

Thru the Garden Gate



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THRU THE GARDEN GATE

MGC, Inc.



MEMBER OF

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
AND
CENTRAL REGION GARDEN CLUBS, INC.



Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. mission is to provide education, resources, and network opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, floral and landscape design, and environmental responsibility.



www.michigangardenclubs.org

**Notification of the new passwords
 have been sent to the club
 presidents .**

Visit this resource for promoting
 the love of gardening across
 Michigan. We intend for it to
 support the informational
 enrichment of our garden club
 members and to invite you and
 others to join a garden club in your
 local community and experience the
 pure satisfaction of nature.

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CONVENTION MEMORIES



Carol Brodbeck

CONVENTION MEMORIES. The afternoon prior to the Annual Convention, Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc., the (MGC) Board held the “Bzzzz Michigan” with a Leaders Leadership-Development Mini-Conference that any member could attend. The major objectives were to have members dialog with MGC Board members to learn what all MGC, Central Region and NGC have to offer. In addition, the Board would learn of our members’ needs and ideas, identify potential board members and whether there is enough interest to have another conference in the future. We expected 35-50 attendees and was pleasantly surprised when over 140 attended. Twelve sessions were held over the four hours. Four different sessions in three rooms and each 45 Minutes long. Those attending could register for up to four of the twelve sessions. Two of the sessions were President’s Round Tables offering six topical tables where attendees could visit three for fifteen minutes each.

A quick scan of the completed evaluations clearly indicated that they wish to have another conference next year, but with longer sessions. Those attending are still remarking

how much they learned, how they enjoyed meeting others from across the state, and how they will encourage others in their clubs to attend next year. We are currently summarizing the completed evaluation forms to help us plan the next one. Thank you to the Board members who led and helped with the sessions and for all the members who attended.

District III truly outdid themselves in hosting a spectacular “Bzzzz Michigan—Celebrating Pollinators” 87th Annual MGC one-day Convention at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Kalamazoo on June 6. There was something for everyone packed into the day. It was almost overwhelming, from the numerous vendors; awesome speakers, Jacquelyn Warwick on “Bluebirds in the Backyard, Others in the Front!,” Ilse Gebhard on “Establishing Native Plant Gardens to Attract Butterflies,” Tom Small on “Using Native Plants to Restore Community in S.W. Michigan,” Heather Catania on “Turning Your Backyard into a Certified Habitat, Replacing Lawn with Native Plants,” and Brad Morgan on “General Fertility and Natural Gardening;” and a very fine, “What’s all the Buzz About” NGC Standard Flower Show. There were many informative exhibits; unique topiary centerpieces, tasty food, short business meeting, inspirational memorial service for those members who have passed, the giveaways, the presentation of very-deserving awards, and of course the halls were abuzz with excited, energetic, and chatting members. Thanks District III for doing an outstanding job and for all others who contributed in many ways!

At the Annual Meeting, the proposed MGC restated Articles of Incorporation and the totally-revised Bylaws were approved. The Bylaws now reflect the significant amendments that were made to the Michigan

Non-Profit Corporation Act of January 15, 2015. Your Board is now busily updating its Policies and Procedures and Job Descriptions to reflect the changes. They continue to work to come into compliance and streamline financial procedures and Board structure. The delegates also elected Lynn Keelan as District IIB Director. It was approved to change the name from “Annual Convention” to “Annual Conference.” Next year’s Annual Conference will be held at the Great Wolfe Lodge in Traverse City, June 4-6. At that time, President-Elect Janet Hickman will be installed as MGC President. Do save the date so you can be among the first attending MGC’s FIRST Annual Conference.

MGC now has a Native Plants patch designed by MGC’s Bees, Butterflies and Bird Chair, Nancy Smith (Thanks, Nancy). It is a three-inch embroidered patch with an iron-on back and features Michigan’s official wildflower, the Dwarf Lake Iris. This lovely wildflower is a miniature iris with showy, deep blue flower, but may be found with white or lilac flowers. It is a threatened species and found only around the Great Lakes region and occurs near the northern shores of Lakes Huron and Michigan in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Ontario, Canada. It grows close to Great Lakes shorelines in cool, moist lakeshore air and can be found on sand or in thin soil over limestone-rich gravel or bedrock. Stay tuned for information on ordering these patches for your programs/projects.



Dwarf Lake Iris

Top awards presented at the Annual Convention.

Congratulations to all who received awards at the convention either in the combined District Meetings or during the last session of the Annual Meeting and closing of the convention.



DISTRICT NEWS

DISTRICT I

RUTH MOLINE, DIRECTOR



Garden clubs meet in many free to inexpensive spaces. Meetings are held in members' homes, residential club houses, churches, community or senior centers, township halls, libraries, restaurants or some variation of several of those. Food is often a part of the meeting. Some clubs enjoy morning coffee, some meet over lunch and others treasure evening treats.

Paint Creek Garden Club (PCGC) meets at the Bellbrook Senior Living Community. Club members look after a couple of the gardens. They are particularly proud of the fenced Memory Garden available to residents who have dementia. Residents are always welcome to attend club meetings and often do. PCGC members can purchase lunch on their meeting day and are invited to events. Bellbrook recently celebrated its 30th anniversary. Several club members attended the festivities and enjoyed excellent food and musical groups. Paint Creek offers services to Bellbrook and Bellbrook allows the club to use their facilities. What a nice reciprocal relationship.

The 102 year- old Wayne Garden Club usually meets at the library. This year they have planned a series of field trips as their programming separate from their meetings. In July, they enjoyed a farm tour, lunch and a class at The Southern Exposure Herb Farm near Battle Creek. In August, they visited the home of a local Proven Winners employee who has used PW products to beautify his home and gardens. A Plymouth Nursery tour with a lecture on hydrangeas is their next program. And in October they have 2 more "program" outings. One of their club officers has several koi ponds in his gardens. Wayne GC's October program will be in his yard. The fifth field trip in 4 months may not be all about plants but it will be interesting. A guided tour of the Detroit Institute of Arts is the last of the scheduled "Programs Away from Home." That's thinking "outside the box" for some interesting programs and locations.



DISTRICT IIA CHRIS KOSAL, DIRECTOR

Autumn brings a different kind of beauty to our gardens, changing leaves providing color amongst our fading summer blooms. Fall also brings our fabulous District IIA meeting. Our Fall Meeting, Peonies and Pumpkin, will be held on Friday October 5, 2018 at the First United Methodist Church, 1200 North Ann

Arbor Street in Saline Michigan. Registration and coffee will begin at 9:00 AM. The meeting is being hosted by Saline Stone and Thistle. The morning program will feature Dr. David Michener, Assistant Curator at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, who will speak on growing peonies. Dr. Michener will also be available to sign copies of his most recent book. Wait, that's not all! The Sunshine Arrangers Guild will hold a small Standard Flower Show. Please bring your cut specimens of annuals, perennials, branches and/or herbs in a clear glass bottle or vase. In the afternoon, attendees will tour the show and then listen to a presentation on organizing your own flower show. If you need any further information, please contact Chris Kosal, District IIA Director, at chriskosal@gmail.com.

Many clubs were very active this summer with caring for community gardens, educating the community on the importance of pollinators, and sponsoring activities for children. Loch Alpine Garden Club members provided an opportunity for children (and visitors) to participate in a fun activity at Loch Alpine's community 4th of July event. The garden club provided ceramic flower pots, acrylic paints in red, white, and blue, potting soil, and marigolds for the children. Each child was able to paint their own flower pot, creating a design of their choice, and then garden club members assisted them with planting a flower in their pot and gave instructions on how to care for their marigold, which they were then able to take home. More than 25 children participated in this art in the garden activity.

