing. Whilst we were in the garden two trains passed, their familiar whistle and rhythmic rumble

wonderfully creative garden set in fifteen acres of what was, at the time of purchased in 1988, a hay field comprising fifty one acres. Land outside the garden is rented out for crops. Their home on the site was built in 1991, once completed Beth had a plan for the design of the garden. We freely roamed, discovering large weed-free vegetable and fruit beds, rows inter planted with pest repelling marigolds. I popped a few black currants into my mouth, a very nostalgic taste from childhood spent in England. There was a large pond, borders of shrubs, groves of pines and fir trees, flower beds, amusing touches of old rubber boots planted with flowers hanging from a fence. Sitting areas appeared in unexpected places, the creative re-use of items had to be seen to be believed - three enormous television satellite dishes formed a canopy where a family wedding took place last year. Everywhere you looked imaginative and creative touches amused and surprised. Beth not only does all the gardening she also cuts all the grass. Ken assists with heavy lifting and using what Canadians call a whipper-snipper, Americans a weed-whacker and UK a strimmer.

Shortly after leaving the Powell's garden we ran into heavy torrents of rain all the way to London where we had a quick in and out restroom and food stop. Continuing onto Cuddy Gardens, where we said goodbye to our tour guide, Margaret, thanking her for planning a wonderful trip we all enjoyed.

Once we crossed the Blue Water bridge onto I 94 the rain stopped and it was a pleasant evening when our bus pulled into Grosse Pointe Woods City Hall before going onto Dearborn. Our bus driver, Erin, was an excellent, skilled professional driver. We were in awe of her reversing skills! Calm, quiet and always pleasant Erin made our five days of travel a pleasure.

HOLIDAY WREATH BUILDING WORKSHOP
Saturday, December 8, 2018
10:00 am Detroit Garden Center Office
1900 E. Jefferson Ave.

Donna McCosh is the instructor and will provide step by step instructions as you create a 14 inch circular wreath, suitable for the holiday season. All materials will be supplied for the project. Workshop is limited, pre-registration is required. \$20.00 Members \$25.00 Non-Members Registration form in Newsletter.

Holiday Gathering
Sunday, December 9, 2018

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Belle Isle Nature Center

Members and friends are invited for delicious food and conversation with fellow gardeners. Bring an entrée or dessert to share or \$10.00. RSVP is strongly urged.

announcing their presence. At the entrance to the nursery garden was a red oak alley, creating a canopy of shade to the under planted hosta plants. These were enormous hosta plants, varying in colour, form, flowering time, inter planted with complimentary perennials. Ten years ago this was an open cornfield of sandy loam soil, now a tranquil, semi-shade garden of thoughtfully placed beds planted with appropriate plantings.

In the evening several of us found the International Market Hotel. It was an extraordinary market, foods from all cultures all over the world, the fresh fruits and vegetables fascinated us as to what they were and how one would prepare them. Such a busy, friendly, helpful, colourful atmosphere, we loved it!

Thursday, June 21st A sunny morning, fresh breeze, pleasant temperature, the longest day of the year. Leaving Hamilton we passed through the heavy industrial belt of steel mills, great rolls of steel covering acres, awaiting shipment all over the world. With the Niagara Escarpment rising in the distance we arrived in Grimsby, a neat and tidy older community with small shops and attractive old houses. Our garden visit today belongs to Marilyn Cornwell, who moved here six year ago from Toronto, bringing her antique Victorian conservatory, which she acquired from a property in 1993. It was again dismantled and rebuilt onto her home in 2011 creating a year round room for plants and people to enjoy. The garden lies in the shelter of the escarpment bringing cooler summers, warmer winters, the minerals in the soil produce large plants and lush gardens. It was indeed an abundant garden full of interesting trees, shrubs, plants, vines, pots of unusual plants in conservatory and a charming potting shed, so much to see and still a work in progress- large rhododendrons were expected to arrive soon from a brother's garden- where they were going to be planted was a mystery.

Leaving, we passed a huge greenhouse covering acre after acre. The micro climate of zone 7 allows fruit trees to thrive protected from harsh weather by the Niagara Escarpment. With Lake Ontario on one side, fruit orchards and vineyards on the other, we cross the Welland Canal that joins Lake Ontario to Lake Erie, taking ships eleven hours to pass through the locks. We arrive at Niagara College, a food and drink teaching college. A graduate student gave us a tour of vineyard, winery and talked about the courses of study taught at the college. Hops are grown here as well for the beer brewery on site. We sampled three different wines, the ice wine was quite delicious. Next year, a course of cannabis growing and culture will be offered.

