





### ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020





### STRATEGIC DIRECTION

ELECTED OFFICERS' REPORTS

MICHGAN DISTRICT REPORTS DISTRICT 1, 2A, 2B, 3, 4, 5, 6



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Highlights from the President

Dear Garden Club Members,

I hope this Annual Report finds you all well and enjoying your gardens. COVID-19 has certainly thrown us all a number of challenges. I, like many of you, was looking forward to our State Conference hosted by District IIB. The District clubs were making their final arrangements when COVID hit and we were all left with trying to figure out how to best manage our way through these times.

We had and we continue to have lots to celebrate this year. We grew our gardens, especially pollinator gardens; grew in knowledge by attending NGC accredited schools and District Meetings; we grew in numbers by attracting more members to our clubs. Then we shared. We shared the native habitat we created with pollinators, we shared our knowledge with club members and our community, we shared our support through scholarships and youth programs and most importantly we shared our enthusiasm for gardening throughout our communities and with our youth.

Originally, this book was going to be the 89th Conference Program Book. Instead it is more like our 89th Annual Report, to you, our shareholders. I appreciate all the work you all have done this past year to beautify your communities, work with youth, and create more sustainable habitat, not just for pollinators, but humans as well. You have all helped make Michigan a better place to live. I am so incredibly proud for all your achievements this year. You represented your communities, Districts and Michigan so well in the awards process this year!

I am grateful for all the MGC Board members. You have given tirelessly of your time and energy to make Michigan Garden Clubs a valuable organization for its members. My heartfelt thanks to all the members of District IIB who worked so hard to create a fabulous "Pollinator Thyme in Michigan", and especially to Laura Grainger who took on the task of creating, editing and publishing this Annual Report. We will all look forward to 2022, when District IIB will finally get to show us all the fruits of their many labors.

Lastly, it is my pleasure to announce that the 2021 Conference will be held at the Doubletree by Hilton, in Holland, Michigan, on June 2 & 3, 2021. The conference planning committee is chaired by a steering team of Lynn Miller, Deannie Picciotti, Carol McGregor, Pat Bazany and Peggy Hartmann and we will look forward to the installation of our new President, Monica Taylor.

Growing and Sharing in Gardening,

Janet C Hickman\_

#### JANET HICKMAN

President, Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. Plant America: Grow & Share Michigan Pollinator Gardens



#### MGC STRATEGIC DIRECTION BACKGROUND

A little over two years ago, a strategic planning session was held with members of the MGC Executive Committee and additional Board. At the time it was decided that:

- We need continuity and focus We can't make the organizational changes that are needed if we are changing themes and direction every year.
- We need to focus on fewer things at a time; get them done and in order; and then move on.
- We need to incorporate 21st Century technology into how we function in MGC in order to help bring our organization into compliance with government and regulatory requirements and to use technology to improve our ability to communicate with member clubs.
- We need to provide member (club) benefits that are consistent with needs of the 21st Century.

#### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2017-2019**

- Carol Broadbeck and I agreed up front, our theme and project would remain the same: Plant America: "Grow and Share" Project: Michigan Pollinator Gardens
- As an organization, we have brought our financial accounting and reporting practices and budgeting process up to 21st century standards. This was a critical activity had to be done in order to maintain our 501c3 status as organization. With our on-going use of an Accounting firm, we now have a process in place to help assure that we will continue to comply, as rules and regulations change in the future.
- We updated our By-Laws.
- We have updated lost of our Policies and Procedures (some are still in the review before adoption stage).
- We have a team ready to work on the MGC Club Handbook as soon as Policies and Procedures are complete.
- We finalized the District Director Handbook.
- We created a Grant program for our member clubs.
- We have been able to provide Group Liability Insurance for ALL member clubs.

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### **2019 - 2021 OBJECTIVES**

The overall objectives of this administration are the following:

- Continue to improve the work processes and practices that are critical for compliance with legal and regulatory requirements.
- Continue to build value of the organization through improved and expanded member services and benefits.
- By utilizing available 21st Century technologies, build a more effective MGC Organization through increased communications and interaction between MGC Board Committee Members and Member Clubs, while making those positions less dependent on travel.
- Provide the tools and training for Board Committee Chairs to do their jobs more effectively and efficiently.
- Build "Brand" awareness of MGC through use of common, standardized templates for various types of communications.
- Provide a means to build in "succession planning" for the Board.

#### **GOAL 1**

Increase the effectiveness of the MGC Board of Directors and Chairpersons by streamlining and standardizing tasks associated with each committee Chair.

**PLAN 1A:** The first step in accomplishing this goal will be to add, wherever appropriate, a common, 'Key Job Responsibilities' section to each chairperson's Job Description.

**PLAN 1B:** The MGC Executive Board will assist board Committee Chair members in updating and creating effective and detailed job descriptions.

**PLAN 1C:** Opportunities will be offered at all MGC and District Events for club members to sign up to be part of the 'committee' under each Program Chair. These committee members will serve as the focal point within the club or district for 'The Program', and will be the first communication point for any new information from the MGC Committee Program Chair.

**PLAN 1D:** While reviewing job descriptions with Committee Chairs, the Executive Board Member and Committee Chair will determine if the job warrants a Committee, and if not, will prepare a recommendation for the Executive Committee to consider making the position an Administrative position, that may or may not require attendance at Board Meetings

### 2019 - 2021 OBJECTIVES GOAL 2

Develop a 'tool box' as a 'how to', first for the Chairperson, and then for the member clubs. Use of this tool box will help build a relationship between the board member and club presidents and/or designated club member s in support of the specific MGC program.

**PLAN 2A** The MGC Executive Board will help develop standardized templates for Committee Chairs to use in developing their specific outreach materials. These will be part of the 'Tool Box' for the Committee Chairs to use. They may include, but not necessarily be limited to such things as:

- Standardized presentation templates, letter templates, and checklists, etc.
- Wider use of Constant Contact for communication to club members, and may also include:
  - Overview of Program(s)
  - Identification of member club resources needed.
  - How-to-Step-by-Step instructions for new or existing program(s)
  - Roll out recommendations for District Directors, District Meetings, Information Tables at Convention, Information to, District Presidents Meetings.

**PLAN 2B** Each MGC program chair will work with their executive board member in development of their Program outreach materials. This should be a collaborative effort between the executive board member and their respective committee chairs and a continuation of work that was started at the last board meeting.

**PLAN 2C** The board will immediately begin evaluation and implementation of teleconferencing and video-conferencing options for use by the Board as a whole and/or for smaller groups, such as committee meetings as well as for outreach to member clubs.

**PLAN 2D** We will begin having short, ½ hour teleconferences on a routine basis with members throughout the organization: "Monday Morning Member Meetings" hosted by the MGC President, covering a variety of topics. Mondays will also be the designated day to contact the President with questions, issues, or concerns.



### 2019 - 2021 OBJECTIVES

### GOAL 3

Continue to increase the number of pollinator gardens maintained by member clubs and club members throughout in the state.

**PLAN 3A** Continue emphasis of pollinator gardening in MGC Grant program.

**PLAN 3B** Emphasize improving pollinator habitat in appropriate curriculum sections of NGC Schools.

**PLAN 3C** Emphasize pollinator gardens in MGC Presidents Reports – # pollinator gardens registered with Million Pollinator Garden Challenge; club programs, speakers.

**PLAN 3D** A Presidents Mission Fund Award for this administration will be tied to number of registered pollinator gardens.

#### GOAL 4

Strengthen our Youth Activities Programs to extend 'succession planning' not just for Board members but to create 'succession planning' for garden club members. By encouraging youth activities, we not only build awareness of MGC clubs within the local communities, but sow the seeds of building awareness and ultimately interest in becoming a garden club member, not just for the students, but also for their parents.

**PLAN 4A** Encourage more clubs to promote the NGC High School Essay Contest at their local High School. Note: Some clubs already offer their own 'scholarship award' to their Essay Contest winner.

PLAN 4B Provide an MGC Award to the State-wide High School Essay contest winner.

Implementation of these Goals and Plans will be the primary emphasis of committee work and reporting during Board meetings.



### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**



#### JANET HICKMAN

President

E-Mail: president@migardenclubs.org

As I prepared to begin my administration a year ago, I developed the Strategic Direction for the 2019-2021 administration, along with key objectives, goals and initial plans. It was based on an assessment of where we had come from two years prior and the progress that had been made during the previous administration. I shared that Strategic Direction with all the Board Members at our first meeting the day after the conference. The Board quickly adopted the goals and plans, the President's Mission Fund and to begin funding the High Essay Contest. I hope you all had a chance to review the Strategic Direction for 2019-2021 on pages 3-6 of this Annual Report.

Several of our initial overall objectives revolved around developing better ways of utilizing technology to build a more effective MGC Organization, still managed by volunteers. That need became abundantly clear during the strategic planning session held with the Executive Committee in August, 2019. Our need to incorporate technology hit virtually every aspect of what we do as an organization from how we keep and share important documents to how we work within the board, to how we communicate with club members and board members.

Many of the things we have worked on have been administrative changes and improvements that might not be very visible to you as members, but are absolutely imperative for MGC in order to be a strong, vibrant organization as we look toward our future.

- For example, we now have at least two people with "Administrator" privileges for each of our critical services: Website, Facebook, Roster Processing, and Constant Contact. I hope to add back up for our Newsletter soon.
- We continue the step-wise implementation of the recommendations from the last financial audit. We continue to reduce the number of satellite checking accounts associated with the MGC EIN number, and our financial policies and procedures not only provide internal accountability and control, but are consistent with 21st Century best practices. Utilizing an accounting firm on a routine basis helps us assure, that we become aware of, and implement, new regulatory requirements in a timely fashion.



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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT, Cont.

- We began using conference calls and Zoom meetings within committees and the Board, in the fall and through the winter. This has allowed us to continue to make good progress with our goals and plans, while positioning us to be able to carry on in the face of COVID.
- We formed an ad hoc Technology Committee and it is now a permanent committee with a Technology Chair.
- We have started using Microsoft Teams to organize how we work as a board.
  - This gives us internal board email addresses, with administrator capabilities to be able to reset passwords, so email accounts will never be lost, frozen, or otherwise become unusable.
  - Provides document storage capability with HIPPA level security. This will give us the capability to be able to pass on USABLE files to the next person who assumes a position on the board, while minimizing the on-going need to store volumes of paper files for record retention. This simple, time saver for someone doing a volunteer job, is the difference between choosing or not choosing, to volunteer.
- We have a team in place to update Job (Position) Descriptions, and ensure they are consistent and adequately reflect the key position responsibilities.

We faced and overcame several unanticipated challenges this past year:

- We regained control of our MGC Facebook Page.
- Our brand new Recording Secretary, Lois Anderson, needed to resign, due to health issues. We miss the opportunity to work with her. However, we are fortunate that Jenny Bond volunteered to fulfill her duties.
- We resolved a copyright license infringement allegation relative to the use of a photo on our website.