I look forward to meeting everyone at our District meeting October 5th,

DISTRICT IIB

LYNN KEELAN, DIRECTOR

So many ideas so little time. District IIB is a buzz with activity. Unique to our district are the new Interest Groups. Our long standing IIB Designers was the inspiration to create other Interest Groups, IIB Photographers, IIB Crafters, IIB Quilters and IIB Youth Gardeners. Meetings have been held or are being set up to gather those with similar interests together to learn and share.

This past July, IIB Designers had a big challenge writing two flower show schedules, as this December we will hold our biennial December Flower Show involving our youth in addition to the annual March Flower Show at MSU. Both promise to be exceptional and well attended. We welcome all to visit these shows. Brighton Garden Club will be hosting our Fall District Meeting at Crystal Gardens, titled Avante Garden. With such a unique title the creative theme will amaze you and all attending will enjoy a wonderful time. In addition, the IIB Photographers will put on a photography show as outlined in the new Flower Show. Handbook at the Fall District Meeting. The

success of our specialty Spring Flower Show in conjunction with the Spring District Meeting was an inspiration to educate our members on this new photography category in flower shows.

The new IIB quilted banner will be on display with a square for each of our clubs, thank you Linda Mogyros. Our first IIB Outing was held in late August with members carpooling to the Tapper Gardens in Romeo. Mr. Tapper guided us over his beautiful creation filled with thousands of plants, ponds, sculpture in a small 4.5-acre area. We hope to plan other district wide outings to unique venues. Beehive Buzzes have returned for leadership guidance and camaraderie within the district. They were held in three areas of the district at varying times and days.



DISTRICT III

EVELYN FLYNN DIRECTOR



The 87th Annual Convention of MGC was held in Kalamazoo, Michigan at the Radisson Plaza Hotel on June 5 and 6. It went off without a hitch. The board meeting was on the morning of June 5.

The leadership conferences were held on the afternoon of June 5. There were many short sessions held during the two President's round tables. Because of the importance of the information, all present felt the sessions were too short and could have been lengthened to 30 minutes. It was great to meet the vice-presidents of MGC and learn of their responsibilities. Some felt the two financial sessions were invaluable to their clubs.

Day two opened the annual meeting. Awards were presented, the vendors were open for business, the silent auction started, the speakers

were presented, and the flower show was on display. What a great meeting! The keynote speaker, Brad Morgan of Morgan Composting, Inc. makers of Dairy Doo was a welcome surprise.

All speaker's themes were related to pollinators, attracting them and providing habitat. It was a jam packed second day. I'm not sure how we got everything in, but we did. The Kalamazoo Garden Council put on a Standard Flower Show on the same day as the annual meeting. Because the flower show was open to the public it drew attention to the council and the state garden club.



Memorial Service at MGC Convention.



A floral design commissioned for the convention



A silent auction item created by District III

DISTRICT IV

MONICA TAYLOR, DIRECTOR



KENT GARDEN CLUB NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK

Kent Garden Club celebrated National Garden Week, June 3-9, 2018 with a week full of very special events.

The first event, honoring our one hundred and five year old club, was a feature article in our Grand Rapids Magazine. We were very proud to share our purpose and service with our community. In addition to the print was a photo of several of our members working in the Kent Garden Club Memorial Rose Garden at the Grand Rapids Public Museum. Our community involvement is evident throughout the city and has remained constant throughout the years.

Several club members created a "Butterfly as Pollinators" display exhibit at our local library offering pertinent printed literature as well as exhibiting and donating four butterfly/pollinator books to the library including a copy of NGC's *The Saved Seed*.

On June 5th, many of our members gathered at the Grand Rapids Public Museum (GRPM) to prune, weed, and plant. We do this twice per month from April through November. In honor of our club and the week, two purple Siberian bearded irises were planted. The Siberian bearded iris is the city's and the club's official flower.

At the end of the week, three club members were honored with a visit to the mayor to receive a Proclamation from Grand Rapids Mayor, Rosalynn Bliss. The Proclamation contained seven articles acknowledging our club's service to the community, past and present, ending with Mayor Bliss proclaiming the National Garden Club Week, June 5, 2018 to be known as *Kent Garden Club Day* in the city of Grand Rapids.

Kent Garden Club is very actively involved in our local community supporting many versatile interests and having many helping hands.



DISTRICT V**SUE SODERBERG****DIRECTOR**

I became interested in flower arranging after our garden club had a workshop about it. I then looked for every

opportunity to create arrangements to improve my skills. Having worked a few years in a county medical facility, I was aware that some of the residents never had visitors and felt sad and deserted. How could I use my new interest in flower arranging to make people smile? At Christmas in 2013, I made 22 floral arrangements in cups and brought them to one of the nursing homes. I did this again in the following 2 months. At our first club meeting of 2014, I told members about the project and some offered to help.

I contacted the Ludington Senior Center and asked if we could meet there once a month to work on our project and they agreed. Initially, we were buying cups and mugs from thrift stores and yard sales, paying 25-50 cents each. Because our purpose was to cheer up residents of nursing homes, we called our creations "Cups of Cheer" and asked the nurses to pass them out to residents that needed cheering up. When we would bring in

a box of these arrangements, residents would say "Here comes the flower lady!" We had very positive feedback about the joy of the residents in receiving these miniature arrangements.

When members of the public found out about the "Cups of Cheer" we were creating, it caused a substantial increase in donations of cups and mugs. Ludington is fortunate to have Floracraft as one of its industries and because we were using lots of floral foam, I went to them, told them what our club was doing and asked if they would be willing to donate the floral foam. They readily agreed and have kept us supplied with the foam. Now our only expense is flowers. We buy around \$20 worth of flowers each month and supply our own greens and dried plant material to use as fillers.

One of our local flower shops is now selling us flowers at their cost after hearing about our project. In the flowering seasons we supplement the arrangements with flowers from our gardens.

Our goal is to make at least 36 arrangements per month and give a dozen each to the 3 major nursing homes in our area. Last Christmas we made 58! When we have a surplus of a dozen or more, we take them to a 4th nursing home. We also create an



arrangement for display at the Senior Center for visitors to enjoy.

Members love creating "Cups of Cheer". Usually 10 to 12 participate each month. It is very informal. We encourage new members to come so that we can get to know each other. It is a good way to introduce floral design to novices who then feel more confident to exhibit designs in our local flower shows. At this time our club has made over 1800 "Cups of Cheer" and we will be making many more in the future.

DISTRICT VI**MARJAN SAENEN****DIRECTOR**

Summer has brought joyous opportunities for me to visit with individual clubs.

May 8, I joined the *Mid-Michigan*

Flower Arrangers Guild for a special demonstration of cascading designs hosted by Kathryn Clary. A couple of days later there was a special pleasure in seeing the meeting location of *Chemical City Garden Club*. Creative 360 Stage, Studios & Gallery, is a unique and very attractive location. Dow Gardens horticultural specialist and friend of Michigan Garden Clubs, Chuck Martin spoke with great enthusiasm about the final plans regarding the Whiting Forest.

May 24 brought two representatives from *Evergreen Garden Club*, Anne and Sue, to my house for an early talk about the ins and outs of hosting a District Meeting.

