

# THE GARDEN POST

A publication of the  
Kalamazoo Garden Council, Inc.



Dear Kalamazoo Garden Council Members,

We hope this newsletter finds you all happy and healthy as you look forward to the growing season ahead.

The 2024 KGC Holiday Greens Sale was a tremendous success this year, thanks to Kathy Kienle and Mary Beth Montague, who rallied everyone together. We are grateful for everyone's contributions of their time and talents.

Unfortunately, we lost our Bank Pots project in the fall, but it was an excellent fundraising initiative while it lasted. Let's keep an eye out for other fun and profitable projects in the coming year.

The funds we raise through the Greens Sale and other fundraisers help cover the operational costs of the Council House, as well as fund scholarships, grants, and other educational experiences all related to our mission of enhancing our environment.

KGC's record retention continues to ensure that all important details of our organization are secured and documented. Special thanks to Shelly Metz and Donna Knight for their ongoing efforts.

We encourage you to participate in these upcoming activities: the Spring Flower and Garden Show at Wedel's on March 21-22; the NGC Environmental School Course #1 at the W.K. Kellogg Biological Station on April 7-8, 2025 (we appreciate Chula Vista for hosting); the District 3A bus trip to the U of M Peony Gardens on May 29 (hosted by the Kalamazoo

Winter 2025 - Issue 200

Garden Club); the MGC Annual Conference in Holland on June 9-10; and our 2025 KGC Annual Meeting at the Lynx Golf Course on June 17th. That's a lot of opportunities for fun with fellow gardeners!

Lastly, we would like to extend our gratitude to all the members of the Kalamazoo Garden Council. We have learned so much from each of you and forged many lasting friendships. Being part of this exceptional organization is truly a privilege. Thank you!

Warmly,



Andrea Stork  
Marcia Wielenga

KGC Co-Presidents  
2024-2025



## ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL Course #1 ~ APRIL 7-8, 2025

Learn how to cherish, protect, and conserve the living earth by attending the National Garden Clubs (NGC) Environmental School.

**Location:** MSU W. K. Kellogg Biological Station & Conference Center on Gull Lake.

**Online registration  
NOW OPEN at:**

[Environmental School Course 1 –  
April 7 & 8, 2025](#)





## Greens Sale Recap

by Co-Chairs Kathy Kienle & Mary Beth Montague

The Kalamazoo Garden Council proudly held its 71st fundraiser, the Annual Holiday Greens Sale, on December 6 and 7 at the Portage Zhang Senior Center. Despite Mother Nature throwing us a curveball with a snowstorm right before our setup day, the determined spirit of our members enabled us to set up the venue on time. I want to give a shout-out to my predecessors, Karla Labby and Sue Conat. Thanks to their hard work, we've enjoyed three fantastic years at this venue. Everything is running smoothly, making it easier for the Chair(s) in 2025 to continue building on our accomplishments.



As we opened our doors for shopping on Friday morning, we were touched to see our customers eagerly waiting for us. It truly warmed our hearts to have such a wonderful turnout, and we felt so grateful to be so busy that morning. As Saturday dawned and our inventory ran low, it was the perfect reminder of the positive impact we can create together. Maybe next year, we can rise to the challenge and increase our offerings!

We want to express our gratitude to our members for their amazing hand-crafted projects and for their countless hours of volunteer work. We deeply appreciate our chairs who took the initiative to assist with the planning and execution of this year's sale. It's truly heartwarming to see how everyone's contributions came together, and we couldn't have done it without every one of you.





Pictured above: Volunteers who helped pack up at the end of the sale on Saturday. Not pictured: Mary Beth Montague and Marcia Wielenga who were at the Council House waiting for the truck to arrive with the staging equipment and photographer, Andrea Stork.



Again this year, the annual Greens Sale heralds the joyous holiday season enabling homemakers far and near to gather all supplies needed to dress their homes in Christmas finery.

Sponsored by the Kalamazoo Garden Council, 500 members in 21 federated clubs, this year's sale again will be staged in Lilac Cottage, 616 Locust.

Sale hours will be from noon to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 7 and from noon to 4 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 8.

General chairman is Mrs. Lester A. Forsman and now taking special orders are Mrs. John M. Jarboe, 2659 Sunnybrook Drive, and Mrs. Fred W. Staten, 2727 Brooke Drive.

As usual, freshly-cut pine will be the big sale item. There also will be decorated and plain fresh green wreaths, pine cone wreaths, kissing balls, symbolic straw wreaths, decorated hearth brooms, live terrariums, antiqued ceramic and wood candleholders.

Holly from Oregon will be available, as will be door, mantle and table arrangements; corn husk roses, dried artichokes, candles, ribbon, artificial fruits, stemmed ornaments and everything needed by the do-it-yourselfer.



This blast from the past of a 1966 Kalamazoo Gazette newspaper was shared by Grow and Show club member, Linda Derfny at the Greens Sale this year. If you missed it, it's printed here for your enjoyment.

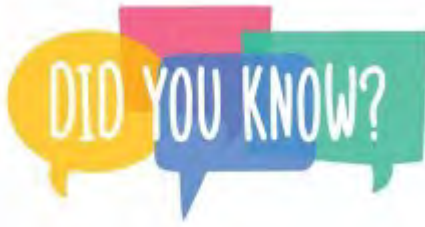
Along with holiday greens, arrangements featuring "The 12 Days of Christmas" were made by club members that year. The "Partridge in a Pear Tree" arrangement is still enjoyed by Linda's family today. Other items sold are mentioned in the last two paragraphs. Also, special note: The lady on the left is Linda's mother, Beth Shirley.