This is an amazing and exciting time for Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. (MGC). We are utilizing technology to change the way we do things:

 Although we had to cancel our Annual State Conference and many other District and Education Events, we were able to hold the first EVER NGC Accredited Zoom Tri-Refresher. We had 85 participants from 22 different states! Congratulations to Rita Crawley, Lynn Dinvald and Laura Grainger for organizing a highly successful event!



## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT, Cont.**

We are utilizing technology to change other things we do:

- We are streamlining our Roster and Dues Collection process. This will not only make the process of updating our member information substantially less time consuming, but it will assure that our District Directors are the first to know of changes or additions to Club member information, and it will make it easier for all involved to do updates as needed throughout the year. Many thanks to Anne Crimmins for leading this effort.
- We are phasing out of many of our mass printed materials. As an environmentally conscious organization, minimizing excess paper copies of things that end up in the trash anyway, not only saves money for MGC, but also literally helps save a tree. Beginning this year, we are encouraging all members to receive their newsletters via email. Some members still need a print copy of the newsletter so we are giving club presidents the option of receiving up to 5 copies of the newsletter which can be distributed as needed within their club. The money saved, almost \$6000/per year, can better be spent on programs like Youth Awards, Grants and Scholarships, just to name a few examples. Many thanks to the team of Monica Taylor, Bernadine Bennett, Charley Bohland and Michele Amstrong for leading this effort.
- We are pushing forward on youth contest support. In addition to awards for the High School Essay contest at the District and State level, which we began last year, we will also fund both the Smokey Bear Woodsy Owl Poster AND the Youth Sculpture contests, beginning this fiscal year. Not only are these students our potential gardener club members, but so are their parents! Investing in our future is one of the best ways we can spend our money!
- We jumped from 'thinking about' members conference call meetings straight to Monday Morning Member Meetings via Zoom. We are now offering more educational and special interest events as zoom meetings. This will provide club members the ability to join directly or to hold their own zoom meetings and draw upon the group talks already recorded. This will also allow members from across the state, who are interested in specific topics, to connect and share with each other.
- We will be holding more of our Board meetings as zoom meetings and utilize the technology available to us for smaller team and committee meetings. Taking advantage of technology not only helps us fulfill needs created by COVID, but gives us the opportunity to reach more people who would not normally be able to participate in board meetings because of the cost of travel.

We will continue to seek more opportunities to use technology to strengthen our organization and provide value to our members. Lastly, thank you all for the many ways you have faced the challenges brought to us by COVID and managed to continue bringing beauty to your communities.

Janet C Hickman



## TREASURER REPORT



### ROSEMARY "BUNNY" LADUKE

Treasurer

E-Mail: treasurer@migardenclubs.org

Report 2nd Quarter (Sept, Oct, Nov 2019) Michigan Garden Clubs February 16, 2020 Investments: MGC investments performed exceptionally well during the quarter. From September 1 through November 30 the new Raymond James investment showed a gain of \$2,567.

The Morgan Stanley accounts returned a total of \$11,933 for the quarter. Although this rate of growth may not be sustained, the markets are benefiting MGC at this time with total investment income for the second quarter of \$14,027.

Corporate Revenue/Expenses: Total MGC revenue for the second quarter was \$64,043, which included almost \$12,000 from School registrations and a little more than \$21,000 from the Districts and the FS Judges Symposium. Revenue for this quarter was from events, investments, donations, and dues (in that order). Expenses for the period totaled \$59,012 which left a surplus for the quarter of \$5,031.

MGC Accounts: At the urging of our CPA, MGC has gradually been simplifying its financial accounts and systems over the past few years. Maintaining multiple accounts increases accounting costs and lessens internal controls. All school checking accounts, the annual conference checking accounts, and now the Flower Show Judges Symposium account have all been closed. With the advent of electronic communications, one MGC Corporate checking account now accommodates all of these activities. A pilot program with District III is now underway to test whether districts feel they need to maintain separate checking accounts. MGC is now using bill.com to pay almost all invoices and reimbursements, and expenses are automatically conveyed electronically and stored in MGC QuickBooks data at Seber Tans.

Budget to Actuals: Comparing the actuals to the budgeted amounts, the MGC revenue at halfway through the year is at about 72% of budget which means our MGC revenue for the whole year will likely be higher than budgeted – GOOD NEWS. The MGC expenses at the end of the second quarter are at 56% of budget which means MGC's expenses are occurring as budgeted and at a lower rate than revenue.

Again, that is good news.



### **EXECUTIVE REPORT**



#### MONICA TAYLOR

1st Vice President E-Mail: 1stVP@migardenclubs.org



The MGC First Vice-President serves on the Executive Committee and MGC Board of Directors as Chair of the District Activities and Membership Committee. Five of the seven District Directors were new to their position. The finalized District Director Handbook has been a good resource for the District Directors. The District Directors met as a group prior to the Executive Committee to work on their best practices, to share ideas and strengthen communications with each other. This group of committed District Directors were eager to work within their District to communicate, engage and assist their District Clubs and support and promote MGC activities. It has been my pleasure to work with each of you -- Ruth Moline, Charley Bohland, Anne Crimmins, Michele Armstrong, Carol McGregor, Sue Soderberg and Carol Lauffer. Thanks for all your efforts, your time and your talents you have given to support MGC.

An NGC goal is to Plant America with Membership by increasing our membership 21% by 2021! In support of this goal, at each of the seven 2019 Fall District Conferences, we shared membership tips -- how to attract new members, retain current members and bring back members who have drifted away. Articles on this topic were included in the spring issue of the Gate and an article highlighting the success of membership growth of the River Valley Garden Club were showcased. As an organization we continue to offer the MGC Plant America Grow & Share Small Grant Program. The District Directors promote this opportunity within their districts, and to date since its inception in 2017, 21 grants have been awarded for a total of \$3961.96. Projects are many and varied, but all enhance the goals of clubs to support their community by sharing their love of gardening, landscape, floral design and environmental conservation.

In traveling around the state, talking with members, reviewing the presidents' reports and beautiful club yearbooks it is impressive to learn about all of the activities and contributions the MGC Clubs make in their communities and the positive impact they have in the gardening world. Thank You!



## **DISTRICT 1 REPORT**



#### **RUTH MOLINE**

District 1 Director Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, St. Clair Counties E-Mail: District1@migardenclubs.org

Before I prepared this report, I reviewed my Annual Reports for the last 4 years. They were remarkably similar and this report is also much like them.

District I has 30 clubs and about 1200 members. Twenty-seven of the clubs are regular MGC garden clubs and 3 are flower arranger guilds. The district covers Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and St. Clair counties. Unfortunately, we do not have any clubs in Macomb County or in the city of Detroit.

**Communication:** As District Director, I have communicated with clubs and individuals by email, phone calls, newsletters, reminders, forwarding MGC and NGC informational

announcements and by writing articles about individual clubs for the MGC

publication Thru the Garden Gate. I have read and commented on club newsletters and blasts, yearbooks and Club President's Annual Reports. I have attended club meetings and special events. Interactions with individuals and clubs, the sharing of information and encouraging words are probably the most important things I have done this year.

**District Clubs:** Clubs have continued to partner with each other and community groups, are redesigning and/ or are planting new pollinator gardens, are encouraging their members and communities to plant, and are providing interesting speakers and projects to attract new members.

I do not have further summary comments since our spring activities and events have been shut down since the beginning of March. - Ruth Moline



		DISTRIC	[]			
OFFICIAL CLUB NAME	Member Count	Club Size	District Award	State Award	CR Award	NGC Award
Allen Park Late Bloomers	32	Medium				
Club of Distinction		3		HM	12	
Blue Water Garden Club	38	Medium		08199630		
Club of Distinction		3	i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i	HM	1	
Yearbook, YB-1	-	3	1st	3rd	a	
	0	Small	151	olu	-	
Creative Flower Arrangers Guild	9	omail		Diamond	2	
Club of Distinction	_			Diamond	-	
Yearbook, 16E		1	1st	2nd		
Dearborn Heights Garden Club	24	Small				
Club of Distinction	_			Platinum		
Yearbook, YB-1		2	1st	3rd		
President's Mission Fund-Registered		0		0.1		
Pollinator Gardens (16)	_	Small		3rd		
Deeplands Garden Club	30	Medium	25			
Club of Distinction				HM		
Farmington Garden Club	31	Medium		4	n -	
Club of Distinction				Platinum		
Yearbook, YB-1		3	2nd			
Ferndale Garden Club	47	Medium				
Club of Distinction		0		Platinum	-	
Garden City Garden Club	50	Medium		1.144114111		
Club of Distinction		ABAGARATIAN		Platinum	1	
Yearbook, YB-1	-	4	2nd		1.2 A	
Garden Club of Dearborn	69	Large	2.13	<u>.</u>		
Club of Distinction			5	Diamond		
				Diamona	A	
President's Mission Fund- Registered Pollinator Gardens (15)		6		4th		
MGC #1, Civic Beautification		8	1st	HM		
MGC #11, Featured Article		6	1st	1st		
NGC G-3 A, Therapy Gardens		2	1st	1st		Appreciatio
NGC G-1 D, Containers			1st	HM		
NGC PUB1, Tommy Doland Newsletter			3rd	HM		
Garden Club of Michigan	135	X-Large	9247278 (A			
Club of Distinction	0.7.75			Silver		
Grosse lle Garden Club	74	Large		10 TO THE REAL POINT OF THE POINT OF THE REAL PO		
Club of Distinction		<u>्</u> राज्यत <b>ः अ</b> श्चर्यः । 		Diamond		
Yearbook, 1YB-1	-	5	2nd	vindelikuvi verskedi 51.	-	
President's Mission Fund- Registered				(		
Pollinator Gardens (11)				5th - Tie		
MGC #1, Civic Beautification			1st	HM		
MC #6, Elsie Cook Award	-		1st	HM	8	
MGC # 8, Youth Horticulture	-	2 2	1st	1st		
Hill and Dale Garden Club	10	Small				
Club of Distinction				HM		
Junior League Gardeners	62	Large		a target EPAD		
Club of Distinction				НМ		
La Societe Des Jardinieres	17	Small			-	
Club of Distinction				Club of Distinction	2 0	

		DISTRICI	[]			
OFFICIAL CLUB NAME	Member Count	Club Size	District Award	State Award	CR Award	NGC Award
Yearbook,YB-1		1	HM			
Livonia Garden Club	85	Large				
Club of Distinction				Diamond		
Yearbook, YB-1		5	1st	3rd		
MGC #9, Carolyn Gray Award			1st	3rd		
NGC EC- 5, Pollinators			1st	1st		
NGC CS-5 Special Achievement			1st	2nd		
NGC G-1-D, Containers				1st	1	
NGC HP-1, Historic Preservation			1st	HM	1.77	
NGC PUB 1, Tommy Dolan Newsletter			2nd	3rd		
NGC MP3-A, Website			1st	2nd		
Paint Creek Garden Club	-30	Medium		925 (2003)201		
Club of Distinction		8	5.5	HM		
Pleasant Ridge Garden Club	53	Medium				
Club of Distinction			6 Ø	Diamond		
Yearbook, YB -1		4	3rd			
Royal Oak Garden Club	21	Small				
Club of Distinction				Silver		
Seed and Sod Garden Club	25	Small			1-14 X	
Club of Distinction				Platinum		
Southfield Parks and Garden Club	29	Small				
Club of Distinction		6	6 U.	Gold	64.0	
Tapestry Garden Club, Inc.	17	Small	16.00			
Club of Distinction				HM		
Taylor Garden Club	67	Large				
Club of Distinction	10080			Diamond	102	
Yearbook, YB-1		4	1st	3rd -Tied		
MC #7, Photography			1st	2nd		
MC #14, Environmental		· · · · ·	1st	3rd		
President's Mission Fund - Registered Pollinator Gardens (34)			9000000 	1st - \$50		
NGC PUB 2-2(Aiii), Educational -"Why Go Native in Michigan?"			1st	1st		Merit
NGC PUB 1, Tommy Dolan Newsletter			1st	1st		Appreciation
Wayne Garden Club	37	Medium				
Club of Distinction	1			Silver		

#### IN LOVING MEMORY

June 2019-May 2020

A BEAUTIFUL SOUL Wherever a beautiful soul has been, there is a trail of beautiful memories.

