

# THE GARDEN POST

A publication  
of the Kalamazoo  
Garden Council, Inc.



Spring 2022 - Issue 192



*Rosemary "Bunny" LaDuke  
Kalamazoo Garden Council President*

Dear Friends,

Welcome to April, the month of "Plant America," as recently designated by National Garden Clubs, Inc. It is such a busy month for members of Kalamazoo Garden Council. We have been involved in planning a Flower Show in July, planting seven containers for First National Bank of Michigan as a club/KGC fundraiser, participating in the District 13 Master Gardener event by selling our Garden Gifts and Tools, planning, arranging, and holding four Floral Design Workshops to be attended in person or via Zoom by 37 garden club members and 1 guest, and participating in the MGC District 3 Leadership event at Fernwood Botanical Gardens. This is all, of course, in addition to our individual club activities and our personal quests for spring and summer planting materials. (Our club, Chula Vista, will be bagging and presenting 425 seedlings to 3<sup>rd</sup> graders for planting this month.) It is truly "Plant America" month! MGC President, Monica Taylor, ([monicataylor@migardenclubs.org](mailto:monicataylor@migardenclubs.org)) would like to hear from you in an email about what your club is planting this month!



All of these wonderful activities do not just "happen" for KGC. As gardeners we are used to planning - we have learned it is critical to our success. And, it is because of our members who care about our mission and take the initiative to volunteer. People like Lynn Dinvald who is chairing the Flower Show and her co-chairs, Carol Beckius, Jan Keys, and Phyllis Straw, who are each leading a major section of the show, will make it all happen. (There are a myriad of others helping organize the Flower Show as well.) Marcia Wielenga as president of Burke View Garden Club and Mary Beth Montague, KGC container consultant, enthusiastically led a team to fill the seven planters in front of First National Bank of Michigan and earn the club and KGC each approximately \$400.

Karin Caston and Kay Lehmann of Chula Vista organized and sold over \$300 worth of KGC tools to Master Gardeners. Phyllis Straw, MGC 3<sup>rd</sup> VP Denise Clegg, Kathy Kienle, and I have been working on the four Floral Design Workshops. And, I hope many of you are planning to participate in the District 3 Leadership Conference at Fernwood at the end of April. Much planning by District 3 Director Michele Armstrong and the host club goes into making those district events so much fun and extremely successful for all of us.

So many people contribute to KGC success. You will read in this newsletter about some of the events and activities KGC is currently involved with, and we hope you will be inspired to volunteer to help even in a small way. We have a great mission to enhance our environment, so send me an email if you can and want to help.

Best wishes,

Bunny



## ALL THE WORLD IS A GARDEN

Kalamazoo Garden Council  
NGC Standard Flower Show  
Friday July 22 & Saturday July 23  
Wedel's Garden Center, Kalamazoo

### ENJOY THE FLOWER SHOW... ENTER!

Attending a flower show is both educational and fun, but to enjoy it most you need to enter. There is something simply delightful in having a flower or foliage from your own garden win a blue ribbon. And it really is easy to participate. You do not need to preregister and can choose what you want to bring the day of the show if you like. Vases and bottles can be picked up at the Council House in advance, but will also be available at the show if you need more. Don't use your own vase as you may not get it back.

On the morning of the show, select the best looking flowers or leaves you can find in your garden - one stem of each. Make sure no foliage is below the water line. Fill out one entry form per entry with the plant's Latin and common name. (Forms available at the Council House or from committee members.) If you need help identifying your entry, help is available at registration. You can select from annuals, biennials, perennials, bulbs, tubers, corms, or leaves from plants grown primarily for their foliage. No branches are included in this show. Then just bring your entries to Wedel's Friday morning and enjoy the show. Watch for further details.

*Submitted by Jan Keys, Horticulture Chairperson  
and Flower Show Committee Member*



The **Kalamazoo Garden Club** created the first ever "**Interpreting Art with Flowers**" exhibit at Martell's Restaurant in Kalamazoo, March 11-13. Five exhibits of fine art were created by local artists and five floral design teams interpreted their thoughts with flowers.

Pictured below is "**Early Spring**" by artist Tamara Hirzel. The lead floral designer was Barb Smith with team members: Sue Conat, Esther Ferguson, Rosemary Sillars and Renee Healy.

