



Thru the Garden Gate

Spring 2018

Volume VI, Issue III



*The official publication of Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. Member of Central Region
Garden Clubs, Inc. and National Garden Clubs, Inc.*



Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.
 Official Publication
 A 501(c)(3) Organization

Thru the Garden Gate
Bernadine Bennett,
 Graphic Designer/Layout
**Barbara Best, Publisher/Editor/
 Business Manager**
 mgc.gatenews@yahoo.com

Website
 www.michigangardenclubs.org
Charley Bohland, Webmaster
 michigangardenclubs@yahoo.com

Calendar of Events
 Use *Submit Event* button on website
 calendar

Carol Sue Brodbeck
 President
 "Grow and Share"
 734-434-3795
 mgc17president@aol.com

Janet Hickman
 1st Vice President
 989-631-8021
 jhickman@charter.net

Jean Goetz, 2nd Vice President
Rita Crawley, 3rd Vice President
Sharma Zollinger, 4th Vice President
Jane Morse, Recording Secretary
Jenny Bond, Corresponding Secretary
Rosemary (Bunny) LaDuke, Treasurer

Marilyn McIntosh
 Advisory Council/Nominating Committee
 edelweiss@centurylink.net

Mary Pulick,
 Database Processing Manager
 mgc.rosters@gmail.com

Nancy Hargrove
 President, NGC, Inc.
 "Plant America"
 inbleum@comcast.net

Fran Stueck
 Director Central Region
 Garden Clubs, Inc.
 "Partners in Planting America"
 franstueck@yahoo.com



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.



What's the Buzz About?"

A Standard Flower Show, will be presented at the 2018 Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. annual convention.

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Cover picture by Gerald Richmond-
 Printed with permission from Bill Fullmer

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT



While experiencing a “true Michigan” winter, we most likely either migrated south to find warmer weather or lost ourselves looking through gardening catalogs, reading gardening magazines, and jotting down ideas for our personal gardens this year. I trust that your plans include pollinator gardens, either by establishing a new one or enhancing one by adding plants for their babies to chomp on. Other ideas are creating containerized garden (pot, hanging basket, window box, etc.) or installing other items for pollinators (e.g., bee houses/hotels). Hopefully your plans also include changing your gardening practices to more-pollinator-friendly methods, such as using floating row covers on vegetables to prevent the laying of eggs and reducing the use of pesticides.

However, please don't stop at your property line. Invite your family, neighbors, friends, and fellow members of other organizations to do the same. If they are interested, but know nothing about gardening, you may wish to show them how to plant a container. For those artistically inclined, you might suggest that they paint or take photos of their gardens or visiting pollinators.

Children may be excited about creating their own butterfly garden. Can you imagine their glee this summer as they spot a Black Swallowtail caterpillar feeding on the parsley or observing the adult emerging from the chrysalis and then sucking nectar from the flowers? One of these children may pursue a career in “plantology” or “bugology” because of your efforts.

If you have family reunions, neighborhood parties, or other group



Carol Brodbeck

events in the summer, you may wish to invite them to bring flowers or vegetables from their gardens, or photos of their gardens or pollinators/birds along with the name of the plants. These could be on a table along with their name where all can be viewed easily. Others may bring flowers from their gardens for centerpieces on the tables. By doing so, you have created a simple garden show (aka flower show) a great way for guests to share and to learn.

These activities also provide a perfect opportunity for informing others of MGC's initiative in promoting the Black Swallowtail as Michigan's official butterfly and encouraging them to support this by writing their Senator. If each member of your club does the same, your club will have made an incredible impact in your community in carpeting Michigan with pollinator gardens and could apply and WIN various MGC President Award of Excellence awards **and** making the Black Swallowtail our official State Butterfly.

I am enjoying your yearbooks, newsletters, and President's Report/Club of Distinction forms--and learning about Michigan Pollinator Garden projects that are helping to carpet Michigan and efforts in promoting the Black Swallowtail butterfly initiative.



Thanks for all that you do in your communities and for MGC, CR, and NGC. We truly appreciate you!"

JANET HICKMAN, 1ST VICE-PRESIDENT



Club Delegates for The MGC Annual Meeting

It may seem like a long way off, but our state convention is just around the corner, and it's time to start planning. As attendees, we all tend to get wrapped up in the

learning opportunities, presentations, tours, seeing gardening friends from around the state, and yes, the shopping. But there is another very important component to our yearly convention and that is the Annual Meeting. This is when the primary business of MGC is conducted: learn how our finances stack up; find out which clubs earned awards; vote on by-law changes; and, in odd years, elect new officers. To conduct that business, we must have a quorum of members in attendance.

To maintain fair representation, each club has a certain number of delegates available to them, depending on the size of the club:

- * **Less than 50 members, 2 delegates**
- * **51 – 100 members, 3 delegates**
- * **101 + members, +1 delegate for each additional 10 members**
- * **In addition, former MGC, Inc. Presidents and members of the current Board of Directors are also delegates.**

It is ultimately the club president's duty to name the delegates, but they also need each member's help. If you're thinking about going to the convention this June, let your club president know.

Club presidents, make sure to send the delegates list on time. We are striving to make the credentials process run smoother this year!

Finally, if you attend the convention as a delegate, be sure to attend the annual meeting, and don't forget to share what you have learned with your club.



DISTRICT NEWS

DISTRICT I

RUTH MOLINE DIRECTOR



Garden clubs maintain many community gardens which offer educational experiences for club members and the public. Clubs support youth and take projects to assisted living residences. We share and sell plants to the gardeners in our communities. We stage flower shows in summer and winter greens events in December. Sometimes a continuing project is a surprise.

Deeplands Garden Club community project began in 2012 when the club was invited by Holy Cross Children's Services to design a landscape plan for the sign at the entrance to their campus. The club expected to plan and plant with the teenage wards of the court who lived off campus and were transported each day to attend the school. The girls would then, with DGC guidance, take care of the plants. The DGC provided garden gloves and tools and taught the girls how to use them.

The first plantings were installed in the spring of 2013. That first year the club also provided daffodil bulbs so each participant could plant and care for her own plant. Of course there were successes and failures. Plants died. The 2013 plantings did not survive the 2014 winter. Girls were present

for one activity but replaced by someone new at the next event. The girls had no knowledge of plants, some had never even touched a flower, and needed to be taught plant and herb names and basic information about caring for plants.

New shrubs and perennials were planted in 2014 with the girls digging, weeding, planting and watering in the new species. Deeplands members decided to continue the project.

The girls now live in the Bowman House, a group home where there are always between 11 and 13 or more transient residents. Yes, they still garden, but DGC has expanded their involvement.