**DISTRICT I** 

BLUE WATER GARDEB CLUB JOANNE THOMAS

DEARBORN HEIGHTS GARDEN CLUB MARY MUSCOT

> FARMINGTON JOANN LABBY BARBARA DERMODY

GARDEN CITY GARDEN CLUB MARY JANE SCHILDBERG

GARDEN CLUB OF DEARBORN JANE HERVEY CURRIE MARIE CHAPMAN

#### **GARDEN CLUB OF MICHIGAN**

CHRISTINE FINKENSTAEDT VIRGINIA LAMBRECHT ELLEN THURBER CONSTANCE WATERMAN JILL WILLIAMS

**GREATER DETROIT GARDEN CLUB** CHARLOTTE DASHNER LIVONIA GARDEN CLUB BETTY BARCLAY DOROTHY RUTYNA

MILITARY HILLS GARDEN CLUB LOIS TEED JAN SMUTEK

NORTH OAKLAND GARDEN CLUB DEBBIE MORROW

PLEASANT RIDGE GARDEN CLUB MARGARET BROM CAROLYN MILLER

SEED AND SOD GARDEN CLUB MARIE DODSON PHYLLIS LIEBER LORA VALSI

SOUTHFIELD PARKS AND GARDEN CLUB JON ADAMS

> TAYLOR GARDEN CLUB RACHEL KNUTH

> WAYNE GARDEN CLUB GLORIA ROWLAND

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## **DISTRICT 2A REPORT**



#### CHARLEY BOHLAND

District 2A Director and Webmaster E-Mail: District2A@migardenclubs.org E-Mail: webmaster@migardenclubs.org

District IIA has 14 clubs, with one being a glower arranger guild. The district covers Monroe, Lenawee, Washtenaw, Jackson and Hillsdale Counties. There are no clubs in Jackson County. Communication: As District Director, I have communicated with clubs with emails, telephone, and Zoom. I attend club events when asked.

Schools: District IIA has completed hosting Gardening School in the fall of 2019.

**District Clubs:** There is a range of projects in District IIA. They range from hanging pots in downtown areas, plantings in public places such as libraries, entrances to communities and parks, and more. Clubs have added and maintained Blue and Gold Star Memorials. Clubs have applied for and received club grants for their endeavors. - Charley Bohland



	D	ISTRICT	IIA			
OFFICIAL CLUB NAME	Member Count	Club Size	District Award	State Award	CR Award	NGC Award
Adrian Garden Club		e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e				
Ann Arbor Garden Club						
Eden's Garden Club	28				0	
Club of Distinction		Small		Diamond		
MGC #1, Civic Beautification		A s	1st	1st	17	
MGC#16, Holiday Trees				1st		
NGC CB-3, Community Beautification			1st	1st		Appreciation
NGC G-2 (Ci), Edible Gardening		Q	1st	1st		Commendation
NGC MP3, Facebook			1st	1st		
NGC MP3-A, Website			1st	1st		
Good Thyme Garden Club	26	Small				
Club of Distinction		6	12	Diamond	F.	
President's Mission Fund - Registered Pollinator Gardens (24)				2nd		
Hillsdale Garden Club	59	Medium			1	
Club of Distinction	10	0.0.0.000000000000000000000000000000000		Double Diamond		
Yearbook, YB-1		4	1st		1	
MGC #1, Civic Beautification			1st	3rd		2
MGC #9, Carolyn Gray Award		4	1127.0	1st	1977	
MGC#8, Native Trees		<u></u>		1st	-	
MGC#16, Holiday Trees				1st		
NGC HP-1(Aiii), Historic Preservation	1		1st	1st	8	Winner - \$100
NGC CB-2 (Biii) Community Beautification		0	1st	1st		1st Place (Biii)
Lotus Garden Club				(1.2.1.5)	-	
Yearbook, YB-1		1	1st	2nd	Ĭ	5
Milan Garden Club	22	Small			1	
Club of Distinction	10000	8 37330760 : 8 1		Platinum	8	d
Morenci Garden Club	28	Small				
Club of Distinction	1	00000 AAAU 950		Platinum		
Yearbook, YB-1		2	1st			
Saline Stone & Thistle Garden Club	51					
Club of Distinction		Medium		Diamond		
Yearbook, YB-1		4	2nd			
President's Mission Fund - Registered Pollinator Gardens (18)		Medium	5-C	2nd -Tie		
NGC PUB 1-2 , Tommy Doland (newsletter)			1st	2nd		
Sunshine Arrangers Guild	9	8		(t		
Club of Distinction		Small		Platinum	0	
Swan Creek Garden Club						
Yearbook, YB-1	1	2	2nd	h	1	

## **DISTRICT 2B REPORT**



#### ANNE CRIMMINS

District 2B Director E-Mail: District2B@migardenclubs.org Chair, MGC Membership E-Mail: Membership@migardenclubs.org

Thinking about The Year Interrupted. It was a year ago when the new steering committee members looked at each other and said, "Now what?" We didn't know each other but we all thought District IIB should stay together because of the many ties between the clubs. We had to jump in because there was a lot going on! We had the District IIB Fall Conference that was being planned and hosted by Across the Fence Post and DeWitt Millennium Garden Clubs, the summer MGC conference to plan and host (Ann Schoals and her very large crew), a District IIB Spring event to plan (Webberville Garden Club), a District IIB Leadership event to define and plan (Laura and Carol Grainger and crew), a newsletter to write, fundraising to complete and an educational display to design and implement for the flower show in Lansing (Ronnie Poland, Laura Grainger, Jolanta Piecuch), help with scholarships and awards (Jolanta Piecuch) as well as cool events to attend and assignments on MGC committees to work on. The 15 clubs in the district jumped right in and started helping.

Our district held a successful District IIB 2019 fall meeting, a fun and relaxing Leadership Exchange held at Roxanne Houghton, member of Williamston Red Cedar Garden Club. District IIB received a first-place ribbon at the almost opened to the public Lansing Flower Show. We also had so many fun and interesting club events and did so much planning for the MGC summer conference and District IIB Spring meeting. Thank you to everyone for thier time, talent, and creative energies! And then we had to cancel -- the flower show, the conferences, the events and meetings. We are still cancelling., But there have also been opportunities coming out of this "Year Interrupted."

Moving onward the District held its first Leadership meeting in June since Covid-19 hit. So while we miss seeing every one of you in person and we miss the events, like the Interest Group meetings and luncheons and fundraisers, we are excited about this whole new set of tools that will help make running the business of the clubs easier and take advantage of the technology that allows members who can't travel to a meeting or an event a chance to participate online. Happy Gardening. - Anne Crimmins



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garden initiatives

	D	ISTRICT	IIB			
OFFICIAL CLUB NAME	Member Count	Club Size	District Award	State Award	CR Award	NGC Award
Across the Fence Post Garden Club	5					
Club of Distinction		Small		COD		
Brighton Garden Club	77					
Club of Distinction		Large		Diamond	1	
MGC # 9, Carolyn Gray Award		1	1st	2nd		
NGC CS1, Community Service			1st	1st	1	1st Place (Aii)
NGC MP1, Membership		ă	1st	1st		Appreciation
NGC MP3, Facebook			1st	2nd		
NGC PUB 2, Publication Cookbook			1st	1st		
NGC CB-2, Community Beautification		ă și	1st	1st		
DeWitt Millennium Garden Club, Inc.	61	2	1.500	1999		
Club of Distinction	15.000	Large	1 1	Triple Diamond		
Yearbook, YB-1		4	2nd	CONTRACTOR CONTRACTOR	1	
President's Mission Fund - Registered					1	
Pollinator Gardens (29)		Large		2nd		
High School Essay contest, District 1st Place Winner - Sydney Foster - \$100						
Grand Ledge Garden Club, Inc	26					
Club of Distinction		Small		COD		
Yearbook, YB-1		2	1st			
Hartland Home & Garden Club	30	- <u>10</u>				
Club of Distinction		Medium		Gold	-	
MGC 2, Wildflowers Beautification		modiam	1st	1st		
Howell Garden Club	-		150	Tot		
		3		3rd		
Yearbook, YB-1	07	3	1st	Siù		
Marshall Area Garden Club	97	orgo		Cold		
Club of Distinction		Large	20.00	Gold		
Mason Sycamore Creek Garden Club	28	0		Discourse	1.	
Club of Distinction		Small		Diamond		
Yearbook, YB-1		2	2nd			
President's Mission Fund - Michigan Youth Pollinator Garden (MYPG) Project		Small	1st -\$100			
MGC 15, Share The Harvest		1		1st		
NGC CS4 (Ai), Food Bank			1st	1st		1st Place
NGC EC5, Pollinators			1st	1st		Appreciation
						1st and Overal
NGC Y-1, Youth Garden Club			1st	1st		Winner - \$100
NGC Y-5, Youth Hort Helen Hussey		8	1st	1st		Appreciation
NGC WG-3, Jr. Garden Club Wildlife		8	0 00	0		1st and Overa
Gardening Education		i i	1st	1st		Winner - \$100
Meridian Garden Club	95	5				
Club of Distinction		Large		Triple Diamond		
Yearbook, YB-1		5	1st	2nd		
MGC #9, Carolyn Gray Award			2nd	3rd		
MGC #1, Civic Beautification			1st	1st		
Sherwood Garden Club						
The Garden Club of Greater Lansing	47					
Club of Distinction		Medium	202	Diamond	5	
Yearbook, YB-1		1 1 1	+ +	umotexistrotolitik		
MGC 16, Holiday Trees		-	/	1st		

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		ISTRICT	IB			
MGC #9, Carolyn Gray Award			1st	HM		
NGC PUB 1-2 (Aii), Tommy Doland (newsletter)			1st	1st		Appreciation
Webberville Garden Club	32					
Club of Distinction		Medium		Gold		
Williamston Red Cedar Garden Club, Inc.	58					
Club of Distinction		Medium		Double Diamond	-	
Yearbook, YB-1-4		4	1st	1st	1st	Commendation
NGC CS1, Roadside Beautification		8 8	1st	1st		
NGC EC-4 (Aii), Bird Welfare			1st	1st	-1	1st Place
Youth Sculpture Contest Sculpture - Adam Weston Grade 5 -2nd place						Grade 5 2nd Place
NGC EC-5, Pollinators			1st	2nd		
NGC PUB2-5 Publications Brochures			1st	3rd		
MGC#1, Civic Beautification			1st	HM		

#### IN LOVING MEMORY

June 2019-May 2020

A BEAUTIFUL SOUL Wherever a beautiful soul has been there is a trail of beautiful memories.