On June 21, another beautiful day, the *Great Michigan Garden Clubs Inc.*

Lakes Gardeners hosted an outing to the Lavender and Fleece Farm on the outskirts of Midland. The welcome, the tour and the luncheon were thoroughly enjoyed by a sizeable group of wonderful gardeners.

Evening Bloomers Garden Club planned a lovely Garden Walk for July 8 where I took full advantage of the opportunity to chat with District VI gardeners!

Mount Pleasant Garden Club invited me to several planning sessions for the Fall District VI meeting on October 4, 2018. I trust that all clubs will have shared or will soon share with their members the *Call Letter* that gives details about speakers, location and times, registration information, that has been sent to all clubs in District VI. Many clubs were given "Save the Date" book marks. thank you goes out to all dedicated members of Mount Pleasant Garden Club.

July 13, 2018, Flower Show, Poppies, Petunias and Pollinators, reflecting a Wizard of Oz theme, is hosted by *Caro Garden Club* at St Christopher Parish Center on Frank Street in Caro.

July 21, 2018, Garden Walk, A Bouquet of Gardens, was hosted by *Lakeshore Garden Club of Lexington*



The **Grow and Share Grants** that were awarded in April 2018 have shared an update of the progress that is being made.

Evening Bloomer Garden Club, the Blue Star Memorial Plaque has been received and was on view during the Garden Walk.

Caro Garden Club reports that the pollinator plants are in the ground and growing! And

Port Sanilac Garden Club The advertising for the open to the public educational program scheduled for August 9, by DNR

Updated New Officers lists are coming in. Please send yours as soon as elections have been held.

A Gift to our Community

The Friendly Garden Club of Traverse City has planted their 31st "Logo Garden" in The Open Space of Clinch Park in Traverse City. Our first garden was planted in 1987 with a Sesquicentennial Theme. We have had wide variety of logos including sailboats, sunsets, swans, grapes and of course cherries. This year it is a flower and watering can to celebrate our Club's 95th anniversary. Our Civic Beautification Committee meets in the fall each year to select a design for following year. Once the design is selected the committee must grid the drawing to scale so that the correct number of each type of flower can be ordered. We must order in December so that we will receive full grown plants in time for Spring planting. Our order each year is usually for 4,500 – 5,000 plants.

After 31 years you can see that this is an enormous number of flowers (140,000) we have planted. Our Civic Beautification committee oversees the planting. They must measure and remeasure and chalk out the

design for planting each type of flower. After that work is done the entire club comes for planting day.

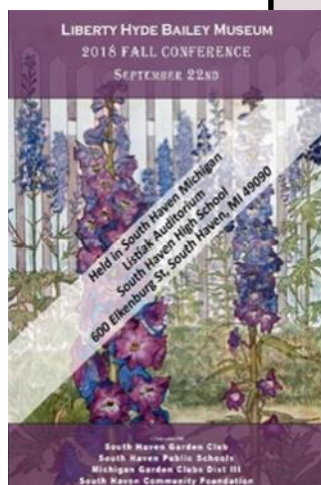
We weed once a week and we do have help from the city as they do the watering and they also prepare the soil for us before planting.

This is our gift to the city and residents of the Traverse City area. It is seen by thousands of locals and visitors each year and is probably one of the most photographed places in downtown Traverse City. We are able to plant and provide this garden each and every year as we use part of the profit from our Annual Garden Walk to purchase the large number of annuals we plant every year.



LIBERTY HYDE BAILEY MUSEUM FALL CONFERENCE

Submitted by ZADIE JACKSON



All Michigan Garden Club members are cordially invited to The Liberty Hyde Bailey Museum's 2018 Fall Conference, September 22, 2018 in South Haven, Michigan. Bailey's vision for the 21st century is the focus of the Conference along with his influence and scope of reach, the seeds of hope and inspiration.

Bailey was a monumental figure in the development of modern horticulture, agricultural education

and nature study. It is appropriate that the Conference is being held in South Haven where Bailey set his roots, learned from his father and the local Indians about stewardship and education to preserve the fertility and productivity of the soil and the overall health of the land.

The day-long Conference features keynote speaker, Dr. Douglas Tallamy, Professor of Entomology, University of Delaware; and author of *Bringing Nature Home*. The conference also features thirteen other expert speakers known for their knowledge of horticulture and environmental movement. MGC District III's fall business meeting will follow the keynote speaker. The day includes a continental breakfast, lunch, breaks, plus numerous exhibitors, vendors, gardening experts, and the opportunity to sit and talk with the speakers in the cafeteria.

The Conference Committee has added a pre-conference event on Friday, September 21st-an **Agri-Farm Tour/Scavenger Hunt**. This fun-filled day begins at the Bailey Museum at noon and ends with an Evening Event of music, food and drinks, the opportunity to enjoy Lad Hanka's art exhibit, a tour of the newly refreshed Museum's exhibits and a walk on the Museum's lovely grounds.

The cost for Saturday is \$30 and the cost for Friday is \$20. Online registration can be made with a credit card at www.libertyhydebailey.org. You have the option to print the registration form found on the museum's website, fill it out and send with check to the Museum. If you are coming some distance and would like to stay overnight, just contact the South Haven Visitors Bureau (269) 637-7696 or southhaven.org.

The Bailey Museum and the South Haven Garden Club are excited and so proud to carry on the legacy of South Haven's most famous son, Dr. Liberty Hyde Bailey. If you have questions or would like more information, please call Conference Chairperson, Joan Hiddema (269) 639-7696 or Zadie Jackson (269) 345-8768. Looking forward to seeing you in South Haven on September 22, 2018.

To learn more about who the speakers are and to view the schedule, visit the Bailey Museum website www.libertyhydebailey.org.

Black Swallowtail Michigan Senate Bill 298



Black Swallowtail Michigan Senate Bill 298 sponsored by Senators: Hertel, Young, Proos, Bieda, Stamas, Warren, and Conyers designating the Black Swallowtail as the official State of Michigan Butterfly, has been assigned since April 18, 2017, to the Senate Government Operations Committee chaired by Senator Arlan Meekhof, Grand Haven.

Staff from Senator Meekhof's office have advised Michigan Garden Club constituents in his district that there needs to be additional support for the Black Swallowtail from other like minded groups, as well as children's groups, to persuade the Senator to take up the bill for action in his committee. Michigan Garden Club members across the state have accepted the challenge and are enthusiastically promoting the Black Swallowtail at Garden Club events. Below is a list of activities Garden Clubs have done across the state to promote the Black Swallowtail:

District 1

- Educational exhibit at the Livonia Public Library, complete with Black Swallowtail brochures, bookmarks, coloring sheets and Black Swallowtail butterfly fans. You may order handouts by contacting Sue Leahy at leahys100@msn.com
- Presentations to local support groups such as the local Master Gardener's Association.
- Obtained a letter of support from Senator Hoon-Yung Hopgood that was added to the MGC website.
- Working with Southeastern Michigan Girl Scout Association and local troops to achieve an "Inside Michigan Government" badge by studying the Black Swallowtail and the legislative process to make it our official state butterfly. (More information is available on the MGC website under Black Swallowtail.)