DGC members have voluntarily donated items for Christmas baskets for the girls—books and magazines, jewelry and scarves, hats and mittens, pajamas, cosmetics. One Valentine's Day they taught the girls to make origami flowers. Another February activity involved hydroponics. After instruction, sweet potatoes and avocados were planted in water-filled plastic containers decorated by the girls. The plants would be planted outdoors.

Field trips have been popular. Lots of verbalization, interaction and food included. DGC members and the girls have toured Belle Isle Conservatory, Ford House, a docent guided tour at the DIA during a spring break, an August trip to the Grosse Pointe War Memorial Trial Gardens and Veterans Gardens. The most recent field trip was to a live production of "A Christmas Carol" at the Bonstelle Theater.

I've saved one of the most surprising horticulture activities for last. One DGC member has incorporated flowers and herbs, touching, smelling, studying, and many other nature elements into yoga lessons.

Isn't it amazing how one garden project can grow and expand? And how many wonderful ways a club can share horticulture.

District IIA

Chris Kosal, Director



We welcome spring in District IIA by looking forward to an active spring and summer season.

Hillsdale Garden Club had a lovely Christmas Tea I was fortunate enough to attend. The annual event was

held at beautiful Grosvenor House in Jonesville, Michigan. President, Mary Moore gave out awards to members, including life time awards. Mary is our District IIA representative of the Black Swallowtail committee and we are grateful to her for taking on this role in our district.

Lotus Garden Club of Monroe dedicated a Blue Star Memorial and a red, white and blue garden. The annual Lotus Tour will take place Saturday, July 28. Jeanne Micka is president of the Lotus Club and is available to speak to your club about the American Lotus and its role in the historical environment.

Eden Garden Club continued partnership with the Dorsch Memorial Library in downtown Monroe by decorating a pollinator Christmas tree. The club donated 19 children's books containing important

information on the role insects play in pollination. Congratulations to Chris Lapinski and the members of **Saline Stone and Thistle Garden Club** on receiving the MGC Club Grant to fund their "Plant it Pink" pollinator flower bed.

Good Thyme Garden Club participated in the Festival of Trees held at Concordia University in Ann Arbor. The tree purchased, donated and decorated, was sold at a silent auction with proceeds given to the scholarship fund at the University.

Many thanks to all who participated in the District IIA survey. I plan to use the information from this survey to better serve the clubs. I challenge clubs to invite another club to one of your meetings by making a personal phone call to them. A personal contact goes a long way in getting people interested in what you are doing.

Remember: No one of us can do what we all can do together.



DISTRICT IIB

LYNN KEELAN, DIRECTOR



District IIB has a busy schedule for spring 2018. We are happy to still be our own district and will have our usual March Flower Show. *We Love Michigan* will be held at the MSU Pavilion in East Lansing on March 15-18, 2018. The NGC Standard Flower Show showcases our talented members in Design, Horticulture, Botanical Arts/Design and Educational exhibits, It is part of the Greater Lansing Flower Show and is full of new ideas for home improvement and gardening.

The **Spring District Meeting** will be held on April 18, at Eagle Eye Banquet Center in Bath. Many clubs will contribute to make this gathering fun and educational. We have added a Horticulture Specialty Flower Show, to our District Meeting this year. Time to show off those homegrown bulbs.

Our **Design Group** will meet on April 24, at DeWitt Fire Station. A flower show will be held during our meeting, featuring new designs added to our 2017 handbook, We are challenging our creativity to think outside the box.

Many thanks for all the support I have received from my steering committee, Peggy Bryson, Barb Ketchum, and Sue Wittick. Thanks to

Lois Snover Hanson for her continuing great job as Flower Show Chairperson. She and everyone have helped in so many ways. Thank you, all.

May will find us in our gardens, shopping at nurseries or at the NGC Convention in Philadelphia

The **Meridian Garden Club** dedicated their *Plant It Pink Garden* in a brief ceremony. The names of women, survived or succumbed to breast cancer and those commemorated with engraved bricks in the garden walk, were read aloud. Members of the committee hung a pink ribbon in the trees for each woman. The president of the Michigan Garden Clubs, Carol Brodbeck, joined us for the ceremony and praised our efforts in her remarks. Members of the committee, as well as donors to the project, were recognized.



Meridian Garden Club

Plan to grow a garden, a planter or a house plant, and your mind along with it

Happy Spring!

DISTRICT III

EVELYN FLYNN, DIRECTOR



(MGC) District III, to host BUZZZ MICHIGAN CELEBRATING POLLINATORS Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. 87th Convention at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Kalamazoo, June 5 and 6, 2018.

The morning of the day prior to the MGC Convention/Annual Meeting, Tuesday, June 5, the Finance Committee, Executive Committee and Board meetings will be held at the Radisson. (Luncheon on your own).

Then in the afternoon, beginning at 1:00, a pre-convention Leadership Development Mini-Conference will be held at the Radisson with the following seminars being offered: 501 (c)(3) 101; 501 (c)(3) 102; Running Enjoyable and Effective Meetings; Planning, Budgeting and Tracking our Monies; Awards; Website 101; Club Program Ideas; President's Round Table; and MGC Grow and Share-President's Grant Funds. All will be presented by members of the MGC Board. MAAJ and MCC will also meet at this time. Members may register for up to four of these sessions, using the Convention Registration Form (See page 17.).

Be sure to sign up for the Convention, too and get a two-day price break. Attendees staying over for the Annual Convention may also check-in for the convention during that time. Dinner will be on your own.

Wednesday, June, 6, the 87th Annual MGC Convention opens with a packed day starting

with breakfast and then meeting and sharing with others from across the State, the keynote speaker and seminar presenters (See page 12.); the Annual Meeting; looking for that special item available from the incredible vendors; the *What's the Buzz About* Standard Flower Show and its winners; the special displays and exhibits; slipping out to experience the Bronson Park, featuring multiple gardens (within walking distance); attending the seminars to tickle your fancy on Butterflies, Birds, and Native Plantings; and ending the day with the closing of the Convention. Before leaving town, check out the first downtown mall in America. Check the MGC website for Convention details.

If that isn't what you're looking for, please contact Jennifer Williamson at Discover! Kalamazoo. She can assist you in making a reservation for your group at many of the downtown restaurants. Jennifer can be reached at (269)488-0057 or Williamson@DiscoverKalamazoo.com. Discover!Kalamazoo will answer all of your tourism questions, <http://www.discoverkalamazoo.com>.

Yes, there is a Kalamazoo!

Colon Garden Club, a wonderful club of 24 members, hosted the Fall District III Meeting, A Day in the Country: Effective Stewardship on October 19, 2017.

