

Ann Arbor Garden Club

March 2010 Newsletter

From Nancy Hart, AAGC President:

Does spring always sneak around the corner like this? What a lovely week we have ahead of us with above freezing temperatures, sunshine, no snow – and lots of hope that winter is nearly over. It's a time to be torn between wanting to smell the warming earth and staying inside with no demands on our hands and backs.

Our March meeting is a seed starting demonstration hosted by Matthaei. It turned out that they were planning a program that was exactly like the one we had meant to do, so we paid the way of any club members who were interested in attending. The workshop is now full, so if you can't attend let Susan Beecher know so she can offer your place to someone else. 433-1798

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

As most of you know, we've had serious concerns about the need for more club members to do the behind the scenes work. If you've had any thoughts about wanting to be on a committee or hold an office, this is the time to volunteer. We had to limit our meetings this past year because of the fatigue of those who have been most active, and we're at a point where major changes will have to be made in the next year.

I have begun a very tentative conversation with the Ypsilanti Garden Club about the idea of merging the two clubs as a way of keeping our club vibrant in the coming years. They have invited us to join them for some meetings to see how comfortable the two groups feel together. Bonnie Ion had had similar talks with a few clubs while she was president, but they tended to have the same problems that we were facing.

As we approach our 80th anniversary, it would be very sad to see the club fold, but we have to be realistic about where the labor is to come from. Please send us all of your ideas for sustaining the club. The focus now isn't on designing compelling activities; it's on finding the bodies to do the work of making those activities happen.

OCTOBER meeting: "Collecting and Using Rain Water" This was a fascinating talk about ways to collect and reuse rainwater as a significant way of gardening "green."

Programs for 2010

March 13th – 10am to noon Matthaei: workshop on starting seeds indoors.

April 14th – 7:30pm Matthaei: "Our Dining Table's International and Native Guests": Native & Foreign Vegetables by Carol Broadbeck.

June 4th – 6:00pm Annual Dinner at Sharon Terry's: a potluck with the club providing a turkey. (*N.B.*, the date was mistakenly given as June 6th in the October newsletter.

District IIA Spring Meeting: Saturday, April 24th in Hillsdale, MI. This will be a significant business meeting as the state organization has been proposing that state dues be increased from \$5/member to \$10/member. Your board is strongly opposed to this as it would represent half of our club dues, and will be used, in great part, to offset past publishing losses. If this summary of the issue is inaccurate, I will definitely correct this impression in a May newsletter. I am reporting my most recent understanding of the financial problems facing the state organization.

Board meeting: Monday, April 12th at Sharon Terry's: come join us at 5:30pm for dinner and planning for the direction of the club for next year. Please note the change this year, we're having our final club meeting in June instead of May so we can enjoy Sharon's garden. If you haven't already, you'll want to see her water feature.

NEED HOSTESSES – Call Joanne Warner-Handelsman at 995-5894 to help with refreshments for the April meeting. Thanks!!

Electronic news in the 21st century.

Our state organization, Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. has gone to an electronic format. You can keep up with the state activities either by going directly to their web site: Michigangardenclubs.org, or by using the link from our site: annarborgardenclub.org.

Speaking of which, many many thanks to our web master, Robert C. Carter, for keeping us on line. If you haven't visited our web site lately you should. Robert has made links to many valuable sources.