#### **DISTRICT IIB**

MERIDIAN GARDEN CLUB HELEN TANNER JEAN WEINERT

DEWITT MILLENNIUM GARDEN CLUB LARRY ARONSON

GREATER LANSING GARDEN CLUB MARIAN BISCHOFF

HARTLAND HOME & GARDEN CLUB LOIS CAMPBELL

WILLIAMSTON RED CEDAR GARDEN CLUB PHILLIS CHIRICO

> WEBBERVILLE GARDEN CLUB RUSSELL BLOOM

MARSHALL AREA GARDEN CLUB ED WAIDELY

## **DISTRICT 3 REPORT**



### MICHELE ARMSTRONG

District 3 Director

E-Mail: District3@migardenclubs.org

Starting with the MGC June Board meeting, I was excited to begin serving as the new District III Director! With 32 Clubs District III is truly buzzing with a variety of projects, trips and activities! Here are a few occasions that I was privileged to attend in addition to my MGC Board meetings:

The Kalamazoo Garden Council's 9 MGC Clubs welcomed me to their 74th annual luncheon and officer installation.

Carnegie Garden Club held their garden walk on Saturday, June 29.

South Haven GC's 22nd Annual Garden Walk and Boutique Sale was on Saturday July 13.

**Indian Hills GC** viewed Wightman Assoc. maturing parking lot "rain garden"- a viable solution for minimizing runoff contamination.

**Four Flags GC** had a sunny, cool morning at Riverfront Park in Niles for their beautifully done Blue Star Memorial Dedication on September in their yellow ribbon garden.

**River Valley GC's** member-to-member plant and container fundraiser auction had some members saying, "I bought more than I brought!".

**Chula Vista GC's** September field trip was to ValleyHUB at KVCC's Innovation Center, a new program focusing on sustainable food systems and sources where land and/or water are scarce or irregular. It was a beautiful and well-planned event.

**Michigan's 57th Flower Show Symposium**, sponsored by MAAJ and District III, on September 23-24 in Kalamazoo with lots of information, floral designs, and fun interaction!

A special thanks to **Portage GC**, **Berrien Springs GC**, **River Valley GC**, **Wabigon GC**, **Indian Hills GC**, **and Chula Vista GC** for including me in their holiday projects and food fabulous holiday gatherings!

Congratulations to those Garden Clubs that celebrated a milestone year anniversary in 2019: Indian Hills, 90; Parchment, 75; Buchanan, 65; Highcliffe Terrace, 65; Portage, 50; and Carnegie, 20. A tremendous thank you to host River Valley GC and the over 150 club members who made the District III Fall Meeting "Peace, Love, Gardening" memorable and fun with the popular 'coffee mug' flower arrangement make-and-take, vendors and Sawyer Garden Center right next door.

As gardeners we know that every year is different, and 2020 has certainly been a challenging change in our regular spring and early summer gardening routines. We are all connected through our love of gardening, nurturing not only plants and trees, but our families, friends and neighborhoods as well. I truly enjoy meeting Club members, experiencing their programs and projects, and look forward to my second year! *Wishing you all Happy Gardening!* - Michele Armstrong

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	D	ISTRICT				
OFFICIAL CLUB NAME	Member Count	Club Size	District Award	State Award	CR Award	NGC Award
Carnegie Garden Club	29	Small				
Club of Distinction				Gold		
Chula Vista Garden Club	36	Medium		<ul> <li>( )=0.1 (V/z)=0.362</li></ul>		
Club of Distinction				Double Diamond		
Yearbook, YB-1		3	1st	1st	0	
President's Mission Fund - Registered		Madium		446		
Pollinator Gardens (14)		Medium	1.1	4th 2nd		
MGC 2, Wildflowers Beautification	_		1st	1st		
MGC 3, Horticulture	_	-		1st		
MGC 7, Photography	-	2		1st		
MGC 9, Carolyn Gray Award NGC EC3, Pollinators	-	R		1st	-	Appreciation
NGC ECS, Polinators NGC PUB 1, Tommy Doland Newsletter	-		1st	3rd		Appreciation
Four Flags Garden Club	25	Small	150	145.5%		
Club of Distinction	20	Junion		Platinum		
			1st	1st	2	
MGC 6, Elsie Cook Award	8	Small	ist	100		
Garden Pals of Portage Senior Center	8	Small		Silver		
Club of Distinction		Omall		Silver		
Gardenettes Garden Club	8	Small		01	-	
Club of Distinction		0 11		Silver		
Grow & Show Garden Club	26	Small				
Club of Distinction				Platinum		
Yearbook, YB-1	_	2	3rd			
President's Mission Fund - Registered Pollinator Gardens (25)		Small		1st		
Indian Hills Garden Club	45	Medium				
Club of Distinction		8		Platinum	i i	
Kalamazoo Garden Club		2				
Yearbook, YB-1		3	HM	1		
Lakeshore Flower Arranging Guild						
Landscapers Garden Club	14	Small	1. AS		a	
Club of Distinction	1.15.55	SARATERIA.		Diamond		
President's Mission Fund - Registered Pollinator Gardens (14)				4th		
NGC L1, Blue Star			1st	1st		
MGC #6, Elsie Cook Awad	-	-	2nd	2nd		
Mason-Union Garden Club	16	¢	2110	1990 C 199		
Club of Distinction	10	Small		Silver	1	
Meek's Mill Garden Club	24	Sindi		OIIYOI		
	24	Small		Platinum	0	
Club of Distinction	-	2	4-1	1st		
Yearbook, YB1-2	_	2	1st	ารเ		
Parchment Garden Club		Ornall		-		
Petal Pushers Garden Club	29	Small		Di		
Club of Distinction				Diamond		
Yearbook, YB-1		3	2nd			
NGC EC3, Pollinators		6	1st	PRAKKIN		
MGC #1, Civic Beautification			1st	2nd		
NGC EC3, Pollinators	36	Medium		1st 2nd		

		DISTRICT			
Club of Distinction				Platinum	
Yearbook, YB-1		3	3rd		
River Valley Garden Club	65	Large	1st		
Club of Distinction			68-05 -	Diamond	
Yearbook, YB-1					
Shoreline Garden Club		2			
Yearbook, YB-1		3	HM		
South Haven Garden Club		ė. į	() () ()		
Sturgis Garden Club					
The Garden Forum of Berrien Springs					
The Niles Garden Club		ð a		1-12	
Three Rivers Club of Little Gardens, Inc.	28	Small		, i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i	
Club of Distinction				Gold	~
Yearbook, YB-1		2	2nd		
Town & Country Garden Club					
Wabigon Gardeners					
Western Hills Garden Club	21	Small	15.72		9
Club of Distinction			5.4%	Platinum	
MGC 7, Photography			1st	1st	
MGC7, Photography, Group			1st	2nd	

#### IN LOVING MEMORY

June 2019-May 2020

A BEAUTIFUL SOUL Wherever a beautiful soul has been there is a trail of beautiful memories.

#### **DISTRICT III**

FOUR FLAGS GARDEN CLUB JOHN MISLER

HIGH CLIFFE TERRACE GAADEN CLUB TERESA BURKE WILMA EVANS

> INDIAN HILLS GARDEN CLUB MARY ANN WYSE

PARCHMENT GARDEN CLUB PATRICIA PARKER

PORTAGE GARDEN CLUB HELEN NICOLA

WESTWOOD GARDEN CLUB ANNE ANDERSON, MGC LIFE MEMBER

## **DISTRICT 4 REPORT**



#### CAROL MCGREGOR

District 4Director E-Mail: District4@migardenclubs.org

The 15 Garden Clubs of District IV equate to 676 Gardeners, spread out over several counties of West Michigan. I had the pleasure of meeting with almost 100 of these club members at our annual Fall District Conference in October of 2019. During the latter part of 2019, a great many celebrations had taken place in the District, including:

- 60th Anniversary for the Dirt Daubers Garden Club; a 50th Anniversary for the Belding Gardeneers;
- 75th anniversary for the Lowell Showboat Garden Club. Blue Star and Gold Star Memorials were celebrated by the Rockford Garden Club and the Tri-Cities Garden Club.

Schools were held, Environmental Studies School Course III; Gardening Studies School Course I and Landscape Design School Course I were held.

Three Plant America Grow & Share Small Grant awards were applied for and granted, one of which helped finance a Flower Show sponsored by the District and hosted by the Kent Garden Club.

The excitement of the year 2020 was high, looking forward to garden walks, plant sales, spring meetings, etc., until we were hit with a virus that shut down the world. The sun finally came out and the grass is green and the flowers are blooming and our District is still looking forward to ending the year with a Fall District Meeting and all the things that gardeners do with enthusiasm. This has been a very sad time for us all and we will get past it. - Carol McGregor



	D	ISTRICT	IV			
OFFICIAL CLUB NAME	Member Count	Club Size	District Award	State Award	CR Award	NGC Award
Belding Gardeneers	41	Medium				
Club of Distinction		· · · · · ·		Platinum		
Yearbook, YB-1	2	3	1st			
Big Rapids Garden Club, Inc.	75	Large	a de la companya de la			
Club of Distinction		с. 	. IC 0	Platinum		
Yearbook, YB-1		4	2nd			
Dirt Dauber Garden Club	33	Medium				
Club of Distinction		.0 =		COD		
Holland Garden Club	56	Medium				
Club of Distinction				Diamond		
Yearbook, YB-1				HM		
FS-1B, "Poetic Expression"						Purple Ribbon
Kent Garden Club	106	X-Large				
Club of Distinction				Double Diamond		
Yearbook, YB-1-6		6	1st	1st	1st	Commendation
President's Mission Fund - Michigan Youth Pollinator Garden (MYPG) Project			1st -\$100			
MGC G-1D, Containers			1st	1st		1st Place D(iv)
NGC PUB 1, Tommy Dolan Newsletter				1st		Cert. of Merit
NGC MP3 A, Website			1st	1st		Appreciation
NGC MP3 , Facebook			1st	1st		Appreciation
NGC CS5 - Special Achievement				-54		Appreciation
NGC CB-2 (Biv), Community Beautification			1st	1st		Appreciation
Lowell Showboat Garden Club	18	Small				
Club of Distinction				Diamond		
Yearbook, YB-1-1		1	1st	1st		
Muskegon County Garden Club	49	Medium		2000 00		
Club of Distinction				Diamond		
Yearbook, YB-1		4	3rd			
MGC #1, Civic Beautification			1st	HM		
NGC CB-2 Community Beautification			1st	2nd		
NGC G-3, Garden Therapy			1st	HM		
NGC PUB2-5 Publications Brochures		a 1570 - 1000	1st	2nd		
Rockford Garden Club, Inc	58	Medium				
Club of Distinction				Platinum		
Saugatuck-Douglas Garden Club						
Yearbook, YB-1		4	HM			
Standale Garden Club	28	Small		<b>D</b>		
Club of Distinction				Platinum		
Yearbook, YB-1		3	2nd			
Tri-Cities Garden Club	83	Large		Triple Diseased		
Club of Distinction	ļ			Triple Diamond 2nd		
Yearbook, YB-1	ļ	4	1st	ZHQ		
President's Mission Fund - Registered Pollinator Gardens (17)				3rd		
MGC # 1,Civic Beautification		0	1st	2nd		
MGC #9, Carolyn Gray Award			1st	3rd		
NGC CB-1, Roadside Beautification			1st	1st		Appreciation
NGC FS-1C "Lakeshore Beauty"					-	Purple Ribbon
NGC PUB1 Tommy Doland Newsletter			1st	2nd		
NGC PUB2, Brochures			2nd			