The event was held at the Amigo Centre in Sturgis. Lunch was a hot noodle casserole with a salad and delicious pumpkin pie. Focus for the day was landscaping for water quality, erosion control for home owners, rain gardens, and water features. The emphasis was on gardening with water. Colon members provided us with a nature walker wagon ride, fire ring and popcorn, or you could take a pontoon ride to see the birds in the water. Vendors, in a separate building, gave us an opportunity to enjoy the perfect Fall weather. Thank you, Colon Garden Club

Sharon Zinser is editing our own social media Facebook page. Michigan Garden Clubs, District III. Please "Like" us on Facebook. Thanks to you, Sharon!

*Note: River Valley and South Haven Garden Clubs, District III, on page 7.

DISTRICT IV

MONICA TAYLOR, DIRECTOR



WATCH THEM GROW !

Tri-Cities Garden Club received the first Plant America Grow and Share Small Grant Award from District IV. Congratulations! We will be excited to see your progress.

Tri-Cities Garden Club members will be working with Youth Garden Voyager School, housed at the Ferry Elementary School in Grand Haven, Michigan. The plan is for garden club members to work with students and staff to revitalize the outdoor garden area and make it into a useful outdoor classroom. It will include additional outdoor learning experiences based on the K-7 curriculum. Cleaning up current overgrown gardens by cutting back perennials, preparing the soil by adding compost and a general clean up of the area began in the Fall of 2017. Staff, students and garden club members will move forward with this project in Spring, 2018.



Dirt Daubers

On November, 2017 the members of Dirt Daubers Garden Club, including three of the original five founders, gathered at the Crosswinds of White Lake to celebrate 60 years of gardening together and spreading beauty over the White Lake area. Nine Life Members also were in attendance. Over the years, members have worked in both Montague and Whitehall, planting and maintaining various garden spaces to beautify their community. In the past the club has sponsored garden tours. Annually, the club holds a fundraising plant auction at an area church, well attended by members and community. Each summer, the "Garden of the Month" committee sets up its Merit Award plaque in front of homes and businesses that best show off the flowering glory of West Michigan. Dirt Daubers Garden Club promotes a greater interest in gardening and civic improvement and share their gardening experiences with each other. **Congratulations on 60 years of sharing your gardening experiences within your communities!**



Tri Cities Garden Club

DISTRICT V

SUE SODERBERG, DIRECTOR



In its eighty-seventh year of existence, the Elk Rapids Garden Club, (ERGC) Elk Rapids is pleased to announce the bi-annual Garden Walk on July 17, 10 to 5 p.m. with the theme of

***COLOR IT BLUE:
CELEBRATE WATER.***

Six delightful gardens will educate visitors on promoting and preserving our Northern Michigan Waterways through the adoption of sustainable practices. Club members, Master Gardeners, as well as area conservationists, will be on hand to assist in providing guests with information on what they can do to assist in this endeavor.

The ERGC is best known for maintaining ten community gardens for appreciative residents, businesses and visitors. Members volunteer more than 800 hours yearly, saving the village thousands of dollars. The club also supports the Elk Rapids Schools in various ways, provides local recognition for outstanding business and residential gardens and promotes educational opportunities for members and the public.

The Elk Rapids Garden Club has grown since it started in 1931, and the biannual garden walk has become one of our most notable events. Past recognition includes the Michigan Consultants Council/MGC 2016 Landscape Garden Walk Award: 1st Place.

With 84 members, the club meets both formally and informally year round to discuss gardening, landscaping and related fields.

For further information and pictures, contact elkrapidsgardenclub@gmail.com, or elkrapidsgardenclub.com, Sharon Lanier, Webmaster



NEWS FROM BOYNE VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

This has been a productive year for Boyne Valley Garden Club. We have had many successes and the good news is, we have increased our membership to 100 members.

We maintain 12 gardens throughout Boyne City, including most public buildings and the waterfront marina area, as well as gardens in our city parks. As we work in our gardens, residents and tourists alike often stop and tell us how much they enjoy the flowers. Our 2018 plans include a redo of one of our gardens designating it as a Memorial Garden, honoring members. Our intent is to use many native plants with an emphasis on it becoming a pollinator garden. We plan to identify the plants and have signage explaining the importance

of attracting insects and butterflies. This garden is next to Boyne City's children's play structure and Farmers Market, making this location an educational spot for everyone's enjoyment.

To support the gardens, our club has three major fundraisers, a shrub and plant sale in the spring and a July 4th Pie Sale which is a favorite every year. If you have never celebrated the 4th in Boyne City, you are missing the fun. It is "The Best 4th in the North". In the winter we have the annual wreath and garland sale.

Our club participates in the October Fall Festival decorating contest and have received many awards for the most creative decorating committee. We have a float in the July 4th parade. These two volunteer activities help raise awareness of how the Boyne Valley Garden Club contributes to the fun for all throughout the community.



DISTRICT VI

MARIANN SAENEN, DIRECTOR



Showing respect and honor for our veterans is part of our American culture. This year Caro Garden Club, together with American Legion

Post 007, hosted an extraordinary Veterans Day celebration in their beautiful Botanical Garden where last year an amazing Blue Star Memorial was dedicated. The community came together to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam conflict.

Months of planning led to an emotional and beautiful two-tiered ceremony. Caro Garden Club president, Kathy Sauber, together with club member Peter Diller were instrumental in assisting the American Legion and the Tuscola County Office of Veterans Affairs Director, Mark Zmierski. MGC President, Carol Brodbeck attended and presented a beautiful Certificate of Honor to both clubs. I imagine that in the weeks and months to come many of you will hear from Carol how memorable this occasion was.



Anthem when the tape couldn't play. The goosebumps we all experienced were not due to the cold! The presenting of the flags, the playing of echo style taps, the three-gun salute, brought tears and emotions to many veterans and family members alike.

Carol Brodbeck and Peter Diller unveiled the Vietnam 50th Anniversary Commemorative plaque which is impressively mounted on a large rock. MGC District VI Director, MariAnn Saenen, referred to the newly added bricks with engraved veterans' names that were added to the memorial Plaza of Honor. Keynote speaker State Representative, Gary Glenn was an inspirational speaker during the garden ceremony as well as the Vietnam Service Pinning Ceremony that was held inside the Caro High School gymnasium as the second part of the commemorative event. Seventy-one individual Vietnam veterans were recognized by name and received a pin as they walked by the speakers' podium.

The cookies and coffee made a lovely opportunity for people to continue the many conversations and memories that were shared. Respect and honor were abundantly showered on our Veterans on this Veterans Day 2017.

