

THE GARDEN POST

A publication
of the Kalamazoo
Garden Council, Inc.



Summer 2023 - Issue 196



*Donna Robinson
President
Kalamazoo Garden Council*

Hello everyone,

Welcome to the next fiscal year of this Kalamazoo Garden Council. Do all of you know how unusual this organization is? Founded in 1946, our Council is the only one of its kind in the state. Many other communities have vibrant garden clubs, of course, which beautify and provide valuable information about culture, landscaping, and ecological concerns to their residents. The Kalamazoo area, though, is the only location that can boast a decades-long choice to share information, programming, and projects AMONG our separate garden clubs for the betterment of all of us in greater Kalamazoo. The Kalamazoo Garden Council does this through its Directors, one representative from each garden club, who, with the Council's elected officers and six committee chairs, sit on the Council board to coordinate the organization's activities.

This year we are trying something new: each monthly Council meeting will be led by a different Director, rotating alphabetically through the roster, with Council business coordinated by the President between meetings. This decision was voted on by the Council Board in April, 2023 since no candidate stepped up to assume the traditional role of President. How this will work?

Each Director will preside over one Council meeting. It is the Director's responsibility to find a substitute from her club or trade with another Director if she cannot preside on her assigned month.

The presiding Director's job during her month is:

1. Attend the Executive Committee meeting at 9:30 a.m. the first Tuesday of the month to create the agenda with the planning team, bringing anything forward that may have been communicated to her earlier by another member or Council Director.

The team will include the elected officers:

- President, Donna Robinson
- Treasurer, Linda Derfny
- Recording Secretary, Donna Thurn
- Corresponding Secretary, Lynn Belco
- any standing committee chairs who have business to bring up at the monthly Board Meeting

A finalized agenda will be emailed to the presiding Director for that month, as well as all other Directors, in advance of the meeting. Agenda items that will require a motion, second, and a vote will be highlighted.

2. Preside over the Council Board Meeting the second Tuesday of her month at 9:30 a.m. following the agenda in order. Bunny LaDuke will handle tech issues with Zoom.

3. Keep the meeting moving, following Roberts Rules procedures, with assistance from the President and/or Parliamentarian if requested.

4. Adjourn the meeting. Each Director will preside at one meeting only.

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THE PRESIDING DIRECTORS SCHEDULE:

July ~ Burke View Club Director, Marcia Wielenga

August ~ Chula Vista Club Director, Yolanta Motte

September ~ Gardenettes Club Director,
Donna Knight

October ~ Grow & Show Director, Mary Gibson

November ~ Kalamazoo Garden Club Director,
Phyllis Straw

December ~ NO BOARD MEETING- Greens Sale

January ~ The Landscapers Club Director,
Carol Beckius

February ~ Lakeshore Flower Arrangers Guild
Director, Sue Conat

March ~ Petal Pushers Club Director,
Suzanne Muma

April ~ Western Hills Club Director, Joey Miller

May ~ Westwood Club Director, Laura Woodruff

June ~ NO BOARD MEETING- Annual Meeting

Before the first Tuesday of the month, please contact the Director above who will be presiding in the month you have items you'd like to have included on the Council agenda.

This is indeed a change from the way the Council has functioned in the past, but this isn't the first time it has had to re-think procedures in its 76-year history. If any group can handle bumps in the road, this one can!

Best wishes,
Donna Robinson



Special thanks to Andrea Stork for sharing her graphics skills and updating the header of The Garden Post. The photo was taken in Western Hills Garden Club's garden on the west side of the Council House. Take a walk along the path and enjoy the beautiful flowers!

Annual Luncheon & Installation of Officers

Kalamazoo Garden Council's annual luncheon was held at the beautiful Gull Lake Country Club on Tuesday, June 13. A special thanks to Lynn Belco for extending her membership benefit that allowed KGC to schedule the meeting there this year. It was a great location with a beautiful view of the lake and gardens around the clubhouse.

Installation of the new officers for the 2023-25 years was performed, At right, MGC President Nancy Ryan joined us for the day and gave the oath of office to the new KGC President Donna Robinson.



Many special awards were presented to several members. The **National Lifetime Achievement Award** was given to Jeanette Meyer for her many acts of service to KGC. Jeanette was President from 2018-2020 and 2021, Greens Sale Co-Chair in



2019, Recording Secretary 2017-18 and many other committee assignments for KGC and her club, Western Hills Garden Club. Especially noteworthy is her work with the state legislature in trying to pass the designation of the Black Swallowtail Butterfly as our state butterfly. The House of Representatives has already passed a vote and there is one last hurdle of getting the State Senators' approval. Thank you, Jeanette, for your perseverance!

KGC Club Directors & Committee Chairs for 2023-24: (L-R) Donna Knight, Joann Wespinter hidden in back row (:, Carole Beckius, Yolanta Motte, Suzanne Muma, Laura Woodruff and Marcia Wielenga



Standing Below: (L-R) Phyllis Straw, Sue Conat, Pat Hansson, Jeanette Meyer and Mary Gibson



Bus Trip to Belle Isle

Members and friends of the Kalamazoo Garden Council went on a bus trip to Detroit on Tuesday, July 25. The destination of this outing planned by Carole Beckius and Bunny LaDuke was Oudolf Garden. It was designed by world renowned Piet Oudolf and opened for visitors on August 28, 2021.

Approximately 35 women enjoyed the ride to Detroit while Bunny LaDuke kept us supplied along the way with snacks (savored by Marcia Wielenga) and other necessities. Box lunches purchased from Ample Pantry were eaten in a pavilion overlooking the Detroit River and Canada on the other side.