DISTRICT IV					
West Michigan Flower Arrangers Guild	12	Small		HM	
Club of Distinction				Diamond	
YB6-A1, Guild Yearbook		1	1st	1st	
District IV			-		
FS-15A 'The Magic of The Secret Garden"					Green Ribbon

#### IN LOVING MEMORY

**C**.

June 2019-May 2020

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A BEAUTIFUL SOUL Wherever a beautiful soul has been there is a trail of beautiful memories.

#### **DISTRICT IV**

ROCKFORD GARDEN CLUB LARRY HERRINGTON SANDY MCEWEN

WEST MICHIGAN FLOWER ARRANGERS GUILD JOANN OTT, CHARTER MEMBER OF WMFAC

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## **DISTRICT 5 REPORT**



#### SUE SODERBERG

District 5 Director E-Mail: District5@migardenclubs.org

District V is located In Northern Michigan and presently has 21 MGC Clubs with approximately 900 members. We cover 23 counties and have clubs in 12 of these counties. The first major accomplishment for District V was to host the 2019 State Conference. Almost every club in the district helped to plan and carry out this statewide conference.

Six of the District V Garden Clubs held summer garden walks which were all very well attended. Many featured pollinator and native gardens. MGC signs were displayed at each garden walk to help promote Michigan Garden clubs. Clubs in the district held two standard flower shows this past year.

Twenty of the 21 clubs in District V submitted their Presidents Report and Club of Distinction Form. I read them all and continue to be amazed at all the community beautification AND civic projects that each club is involved in. District V submitted yearbooks for award consideration in 2019. District V also had the largest number of MGC and NGC award applications, totaling 30.

In September of 2019, the Mason County Garden Club held a wonderful District V Annual Conference. "Fall Friends and Flowers" was very well attended and enjoyed by many members of District V. As with all other districts, our spring Leadership Conference had to be cancelled due to Covid-19.

I want to extend a big thank you to all the presidents and members of the 21 garden clubs in District V. You make your communities and the state of Michigan a better place to live. - Sue Soderberg



	D	ISTRICT	· V			
OFFICIAL CLUB NAME	Member Count	Club Size	District Award	State Award	CR Award	NGC Award
Boyne Valley Garden Club	96	Large	2			
Club of Distinction				Diamond		
Yearbook, YB-1		5	2nd			42 11
MGC #1, Civic Beautification			1st	HM		
By-the-Bay Garden Club of Sutton's Bay	50	Medium	· · · · ·	2.1//	-	
Club of Distinction	2			Gold		
Yearbook, YB-1	20	3	1st		,	
Cadillac Garden Club	31	Medium				-
Club of Distinction	2			Diamond		
Yearbook, YB-1		3	2nd			
Charlevoix Area Garden Club	86	Large				
Club of Distinction				Diamond		
Yearbook, YB-1-5	8	5	1st	1st		
Charlevoix Evening Garden Club	19	Small		10,000		-
Club of Distinction		CULOR CARGONICI		Silver		
Edelweiss Garden Club	34	Medium		145.552799440	6	
Club of Distinction		FAILURA DESCRIPTION		Gold		
MGC #1, Civic Beautification		×	2nd	2nd		
NGC PUB2-5 (Aii), Membership Brochures	-		1st	1st		Merit
Elk Rapids Garden Club	73	Large		JAN 194	-	- ILE Grandvice
Club of Distinction				Diamond		
Yearbook, YB-1	5 5	5	3rd		5	
Juniper Garden Club	54	Medium	Jiu		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
÷	- 34	Wedium		Platinum		
Club of Distinction	-	4		Flaunum	-	
Yearbook, YB-1			HM			-
Lake Shores Garden Club	30	Medium				
Club of Distinction				Platinum		
Ma-Me-Ne-Sewong Garden Club	28	Small				o
Club of Distinction		2		Platinum		
Mason County Garden Club	71	Large				-
Club of Distinction				Diamond		
Yearbook, YB-1		4	HM			
President's Mission Fund - Registered						
Pollinator Gardens (11)		Large		5th -Tie		
MGC #14, Environmental	h.		1st	2nd		
NGC CS-5 (Aiii), Special Achievement	8		1st	1st		Appreciation
NGC EC-1, Lucille Droege Mauntel			0	10001.00		
Conservation Award			1st	1st		Appreciation
			1st	1st		1st Place (Ciii)
NGC MP-3, Website			1st	1st	s	ISLFIAGE (GIII)
NGC MP3, Facebook			ISL	Tot		1
NGC FS-1C "From Mother Goose to Dr. Seuss'						Purple Ribbon
Periwinkle Garden Club of Frankfort, Inc.	63	Large				
Club of Distinction				Platinum		
Yearbook, YB-1		4	3rd - Tie			
Central Region #3, Sharing Gardens					3rd	
Petoskey Area Garden Club, Inc.	100	X-Large		AND 000-000-000-00		
Club of Distinction				Double Diamond		17
Yearbook, YB-1		6	1st	2nd		

		DISTRICI	۲V ا		
MGC MC1, Civic Beautification			~ <u>~ ~</u>	1st	
MGC 11, Featured Article				1st	
MGC 14, Enviromental				1st	
MGC 7, Photography				1st	
Member Award of Honor					CR Honoree
Portage Lake Garden Club	47	Medium			
Club of Distinction	105040			Diamond	
Yearbook, YB-1		4	2nd		
MGC #1, Civic Beautification			1st	1st	
MGC #6, Elsie Cook		1	1st	1st	
NGC HP1 (Aii) Historic Preservation		-	1st	1st	1st Place (Aii)
Presque Isle County Garden Club	17	Small	151	1st	ISL FIACE (All)
Club of Distinction	17		<u>↓</u>	Silver	
Seedums Garden Club	49	Medium	<u> </u>		
Club of Distinction	тu			Platinum	
Yearbook, YB-1		4	НМ	SA JARRENAMAN	
MGC 5, Liberty Hyde		10	1.1141	1st	
Spirit of the Woods Garden Club, Inc.	57	Medium		1.368.8	
Club of Distinction	01	111070179935010		Diamond	
Yearbook, YB-1		4	1st	3rd- Tie	
MGC #1, Civic Beautification		15	3rd	3rd	
MGC #7, Photography			1st	НМ	
MGC #9, Carolyn Gray Award		-	1st	2nd	
MGC #14, Environmental			1st	2nd	
NGC MP-1 (Aii), Membership			1st	1st	Appreciation
NGC 3, Tommy Doland		-	1st	НМ	
NGC EC-5, Pollinators		-	1st	HM	
Stepping Stones Garden Club	17	Small	10	10 2 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0
Club of Distinction			Č Č	Silver	
Sweetwater Evening Garden Club	12	Small			
Club of Distinction				Platinum	C
The Friendly Garden Club of Traverse City	54	Medium			
Club of Distinction				Double Diamond	
Yearbook, YB-1		4	3rd-Tie		
President's Mission Fund - Michigan Youth					.17
Pollinator Garden (MYPG) Project			1st - \$100		
MGC #7, Photography			2nd	HM	
NGC MP3A, Website			1st	1st	Appreciation
NGC MP3, Facebook			1st	1st	Appreciation
High School Essay contest, District 1st Place Winner - Anne Marie Myler -\$100					
NGC PUB1, Tommy Doland Newsletter		6.	1st	HM	
The Quality Thyme Garden Club	16	Small			1-
Club of Distinction				Platinum	
Yearbook, YB-1		1	1st	3rd	

#### IN LOVING MEMORY

**C**.

June 2019-May 2020

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A BEAUTIFUL SOUL Wherever a beautiful soul has been there is a trail of beautiful memories.

#### **DISTRICT V**

FRIENDLY GARDEN CLUB CATHY HAMILTON

MA-ME-NE SEWONG GARDEN CLUB WILMA ALPERS

## **DISTRICT 6 REPORT**



#### CAROL LAUFFER

District 6 Director EMail: District6@migardenclubs.org

District VI encompasses 12 counties in the central eastern region of the Michigan lower peninsula. There are currently 16 active clubs with a little over 400 members. The district has experienced the loss of one club, Mid-Michigan Flower Arrangers Guild, due to attrition plus a drop in members overall from previous years. I published nine district newsletters [Plant, Cultivate, Harvest!], that were to be distributed by each club to their members. The newsletter contained a variety of information including member recruitment, board skills and responsibilities, member club activities, workshops, and scheduled meetings.

This district has one district meeting in the fall of each year. The Yard and Garden Club of Flint hosted the 2019 Fall District VI Meeting at Genesys Banquet Center in Grand Blanc. Seventy district and state members attended. The 2020 meeting chair, Anne Southworth (Evergreen Garden Club), has been working diligently planning the fall meeting in Midland.

The Caro Garden Club is planning a celebration of the Club's 90th Anniversary for July 2020. Club activities were maintained and enhanced by several clubs this past year. In the works is a Blue Star Dedication by Evening Bloomers Garden Club out of Mount Pleasant and a Blue Star Parkway Project facilitated by the Valley Garden Club of Bay City. The Mount Pleasant Garden Club started the Mount Pleasant Seed Exchange housed in the Veterans Memorial Library in Mount Pleasant. Four clubs submitted President's Award reports by March 31, 2020.

The Midland Garden Council sponsored Series VII, Course II of NGC Environmental School in October 2019. Unfortunately, Series VII, Course III scheduled for April 2020 had to be canceled due to the pandemic. It will hopefully be rescheduled for the fall of 2020.