The 300 plus community members who braved the cold in the garden around the Blue Star Memorial joined in singing the National



RIVER VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

River Valley Garden Club's first meeting, held February 20, featured a demonstration by Sue Nuti of "Paper Creations from Dried Leaves". The day included a potluck luncheon and a short business meeting.

The annual plant sale will be held on Saturday, May 19, from 10 to 2 p.m. at Harbert Community Park.

Members dig a wide variety of perennials and other plants from their own gardens for the sale.



Membership is open to interested gardeners.

Contact Elizabeth Palulis at 269-426-3513 or email her at evpalulis@yahoo.com. Visit our website at www.rivervalleygardenclub.org

A Fall conference

September 22, 2018, the 160th anniversary of Dr. Liberty Hyde Bailey's birth and the 60th anniversary of the museum's opening, to celebrate Bailey's life, work, philosophy, and legacy

Sept. 22

All Michigan Garden Club members Invited
South Haven High School

Many vendors Good food

The South Haven Garden Club is serving on the conference committee. District III's fall meeting will be included in the conference. Look for the full story about this event and Dr. Bailey in the summer issue



The September 9, 2017, North Farmington Garden Club Dedication: was a beautiful ceremony held at Heritage Park Nature Center, Farmington Hills. The marker is nestled, under a tree, at the intersection of the many hiking trails and nature study areas, an appropriate place for a visible and long-lasting tribute to our Armed Forces.

MGC Board members in attendance from left to right: Jean Goetz, MGC 2nd Vice-President; Carol Brodbeck, MGC President; Judy Lindemulder, MGC Blue Star Memorial Chair; Florence Smith, MGC Advisory Council; Ruth Moline, District I Director.



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



Please contact Judy Lindemulder, ingale2@aol.com, if you have questions.

The September 16, 2017 Blue Water Garden Club Dedication, took place at the Pine Grove Park on Military St in Port Huron, MI. A bagpiper opened and closed the ceremony, in a very moving and emotional dedication. Many people visiting the park stopped to watch the ceremony. Guests were treated to red, white and blue cookies in the shape of stars and a beverage following the ceremony.

There are now 92 Michigan dedications over the years, with 2 more scheduled in May of this year. We would like to see pictures of your dedication. Clubs planning a future dedication can learn from your creative ideas. Send three to five of your best photos as jpgs to Charley Bohland; cbohland@gmail.com. Be sure to include the name of your club, your dedication date, and the names of people in the photos.



Our NGC Blue Star Chairperson, Andrea Little, has advised that a price increase for memorials is expected this spring. It has been two

LODA LAKE NEWS

KAREN MOTAWI, CHAIR



As I write this, the lake is snow-covered and nothing is stirring except the non-migrating birds, small animals and ever-present white-tailed deer. The few human visitors are either cross-country skiers or intrepid hikers.

Meanwhile, the Loda Lake committee will be sitting down with the Forest Service planners to review opportunities for improvements that could be completed during the 2018 construction season.

Clubs and individuals continue to make generous donations toward maintenance and improvement of the sanctuary. The following clubs have donated to the MGC Loda Lake Fund since last October: Farmington Garden Club, Elk Rapids Garden Club, Portage Garden Club and the Garden Club of Michigan.

The following donations to the Loda Lake Sanctuary Endowment Fund have been matched by the Fremont Area Community Foundation:

- * **Susan Frazier** in memory of Laurel Schmidt, Noreen Bradley, Dick Drisko, Judy Hartman and Lorna Middendorf,
- * **The Howell Garden Club** in memory of Gil Eagle,
- * **The Sunshine Arrangers Guild** in memory of Glenda Perry, and the Kitson Family,
- * **Mary Pulick, Sharon Yantis, Lynn Dinvald and Marilyn McIntosh** in memory of Kamal Motawi.

Your continuing donations are so important to our efforts to maintain and improve this wonderful natural resource especially in view of federal government spending challenges. 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.



Rest in peace cardinal



Gardening School Series 19 --- Course I
Tuesday, May 8 and Wednesday May 9, 2018
Hosted by Eden's Garden Club



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

Subjects Covered: Basic Botany Plant Propagation
 Soils Pollinator Gardens
 Techniques for Growing Outdoor Flowers

Recommended Reading: "The National Gardener" Magazine (available on NGC Website)
 "Botany for Gardeners" 3rd edition (available on Amazon)

Chair Liz Bohland, lbohland@hotmail.com
 Registrar/Treasurer Charley Bohland, cbohland@gmail.com
 GS MI Chair Marilyn Hartley-Kik, mik@sbcglobol.net

REGISTRATION

Name _____

Address _____ zip code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Garden Club or Organization _____ District _____

Full Time Registration:

May 8-9 (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, May 8 (Lunch included) \$40

Wednesday, May 9 (Lunch included) \$40

Total Enclosed \$ _____

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

**Register on or before April 15, 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



MGC wishes to congratulate **Dorothy Lippincott** in becoming a Master Judge Emeritus. Dorothy is a member of the North Oakland and Greater Detroit Flower Arrangers Guild. She served on the Board of Michigan Association of Accredited Judges for over eight years. Her creative designs have been featured in the NGC *Vision of Beauty* Calendar and the Creative Floral Arrangers of the Americas publication, *Design Dimensions*. Dorothy has been involved with flower shows for over 36 years

and has shared her joy of design and horticulture with many fellow judges.

MGC is also proud to congratulate **Rose Albers** for becoming a Master Judge Emeritus. Rose is a member of the Holland Garden Club and West Michigan Flower Arrangers Guild. With true devotion to education, gardening, growing and showing her horticulture, Rose has served MGC for more than 39 years holding many garden club positions. She chaired the Ottawa County Fair Flower Show for almost 25 years and co-chaired the Tulip Time Flower Show a number to times.

It is with regret that these two judges have decided to become Master Judge's Emeritus.

e thank them for their many contributions to MGC events in which, I'm certain, they created many memories and enjoyed making many life-long friends. Dorothy and Rose attended Flower Show School when there were five courses instead of four and I'm sure they have seen a few revisions of the Handbook also.

The contributions they have made to the NGC and MGC Flower Show School program is greatly appreciated. When your garden club is in need of Judges for your next flower show, contact Lynn Dinvald, MGC Judges Credentials Chair <mailto:ydoubleine@aol.com> (269-343-3827) for a list of "Who Needs Judging."



PLANT SALE
Saturday, May 26, Plant Sale at the
Ferry Beach Pavilion
in Charlevoix.. 9 - 12.

Plants grown in the area, dug from the gardens of club members and friends, find new garden homes to further beautify the area.

Walk and Standard
Flower Show.