Thank you for sharing, Linda!



FASHIONS  
HOMEMAKING  
CLUBS

KALAMAZOO GAZETTE  
*Family Living*  
Sunday, November 27, 1966. Section 3—Pages 37-54.



**This is the 200<sup>th</sup> publication of *The Garden Post*.** The newsletter started as a monthly publication since the Kalamazoo Garden Council's formation in 1946. It is now distributed quarterly. The purpose is to announce valuable information and reminders, upcoming activities of the club and community, and share educational information, pictures and tips. We also encourage participation in the activities of the Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. and the National Garden Clubs, Inc.

The Garden Post is distributed free to our 174 members, the District 3A Director, the MGC State President and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, and shared with prospective members. It is also posted on the Council's website and Facebook page. The number of pages could vary monthly depending on the amount of information to share.

The President and Editor are responsible for publishing the newsletter according to the Council's Bylaws. Norma Stancatti was the editor from 1997-2022. Karla Labby is the current editor with assistance of Co-President Andrea Stork and IT Chair, Kathy Kienle. All clubs and members can submit articles, educational information, photos, and announcements. Local garden organizations such as Kalamazoo in Bloom and the Master Gardeners are also welcome to contribute to our newsletter.

Throughout the Council's 79 year history, the newsletter has been through many transformations in the publication processes. Starting with hand-written, to manual and electric typewriters and "Ditto" machines and now high-speed color copiers. Time and expenses are minimal today because computers and electronic mail are everyday tools of communication. Members who do not have email receive a printed copy from their club. Any expenses incurred are covered by the annual budget. The Garden Post will continue to exist along with the Kalamazoo Garden Council and its member clubs for many more years.



*Pictured at R: At the KGC Annual Luncheon on June 8, 2022, Norma was presented with this beautiful handpainted post for her home gardens. Jan Keys (Kalamazoo GC) was the artist who painted it. Photo by Bonnie Borak (Petal Pushers GC)*



**New Member Brunch**

The annual brunch will be held on Tuesday, April 29 at the Council House from 10:0 am – 1:00 pm for members who joined a garden club in the past year. A presentation will be given on the history of the Kalamazoo Garden Council and information explaining the benefits of your club belonging to KGC. You will meet the officers of the Kalamazoo Garden Council and other new members at this gathering. Members who were unable to attend in the past couple years are also welcome to attend. Club Presidents will notify their members and RSVP to Marcia Wielenga, Co-President and Brunch Chairperson.

Kalamazoo Garden Council  
**Annual Meeting**  
**June 17, 2025**  
**Lynx Golf Course, Otsego, MI**  
 featuring  
**Dr. Alan Steinman, Annis Water Resources Institute**  
**Grand Valley State University**  
**“The Myths of Groundwater Abundance in Michigan”**

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**\$30 Members / \$35 Guests**  
**Watch for Registration this Spring!**



## 29th Annual Flower & Garden Expo ~ March 21-22

The Kalamazoo Garden Council will have a membership booth again at this year's Expo. Kathy Atkinson, member of Grown & Show, will be the chairperson for planning and scheduling volunteers. We would like to have at least 2 - 3 two volunteers each shift and at least 2 from each club. A Signup Genius link will sent in a couple weeks. Be thinking of what time slot you would like to work:

**Fri., Mar. 21: 10-1, 1-4, 4-7**

**Sat., Mar. 22: 8-11:30, 11:30-2, 2-4:30**

If you have questions, please contact at Kathy Atkinson. (See your Council directory for phone number and email address.)



Mayors' Riverfront and Verburg Parks Beautification  
miwaterwaysstewards.org

Special thanks to the follow members who contributed photos and/or stories included in this issue of *The Garden Post*: Kathy Atkinson, Linda Derfiny, Kathy Kienle, Bunny LaDuke, Andrea Stork, and Marcia Wielenga.

## Kalamazoo Garden Council Officers 2024-25



**Co-President**  
Andrea Stork  
(Petal Pushers GC)



**Co-President**  
Marcia Wielenga  
(Burke View GC)



**Recording Secretary**  
Jeanette Meyer  
(Western Hills GC)



**Corresponding Secretary**  
Lynn Belco  
(Chula Vista GC)



**Treasurer**  
Linda Derfiny  
(Grow & Show GC)

# SAVE THE DATE

**KGC Meetings** - Library - 9:30am  
Feb. 11, Mar. 11, (No Apr.), May 13

**KGC Executive BOD Meetings**  
Dining Room - 9:30am  
Mar. 4, Apr. 1, May 6

**March 21-22 - Wedel's Flower & Garden Expo** - Membership Booth Volunteers needed

**April 7 - 8 - Registration Open**  
Environmental School Course 1  
MSU W. K. Kellogg Biological Station  
Conference Center on Gull Lake

**April 29 - New Member Brunch**  
KGC House Library, 10:30 am -1:00 pm

**June 9-10 - Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.**  
State Conference Haworth Hotel &  
Conference Center, Holland

### Affiliated Organizations:



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

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

For questions about this publication or to contact an officer, send an email to: [KalamazooGardenCouncil@gmail.com](mailto:KalamazooGardenCouncil@gmail.com)