

Ann Arbor Garden Club

March 2011 Newsletter

From Nancy Hart, AAGC President:

A Return to Gardener's Roots

Over the past few years we have been writing, meeting, and talking about the dwindling number of members able and willing to take on the behind the scenes work of the Ann Arbor Garden Club. Two years ago, I agreed to be president for two years to see whether some way of sustaining the club could be found. After numerous conversations during Board meetings (that were open to all club members), we think we've now found a way to sustain the club for the 2011-12 year and beyond. While it has become impossible to find those willing to maintain the club in its age-old format, a new-old vision for the club has emerged.

Starting with the 2011-12 year the Board is proposing that we change the club into what many garden clubs were in their infancies: casual gatherings of those who loved to garden and learn about gardening. The meetings will primarily be held in the home of members with a brief Board meeting before the presentations. Members are to choose a month where they will plan a meeting which can be in any format: meetings in that person's home with a topic they chose, a meeting at Matthaei with a major speaker, discussing a book about gardening, a road trip to some place of interest, or arranging for a workshop. We don't expect to use Matthaei more than a few times a year in this model. There won't be a yearbook, and there won't be a refreshment committee. The newsletter will still be sent, but on a quarterly basis. The new membership form will have a place to sign up for any month that you would like to organize, and we can have that list available by August. If you need funds to support your event you can request these from the board, but we are envisioning very simple formats for the most part. There will be a list of members with their contact information available and we will let everyone know who is in charge of which month and what they plan to do, but there won't be an elaborate Yearbook now. What we gain is much more time

just being with each other and learning about gardening together!

Our By-laws were recently revised and the only restriction we need to accommodate is that we meet at least eight times a club year. We do have someone willing to be the next president under this new, simplified model, but no one willing under the old. We hope this new format will help to revitalize the Ann Arbor Garden Club and we look forward to seeing everyone in the coming months.

We'll have plenty of time to talk about this at the April annual meeting.

Nancy

MARCH

Wed., March 9th 7:30pm

Scott Kunst of Old House Gardens speaks on "Heirloom Bulbs: Unique, Endangered, Amazing"

Matthaei Botanical Gardens

APRIL

Fri., April 8th Annual Dinner

Cocktails	6:00pm
Dinner	7:00pm

Ann Arbor Country Club*

*we are planning our end of the year dinner for Friday 4/8/11 at the Ann Arbor Country Club. We will be ordering off of the menu and drinks will be on your own as well. Since everyone will be paying for themselves we do not need any money, but we would like a head count by 4/1/11 so that they will know where to seat us. Please let me know if you have any other questions and if you are planning on attending. We hope you can make it!

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April 9th District IIa Meeting
See attached flyer for details and the charge is \$25.
Send your check to Susan Beecher so she can send just one check along to the Somerset Garden Club. It looks like an excellent program.

MAY

Sat., May 14th

12:00PM to 4:30PM

Flower Show: “Books in Bloom”

A small standard flower show

Pittsfield Branch – Ann Arbor District Library
2359 Oak Valley Drive
Ann Arbor, MI

Chair Marie Smith

Board meeting: March 7th, Nancy Hart’s: come join us at 6:00pm for dinner. Do remember that everyone is always welcome. It’s a nice way to get to know club members in a relaxed way.

We still need a new committee for electronic publicity. AnnArbor.com has offered us an opportunity to have a listing on their site, and the next generation of members will probably be contacting us on something like Face book. Are you that person who can develop a face book page for us?