Wednesday, July 11, 10-4,

The stunning gardens on the walk will be complemented by a flower show at a new-to-us venue, the extraordinary Charlevoix Public Library.

Garden Walk + Flower Show +
Charlevoix Library
SUPERB reasons to visit
Charlevoix the Beautiful.

Tickets \$10. in advance from Carolyn Navarre, cenavar16@gmail.com. 231-547-2119.

FRIEND US! Charlevoix Area
Garden Club is up and running and
May Watson Chavez keeps it FUN!



MGC Life Membership,

Virginia Froehlich, Chair

Now that we have settled into a new year, you or your club may be wondering how to honor a member or a fellow gardener in a special way. I have the perfect solution, present them with a Michigan Garden Clubs' Life Membership which has the

added benefit of supporting MGC's scholarship fund.

Life Membership's cost \$100 and are easy to purchase. You can find and download the current form by going to michigangardenclubs.org, clicking on "Join" and "Life Membership." The form may not download easily on some cell phones, so if you need assistance, please contact me at vfroehlich@comcast.net or call me at 734-675-2944 and I will be happy to provide you with the form. You can also access information about National and Central Region Life Memberships in this area of the MGC website.

The questions on the MGC Life Member form have been designed to help ensure your recipient is recognized for a variety of contributions and accomplishments. It is important to allow 4-6 weeks for processing to ensure you receive the certificate in time for your presentation.

Please join me in congratulating these individuals who received Life Memberships during the past few months.

Lois Adams
Barbara Amundsen
Bonnie Bolduc
Brenda Carl
Sandra Cusack
Chris Deller
Liz Dougherty

Taylor Garden Club
Garden Club of Greater Lansing
Dirt Dauber Garden Club
Chula Vista Garden Club
Hill and Dale Garden Club
Hillsdale Garden Club
Livonia Garden Club

Helen Eisele
Joan Foley
Bill Fullmer
Janet Gilbert
Marlas Greiger
Rosemarie Griffith
Marian Haney
Susie Harrison
Lauren Kalmat
Sandy Kolb
Rosemary LaDuke
Mary Lenart-Kirchoff
Cindy Mann
Madeline Masterson
Pat Molitor
Sharon Morman
Wilma Morton
Christine Mosher
Jennifer Nash
Sue Nearing
Sonja Perry
Terri Pline
Kathleen Quinn
Natalie Rector
Mary Reif
Sharon Robbins
Lynn Smith
Janet Sudac
Judith Turnbull
Lorna Vander Kooi
Jo Vanderweele
Richard Vontersch
Nancy Webb

Webberville Garden Club
Kalamazoo Garden Club
DeWitt Millennium Garden Club
Charlevoix Area Garden Club
Howell Garden Club
Kalamazoo Garden Council
Chula Vista Garden Club
Grosse Ile Garden Club
Livonia Garden Club
Dirt Dauber Garden Club
Meridian Garden Club
Garden Club of Dearborn
Brighton Garden Club
Meridian Garden Club
DeWitt Millennium Garden Club
Mason County Garden Club
Muskegon County Garden Club
Kent Garden Club
Charlevoix Area Garden Club
Caro Garden Club
Elk Rapids Garden Club
Grand Ledge Garden Club
Charlevoix Area Garden Club
Marshall Area Garden Club
The Little Garden Club
Kalamazoo Garden Council
Tri-Cities Garden Club
DeWitt Millennium Garden Club
Brighton Garden Club
Chemical City Garden Club
Garden Club of Pentwater
Meridian Garden Club
Webberville Garden Club

A Toadily Marvelous Flower Show

Toadily Marvelous, a standard Flower Show, was inspired by the children's book, *The Frightened Frog*. The event was sponsored by the collaboration of Portage Lake (Onekama) and Spirit of the Woods (Manistee) Garden Clubs. After a year of planning on July 27, 2017, all members leaped into action for the fun, education and entertainment to begin. Exhibits expanded the Onekama Gym with 187 horticulture, 44 design and three special educational exhibits. Visitors of all ages streamed into the event, greeted by a leaping frog quilt and a croaking frog at the entrance. There were frog shaped cookies, lemonade and brochures at the sign-in table. Pictures here capture the event. (District III)



TO BE OR NOT TO BE: A NONPROFIT CORPORATION AND A 501(C)(3)

Rose A Houk, MGC GTEP Chairperson



I sincerely hope that the Bard will forgive me the license I take with his most famous quote. But I could think of nothing more on point than that quote. Before I give you all the reasons for joining the MGC, Inc., Group Tax Exempt Program (GTEP), I need to make sure all of you know what is required to join the MGC GTEP.

To join the GTEP, you **must** incorporate as a nonprofit corporation under Michigan Law. Your organization's legal status is determined by state law, not the federal law or IRS. (see the *Incorporating as a Nonprofit Corporation and MGC Group Tax Exemption Program (GTEP) Handbook* Revised May 2017, on the MGC website. MGC requires that all participants in the GTEP be a nonprofit corporation). Your taxable status, or tax-exempt status, is determined by Federal law through the IRS. These are 2 separate steps, 2 separate governmental agencies, 2 separate sets of laws. Both state and federal laws pertain to your club if you incorporate and apply for tax exempt organization status.

Many of these state and federal laws apply to your club even if you are not incorporated as a nonprofit corporation. Did you know that even if you are not incorporated, you are still obligated to pay sales tax on items you sell to raise funds for your club? If you hold a raffle, (and giving away door prizes at an event that you charge to attend is a raffle) only charitable organizations can qualify to hold a raffle and your club needs to apply for a raffle license even if it is not incorporated. And if you are a charitable organization, holding assets to be used for public purposes, you are a charitable trust and need to register with the Michigan Attorney General's Office, Charitable Trust Division. Finally, if you are an unincorporated nonprofit tax-exempt organization, you need to file an informational return with IRS, a 990N if your club's income is less than 50,000.00 per year. So, if you should be doing these things anyway, why not do it as an incorporated nonprofit organization and provide some of the protections to your members that being a corporation gives them. An IRS agent once said to me when I was applying for a 501(c)

(3) tax exempt status for a client that I had just incorporated, that she did not understand why even the little organizations that did public works did not incorporate, because she said, "IRS treats them as a partnership, you know, and each member is jointly responsible for any bad acts of anyone in the group." So, there you go, "To Be or Not To Be – a nonprofit corporation; the answer is simple in my book.

Now that you have incorporated, why should you join MGC's GTEP? Because your club will become, through the MGC GTEP, recognized as a charitable organization, with 501(c)(3) status issued by the Federal Government (IRS). This means you don't pay income tax on any monies your club earns through the year and any donations to your club are tax deductible to the donor. It is the Cadillac of all the tax-exempt status provisions in the IRS Code.