Ms. Hirzel's statement about her work: "*Nature is a delight and inspiration. Marveling at its details expands my awareness of the larger world. This additional layer of experience is what I want to share in my art.*"



*Pictured above: (L) KGC Corresponding Secretary Lynn Belco and (R) KGC President Bunny LaDuke admire "Early Spring".*



Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. [www.migardenclubs.org](http://www.migardenclubs.org)

**Conference and hotel registration is now open online. You can register for each day separately. The registration fee for June 9 participation is eligible for reimbursement through the KGC Arend Fund.**

Space is still available in the **Flower Design Workshops** on April 26. For additional information and to register, open the link below:

[A Series of Floral Design Workshops :: Kalamazoo Garden Council](#)



## Many Hands Make Light Work

By Sue Conat

One of the objectives of the Kalamazoo Garden Council is "To increase knowledge of natural sciences and promote the protection and conservation of natural resources". Kathy Kienle (GA, KA) has long been a proponent of furthering the Council's green initiatives, and with her resources a proposal was developed by Shop Chair Sue Conat (KA) to begin selling in our Council Shop eco-friendly tableware at reasonable prices. Your Council Board recently approved the proposal to stock 6" dessert plates, 9" luncheon plates, napkins, 8-ounce hot beverage cups and 12-ounce cold beverage cups. All of these items are made of natural, renewable and/or recycled content. Once used, they can be recycled (after rinsing) in the home recycle bin, torn up and composted in home compost bins, or (if available) composted in a commercial composting facility. Information on content and disposal is included in every package.

On March 25, Sue was joined by (at R) Cynthia Addison (KA), (below L-R) Rosemary Sillars (KA), Bev Weber (KA) and Laura Woodruff (WW) to break down and repackage the bulk tableware into smaller packages for distribution in the Shop on the first floor of the Council House.



## Burke View Garden Club Plants Spring Flower Pots at 1<sup>st</sup> National Bank of Michigan

By Marcia Wielenga

Burke View Garden Club never turns down an opportunity to make money so when we got word about the bank planter project we were all on board. We met with Mary Beth Montague (PP/LA) at River Street Flowerland weeks in advance and made our plant selections.

The selections for the four big pots included: Pussy Willows (Trader Joe's), Virginia Bluebells, Helleborus (*Lenten Rose*), Golden Poppy, Pansies (Wedel's and Barb's son), and Ivy. The three smaller pots contained: Pussy Willows (Trader Joe's), Yellow Primrose, Helleborus (*Lenten Rose*), Pansies (Wedel's and Barb's son), and Ivy. We also purchased three flats of pansies at Wedel's to mix in as they were also in full bloom.

Planting day was April 4, 2022 which seemed early but we were ready. We woke to 40 degrees and heavy showers but we are planting warriors and wouldn't let weather stop us. By the time we got to the bank the showers had stopped and we went to work. After an hour and a half, our work was done and we were very pleased with the color selections and arrangements. It was a great experience and hopefully when it is our turn again it will be summer or fall.

Pictured below (L-R): Nancy Shirah, Marcia Wielenga, Betty Gable, Barb Eshuis and Deb Gunderson. Photo by Mary Beth Montague.



Mary Jane Kreidler, 93 year old charter member of Burke View Garden Club, recently moved to New York to be near her family. She was a guest of honor at a luncheon on February 22 and presented with a certificate recognizing her 65 years in the club. If you wish to write to Mary Jane, below is her address:



Mary Jane Kreidler  
The Hearth at Greenpoint  
150 Old Liverpool Road Apt 614  
Liverpool, New York 13088

# Welcome Spring!

By Sue Conat

Kalamazoo Garden Council kicked off our spring season by attending Wedel's Garden Expo on March 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Council member volunteers staffed our membership booth at the Expo to "sprout" some much needed membership buzz. The volunteers talked to attendees, passed out literature and giveaways, and collected contact information.

Two talented Council members, Mary Beth Montague and Phyllis Straw, created beautiful flower arrangements for the Council's donation to Wedel's door prize drawing. The store's greenhouse was packed with displays, floral items and shoppers ready to get a jump on spring plantings and projects. We are especial-



ly appreciative of Wedel's for allowing us to setup (at no cost) and staff a vendor booth at the Expo. We collected over 60 new email contacts to add to our contacts list!

Additionally, members were recruited at the last minute to help Wedel's at their kid's booth at the expo. The booth was designed to introduce kids to gardening by planting early spring pansies to take home and nurture. Nancy Lewis also contributed to Wedel's Expo by hosting two presentations during the event. One was titled "Waterwise Gardening", the other "Butterflies and Their Host Plants". Kudos to Nancy for sharing her knowledge and talents with others.