District IIA

- Obtained a model letter of support from Representative Eric Leutheuser.
- Working with 9 schools to educate youth about the importance of pollinators; specifically, the Black Swallowtail.
- Held an Earth Day Celebration where they passed out brochures and information promoting the Black Swallowtail. Children's activities included the Black Swallowtail coloring sheets and butterfly fans.
- Photographed Senator Dale Zorn holding our Black Swallowtail Butterfly Fan while being presented with hundreds of letters of support for Senate Bill 298. Senator Zorn has committed to supporting the bill.
- Working with local Farmers Groups and Associations to gather support for the Black Swallowtail

District IIB

- Partnered with local Girl Scouts to decorate and distribute at the local Farmer's Market, Black Swallowtail fans. See MGC website for more information on this Girl Scout Partnership Model.
- Educational exhibit at the Lansing Home and Garden Show at MSU. Collected nearly 500 signatures of support and sold nearly \$200 in sales of Black Swallowtail Butterfly pins to the public. Hundreds of handouts were distributed and numerous inquiries were received on how to join a Garden Club.

- Educational exhibit at the "Say Yes to Michigan" event at the Michigan Historical Library. Suffragettes created a model ballot for children to vote for the Black Swallowtail.

District IV

- Clubs in District IV have written to their senators and asked them to support the bill.
- An article about the Black Swallowtail was published in the Ottawa Conservation District Newsletter.
- Kent Garden Club has approached various elementary schools in Grand Rapids, as well as, met and distributed SB 298 information to Michigan Science and Math teachers and also to Ground Swell teachers. Boy and Girl Scout organizations have been given materials.
- MGC members from District IV met with staff from Senator Arlan Meekhof's office and were advised to strengthen partnerships with other groups such as the Farm Bureau, Landscapers Association, etc.
- 80 3rd and 4th graders wrote letters to Senator Arlan Meekhof. One student presented in person, all 80 letters to Senator Meekhof.
- An educational poster was developed and used at various meetings and events.
- Several Clubs are working with schools in their districts.

District V

- 250 Black Swallowtail brochures and bookmarks will be distributed at the Charlevoix Flower Show.
- Obtained the support of Senator Jim Stamas as a co-sponsor of the bill.

District VI

- Presentation at the Frankenmuth Herbal Society Conference
- Table at the Master Gardener Conference Bad Axe
- Letter of Support obtained from the Green Thumb Master Gardeners Association
- Letter of Support from Senator Mike Green (see MGC website)
- Presentation to Saginaw Women's National Farm and Garden Association
- Contacted Girl Scouts of Saginaw, Services Unit Director re: Black Swallowtail Partnership
- Sent a request to three major seed companies to donate seeds for the 4 host plants preferred by the Black Swallowtail to distribute free at Black Swallowtail presentations.
- Staff a table at the Michigan Herb Association Conference.
- Presented the Black Swallowtail powerpoint at the Caro Library as well as, other venues.
- Attaching seed packets of Black Swallowtail preferred host and nectar plants to brochures for distribution at plant sales and other events.
- Thumb Community newspaper article about SB 298 promoting the Black Swallowtail as the official State of Michigan Butterfly.
- Proposed a statewide Black Swallowtail poster contest similar to the Smoky Bear/Woodsy Owl Competition.
- Several Garden Clubs in the District are educating youth groups about the Black Swallowtail utilizing the Black Swallowtail curriculum, power point, coloring sheets, brochures and fans available on the MGC website.
- MGC member, Peggy House has written a children's book featuring the story of the Black Swallowtail.
- Meridian Garden Club donated \$299 to publish Black Swallowtail bookmarks for distribution at Club events.

District III

- Obtained the support of Senator John Proos as a co-sponsor of the bill.
- Distributed Black Swallowtail preferred nectar and host plant plugs at Plant Sales
- Contacted various local nurseries requesting support of SB 298

TOP AWARDS Carol Beckius, Chair

District 1) Garden Club of Dearborn, Inc.

NGC Award CS-1 Community Gardens First
Garden Club of Dearborn, Inc. NGC Award EC-7 Organic Gardening Practices First

Livonia Garden Club CR Y1-5 Yearbook Award First

Livonia Garden Club NGC Yearbook (YB-5) 70-99 Members Tied for First Place

Livonia Garden Club MGC President's Award of Excellence for top-point coring yearbook of an large sized club that best highlighted MGC Pollinator Garden project. I

Taylor Garden Club NGC #Pub 1-2 Aiii Newsletter

District IIA) Eden's Garden Club NGC

Award CB-2, Certificate of Appreciation
Eden's Garden Club NGC Award G-2 Edible Gardening

Saline Stone & Thistle Garden Club NGC Tommy Donnan Certificate of Merit for 3-12 page Bulletin for Medium Club

The Little Garden Club MGC President's Award of Excellence for top-point coring yearbook of a small sized club that best highlighted MGC Pollinator Garden project.

District IIB) DeWitt Millennium Garden Club

CR Y1-4 Yearbook Award First Place
DeWitt Millennium Garden Club NGC Yearbook (YB-4) 45-69 Members (tie) First
Meridian Garden Club MGC, Highest combined number of attendees at MGC State or District Meetings/Conferences of all large-size clubs. First
Meridian Garden Club NGC CS-1 (aiii) Community Garden Certificate of Commendation

District III) Chula Vista Garden Club MGC

President's Award of Excellence PTIK04 Club with highest combined total number of attendees at NGC Conference, schools, symposium, and refresher of all large-sized clubs. First
Meeks Mill Garden Club CR # Pub 1-1 All Newsletter "Meeks Mill Messenger"
Meeks Mill Garden Club MGC Highest combined amount of attendees at MGC State or District Meetings/Conferences of all medium-size clubs First.

Petal Pushers Garden Club MGC

President's Award of Excellence PTIK04 Club with highest combined total number of attendees at NGC Conference, schools, symposium, and refresher of all medium- sized clubs. First
Tri-Cities Garden Club NGC Award #57, Standard Flower Show in Public Building "Flower Power the 60's" Certificate of Merit

District IV) Holland Garden Club MGC

President's Award of Excellence PTIK04
Kent Garden Club MGC President's Award of Excellence PTIK03

Kent Garden Club MGC President's Award of Excellence PTIK04 Club with highest combined total number of attendees at NGC Conference,
Garden Club of Dearborn, Inc. NGC Award CS-Award #57 Standard Flower Show in Public Building "Flower Power the 60's" Certificate of Merit
Holland Garden Club MGC President's Award of Excellence PTIK04
Kent Garden Club MGC President's Award of Excellence PTIK03

Kent Garden Club MGC

President's Award of Excellence PTIK04 Club with highest combined total number of attendees at Award #57 Standard Flower Show Public Building "Music of the Flowers" Certificate of Merit
Kent Garden Club NGC Award MP-3©iv Social Media/Website First

Kent Garden Club NGC Award HP1(A)if Historic Presentation First with \$100

Kent Garden Club NGC Overall Winner Award HP-1(A)4 Historic Preservation

West Michigan Flower Arrangers Guild CR Y6-A Yearbook Award First Place

West Michigan Flower Arrangers Guild MGC President's Award of Excellence PTIK03 Highest combined total of attendees at MGC state or District meetings/conferences of all small-sized clubs First

West Michigan Flower Arrangers Guild NGC Yearbook (YB-6a) First Place V Boyne Valley

Garden Club CR Y1-6 Yearbook Award First V
Mason County Garden Club NGC Award MP-3 (B) iii Social Media /Website First

District V) Petoskey Garden Club MGC

President's Award of Excellence for top-point scoring yearbook of an extra, large-sized club that best highlighted MGC Pollinator Garden project.
Portage Lake Garden Club/Spirit of the Woods Garden Club NGC Award #35 Near Club Standard Flower Show, "Toadily Marvelous" Certificate of Merit

District VI) The Friendly Garden Club of Traverse City NGC Award MP-3 (A)iii Social Media/website First

Caro Garden Club CR Y13 Yearbook First
Caro Garden Club MGC President's Award of Excellence for top-point scoring yearbook of an medium sized club that best highlighted MGC Pollinator Garden project.