Some garden clubs that belong to MGC may have a 501(c)(4) or (c)(7) rather than a 501(c)(3). While these organizations, under these sections of the IRS Code, do not pay federal income tax they do not have the advantage of the tax deduction for donations to their clubs. And these clubs may not qualify for grants for a special project from the big gardening vendors or associations or local foundations. Most granting organizations require that the applicant have 501(c)(3) status to be eligible for their grants. And they require the applicant to prove it with a letter from IRS. The GTEP provides you with this proof. Joining the MGC GTEP is far easier than going through the process with IRS individually. Some may dispute this, but I have done it both ways now with other organizations and the MGC GTEP process is far easier than doing an individual application (Form 1023) with IRS.

It is far CHEAPER to get a 501(c)(3) status through the MGC GTEP than filing separately with IRS. Minimally it will cost your club 275.00 to file independently with IRS for the 501(c)(3) status. If you join the MGC GTEP

it will cost 50.00. Yes, that is right, fifty dollars. A one-time fee of 50.00. Admittedly, there are some reasons for NOT joining the GTEP. If your club is small, 5 or 6 members, and your total revenues are less than \$1,000 per year, you probably do not need the official letter from IRS stating that your club is a 501(c)(3) organization and tax exempt. If you do not seek or receive donations, then a tax deduction is not a concern for donors. And if you never intend to apply for a grant for special projects, the 501(c)(3) tax exempt status is not something you probably pine for daily. If your club is adamant about not incorporating as a nonprofit corporation, do not apply to the GTEP with MGC. MGC requires that all members of the GTEP be incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under Michigan law. This is NOT a requirement of IRS. It is a requirement by MGC so that each club in the program provides uniform protections and rights and responsibilities for each of its members.

I do not wish to leave you on a negative note. Personally, I think all Michigan garden clubs should: 1) incorporate as a nonprofit corporation (see the *Incorporating as a Nonprofit Corporation and MGC Group Tax Exemption Program (GTEP) Handbook* Revised May 2017, on the MGC website) for all the reasons stated in the Handbook; 2) join the MGC GTEP to assure that your organization will be legally and officially recognized as a charitable tax-exempt organization and recognized for the public good you do in your community. I also predict that if you join the MGC GTEP, you will find resources for your projects that you had no idea were available to your club. Isn't this reason enough to make you salivate about being an incorporated charitable organization?

Join me at the pre-convention seminar on June 5, the afternoon prior to the MGC Annual Convention and annual meeting at the Radisson Hotel in Kalamazoo (to register, please see page 15). I will tell you more reasons why you should join the GTEP. You can ask questions and talk to participants who are already members. Decide for yourself whether "To Be or Not To Be" a nonprofit corporation and a 501(c)(3) tax exempt charitable organization.

2019 MGC STATE CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

The location and date for the 2019 MGC State Conference has been selected. The location is the Great Wolfe Lodge in Traverse City and the dates are June 5 and 6th, 2019. The conference will be hosted by District V. Planning meetings will begin May of 2018 with our first meeting being at the Great Wolfe Lodge. More information will be coming soon.

Sharma J. Zollinger 2019

MGC State Conference Charing 2019 Conference



**“IT’S NOT EASY BEING GREEN”
ACCORDING TO KERMIT THE FROG.**

A creative design set on a pedestal, allowing only green leaves. Presented for the Michigan Garden Club’s District I Fall Meeting, October 2017 as an example for a Flower Show.

When I heard of this class for a flower show exhibit I knew just what to use. In my yard there are lots of hostas. They are variegated, crinkled, all sizes and all shades of green. However, the date of the show did not coordinate with the survival of my plants so I went to my local independent florist and told him I needed big leaves of different shades, sizes and at least one variegated type. On his regular trip to the wholesalers he found just what I needed to take the place of my hosta leaves.



This “Ken Swartz” metal structure (forty-eight inches tall) is an art form in itself and I keep it in the living room next to the stone wood stove. With added leaves and flowers it looks great on my porch, deck or in my yard. I used varied shades and sizes of leaves for this design to suggest a very large flower with a stalk of variegated leaves for the flower’s center. To add interest, following up two of the structure’s arms, I curled smaller leaves on the left and stems with even smaller leaves on the right.

Keeping to the theme of the Frog’s quote and a design requirement using only leaves I have visualized from forest floor to the tree tops where frogs live in and on leaves. Here they hide from predators, sneak up on insects for food and look for mates.

The Lemon Leaves (*Salal*) are rolled for hiding little frogs. Tree frogs can climb high up the Crape Myrtle (*Codariocalyx Motorius*) twigs. Tadpoles can grow in the water where the Variegated Pitt leaves (*Pittosporum*) grow. Bull Frogs can hide in the mud under the Iron Plant leaves (*Aspidistra*), Peace Lily Leaves (*Spathiphyllum*) and Ti Leaves (*Cordyline fruticosa*). Kermit can sit next to it and enjoy the design. I hope you can enjoy the design too.

Article, design and photo by Lynda Bancroft, Creative Flower Arrangers Guild, Dearborn, MI. Submitted by Ruth Moline



**Michigan
Garden Clubs**

www.michigangardenclubs.com

Notification of the new passwords will be 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

HELP NEEDED

If you have an interest in serving at the MGC State level as a chair, exciting opportunities are available, including:

- *Arboriculture
- *Backyard Wildlife Habitat and Environmental Issues
- *Civic Beautification
- *Habitat for Humanity
- *Leadership
- *Membership Promotion
- *Merchandise Sales
- *Scholarship
- *Grant Administrator

2018 MGC Annual Convention Presenters

Keynote: Brad Morgan - Dairy Doo Co. *General Fertility and Natural Gardening.* Brad will remain in the room to continue discussion at 2:00 on the technical advantages for the recreational gardener. There is no need to register for this session.

BREAK-OUTS for Wednesday:

Birds—2:00 and 3:00: Jacquelyn Warwick - *Bluebirds in the Backyard, Others in the Front!* How to attract a variety of birds to your yard, as well as the pros and cons of various feeders and feeds.

Butterflies—2:00: Ilse Gebhard - *Establishing Native Plant Gardens to Attract Butterflies.* Both nectar-providing and caterpillar food plants, as well as the life stages of some of the butterflies. Beautiful photography from the speaker.