Port Sanilac and Caro Garden Clubs facilitated participation of local youth in the NGC High School essay contest this year. My participation this year included attendance at MGC Executive Committee meetings, MGC Board meetings, Environmental School, two garden walks, four club meetings, meeting with chairs for the 2019 and 2020 Fall District Meeting and follow-up correspondence plus working on district meeting call letters and meeting agendas. - Carol Lauffer



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	D	ISTRICT	VI			
OFFICIAL CLUB NAME	Member Count	Club Size	District Award	State Award	CR Award	NGC Award
Caro Garden Club	33					
Club of Distinction		Medium		Double Diamond		
Yearbook YB-1		3	1st			
President's Mission Fund - Registered Pollinator Gardens (20)		Medium		1st - \$50	5	
President's Mission Fund - Michigan Youth Pollinator Garden (MYPG) Project		Medium	1st - \$100			
High School Essay contest, District 1st Place Winner - Leslie Licudine - \$100			1st - \$100	1st -\$300	·	
NGC MP3-A, Website			1st	2nd		
NGC MP3-B, Facebook			1st	2nd		
MGC #14, Environmental			1st	1st		
MGC #9, Carolyn Gray Award			1st	3rd		
Chemical City Garden Club	25					
Club of Distinction		Small		Platinum		
Evening Bloomers Garden Club					5 C	
MGC #7, Photography			1st	2nd		
NGC MP3-B, Facebook			1st	HM		
Evening Blossoms Garden Club			8			
Mt. Pleasant Garden Club. Inc	25		12 V			
Club of Distinction		Small		Gold		
Yearbook YB-1		2	2nd			
Port Sanilac Garden Club, Inc	26		0			
Club of Distinction		Small	8 B	Gold	5	
Sadie Toeppner Garden Club - Study Group						
Yearbook 16-E		1	1st			
The Little Garden Club						
Yearbook YB-1		2	1st	2nd		
Touch the Earth Garden Club	40				S	
Club of Distinction		Medium		Diamond		
President's Mission Fund - Registered Pollinator Gardens (18)		Medium	2nd	2nd - Tie		

#### IN LOVING MEMORY

June 2019-May 2020

Q

A BEAUTIFUL SOUL Wherever a beautiful soul has been there is a trail of beautiful memories.

#### **DISTRICT VI**

CARO GARDEN CLUB DONNA SIEGNER

LITTLE GARDEN CLUB RHEA CURRIE

MOUNT PLEASANT GARDEN CLUB DORIS DALE MARLEEN HANLEY

# COMMITTEES & PROJECTS





## CIVIC AFFAIRS



#### CYNDY NEMON

2nd Vice President E-mail: 2ndVP@migardenclubs.org



The number of clubs interested in Therapy Gardens and Plant it Pink has dropped over the past year. In reviewing the NGC directory of their gardens/projects and their web page, I am hoping to change our focus to match that of NGC. NGC has an overall committee called Gardening. One of their categories under this heading is Healing Gardens for Hope and Awareness. This name to me, seems to encompass both Therapy Gardening and Plant It Pink as well as several others.

The term "garden therapy" indicates that the gardening activities are much like those that I have observed in nursing homes and other institutional programs. It is a more formal term meaning the gardening activities are planned, facilitated, and supervised. The term healing gardens can be as simple as someone having a stressful day and going outside to a garden/yard and connecting with nature.

Plant It Pink is a long-standing program that NGC partnered with the Susan B. Coleman organization around 1982. NGC encouraged clubs to plant gardens of pink flowers for breast cancer awareness. These activities seem to surface every October during Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Remember that almost all types of cancers now have a designated color. So, planning gardens based on cancer colors is endless!

My goal for the coming year is to get these two committees and their activities aligned with NGC. I would also like to get all the job descriptions under Civic Affairs updated and focus on filling those vital vacant positions. Any feedback or interest would be greatly appreciated!

I would like to acknowledge and thank both Judy and David for a year of exceptional work in their respective committees! - Cyndy Nemon



## **BLUE AND GOLD STAR**



## JUDY LINDENMULDER

Blue & Gold Star Chair

Blue Star and Gold Star Memorial Markers (updated name to align with NGC) 2019 was a busy year for planning and dedicating Blue and Gold Star Markers. The Webberville Garden Club and Four Flags Garden Club-Nile, MI, both dedicated Blue Star makers, becoming the 98th and 99th markers in Michigan.

Three clubs began planning a Blue Star Dedication and three club began planning a Gold Star dedication. Dedications were scheduled for 2020, however with the current health pandemic those dedications were canceled and will be rescheduled later. In 2019, NGC appointed a new National Blue Star Chairman, Pam Dowd. Her title is NGC Blue Star & Gold Star Families Memorial Marker Chairman. Pam is from Tennessee. She has been updating the NGC website with new forms and guidelines for dedicating memorial markers. The guidelines offer information on organizing, planning and scripts for the actual dedication.

I have Gold Star pins available; they are \$5.00 each. If you would like to purchase a Gold or Blue Star pin or need brochures. please e-mail me at lingale2@aol.com. Also, I have a new mailing address: 3618 Muirfield Dr, Lansing, MI 48911. I look forward to working with you to organize or plan a Blue or Gold Star dedication during 2020-2021. - Judy Lindenmulder



## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE



#### DAVID DRAIN

Chair, Legislation E-Mail: legislative@migardenclubs.org

It was a memorable year in promoting the Black Swallowtail butterfly initiative. During the State Conference in June of 2019, the Legislation Chair was introduced to many club volunteers with a deep commitment to helping educate the public about the Black Swallowtail and working toward the passage of the butterfly bills. Additionally, much of the MGC butterfly literature was distributed to clubs who used the materials for garden walks and tours, club sponsored events and community festivals for the summer and fall months.

During the fall of 2019, the Legislation Chair with the assistance of other dedicated club volunteers presented updates at all the District Fall Conferences. It was at the seven conferences where the attendees participated in a letter-writing campaign addressed to their elected officials asking for hearings in both chambers. More than 850 letters were sent from conference attendees alone. It was especially heartening to hear the many stories of how clubs across Michigan promoted the Black Swallowtail. MGC wishes to thank the many clubs who attended coffee hours and town halls yielding more legislative letters of support than in the past. Aside from the District IIB tri-fold display, four additional displays were purchased. With the help of several volunteers, the displays were creatively designed. These displays allow clubs in most all the districts to have easy access to one for any upcoming events.

Due to the pandemic in the spring, a couple of big events attracting hundreds of visitors were cancelled or participation limited. The Lansing Home and Garden Show and Wedel's 25th Annual Flower and Garden Expo were big losses in terms of promotional activity. Furthermore, with the cancellation of the MGC State Conference, the distribution of materials will be more challenging and expensive to disseminate to the clubs who again need the materials for summer and fall functions. Because of the coronavirus impact on Michigan's economy, our elected officials in Lansing will be very much focused on the upcoming budget, getting businesses back open, and dealing with year-end legislative passage. For local clubs, the best course of action continues to be best served promoting the Black Swallowtail as a pollinator as well as a candidate for State Butterfly.

In the fall, MGC will make every attempt to meet with the principles behind the other butterfly bills to discuss a possible collaborative plan for the coming next legislative session beginning in January of 2021. A final note and shoutout to the MGC leadership and individual club members (too many to list) for their limitless support and encouragement in promoting the Black Swallowtail as the official State of Michigan butterfly. - David Drain

## GARDEN PROJECTS

#### MICHIGAN POLLINATOR GARDEN PROJECT Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. supports SB 167 and HB 4314 making the Black Swallowtail the State Butterfly of Michigan



#### Did you know?

48 of the 50 states have an official state butterfly, state insect, or both. Michigan does not. Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. hopes that Michigan will join those states that celebrate the presence and value of butterflies by passing SB 167 and HB 4314. With your help it WILL happen!

To stay up to date, monitor the Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc., website (michigangardenclubs.org). In the Member Area you'll find the information under the "Projects" tab: Black Swallowtail. Butterflies are both beautiful and important to our ecosystem. The Black Swallowtail is especially important to Michigan. It is found throughout the entire state and it is a permanent resident of Michigan. It does not leave in the winter as many butterflies do. The Black Swallowtail overwinters in Michigan as a pupa, making it a great butterfly for school groups to study. Each Black Swallowtail lives 2+ weeks, with 2-3 generations per year.

Butterflies contribute to thriving ecosystems and are great pollinators. Not only are they objects of beauty in our world but they are a source of food for birds, reptiles, mammals and other insects. Butterflies are harbingers of the fragility of life on our planet. They are particularly sensitive to changes in our environment from the use of harmful pesticides and the loss natural habitat areas.

The Mission of Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. is to promote environmental responsibility. We celebrate the presence and value of butterflies; particularly, our full-time resident butterfly, the Black Swallowtail.

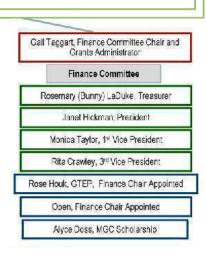
Show your support by signing support of the petition and "bee" counted towards passing legislation naming a State Butterfly for Michigan.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE



#### GAIL TAGGART

Finance Committee Chair and Grants Administrator E-Mail: finance@migardenclubs.org



Accomplishments during the 2019-2020 fiscal year include:

- Development of a working method to bill and process reimbursements for individual insurance certificates when required by member Clubs' "landlord".
- Held a Q&A session with Jeff Belen, our insurance advisor, to improve our understanding of the benefits and limitations of our commercial liability insurance program, and to begin the development of best practices guidelines.
- Completion of the 2020-2021 budgeting process, involving available members of the Executive Committee and District Directors. The resulting Budget was presented to the Board in April and approved. Results of the COVID pandemic may create the need for this to be revisited.
- Arranged a Q&A session with partner Brian Krol from our CPA firm, Seber Tans PLC, to build on the Executive Team's ongoing understanding of the 'how and why' of non-profit financial best practices.
- Continued implementation of financial procedure recommendations to centralize and streamline our accounting methods and controls. These recommendations lead us to continue centralizing conference, school, and district checking accounts in a multi-step fashion. The process has been successful for those already 'brought in'.
- Engaged Raymond James, a second investment services firm, allowing us to compare and contrast their management service, advice, and performance with our original firm,
- Morgan Stanley. [COVID-19 market volatility initially resulted in an 8 10% drop in Net Asset Value. Effective April 30th, our holdings have recovered all but  $2 2 \frac{1}{2}\%$  of their value. We may continue to see valuation volatility, but since we have no near future need to draw from these funds, any loss is on only paper.]
- Grow and Share grants continue to gain traction, and in addition to some wonderful garden projects, have resulted in strengthened confidence within the participating Clubs and improved networking within their communities.
- In fiscal 2017-18, eight grants were awarded totaling \$1,412. In fiscal 2018-19, ten grants were awarded totaling \$1,950. Although activity is stalled under the constraints of the COVID pandemic, To date five grants totaling \$1,000 have been awarded in fiscal 2019-20 and are estimated to be completed this fall. Development and approval of MGC Document Retention Policy.

We are grateful to the Kalamazoo Garden Council, Inc. for providing space at their Council House to begin storing documents. We continue to work on methods and structures to begin digital storage as well. - Gail Taggart

# **TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**



In the 2020, the Technology Chair position and the Technology Committee were formed to look at centralize records for the membership database, committies, projects and the many areas we handle as an organiation. We wanted to find a way to streamline communications by implementing dimain-based e-mails, a website change from our current service provider as we felt we were paying more than we thought we should be, and improve how we manage information through the use of technology.