Evening Bloomers Garden Club CR Y1-1 Yearbook Award First

Great Lakes Gardeners' CR Y1-2 Yearbook Award First

District IV MGC President's Award of Excellence for the district with the highest percentage of clubs submitting yearbook for an award PTD01 59%

District IV MGC, President's Award of Excellence PTD04 for the District with the highest combined total of members attending District meetings/conferences. 76%.

District IV MGC, President's Award of Excellence PTD04 District with highest combined total number of attendees at NGC Conference, schools, symposium, and refresher of all clubs. 53%

District V MGC President's Award of Excellence for the district with the highest percentage of clubs submitting Club President's Annual Report by March 1. 75%

Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.
 NGC Osa Mae Barton Scholarship Award to Melissa Kimberty Eggleston






Gardening School Series 19 --- Course II

Tuesday, Oct. 16 and Wednesday Oct. 17, 2018

Hosted by Eden's Garden Club

Course II to be held at First Presbyterian Church, 108 Washington Street, Monroe MI 48161

Subjects Covered: Reading: Chair Registrar/Treasurer GS MI Chair	Plant Diseases and Garden Pests Irrigation and Water Lawn Alternatives and Growing Grass "The National Gardener" Magazine (available on NGC Website) Liz Bohland, Charley Bohland, Marilyn Hartley-Kik,	Growing Fruit Growing Vegetables Invasive Plants lbohland@hotmail.com cbohland@gmail.com mkik@sbcglobal.net
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REGISTRATION

Name _____

Address _____ zip code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Garden Club or Organization _____ District _____

Full Time Registration:

October 16-17 (Lunch included) \$80 ☐

For National Garden Clubs, Inc certification- check either exam fee or refresher fee

Exam Fee \$5 ☐

Refresher Fee \$5 ☐

Single Day Registration:

Tuesday, October 16 (Lunch included) \$40 ☐

Wednesday, October 17 (Lunch included) \$40 ☐

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make check to MGC Gardening School and send to Registrar: Charley Bohland, 5166 N Custer Rd., Monroe, MI 48162

Dietary concerns: Gluten Free ☐ Vegetarian ☐ Other _____

****Register on or before Sept 30, 2018** *A \$10 processing fee is assessed if canceling after registration deadline.

(Any photos taken at this event may be used in upcoming informational and promotional materials. If you don't want your photo used, please notify the registration desk when you check in.)

Lodging Available: Holiday Inn Express 866-539-5066 Hampton Inn 866-538-6216

JANET MACUNOVICH SEMINAR, MASON COUNTY GARDEN CLUB,

All gardeners are invited by the Mason County Garden Club in Ludington to an all-day seminar with Janet Macunovich, renowned speaker and author of gardening articles and books. The Seminar will be held on Saturday, October 27, 2018, at the United Methodist Church, 5810 Bryant Rd. in Ludington. Time is 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM. We are excited to offer a full day experience with Janet including breakfast, lunch and morning and afternoon sessions. Janet's workshops are always informative and fun and this will be no exception!

The morning topic is: "How to Simplify Gardening to Save Time and Defy Age," focusing on ways to garden that will help us continue to

do what we love, as we get older. Janet will show us how to reduce the work you do in your yard and without losing the beauty, and how to keep it up even if physical abilities change.

The afternoon topic is: "Caring for Perennials, with an Emphasis on Fall in the Garden." Janet will discuss general perennial care along with Fall activities that will improve our gardens for the next year. The cost of this all-day seminar including breakfast and lunch is only \$25.00. There is limited seating, so please don't delay!

To register or get more information please contact:

Dawn Rollenhagen: rollen4890@yahoo.com or

Barb Doty: debar10@yahoo.com



Checks should be mailed to:

Mason County Garden Club, Janet Seminar,
P. O. Box 193, Ludington, MI 49431

LIFE MEMBER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD VIRGINIA FROELICH, CHAIR



It may be early for some of you, but I can't help but think the holidays will be here in no time. And along with that comes the need for gift ideas. What could be better than a Michigan Garden Clubs' Life Member Achievement Award, which has the added benefit of supporting MGC's scholarship initiatives?

It's easy to purchase a Life Member Achievement Award. Simply go to michigangardenclubs.org, click on "Join" and "Life Membership." If you need assistance, please contact me and I will be happy to provide you with the form, but be advised it may not download easily on some cell phones.

Please use the CURRENT form available on the website. The questions on the form are designed to ensure your recipient is recognized for a variety of contributions and accomplishments. And please allow 4-6 weeks for processing, because it will be holiday time at my house too, and that means cleaning, decorating, baking, shopping . . . well, you know the drill!

Please join me in congratulating these new Life Member Achievement Award recipients:

Bondy, Diana-Caro Garden Club
Burns, Marge- Kalamazoo Garden Club
DeBar, Sharon- DeWitt Millennium Garden Club
Ellison, Judy-Lowell Showboat Garden Club
Houghtaling, Barbara-DeWitt Millennium Garden Club
Miller, Judy-Livonia Garden Club
Northrop, Dick-Chula Vista Garden Club
O'Brien, Pat-Grosse Ile Garden Club
Ongena, Jeanette-DeWitt Millennium Garden Club
Rantz, Sue-Saline Stone and Thistle Garden Club
Roberts, Rita-Farmington Garden Club
Sebrell, Pat-DeWitt Millennium Garden Club
Szabla, Dianne-Farmington Garden Club
Thompson, David L-Lowell Showboat Garden Club
Thompson, Janice M.-Lowell Showboat Garden Club
Watson, Lolly- Grosse Ile Garden Club
Whitcomb, Marjorie Jean-Sherwood Garden Club
Wolf, Earl-Williamston Red Cedar Garden Club

Congratulations also to Lynda Foster, who received a NATIONAL Life Membership in April from the Williamston Red Cedar Garden Club.

We are about 100 days from the Central Region Convention with Michigan as the host for this year's event. The Convention will be held in Frankenmuth, Michigan at the Bavarian Inn Lodge. It is time for Michigan Garden Clubbers to step up and sign up to help make us proud of our efforts. The annual convention rotates between the seven states in the region and this is our year to show our best effort. Can we count on you to help make this "Michigan's October Fest" a success? To sign up to help, please contact Ronnie Dush, co-chair at ronniedush@gmail.com

Monday, Oct 21st there will be an NGC Specialty Horticulture Flower Show. We need Michigan garden members to enter. The schedule is attached so please sign up to enter today.

Please register early before the deadline of September 21, 2018 to avoid the additional \$20.00 LATE FEE. Check the MGC Website for the Registration Form, print, fill out and make your check payable to: CR 2018 Convention. Mail to: Lynn Dinvald, 6802 Springbrook Lane, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49004-9665. Her phone number is (269) 343-3827.

Hotel Reservations: Call Bavarian Inn Lodge, (989)652-7200 and ask for Michigan Garden Club, Group #12L7QB. Rates: \$104 standard double, \$114 premium double or King, \$179 per suite, double, triple or quad. Make reservations before 9/21/18 for group rate. Cancellation after October 1, 2018 will be assessed 10% fee. Any photo taken at this event may be used in upcoming informational/promotional materials. If you don't want your photo used, you will be asked to sign a form at the Registration Desk when you check in.