We were met by a very knowledgeable guide, who was also one of the many volunteers that helped plant the garden. She explained the history of creating the garden there and how the design is both artistic and ecological. Piet chooses perennials, grasses, shrubs, and trees for their hardiness, durability, and ever-changing textures and colors. Unlike his other gardens, Belle Isle has an all volunteer grounds crew.



The 3 acre garden sits in front of the Nancy Brown Peace Carillon in a Michigan state park in the Detroit River. In addition to the garden, there is also a conservatory building that is closed this summer for renovation and an aquarium. Unfortunately that was closed day we happened to be there.

If you missed going on the trip, check it out on the website link below:

[Oudolf Garden Detroit](#)



Dedication of the Memorial Lane

"A Garden of Remembrance"



After two years of planning and hard work, the dedication of Memorial Lane was held on Monday, August 14. KGC President Donna Robinson welcomed over 60 members and family of the past members being honored.

Past President Bunny LaDuke explained the renovation of the garden area that involved removing dead trees and old shade plants that needed replacing. New trees were planted along with new native sun varieties to line the walkway.



Many KGC members were involved in the process organized by Linda Derfny, current KGC Treasurer, and Joann Wespinter, Council House Grounds Chair. Everyone agrees it is a beautiful addition to the grounds of the Kalamazoo Garden Council house.



Pictured below: The memorial plaque to be installed on a post at the top of the walkway.

A Garden of Remembrance — Forever Honored

Those whose lives touch a garden leave memories that live forever. We honor those who have traveled this path with us and before us.

Louise Adams	Kalamazoo Garden Council	Donna Schumann
Dean Arend	Carole Kellogg	Nancy Small Memorial Fund
Miriam Arend	Mary Jane Kreidler	Florence Sprau
Dr. Myrtle Beinhauer	Bunny (Rosemary) LaDuke	Dorothy Hubbell Stimson
Ruth Ann Bryer	The Landscapers Garden Club	Arleigh Van Vorhees
Burke View Garden Club	Ruth Markham	Carl Wespinter
Bonnie Byrnes	Jeanette Meyer, M.D.	Joann Wespinter
Esther Christensen	Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.	Western Hills Garden Club
Murray Cooper	Anna Mae Miller	Westwood Garden Club
Lynn Dinvald	Dolores Miller	Helen Wiles
Helen Gaddis	Mable Moody	Cora "Coke" Wiseman
Gardenettes Garden Club	Petal Pushers Garden Club	
Karen Gentile	Plant & Prune Garden Club	
Rosario Diaz Gulinao	Ethel Powers	
Rae Haas	Elizabeth Schreiber	
Lloyd Haw	Dr. Richard Schreiber	





MGC District 3A & 3B
Fall Conference
 Monday, September 18, 2023
 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
 Van Buren Conference
 Center,
 409 S Paw Paw St, Lawrence
 MI 49064 Hosted by District 3A

A day to share ideas and have fun!

Special Speaker: Dr. David Karowe
WMU professor of Biological Sciences

Educational Displays - Vendors - Silent Auction

\$20 Morning Snacks & Box Lunch
Register through your club treasurer
who will mail one check by September 13.



MEMBERS MARKET

WHAT IS THIS?

An opportunity for you to sell personal craft supplies or anything garden related that you no longer need, to other club members.

WHO CAN COME & SHOP?

Kalamazoo Garden Council Members ONLY (NOT open to public.)

WHAT KIND OF ITEMS?

Ex: yarn, fabric, buttons, acrylic paints/brushes, colored pencils, ribbon, buckets, vases, baskets, artificial flowers, potting soil, fairy garden items etc.

WHEN? Thursday, September 28, 2023

(RAIN DATE: Thursday, October 5, 2023)

WHERE? Council House side yard (5300 N. Westnedge)

TIME? 12 – 3:00 p.m.

How it works:

- Each Club decides their own pricing, collects the \$ and keeps the proceeds. (Small fundraiser for your club.)
- Each Club will be provided with one 6' table & card table.
- Each Club is responsible for teardown (by 5 pm), & removal of unsold items.
- Each Club may provide additional tables & one pop up tent.
- Refreshments will be available for all.

CONTACT PERSON: Pat Hansson, House Chair (269.327.8207)

Kalamazoo Garden Council Officers 2023-25



President

Donna Robinson
 (Kalamazoo GC)
robinsondonna133@gmail.com



Recording Secretary

Donna Thum
 (Western Hills GC)
djthum@gmail.com



Corresponding Secretary

Lynn Belco
 (Chula Vista GC)
labelco71@aol.com



Treasurer

Linda Derfny
 (Grow & Show GC)
ldbsns@gmail.com

Special thanks to the follow members for contributing photos and/or stories included in this edition of The Garden Post: Denise Clegg, Pat Hansson, Bunny LaDuke, and Andrea Stork,

SAVE THE DATE

SEPTEMBER

18 MGC Districts 3A & 3B
 Fall Conference
 VanBuren Conference Center
 Lawrence, 9am-3pm

28 Members' Market
 KGC House - South Side Yard
 12-3pm (Rain date: October 5)



NOVEMBER

Watch for announcements of many days planned for classes and work days to prepare for the Greens Sale. Signup Genius registration will begin the end of September.

DECEMBER

1-2 KGC 70th ANNUAL GREENS SALE

Affiliated Organizations:



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

www.kalamazoogardencouncil.org

For questions about this publication, contact
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