In the early months of 2020, Covid-19 became Pandemic status, gatherings turned into cancellations. Knowing we had much we wanted to accomplish with Technology, the Technology Committee began meeting weekly by end of 2019, and continue to meet on a weekly basis by teleconference. Enter Zoom.us which gave the organization a lifeline to continue moving forward and hold face-to-face meetings with document sharing capability. As Covid continued, the 89th Annual Convention was cancelled. Thanks to the suggestion by Rita Crawley, 3rd Vice President to pursue using Zoom to hold the Tri-Fresher virtually along with support of Janet Hickman, MGC President. With an adventurous Pioneer spirit, I joined in and we took on the risk to offer NGC Tri-Refresher virtually on Zoom. Many hours and training went into this production and overall a great experience albeight some technical glitches that can and do happen with technology. We had 92 participants from 22 states connected without any major technical problems. Following the NGC Tri-Refresher, MGC assisted on a Zoom Beta Committee with NGC to consider offering courses virtually on Zoom for Gardening, Environmental and Landscape Design Schools.

As Technology Chair in an all volunteer-run organization the big challenge comes with the technology itself by way of equipment (PC, MAC, iPads, Tables, Smartphones, and more), different connectivity statewide and multiple versions of software our volunteer members are running. Being up for the challenge, the Technology Committee hit the ground running when COVID-19 stalled us from travel and meeting in groups by using a free conference call service then moved to Zoom video conferencing software to accomplish goals of the committee and more recently migrating to Microsoft 365 using SharePoint and Teams. Rolling out Microsoft 365 and Office 365 to an initial group of thirty leadership positions in MGC is underway in building a centralized document storage bank in the cloud. This enhancement includes new position-based e-mails that will work in overall MGC branding, recognition, and unify communications versus using a personal e-mail address for MGC business offering personal privacy. As terms expire every two years, this provides a mechanism to transfer data, files, and information by a simple password reset, a "turn key" solution to accessing files and information needed for the MGC role you're fulfilling. Creating Facebook Goups of Interest to further engage our members through multiple communications methods is also a focus to help members, clubs, district, state stay connected and informed. I look forward to connecting you to MGC, through the use of technology in support of the ongoing mission to "Grow and Share" wth Michigan Garden Clubs. - Laura Grainger

## TECHNOLOGY

#### **GOALS & OBJECTIVES**

- Make sure all technology accounts are tied to MGC.org
- Make sure administrator has a record of passwords for all accounts. For sensitive bank accounts or other sensitive accounts, a record of WHO has the passwords.
- Make sure there is a backup for the Administrator or back up of the administrator-maintained records.
- Oversee addition/implementation of new technology accounts to assure appropriate documentation and backup.

#### TIMING

- Stepwise implementation as appropriate upon review with President and 1st Vice-President
- Any long-term budget needs identified for inclusion in 2020-2021 budget to Treasurer and Finance Chair by March 1, 2020 Final budget goes to Board at the April Meeting.
- Overall Project Report and Major Recommendations to Board for April 2020 Board Meeting

#### **Initial Project Diagram**



## **Current Project Diagram**



## TECHNOLOGY





New Website MIGARDENCLUBS.ORG



# Find us on Facebook

#### **Organizational Public Page**

Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. Page

#### **Organizational Private Groups**

Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. Artistic Crafts Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. Black Swallowtail Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. Floral Design Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. Native Plants in Michigan Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. Photagraphy



# **EDUCATION & SCHOOLS**



## RITA CRAWLEY

3rd Vice President E-Mail: 3rdVP@migardenclubs.org

My term report includes Schools, Symposiums, Tri-Refreshers, FlowerShows, Michigan Association of Accredited Judges and Michigan Consultants Council activities completed in 2019.



MICHIGAN CONSULTANTS COUNCIL -- 36 current members.

The annual meeting was held at the MGC 2019 Conference in Traverse City. Volunteer opportunities were discussed in assisting with the installation of Piet Uodolf Gardens on Belle Isle. The opening of the Hidden Lake Gardens aerial walk was discussed. A tour will be planned after opening Fall 2020. The Landscape Garden Walk Awards were given. The following garden clubs received awards:

Evening Bloomers, #404, District VI Portage Lake, #173, District V Elk Rapids, #56, District V Kent, #124, District IV Mason County, #140, District V Friendly Garden Club of Traverse City, #68, District V Tri-Cities, #213, District IV

MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF ACCREDITED JUDGES -- The Flower Show judges include membership of 56 active which includes: 11 students, 5 Life, 9 Accredited and 31 Master.

TRI-REFRESHER - The Tri-Refresher originally part of the annual conference was conducted via Zoom. Registration included 88 participants from 22 states over two days in June. As a result, National Garden Clubs, Inc. is conducting a Zoom Beta test for virtual learning as we are adapting to social distancing and the challenges and opportunities it faces for us Gardeners'

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL -- Was not held in 2019.



## **EDUCATION & SCHOOLS**

FLOWER SHOW SYMPOSIUM - September 2019, Delta Hotel, Kalamazoo, MI. (District III) Sharon Yantis, Symposium Chair and Lynn Dinvald, Registrar, along with the Lakeshore Flower Arrangers Guild hosted the symposium. Horticulture was presented by Judy Newman, "Dahlias and Succulents" and Judy presented an allied topic on "Writing Constructive Comments." Designs were presented by Claudia Chopp, Group Mass and Cascade. Claudia's allied topic was "Techniques." There were 55 attendees, with 10 judges completing the exam and 20 judges who audited the symposium.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL -- Course I and II were held in Midland in April and October, 2019, respectively. Eighteen students completed Course II. Nancy Stark-Higgins is the local chair and Bethany Goodman is the state chair. To assist in reducing expenses, Midland Garden Council donated food items and table centerpieces.

GARDENING SCHOOL - Course III and IV were held in May and October, 2019 respectively. Courses held in Tipton, MI. Marilyn Hartley-Kik is the state chair, and Liz and Charley Bohland were the local chairs. There were 26 attendees.

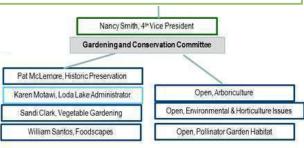
LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL -- Course I and II were held in Grand Haven in April and October 2019, respectively. Fifty-one students completed Course II. Monica Taylor is local chair, and Doris Campbell is state chair.



## **GARDENING & CONSERVATION**



## NANCY SMITH



4th Vice President E-Mail: 4thVP@migardenclubs.org

I am pleased to report that each committee member has been working hard toward their respective goals. I would like to express my gratitude for all the work these members have done on behalf of MGC. Karen Motawi, Loda Lake Chair has written an article for the Gate entitled "A Tale of Two Artists" which lists all garden clubs that have donated money to the Loda Lake Fund since September, 2019. Additional monies were donated in memoriam toan endowment for the Fremont Area Community Foundation. Karen sent thank you notes to all who participated. She scheduled a meeting with the MGC Loda committee and the US Forest Service at the Baldwin Ranger Station for March 10, 2020.Thank you, Karen! Sandi Clark, Gardening & Conservation Chair created a beautiful tri-fold brochure entitled The Herb Connection: Enhance Fruit & Vegetable Production by Adding Pollinator Friendly Herbs to Your Garden.

It is currently being printed and will be ready for distribution by the time the MGC executive board meets in April. Sandi will bring some brochures to share with us at that meeting. Congratulations, Sandi. Our MGC Native Plant Patch has become very popular with garden club across the state. An additional 500 patchesand 500 brochures have been ordered and it is my hope that lots of people will attend the next training session at our State Conference in June.

Those who attended last year received their FREE Native Plants Patch at the meeting. All attending the Why Go Native in Michigan session in June this year will also receive a FREE patch. Patches, brochures and the PowerPoint have been mailed to many garden clubs across the state and I have been invited to speak to many clubs to do the presentation in person. It has been a pleasure to visit other clubs, give the presentation and meet so many great Michigan gardeners. Thank you to all! UPDATE May 12, 2020. Unfortunately many MGC events and plans were cancelled beginning in March because of the Coronavirus. Sandi Clark's brochure on herbs was printed but could not be distributed because MGC's April meeting was cancelled. Sandi did a fantastic job creating the brochure and I am sure everyone will be pleased to receive a copy at a later date.All of my Native Plants presentations in the month of April for state garden clubs were cancelled. That presentation was scheduled for our state conference in June but sadly that will not happen either.



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# LODA LAKE SANCTUARY



The roots of our commitment to teaching about, and reinforcing the importance of the world of pollinators, are firmly imbedded in our on-going support of Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary. Loda Lake has been and continues to be the only wildflower sanctuary that is part of the National Park system. Making an association between "wild flowers" and "native plants" helps to link the ideas of protecting native habitat with protecting our native pollinators.

Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary is a 72-acre natural area within the Manistee National Forest in west-central lower Michigan. A partnership between the National Forest Service and Michigan Garden Clubs was established in 1949 and we have cooperatively managed the area since that time. MGC is closely involved in planning for site improvements and helping to fund them. Recent improvements have included a new entrance road, improved signage, protective fencing and a rebuilt boardwalk.

The sanctuary is an ideal location for the preservation and observation of wildflowers and other native plants such as pitcher plants, ferns, mosses and ground pines because it includes many different plant habitats. There is a small lake, a boardwalk over a bog and over 2 miles of trails through oak-pine forests, pine plantations and old fields. A recently developed "cultural trail" passes by the foundations of buildings that were once part of a farm that existed on the site in the early 1800's. The trails also connect to the 4,600-mile North Country Trail that passes through Michigan from the Ohio border to Wisconsin leaving the state at Ironwood in the upper peninsula.

Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary also has a Facebook Page.



## NATIVE PLANTS PATCH



#### Why Go Native in Michigan?

Native plants are species that occurred in our state and surrounding areas prior to European settlement and without human intervention. A plant species is native to the ecoregion where it evolved along with the soil, climate, fauna and other members of the plant community. Native plants have adapted to a particular geographical area but may not be able to exist in any other location. They need little care once established. These plants also attract a host of pollinators like butterflies, bees, birds and beneficial insects to your garden.

A Native Plants Patch was created for the purpose of encouraging garden club members and youth organizations to learn about the importance of incorporating native plants into the landscape. The patch is 3" and can be ironed on most fabrics. The cost to order is \$3 each plus shipping.

A brochure, Why Go Native in Michigan, can be downloaded in pdf form or you can order free copies. A PowerPoint presentation and simple test is encouraged for members to qualify to earn their patch. Additional information is available.

Contact Nancy Smith, MGC 4th Vice President and Pollinator Native Plant Chairperson. 4thVicePresident@migardenclubs.org.