CENTRAL REGION CONVENTION Sharon Yantis, 2018 CR Convention Chair.



EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS

RITA CRAWLEY 3RD VICE PRESIDENT

I am excited to share with you some news and information I learned while attending our MGC events this Summer and travelling around the state. I made many new friends at the State Convention. I gained much more knowledge about judging and designing at the Flower Show Symposium. I was enlightened to hear about Michigan Heirloom seeds and plants, as well as learning about rain gardens, native plantings, soils and pollinators at the MCC tri-refresher.

Here are a few things that touched me the most. During lunch at the Flower Show Symposium we took the opportunity to discuss around our table what we do in our garden clubs to share our love and knowledge of gardening. Gardening in whatever sense of the word that may be. Some people talked about how they get together in their meetings and make *cups of cheer* to share with the neighboring nursing home. The *cups of cheer* are coffee cups that include a small bouquet of flowers. The club enjoys sharing their love of flowers with these residents a few times during the year, and the residents enjoy and look forward to receiving them. Another club talked about how they interact with the local Boys and Girls club and assist them with learning hands-on about gardening. The topic could be potting and growing a plant, or it might be putting together a small flower bouquet.

In my own garden, on my own time, I spend with my family. Once weekly my son and his family assist with weeding and harvesting the vegetables. I love the expressions, both facial and verbal, that my young grandson shares with me while we are working together in the garden. I have planted the seed of gardening love in my children and now I am helping them do the same with my grandchildren. I challenge you to plant a seed, either by friendship, knowledge or sharing your love of gardening. Youth are the future of gardening, help them grow.



Michigan Consultants Council: The 2019 Summer meeting will be held at Dow Gardens in Midland. A tour and walk upon the newly completed skywalk is planned. We will also include a speaker relating to Landscape, Environmental and Gardening. We look forward to seeing you, as we share along with you, knowledge and experiences with fellow MCC consultants.

The 2017 MCC Garden Walk awards were given at the MGC State convention held in Kalamazoo last June.

Here are the winners:

- 1st Place Small club – Evening Bloomers GC, Mount Pleasant
- 1st Place Medium club – The Friendly Garden Club, Traverse City
- 1st Place Large club – Charlevoix Area GC, Charlevoix
- 2nd Place Large club – Periwinkle GC, Frankfort
- 3rd Place Large club – TriCities GC, Ferrysburg, Grand Haven & Spring Lake

Each of the first place winners received \$100. For more information on how your garden club may apply for this award go to the [MGC website](#).

[Click on Education, then on MCC.](#)

Please submit all applications to me by November 1, 2018. I am still seeking a Vice President to assist with the MCC. Please contact me if you are interested.
rcrawley@dundecastings.com

Landscape School:

State Chairman, Doris Campbell will be hosting the next school series in District IV. Course I will begin in the Spring of 2019. For more information you may contact

Doris at campbell.doris.ann@gmail.com

Flower Design

by Marjan Saenen



Take pride in what we grow; take pride in what we show". This simple rhyme/slogan represents much of the enthusiasm that radiates from Kathy Clary when she talks about flower design. "Design" simply refers to the artistic principles of balance, dominance, contrast, rhythm,

proportion and scale. These artistic principles bring unity, beauty, artistry, learning, appreciation and enjoyment to any endeavor. The endeavor can be flower arranging design or garden design or architectural design, and even appreciation of paintings! Design has a wide range of applications.

How can members of Michigan Garden Clubs strengthen the practice and joy of including **design** in their club activities. Perhaps in recent years members have felt that the rules of design have become too complicated or members have lost the connection to the practice of flower design. Reality is that the rules of design have been relaxed; there is more freedom that allows

for personal creativity! So how can we regain the joy of flower design?

Actions that a club could take are:

- Invite a flower show judge as a speaker and demonstrator for one of your yearly programs;
- Have a mini show just for your club Members share with members, you don't have to have a major judged show that feels overwhelming to your club.
- Display a flower arrangement in a public place and advertise your club with a small sign
- Encourage a 10-minute presentation on the basics of design as part of your club program

A prepared set of 10-minute lessons were created years ago by Kathryn Clary and her team. These are still available. I intend to give a set of these mini lessons to each club at District VI Fall meeting on October 4, hosted by Mount Pleasant Garden Club.

Horticulture is great. Flower Arranging/ Design is great. Let's keep both as an appreciated and practiced art in our garden

Submissions to the Garden Gate

Submission date for the Winter *Thru the Garden Gate* is October 10.

Please send articles in **Word, unformatted, and left justified**. **Formatting** is tabbing, justifying, indenting, or otherwise doing it in a layout for printing. Send high res .jpg pictures, of at least 1mb, with identification.

Pictures may be inserted with the Word attachment and an identifier. Please **avoid** all .pdf files, if possible, or as a part of the email. If the original, like a form, was in Word, send it as is or convert it into a .jpg file. MS Publisher will not accept a .pdf file. It is another timely procedure to scan and convert it for use.

Thank you for your submissions. Due to space constraints, some editing may be necessary. Call or email if you have a question.

Barbara Best, publisher/business manager
Bernadine Bennett, editor/graphic designer



Our Michigan Garden Clubs have had a very busy spring and summer. In May, two memorials were dedicated. May 20, 2018, the **Quality Thyme Garden Club** dedicated its memorial in the Kalkaska Recreational Area as the closing ceremony for the Vietnam Memorial, "The Moving Wall" exhibit. The dedication ceremony held in front of the Moving Wall was very moving and impressive. Bagpipers, Coast Guard servicemen, City representatives and Michigan Garden Club Board members were present. Their memorial is number 93 in the state of Michigan.

The Looking Glass Garden Club held its dedication on July 8, 2018 at the "Broken Heart Memorial Flower Bed" at the Wacousta Cemetery. The garden originally was a wooded and underbrush area. The club has been working on this memorial site since 2011, clearing and cleaning the area. This was a tremendous undertaking for a club their size, but they pulled together and created a very beautiful heart shaped garden. The garden shaped like a heart was chosen to represent their love for the community and those who have/are serving in the military. The path creates a broken heart, representing the sacrifices made by those who have served. Many of

the perennials were chosen for their colors and many plants are native to Michigan. There is always something blooming. This is a stunning and appropriate garden for their Blue Star memorial. This memorial is number 95 in the state of Michigan.

There are three more dedications scheduled this year.

July 27, 2018, Tri-Cities Garden Club, Grand Haven dedicated two memorials, a Blue Star and a Gold Star Memorial. This will be Michigan Garden Clubs' first Gold Star Dedication

October 10, 2018, Evening Bloomers Garden Club will dedicate a memorial in Mt. Pleasant

November 11, 2018, Charlevoix Area Garden Club and Charlevoix Evening Garden Club will hold their dedication in Charlevoix

Information on the above dedications can be found on the MGC website calendar. Please contact Judy Lindemulder, lingale2@aol.com for any questions.

May we never forget the men and women, past, present and future who serve to keep us free!

ROCKFORD GARDEN CLUB BLUE STAR

On Monday, May 28, the Rockford Garden Club, District IV, dedicated our garden by the dam on the Rogue River as a Blue Star Memorial Garden. Mary Blakeslee, club President and many Rockford Garden Club members as well as community leaders and neighbors from the Rockford, Michigan area were in attendance. Three state garden club officials also participated in the ceremony, Carol Broderick, Michigan Garden Club President, Monica Taylor, District IV Director, and Judy Lindemulder, State Blue Star Chairman.