Butterflies 3:00: Tom Small - author, of the book - *Using Native Plants to Restore Community in S.W. Michigan and Beyond.* Co-Founder, Co-President of Kalamazoo Area chapter of Wild ones. (1999)

Native Plantings 2:00 and 3:00: Heather Catania - *Turning Your Backyard into a Certified Habitat. Replacing Lawn with Native Plants.*

Flower Show 2:00 – 6:00: *What’s the Buzz About,* NGC Standard Flower Show, presented by the Kalamazoo Garden Council, Inc.



NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.



Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.



Landscape Design School – Series XXI, Course IV

April 23–24, 2018

Hosted by: The Landscapers Garden Club and
Petal Pushers Garden Club – District III



Location: Haven Church – 5350 N. Sprinkle Rd., Kalamazoo, MI 49004 (1-269-344-5871)
Hotel Accommodations: Clarion Hotel, Ph: 269-381-1900 or Four Points by Sheraton Kalamazoo
Ph: 269-385-3922 or Radisson Plaza Hotel, Ph: 269-343-3333 Make reservations directly with the hotel.

Landscape Design School has a curriculum which covers a wide range of subjects: from landscape design history to landscape architecture in the year 2000 and beyond. Since its founding in 1958, professional instructors have maintained the high standards originally incorporated in the study program.

MGC President, Carol Brodbeck, President – MGC LDS Chair, Terry Harding, (wsharding@chartermi.net) (231-947-0568) or Doris Campbell (Campbell.doris.ann@gmail.com)

Landscape Design School Local Co-Chairs: Carol Beckius, (269-372-6950) cbeckius@chartermi.net and Lynn Dinvald, Registrar (269-343-3827) YdoubleLNE@aol.com

PROGRAM SCHEDULE	
Monday, April 23, 2018	
8:30	Registration/Coffee & Baked Goods
9:00	<i>History and Dev. of Community Gardens</i> R. Hughes-Nilsson
10:00	Break
10:10	<i>Development of Landscape Architecture from WW II to Present</i> Ch. 26 Banfield
11:10	Break
11:20	<i>Community Participation-Organization and Individual Responsibility</i> Ch. 33 Banfield
12:20	Lunch
1:00	<i>Evaluating the Landscape Designs of Residential, Public & Business Property</i> Ch.31 Banfield
2:00	Break
2:10	Tour (3 hours)
Tuesday, April 24, 2018	
8:30	Registration/Coffee & Baked Goods
9:00	<i>Contemporary Landscape Design</i> Ch. 21 Schutzki
10:00	Break
10:10	<i>Redesign of Areas</i> Ch. 20 Schutzki
11:10	Break
11:20	<i>Design for the Future</i> Ch.36 Schutzki
12:20	Lunch
1:00	<i>Sustainable Agriculture</i> Sherri Snyder
3:10	Review and Examination
Required Reading: <i>Stewards of the Land</i> , by Alaimo, DeVeer, Carpenter	

Please note: 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 School Registrar when you check in. Those who do not want their photos used for any reason will receive a red dot on their name tag.

REGISTRATION	
Landscape Design School – Course IV	
Deadline: April 9, 2018	
Name	_____
Street	_____
City	_____
State	Zip+4 _____
Phone	_____
Email	_____
District	_____
MGC Garden club Member?	Yes _____ No _____
Prefer vegetarian lunch	Yes _____ No _____
Prefer gluten free lunch	Yes _____ No _____
Full Time Registration	
April 23 & 24 (lunch included)	\$80.00 _____
Refresher Fee OR	\$5.00 _____
Exam Fee (April 24)	\$5.00 _____
Part Time Registration	
Mon., April 23 (lunch included)	\$40.00 _____
Tue., April 24 (lunch included)	\$40.00 _____
Total Enclosed.....	\$ _____
Note: Cancellation and/or late fee - \$10.00. No refund after registration deadline, April 9, 2018	
Make check payable to: <u>MGC-LD School</u>	
Mail registration form and check to: Lynn Dinvald, Registrar 6802 Springbrook Lane Kalamazoo, MI 49004-9665	

Flower Show Symposium



Sponsored by
Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.

The Michigan Association of
Accredited Judges
and
District I

Monday, June 25, 2018
and
Tuesday, June 26, 2018

Location:
Holiday Inn
Near the University of Michigan
3600 Plymouth Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
734-769-9800

MICHIGAN CONSULTANTS COUNCIL - TRI-FRESHER JULY 10, 2018

For MGC Environmental, Gardening, and Landscape Design
School Consultants and Guests

Pre-Registration required by
Wednesday, June 27th, 2018

MSU W.K. Kellogg Biological Station Auditorium, 3700 E.
Gull Lake Drive, Hickory Corners, MI 49060

Refreshing consultants may refresh for one of the three
areas individually by attending July 10th. Master consultants
may choose multiple credits in each school in which the
have Master status or they may choose credit in one
school in which they are a consultant.

More information and registration form in
next Gate issue and MGC website contact Lynn Dinvald, 269-
343-3827 or
email YDoubleLNE@aol.com



FLOWER SHOW AWARDS AND ADVICE CHAIR

PAT BAZANY

Sponsoring an NGC Flower Show and writing a flower show schedule and has never been easier.

- **Step 1.** Order a 2017 Revised *Handbook for Flower Shows*.
- **Step 2.** Pick a date and begin planning your show as early as you can.
- **Step 3.** Check the NGC website for a list of NGC Flower Show Achievement Awards and application requirements. (Also, check the MGC website for MGC Flower Show Awards.)

- **Step 4.** Before printing and publicizing your schedule, allow me to check it over for conformance to NGC standards and NGC award requirements. You can email your schedule draft to me at, bazanyp@yahoo.com or send it by USPS to 14012 132nd Ave, Grand Haven, MI 49417. Questions? My cell is 616-566-8327.
- **Step 5.** When you have confirmed your judges, send me their names and I will assign an evaluation panel for your show.

I hope many clubs will plan flower shows this year. They are a great way to show off your members' gardening talents both within your club and (more importantly) within your community. If your club has never done a flower show consider beginning with a Small Standard Show or maybe the new Horticulture Specialty Show (no designs!).

- Lastly, help is available. There are flower show judges all over the state who would be more than happy to help you plan your show. You don't have to go it alone. **So, why not? Just do it!**



Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.