Leaving the college we picked up a bag lunch to eat on the bus on our way to Niagara On The Lake. Erin, our driver, dropped us off for one hour to enjoy the shops, galleries, tea rooms, beautiful street flowers, quaint buildings and busy streetscape of this pretty tourists destination. We crossed the Lewiston Bridge into the United States over the Niagara Gorge, below us the huge hydro electric plant. Leaving immigration we crossed the Niagara River, the mist from the Horseshoe Falls (Canadian) visible on the horizon, our destination the City of Buffalo Botanical Garden. We were welcomed at the classic Victorian greenhouse, guides taking us into the different areas of plants from all over the world. Of interest were the Cannonball Tree, which produces large cannonball size fruit which later falls to the ground, splits open revealing a bright blue interior and it stinks! The Pitch tree produced a tar-like substance used to make repairs on ships. Sailors found that you could write on the leaves of the tree and used them for making playing cards. The guide introduced us to their prized possession, Amorphophallus titanium also known as the Corpse Flower. This very expensive

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plant grown from a bulb, found on the island of Sumatra in Indonesia, is one of nature's weird ones. It was huge, about five feet tall and expected to bloom in a few weeks. It can take up to ten years for its urge to reproduce, blooms up to thirty six hours and will not stir again for five or more years. What is so special about it? Well, when it blooms it stinks, reeks of rotting flesh which in its natural settings attracts its pollinators, carrion flies and beetles. A fascinating and repulsive plant!

Leaving for our last destination of the day was the Darwin Martin house, a Frank Lloyd Wright house, we crossed the Erie Canal and viewed lake front being reclaimed from industrial use into a pleasant walkway for all to enjoy. The house was built in a residential area of Victorian homes and mansions in the early 1900's in the architects' prairie style, large, well appointed and everything in the house had its place. The family lived there for many years until the Great Depression brought great changes and the home was abandoned, falling into a derelict state. A group of Frank Lloyd Wright admirers decided to try to save the house and later to completely renovate/rebuild to the original design, adjoining land was purchased and work begin. As you tour the home and realize how much has been done and the quality of the work, one can only admire such dedication.

Friday, June 22nd Our destination this morning are gardens in Buffalo that are part of the Buffalo Garden Festival held in July, when four hundred gardens are open to the public to view. The weather sunny, dry, fresh breeze, ideal for touring gardens. First area small cottage homes, built close to together, narrow gardens, small front garden and city berm called Hell Strips in Buffalo. Each home had rain barrels and a compost bin. One home had a garden made on concrete, everything was planned in pots alongside a narrow brick walkway, lush, green, healthy, stunning use of coleus to introduce shade colour. One home we visited had division of labour and style, the wife gardens in front of the house, the husband in the back. Onto a community called Elmwood, an area of larger houses, mostly wooden clapboard, some had field stone basements. Large trees created shade, lots of hostas, ferns, many container and potted plants to create colour in pockets of sunshine. One home that had been featured in Better Homes & Gardens magazine was especially lovely, a white picket fence, peonies, foxgloves, blue/white /yellow flowers, a fish pond with waterfall, massed daylilies, huge hosta plants and containers of colourful annuals. Thurman, a friendly Bassett Hound, kept us company in the garden.

Next stop, 604 Bird Avenue, high hedges at the front of the house conceal and shelter a beautiful, colourful garden, full of plants and flowers tumbling over one another like an English cottage garden. A large umbrella, table and chairs in a corner of the garden was surrounded by white flowers and a fence of plants in pot-trailing downward. A small pond and water fall adjoined a fun Tiki Bar and sitting area, walls covered with fun signs, art objects and "treasures". A robin had built its nest inside a shark jaw hanging from a fishing net above. We loved it all and thanked Gordon and Brian for welcoming us to their garden.

Onto lunch at the Osteria restaurant, back on the bus to cross the border via the Rainbow Bridge into Canada. The view from the bus afforded great views of both Falls and the small boats in the maelstrom below taking tourists up to the thundering waterfalls. Leaving the falls we traveled rural highways passing farmers busy cutting hay, winds turbines towering over them. Arriving an hour later, our skilled bus driver backed up a long track through fields of winter wheat growing each side, to the home of Beth and Ken Powell. Rain showers fell as Beth and Ken made us welcome to their

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