Boy Scout troop 264 began the ceremony with the presentation of colors and the pledge to the flag. Pastor Petersen from St. Peter's Lutheran Church did the invocation. Local veterans and the VFW were asked to come front and center to see the unveiling of the plaque. A local soloist sang *Where Have All the Flowers Gone*, followed by a gun salute by the Kent County Honor Guard. The ceremony ended with two of the Scouts playing *Taps*



Gardening and Conservation

Sharma Zollinger



Make friends who garden:

Have a plant exchange with your friends or a seed swap party in the fall and invite all your green thumb friends. Have each person bring samples from their gardens and trade plants. If you can buy inexpensive seeds in bulk, the seeds will be cheaper, you can split them among your friends.

Plan, Plan, Plan:

Cheap gardening is all about being prepared. Before shopping, make a list of must-have plants for the season. Include plants you will care about a few months from now, so splurge only on these plants. Next, map out your garden ahead of time so you don't have any guess work while shopping.

Compost:

Composting makes more financial sense than buying fertilizer and is considered the "Gold" of the garden. When composting, do not add dairy, grease, meat, colored newsprint or weeds and any plants that vine. Use green and brown layers when building your compost

pile. Your green layers should be made of grass clippings, vegetable and fruit scraps from the kitchen. Dead leaves are suitable for the brown layer and you will be well on your way to a compost pile that provides cheap and nutritious/healthy plants.

It is all about the seeds:

Seeds cost significantly less than seedlings or plants and with a little tending, they can become just as fruitful and full of bloom. Start your seeds off in make shift containers like, old butter tubs, empty paper egg cartons, then when they are ready transfer your seedlings to the ground. At the end of the growing season gather your seeds for more inexpensive gardening next year.

Buy your plants outside the nursery:

Do your homework and see if you can find plants a local plant sale. Your local garden clubs are a great way to find many inexpensive plants. Your local newspaper can be an additional resource for plant sales by garden centers and nurseries, individuals and

local botanical gardens. Craigslist.com is another resource for plant sales, too. Also try your hand at potting up plant cuttings from your lovely perennials for planting in your garden the following year.

Don't get too fancy with your gardening tools:

Unless you are a full-time gardener, you probably do not need to spring for the 18-piece, all-purpose gardening tool kit. Keep an eye out for yard sales that have gardening tools. Sometimes a gardener is downsizing and moving to a condo and are letting go of their gardening tools. Keep it simple when you are gardening on a budget. A shovel, spading fork, a hoe, a trowel, gardening shears can go a long way in ma modest garden.

Don't let the cost of gardening keep you out of the dirt this year. Cheap gardening is fun and easy.

Happy Gardening from your "Gardening a Conservation Committee"



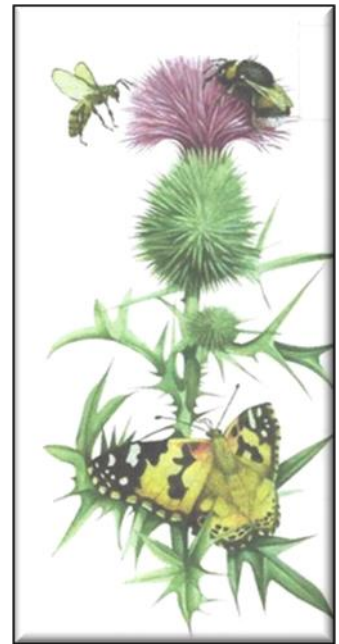
“The Secret Garden Hike in Michigan Will Make You Feel Like You’re in a Fairytale.” So reads the headline in a recent posting on the www.onlyinyourstate.com/michigan/secret-garden-hike webpage. Check it out and find lots of photos. The article continues: “There’s one hiking area here in the Great Lakes State that features an undeniably charming atmosphere, and you’ll surely want to visit for yourself.” I couldn’t agree more! The new maps are now available, the weather will cool down and the late summer blooms will be out in the prairie. Fall is a great time to visit!

Clubs continue to be supportive of this wonderful MGC/Forest Service project. Your generous donations are so important in keeping up this “hidden treasure.” The following clubs have donated to the MGC Loda Lake Fund since last March: Mason County Garden Club, Tri-Cities Garden Club honoring speakers, Petal Pushers Garden Club, Kent Garden Club, Williamston Red Cedar Garden Club, Saline Stone & Thistle Garden Club, Chula Vista Garden Club, Garden Club of Greater Lansing, Blue Water Garden Club and Garden Club of Dearborn.

The following donations to the Loda Lake Sanctuary Endowment Fund have been matched by the Fremont Area Community Foundation: Ken & Marilyn McIntosh, Lynn Dinvald and Karen Motawi in memory of Jack Higgins, Karen Motawi in memory of Lynne North Spencer and Betty Godbold, Jackie Kinsman and Zerita Hagerman in memory of Dr. Muriel Chapman and Brighton Garden Club in memory of Cynthia Duby and Emil Engel.



Donation forms are available for download on the MGC website, www.michigangardenclub.org. Remember that if you designate your contribution as a memorial, it will be matched at the 100% level and set aside for future improvements.



“WHAT’S ALL THE BUZZ ABOUT”

We think you know now what the “Buzz” was all about and we hope you enjoyed the labor of love the committee had on arranging the results.

So many, both Convention attendees and outside guests visited the Flower Show.

THANK YOU

We hope we were able to fulfill the purpose to educate, stimulate and provide an outlet for creative expression and to convey National Garden Clubs goals and objectives.

Hard work, research and funding with an MGC District IIA Grant brings great results. Stone and Thistle Garden Club, Chris Lapinski

The members of the Saline Stone & Thistle Garden Club #401 reviewed the list of possible awards and decided to combine those requirements into one flower bed and designed educational signs for the garden. The committee received \$150 from the Club and requested another \$140.96 for District IIA Grant. This bed is along a woody path on an old rail road trail and the PIP section is about 440sf. The whole bed is about 1,200 sf. We visited the reuse and resale shops, garage sales and even did some trash-day gleaning to reduce expenses.

After a year of manual labor to remove huge invasive shrubs, vines and poison ivy we were ready to add compost, wood chips and our carefully chosen plants. Our plant criteria are deer and rabbit resistant, allelopathy sensitivity (black walnut), bee and butterfly plants, pink flowers, drought tolerant, sensory plants, perennials, native and available locally. Some of the plants and bulbs we bought were mislabeled and needed to be changed midseason, but we persevered, even after hoodlums vandalized our Breast Cancer Awareness statue.

We set up a display table, twice a week, and encouraged visitors to stop for pink lemonade and cookies as we talked about the club and the purpose for this bed. They were given a handout with club

membership info and a list of the plants at this site. During this time, we watered, weeded and deadheaded.

We are still working on the removal of invasive vines and the poison ivy. Our efforts removing the buckthorn, autumn olive and garlic mustard have been successful.

Interesting conversations begin when joggers and dog walkers enthusiastically complimenting us on the ever- changing display of colorful blooms. The children enjoy the garden by sniffing the lemon thyme and lemon balm, licorice scented hyssop, monarda, basil, parsley and feel the fuzzy lamb ears, all under the careful supervision of their parents. We are usually able to name the butterflies and birds and discuss their needs with all who stop and chat. Even the City has noticed our efforts to beautify this walkway as we have been nominated for a Green Thumb Award



GIRL SCOUTS AT ANNUAL DISCOVER! KENT GARDEN CLUB

On Saturday, May 19, Kent Garden Club (KGC) members volunteered their time and knowledge to mentor Girl Scouts at the eighth annual Discover! Event at Hansen Nature Trail in Millennium Park. Two hundred plus people attended including fifty scouts and some ten parents.

