

# THE GARDEN POST

A publication  
of the Kalamazoo  
Garden Council, Inc.



Summer 2022 - Issue 193



*Rosemary "Bunny" LaDuke  
Kalamazoo Garden Council President*

Dear Friends,

It's so hard to believe it's almost the end of summer and the kids are already going back to school. I probably say that every year at this time because I want to hang on just a little longer to do a few more summer activities, dream about a few more plants, and think about what I might do differently in landscaping/gardening next year.

KGC has been busy this spring and summer. Since April KGC organized 4 floral design workshops with about 40 people participating in person or on Zoom; held a botanical arts photography session; began the revamp of Memory Lane gardens with brick landscape edging, removal of all plants, and covering both large gardens with black plastic. We welcomed more than 50 KGC members who registered for the annual meeting, elected and installed new directors to the Board. KGC awarded two National Garden Clubs lifetime achievement awards and presented two President's Recognition awards. Gardenettes planted seven containers for First National Bank of Michigan, and all clubs spruced up and maintained gardens around the Council House. We provided some expertise, suggestions, and secured plants for the Chain Gang Bicycle Support Group for their memorial on Council House grounds.

Several members staffed a booth at the Bank Street Market, where we advertised the NGC

Standard Flower Show held at Wedel's in July. Lynn Dinvald and the planning committee members did a fabulous job of organizing an outstanding flower show. I hope you all viewed the wonderful wrap-up video we sent which is also on the website.

The KGC Board enthusiastically approved the Lakeshore Flower Arrangers Guild as a new club of Kalamazoo Garden Council, Inc. The Document Retention Committee managed a PowerPoint presentation workshop for KGC Committee Chairs, and the Greens Sale Committee held a "Glycerin Treatment of Plant Materials" workshop in person and on Zoom. I apologize for any activities I may have left out, but whew it has been a busy time!

We certainly enjoy all of these projects and events; however, we often only experience them after most of the work has been done. Before things look beautiful and run so smoothly, there are many activities that go on "behind the scenes." Examples are "Weeding the Gardens, Painting the Pedestals, Planting the Containers, Organizing the Technical Equipment and Software, Creating a PowerPoint, Watering the Gardens, Loading or Unloading the Garden Gifts & Tools, Making Food for the Event, Carrying Chairs and Setting Up a Booth, Creating a Layout for a Flower Show, Planning, planning, planning..."

A lot of effort goes into every project and activity beforehand, and the efforts of those volunteers are so greatly appreciated—they make KGC tick. Next time you enjoy a project or event, please thank the volunteer(s) who did all the pre-work to make it all possible.

Best Wishes, Bunny





## Awards Presented at KZO Annual Meeting on June 14, 2022



Cynthia Addison (L) and Denise Clegg (R) were honored with National Lifetime Awards.



President's Awards were presented to Sue Conat (L) and Kathy Lesman (R).

## Redesigning Memory Lane Gardens



The Beginning . . . with Chula Vista, Burke View, Grown & Show, and Kalamazoo Garden Club members



Grow & Show Members



A little help from our friends . . . Portage Garden Club members.



Solarizing the weeds on Memory Lane and waiting until spring to replant with native pollinator plants.



# Why Your Club Should Apply for an Award

By Carol Beckius,  
Past MGC Awards Chair



Awards are a way to celebrate garden achievements, both individual and club. There are so many different awards to try for. Whether it is a National award from the NGC list, a Central Region award, a State award from the MGC list or a local award, I encourage you or your club to apply.

Monetary prizes are available for those who earn a First Place. Clubs compete against other clubs of similar size.

Go to [migangardenclubs.org](http://migangardenclubs.org). Click on Awards. There are many options listed. All the forms are there to use for the different types. Central Region awards are run separately. Their applications are due September 10, prizes are awarded at their fall conference. MGC and NGC General and Yearbook applications are due by October 1st and are presented in the spring.

Now is a good time to be taking pictures of your projects. Do a write-up describing what you have done in the past year and send it in!

Follow these links for more information on how to apply for awards:

[Awards and Grants | National Garden Clubs, Inc.](#)

[CR Awards Guidelines | central-region-html \(ngccentralregion.com\)](#)

[Michigan Garden Club Awards \(migardenclubs.org\)](#)

## Do you ever wonder where the water from a storm drain goes to?

Perhaps the water treatment facilities in your town. Sadly, what goes into a storm drain goes into our waterways. They drain into rivers and streams. Did you know that many Michigan residents live within a half mile of a storm drain?



With that knowledge of where the water goes, we can do some positive activities to keep our waterways from getting polluted by storm drain runoff. Many people use a storm drain as a way to get rid of unwanted liquids or lawn waste. The liquids such as pesticides, herbicides, and petroleum products can contain chemicals that do not break down and can cause harm in the stream where the drain water ends. Instead, there are county or township collection centers for hazardous waste.

Yard waste also can contribute to excess algae growth in streams and our lakes as they break down and add unneeded nutrients. Many of these are also treated with fertilizers and herbicides. It is much better to mulch lawn clipping back onto the lawn or compost them. If you do so, the recycled clippings can provide 50% of the nitrogen your lawn needs. Lawn waste contributes 20% of the material going into landfills. It is much better to take them to a site that collects them and turn them into mulch.

Where is the nearest storm drain to where you live?

*Submitted by Nancy Lewis  
KGC Environmental Chair*





**Kalamazoo Garden Council  
 NGC Standard Flower Show  
 Wedel's Garden Center, Kalamazoo  
 July 22 & 23, 2022**



**It's A Small World - Novice - 1st >  
 Sue Conat**



**Laura Woodruff with her creation from a Flower  
 Arranging Workshop with Instr. Phyllis Straw.**



**From the Mountains - 1st & Petite  
 Award > Marilyn Hartley-Kik**



**Wine Tasting—1st & Table Artistry Award >  
 Sharon Yantis**

**← A Day in the Life of Africa  
 1st & Club Competition Award  
 Petal Pushers**





Any Other Rose - 1st, Award of Merit & **Award of Horticulture Excellence** > Elizabeth Troman



China - Giant Panda 1st & TriColor Award > Mary Verleger



Germany - Octoberfest 1st & Designer's Choice > Sue Conat

From Sea to Shining Sea - 1st > Lynn Dinvald



Out of my Comfort Zone - 1st > Kathy Kienle



Luck of the Irish - 1st & **Award of Design Excellence** > Phyllis Straw

A Day in the Life of Africa 2nd & Tie for People's Choice Award > Kalamazoo Garden Club

Singapore's Oceanarium 1st & Tie for People's Choice Award > Chris Morgan



Booth at Bank Street Market to share information about KGC and the Flower Show planned for July presentation.



Members of Gardenettes filled the planters with flowers for the summer season at First National Bank on Michigan Avenue.



## Kalamazoo Garden Council Officers 2021-23



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Special thanks to members who submitted photos and/or stories for publication in this issue of *The Garden Post*: Carol Beckius, Sue Conat, Barb Eshuis, Jan Keys, Nancy Lewis, and Bunny LaDuke.

## SAVE THE DATE

### SEPTEMBER

13-14 MGC/MAAJ Flower Show  
Symposium, Lansing, MI

30 MGC District 3 Fall Conference  
Zhang Portage Community Senior Center

### OCTOBER

1 "Sounds of the Zoo", KGC Membership & Greens Sale Booth  
12:00-6:00pm in Bronson Park

21-22 Environmental School - Course 1  
Manistee, MI

### DECEMBER

2-3 Annual Greens Sale  
Zhang Portage Community Senior Center

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

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

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