A big **THANK YOU** goes out to the following expo table volunteers: Carol Beckius, Irene Loczi-Belden, Pat Pawlak, Diana Schneider, Bev Weber, Deb Gunderson, Joann Westpinter, Donna Robinson, Karen Baker and

Laura Woodruff. Those who staffed the kid's booth were Mary Tetreau, Karla Labby, Connie Micklin (and her sister-in-law), Donna Thurn, and Lynn Dinvald



**Did you know...** there are three special celebrations in April that every gardener and environmentalist should know about?

**April 22nd is the 52nd anniversary of Earth Day** recognizing the birth of global environmental education and stewardship.

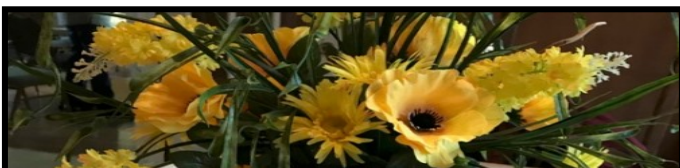
**April 26th is the 200th anniversary of Frederick Law Olmsted's birth.** He is a renowned conservationist and landscape architect credited with having created public parks for city dwellers.

**April 29th is the 150th anniversary of Arbor Day** celebrating the important role of trees in earth's environment.

Join the  
**"Each One, Plant One"**  
movement  
... **Plant a tree today!**







The **New Member Brunch** held on March 9th was a huge success thanks to VP Lorie Reed and her planning committee. The program included Bunny LaDuke's presentation on the history of the Council and Sue Conat explained the items for sale in the Council Shop. There were many attendees of new members from the past couple years who made wonderful comments of appreciation for the event - "a beautiful luncheon and wonderful gathering", "very interesting program about the history of the Kalamazoo Garden Council", and "it was nice to meet members in other clubs".

## Kalamazoo Garden Council Officers 2021-23



### President

Rosemary "Bunny" LaDuke  
(Chula Vista GC)  
[rhladuke@aol.com](mailto:rhladuke@aol.com)



### Vice President

Lori Reed  
(Westwood GC)  
[loriedreed@gmail.com](mailto:loriedreed@gmail.com)



### Recording Secretary

Shelley Metz  
(Kalamazoo GC)  
[marzee14@yahoo.com](mailto:marzee14@yahoo.com)



### Corresponding Secretary

Lynn Belco  
(Chula Vista GC)  
[labelco71@aol.com](mailto:labelco71@aol.com)



### Treasurer

Cynthia Addison  
(Kalamazoo GC)  
[cynaddison@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cynaddison@sbcglobal.net)

### Affiliated Organizations:



## KGC Annual Meeting A Salute to American Gardeners

Our annual meeting will be held at the Markin Glen Park pavilion area behind the council house on Tuesday, June 14th at 10:00 am. The cost this year will be \$25.00. You may reserve your spot by sending a check to Cynthia Addison, our treasurer, or paying online on our council website using PayPal. Carol Brodbeck, past MGC president, will be our featured speaker on the topic "Horticulture in the Flower Show". Please reserve your spot as soon as possible and prepare to come celebrate us!

Special thanks to members who submitted photos and/or stories for publication in this issue of *The Garden Post*: Sue Conat, Jan Keys, Bunny LaDuke, Mary Beth Montague, Lori Reed, Nancy Shirah and, Marcia Wielenga.

## SAVE THE DATE

### APRIL

- 26 Floral Design Workshops
- 29 District 3 Spring Leadership Meeting at Fernwood Botanical Garden, Niles

### JUNE

- 8 MGC Annual Conference Evening Event at MSU Trial Gardens, Lansing
- 9 MGC Annual Meeting & State Conference, Lansing
- 14 KGC Annual Meeting at Markin Glen Park Pavilion, 10am

### JULY

- 22-23 NGC Standard Flower Show "THE WHOLE WORLD IS A GARDEN" at Wedel's Garden Center Hosted by KGC

### AUGUST

- 9-10 Michigan Consultants Committee to host Multi-Refresher, Info TBA

Follow our website and Facebook page for educational information and upcoming events:

[www.kalamazoogardencouncil.org](http://www.kalamazoogardencouncil.org)

For questions about this publication, contact Karla Labby, Communications Editor, at [karlalabby@yahoo.com](mailto:karlalabby@yahoo.com).