The KGC involvement with the Discover! Event began with a few members volunteering to put to good use their Master Naturalist training. Over a very short period of time, KGC's commitment has evolved into a very special and expanded partnership with the Kent County Parks, Shore to Shore Girl Scout troops, the Master Naturalist community, and the Michigan Garden Clubs.

To increase exposure and attendance at this very worthy event a Michigan Garden Clubs (MGC) Native Plant Patch was created that could be completed at the Discover! Event. KGC members developed a curriculum in line with the goals of the MGC patch about how native plants are important to all flora and fauna. Scouts were expected to go through the Discover! Docent Station circuit, learning about and discussing with experts about native plants and their relationships with invasive species, wetlands, wildlife, pollinators, the food web, fossil fuels, and settlers. Hansen Nature Trail has 95% of the original plant and animal life indigenous to Western Michigan. The attendees asked questions and applied knowledge they learned at twelve different



docent stations exploring the concept of the importance of Native vs. Invasive species. They completed a written summary about their perceptions and knowledge gained that they can use for later. KGC members who are also Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists and River City Wild Ones (specialists in Natives) mentored the scouts and at the end planted 50 native plants in the park that were purchased by KGC. When all the requirements were completed, including the promise to network what they had learned, scouts took home the beautiful MGC Native Plant Patch.

PEGGY HOUSE YOUTH AWARDS CHAIR

MGC Leadership Development Mini Conference Round Table

2018 has been a winning year for MGC Youth Contests. NGC has joined hands with the US Department of Agriculture Forest Service to participate in several contests. Smokey Bear - Woodsy Owl Poster Contest includes first through fifth grade kids with original drawings of Smokey or Woodsy, encouraging fire prevention or caring for the land.

A total of 1,930 children participated statewide in the poster contest. Ten clubs judged 570 posters rendering five winners who went on to win awards at Central Region. Our state winners included **Elsie Lang** 1st grade-Swan Creek GC, **Faye Hollosy** 2nd grade-William Red Cedar GC, **Joshua Masserant** 3rd grade-Swan Creek GC, **Leah Mohammad** 4th grade-Dearborn GC, and **Jessica Munk**, 5th grade-Williamston Red Cedar.

The Youth Sculpture Contest awarded 12 certificates to 4th-8th graders from both the Rainbow Lakes and Green Thumb Garden Clubs, while the Poetry Contest applauded a first place winner, 6th grader **Landyn Crance (Green Thumb GC)** whose poem was published in NGC's Poetry Anthology. And finally MGC sent one high school essay winner on to Central Region. **Hope Mousseau from Caro Garden Club** won a second place at Central Region.

Interested in sponsoring a youth contest this fall? Check out NGC's website at <http://www.gardenclub.org/youth/youth-contests/smokey-bear-poster-contest.aspx>, or contact MGC Youth Awards Chair, Peggy House at peggyannhouse@yahoo.com.

MGC Youth Activities Chair

Ronnie Dush

MGC Leadership Round Table



On June 5th, 2018 I had the pleasure to host a "Youth Activities" round table at the MGC Leadership Development Mini-Conference. This consisted of three, fifteen-minute sessions with a total of eighteen MGC members from all our districts. This being the first time doing something like this, I was not sure how it would go. I am happy to report the one thing almost everyone said was, "15 minutes was TOO short a time!"

All attendees were very enthusiastic in the discussions and comments. As the host, I led the discussion with several lead questions: attendees questions; attendees suggestions; What's working well?; Areas of improvements needed; and "any other comments".

Some comments under attendees questions were: *Don't know how to get involved with children; What does MGC expect from its members?; Have G.S., E.S., and L.D. club consultants get involved with their club members who are involved with children*".

Under attendees suggestions was: *Identify books, lesson plans to use to teach kids/youth planting projects*

Under What's working well? were: *Bringing area gardens back to life utilizing kids/students; Utilize area libraries to promote studies for kids; One member's club said, "utilizing middle/high school/honor students working with teacher on doing "things" during their lunch times"*.

Under Areas of improvement needed were: *Get more school teachers involved, somehow; Connect and partner with other groups or agencies.*

Under Other Comments: *We should have club members attend and request support from our school boards, township meetings, etc."*

Please send me that type of information (ronniedush@gmail.com) I would like this information from ALL MGC clubs in addition to those who attended.



Calendar of Events

To post events directly on the calendar, visit the MGC website at michigangardenclubs.org *Click on *Calendar* at the top of the page and click on *Submit Event*.

Evening Club.

Sept 5 - MGC Finance Committee
1-3 PM Trinity Church, Lansing

Sept. 5 -MGC Executive Meeting.
Trinity Church, Lansing 3-5 PM

Sept. 6 -MGC Board Meeting,
Trinity Church, Lansing 8:30 –
5:00 PM

Sept. 19- District V Fall Conference
Shanty Creek 9-4 Bugs and
Roses MGC District V Fall Leadership Conference

Sept. 22- Liberty Hyde Bailey Museum's
Fall Conference District III
South Haven, MI

NGC Fall Board Meeting, Orlando, Florida

Oct. 4- District VI Fall Conference
8-5 Mt. Pleasant Garden Club

Oct. 5- District IIA Fall Conference/
Flower Show, Saline, MI.
First UMC Saline.

Oct. 10- District 1 Fall Conference
9-2:30 Farmington Hills, MI

Oct. 10- Evening Bloomers Garden Club
dedicate a memorial in
Mt. Pleasant

Oct. 11- District IV Fall Conference
8-5 Grand Haven, MI

Oct. 16-17-Gardening School Series
19 Course II. First Presbyterian Church,
Monroe, MI. Edens's Garden Club

Oct. 21- NGC Specialty Horticulture
Flower Show CRC Frankenthum, MI

Oct. 22-23- October Fest, Central
Region Convention at Frankenthum,
MI.

Oct. 27-All-Day seminar, Janet
Macunovich, UMC in Ludington,
Mason County
Garden Club 8:30 to 3:30

Nov. 7-MGC Finance Committee

Nov. 8- MGC Board Meeting.

Nov. 11- Charlevoix Area Garden Club
and Charlevoix Evening Garden Club
will hold a dedication in
Charlevoix, MI.

Details of these events can be
seen on MGC website.

Dates: June 5th and 6th,
2019

Location: Great Wolfe
Lodge, Traverse City

Convention Theme:
Beauty and Balance,
Earth and Water



District V invites all Michigan Garden Clubs to the 2019 MGC State Convention at the Great Wolfe Lodge in Traverse City.

We are planning a fabulous two days, plus, there are many wonderful things to do in the area and wonderful restaurants, so why not extend your stay to enjoy the weekend. Don't forget the \$99 room rates can sleep up to 6 people, meaning that 6 people could share the price of \$99, at the rate of \$17 per person. Where else can you pay \$17 for a hotel room?

What you can expect:

- Room Rates \$99.00 (sleeps up to 6 people)
- Seminars and Workshops both days
- Speakers at both luncheons and banquets
- Exceptional Vendors and Exhibits
- Gorgeous Silent Auction Baskets to support the MGC Scholarship fund
- Gorgeous Invitational Designs
- Outstanding Table Designs
- Menu's both days with will tempt your palette
- MGC Exhibits and much more.

Hope to see you at the convention in 2019
Sharma Zollinger and Terry Harding, 2019 State