87th Annual Convention, June 5-6, 2018

Radisson Plaza Hotel 100 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Hosted by District III

REGISTRANT INFORMATION*

Last Name _____ First _____
(As you want it to appear on your name badge)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Club name _____ District _____

Check EACH that applies to YOU:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Club Member | <input type="checkbox"/> National Board Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Club President | <input type="checkbox"/> National Life Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Club Delegate | <input type="checkbox"/> MAAJ Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District Director | <input type="checkbox"/> MCC Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Board Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Consultant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Life Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Design Consultant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Former State President | <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening Consultant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> C. R. Board Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Flower Show Judge |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> C. R. Life Member |

Dietary concerns: Gluten Free ___ Vegetarian ___
 Other _____

REGISTRATIONS

- Two-day Registration \$120
(includes Wed continental breakfast & lunch)
- Wednesday Only Registration \$95
(includes continental breakfast & lunch)
- Tuesday PM Only Workshops Reg \$35

Make checks payable to: Michigan Garden Clubs

REGISTRATION DEADLINE MAY 16, 2018

No Refunds after May 16, 2018 (10% fee charged)

*Online registration available with credit card on
 MGC website: www.michigangardenclubs.org*

or Send this completed form and check to:

Michele Armstrong, Registrar

3471 Magnolia Lane, St. Joseph, MI 49085

Email: armstrongmichele@sbcglobal.net

Phone: 269-208-5012

Room Reservations

Contact the Radisson, Kalamazoo, 1-800-203-9354

By May 13, 2018. Ask for the MGC, Inc. room rates

\$135+ taxes single/double; \$145/triple; \$155/quad

REGISTRATION TABLE OPENS TUESDAY AT 8:30 AM and WEDNESDAY AT 8:00 AM

Flower Show exhibit registration is Tuesday June 5 from 2-5 PM in Prairies Room 6 (VI)

Tuesday, June 5, 2018 Pre-Convention

Leadership Development Seminars

Select 4 Choices (1 for each hour)

1:00	<input type="checkbox"/> 501(C)(3) 101	<input type="checkbox"/> Awards	<input type="checkbox"/> President's Roundtable
2:00	<input type="checkbox"/> 501(C)(3) 102	<input type="checkbox"/> Website 101	<input type="checkbox"/> MAAJ Meeting
3:00	<input type="checkbox"/> Running Effective and Enjoyable Club Meetings	<input type="checkbox"/> Club Program ideas	<input type="checkbox"/> MGC Grow & Share; President's Grant Funds
4:00	<input type="checkbox"/> Planning, Budgeting & Tracking Monies	<input type="checkbox"/> President's Roundtable	<input type="checkbox"/> MCC Meeting

Wednesday, June 6, 2018 Convention

Convention Afternoon Programs

Select 2 Choices (1 for each hour)

- 2:00 PM Birds Butterflies Native Plantings
- 3:00 PM Birds Butterflies Native Plantings

Flower Show open from 2-6 PM

Vendors open 8 AM – 5 PM

***Photos taken at this event may be used on website or in upcoming materials. If you don't want your photo used, notify the registration desk.**



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*.

www.michigangardenclubs



March 6, 6-8:30 p.m., DeWitt Millennium Garden Club, Spring Speaker for community outreach, Jolanta Piecuck, *The Garden of Kyoto, A Personal Experience*, at Redeemer UMC 13980 Schavey Road, DeWitt, MI

March 14, 1-3:00 p.m., Eric Nelson, designer and buyer for Weesies Brothers Garden Centers and Michigan Certified Nurseryman, Roses that really DO grow in the Big Rapids area. Big Rapids Public Library Community Room, 425 S. Michigan Avenue, Big Rapids MI, MI 49307. Call (231) 231-796-2365

March 15, 16, 17 18, NGC Standard Flower Show, MSU Pavilion

March 17, 10th Annual Growing Great Gardens, 8 to 4 p.m. at Wayne County Community College 21000 Northline Road Taylor, MI.

April 4, Finance Committee Meeting, 1-p.m. at Trinity Church 3355 Dunckel, Lansing, MI.

April 4, Executive Committee Meetings, 3 to 5 p.m. at Trinity Church, 3355 Dunckel, Lansing, MI.

April 4, Board Meetings, 9:30 a.m. at Trinity Church 3355 Dunckel, Lansing, MI.

April 9-10, NGC Environmental School, Holland, MI. For more information, contact local Chair, Deannie Picciotti Cell 616-283-7744 dmp77@nullcharter.net or Registrar, Lynn Miller 616-676-2274 lmiller.garden@nullyahoo.com

April 18, District IIB Spring Meeting at Eagle Eye Banquet Center 15500 Chandler Road, Bath, MI.

April 23-24, Landscape Design School, Kalamazoo, Contact Carol Beckius more information. cbeckius@chartermi.net

April 25, District V Spring meeting.

May 8-9, Gardening School, Contact Marilyn Hartley-Kik. mkik@sbcglobal.net. (269) 870-6367 for more information.

Saturday, May 19, Plant and Bake Sale 10 to 2 p.m. at Harbert Community Park in Harbert Michigan. Members dig a wide variety of plants from their own gardens. contact Elizabeth Palulis at 269-426-3513 or email her at evpalulis@yahoo.com. website, www.rivervalleygardenclub.org

May 21-24, National Garden Clubs, Inc. Annual Convention, Philadelphia, PA

May 26, Big Rapids Garden Club Plant Sale-annuals, perennials, vegetables, herbs, shrubs, etc.

June 5, Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. Pre-Convention Leadership Development, Kalamazoo, MI

June 6, Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. Annual Convention, Kalamazoo, MI

June 25-26, Flower Show Symposium, Ann Arbor, MI

July 11, 10 - 4:00 pm Garden Walk, six

inspiring gardens in and close to Charlevoix the Beautiful. Sponsored by Charlevoix Area Garden Club.

July 12-14, Tri-Cities Garden Club's 61st Annual Flower Show. See our "Floral Treasures" found in Grandmas attic and our own treasure chests.

July 17, Elk Rapids "Color it Blue" 10AM to 5PM July 19, 11:00 am - 6:00 pm "The Gardens of Garfield" Visit several beautiful and unique gardens in Traverse City's Garfield Township. \$10.00 presale and \$12.00 the day of the walk.

September 19, District V Fall Meeting
September 22, District III Fall Meeting
September 22, 2018, 9 to 4p.m. Celebration of Liberty Hyde Bailey's life at South Haven High School

October 4, District VI Fall Meeting
October 11, District IV Fall Meeting
October 22-23, Central Region Garden Clubs, Inc. Convention, Frankenmuth, MI
October 25, District IIB Fall Meeting

The submission date for the Summer *Thru the Garden Gate* is **April 5**. Please send articles in Word, **unformatted**, and left justified. Send pictures identification and photo credit, and signed photo releases in jpg or png. Please avoid all pdf files, if possible. Line spacing and fonts are not a problem. Thank you for your submissions. Due to space restraints, some editing may be necessary. Restrict your submission to 300 words unless we are given advanced notice.

Barbara Best, editor/publisher
Bernadine Bennett, graphic designer