# COMMUNICATIONS



## BERNADINE BENNETT

Publisher MGC Quarterly "Thru the Garden Gate" Newsletter

The newsletter, *Thru the Garden Gate*, is printed quarterly. The mission is to communicate to the readers the MGC projects. We also advertise MGC's Facebook page and website found at https://www.michigangardenclubs.org. In each issue, there are articles about: the Blue Star or Gold Star; Loda Lake; scholarships and awards; new and old benefits of belonging to the State and National Clubs; pictures and names of the state officers; and articles from the President, Janet Hickman, the treasurer and officers.

There is encouragement from MGC and NGC to plant for pollinators. The Gate is doing its part by reminding readers how important it is to our food sources to bring back and protect all pollinators, as well as listings of what to plant and asking not to use pesticides. The Gate also informs its readers about available schools, the forms, or advising them there are forms on the website, as well. Dates and events are published.

# LIFE MEMBER ACHIEVEMENT



## VIRGINIA FROEHLICH

Chair, Life Member Achievement Award

Since the beginning of the 2019-2020 term to date, 22 requests for Life Member Achievement Awards and pins were received and processed.

I have also written articles regarding the LMAA for the Gate publications. During this time period, I received notice that three National Life Memberships were purchased.

I was also able to attend the Michigan Garden Clubs' Conference in Traverse City in June 2019.

## **GROUP TAX EXEMPT PROGRAM**



#### **ROSE HOUK**

Chair, Group Tax Exempt Program (GTEP) Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. E-Mail: GTEP@migardenclubs.org

For those of you who have been a member of Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc., since 2016, you must be aware of the program and the call to arms about becoming an official nonprofit, tax exempt, 501(c)(3) organization. But you may have forgotten why this is an important program within Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc., (MGC, Inc) and why it is important to YOUR club.

Here are six reasons why your club should be a charitable, nonprofit, tax exempt organization. But first for those who may not know, the status of a charitable, nonprofit, tax exempt organization, a 501(c)(3) status is granted through the Federal Internal Revenue Services as part of the Internal Revenue Code. It is not a status granted by the state of Michigan, although Michigan does honor the status for purposes of income tax liability in Michigan. Now the reasons you should apply for this status:

- If your club is tax exempt, your club does NOT have to pay federal or state INCOME taxes. Without this designation, your club may be liable for federal and state income taxes on all revenue received by your club. I do not have the space to explain why, or even if your club may be liable, but it is possible.
- As a charitable, nonprofit, tax exempt (501(c)(3) organization, donors to your organization will be able to deduct (up to 50%) of their gift from their income taxes. Depending on the size of the donation given, this could be a huge benefit to the donor, as well as to your club.
- As a tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization, donors can name your club as a beneficiary in their wills; but you must present documents to the personal representative of the estate to prove your club is a tax exempt organization. That documentation is usually in the form of a letter from IRS, but if as a member of the Group Tax Exemption Program (GTEP) with Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc., the letter is from MGC, Inc.
- As a tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization, your club may be eligible for and apply for community grants, federal grants, or foundation grants. Most of these organizations do not give monies to any organization that is not a 501(c)(3) organization.
- As a 501(c)(3) organization, you may qualify for nonprofit status discounts with various nonprofit help groups, such as "Tech Soup" (www.techsoup.org) which provides access to discounts for things such as computers or programs for computers, to name just a couple of discounts.



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## GROUP TAX EXEMPT PROGRAM

 In Michigan, as a nonprofit, charitable organization with 501(c)(3) status, you will qualify for the sales tax exemption of up to \$10,000.00 on the sale of any items during fundraising projects. (Yes, your sale of flowers each year is an event that may require payment of sales tax.) Alternatively, as a 501(c)(3) organization, your club does not pay sales tax on items purchased for your club's mission and purposes.

There is one other qualification for joining the MGC, Inc., GTEP. Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc., requires that clubs be incorporated in order to join the group. The "why" for this requirement and the process for both incorporating and joining GTEP can be found in the "Incorporating As a Nonprofit Corporation and MGC Group Tax Exempt Handbook on the MGC, Inc., website, under the member side, in the folder titled 501(c)(3).

Reviewing the "Incorporating As a Nonprofit Corporation and MGC Group Tax Exempt Handbook" will give you answers to some of your questions as well as the steps to incorporate your club and become a member of the MGC Group Tax Exempt Program. You may also contact me, if you have further questions, at GTEP@migardenclubs.org.



## AWARDS COMMITTEE



Sue Soderbe	rg, Awards Chair
Awards	Committee
Mary Krzeczkowski, Yearbook Awards	Alyce Doss, MGC Scholarship
Mary Reed & Kathy Sauber, Youth Awards	Karin Maupin, NGC Scholarship
Janet Hickman, NGC Award of Excellence	Pat Bazany, Flower Show Advice and Awards

## SUE SODERBERG

District 5 Director

E-Mail: District5@migardenclubs.org

The high school essay contest had 38 entries from four clubs, which is a significant increase from the last year when only two entries were received. The youth sculpture contest had 12 entries, which was also an increase from the prior year.

Six Clubs participated in the Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl poster contest this year, Unfortunately, only submissions from three clubs could be judged due to confusion on the deadline for submission. This will be addressed and corrected next year.

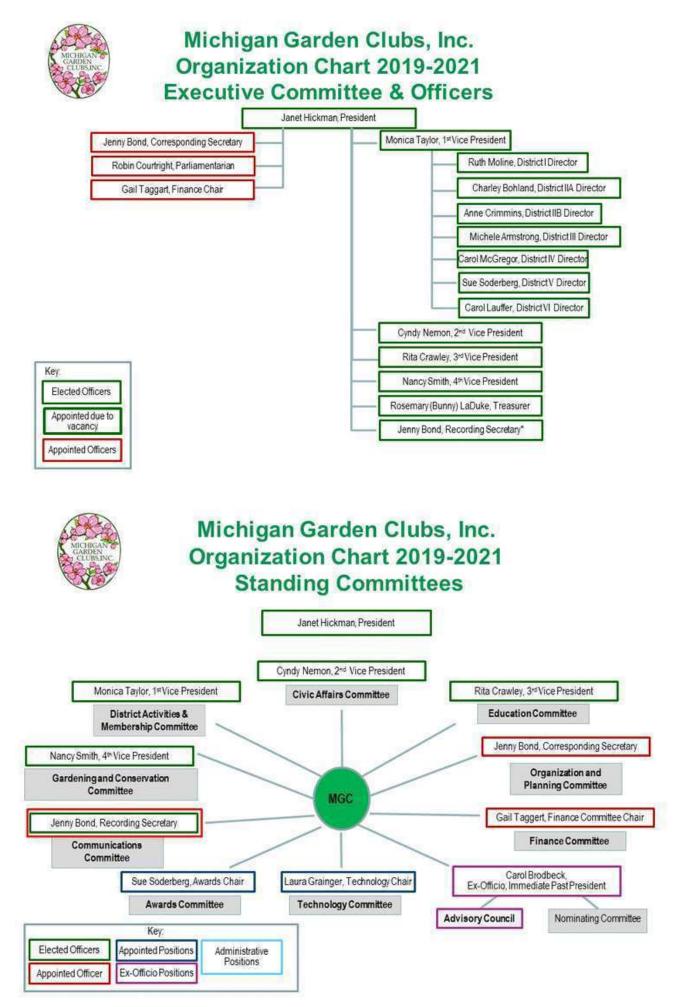
Four Flower Show Books of Evidence were submitted, qualified and were forwarded on to NGC. Three of these submissions were awarded MGC Flower Show Awards.

General Award and Yearbook Award judging was done October 18, 2019. We had over 120 General Award Applications and 60 yearbooks to judge. This was done in one day with the help of about 40 MGC members. Numerous MGC and NGC awards have been granted to many clubs in our seven districts. These awards would have normally been handed out at the state conference, but due to the cancellation of the conference we will be mailing awards directly to club presidents. Twenty-eight first place state awards were sent on to NGC for judging at the national level. MGC has been presented with 14 NGC Awards.



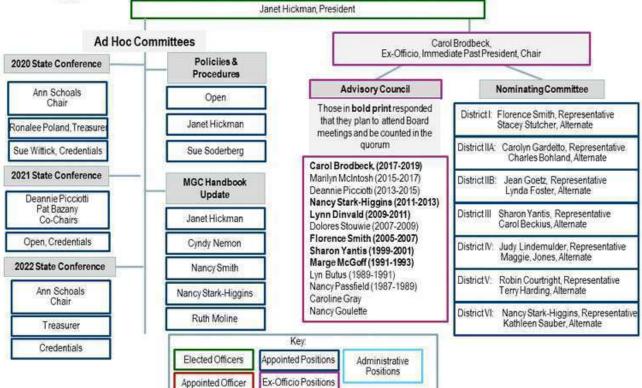
93 MGC Clubs of Distinction
59 MGC Yearbook Awards
77 MGC 1st Place Awards
41 NGC Awards





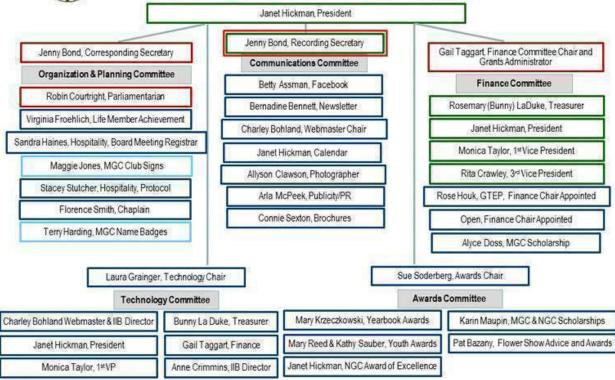


#### Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. 2019-2021 Organization Chart Ad Hoc & Standing Committees





#### Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. 2019-2021 Organization Chart Standing Committees Continued





## **POLLINATOR GARDENS**



Michigan Garden Club, Inc.'s (MGC's) primary project for the next two years is Michigan Pollinator Gardens. Our activities at MGC all align with this overall initiative. While much has been done to promote awareness of the importance of all pollinators to the overall health of our eco-system and to Michigan's agriculture/floriculture industry, it is incumbent on each and every one of us to stand up and BEE counted for recognizing and acting upon the fundamental importance of pollinators and what each of us CAN do, as individuals, to provide pollinator habitat, preserving and protecting one of our most important natural resources.

#### Michigan Pollinator Gardens

There are many things we can all do to create or improve pollinator habitats:

- Minimize or eliminate the use of pesticides in our gardens.
- Amend the soil to make it healthier.
- Plant native plants when possible.
- Recognize the need for and plant both host and nectar plants for a variety of pollinators.

When we measure our progress in creating pollinator habitat (pollinator gardens), we acknowledge and celebrate the impact that each of us has on creating a better environment. Therefore, a key tangible and measurable component of our effort these next two years is to register our gardens at www.millionpollinatorgardens.org.

Michigan Garden Clubs offers many specific programs and activities designed to help draw attention to the importance of pollinators so that together we can create an environment where they can thrive.

#### Education

We have an impact when we teach not only our youth about pollinators, but also our communities, and our legislators. While more difficult to measure than the number of pollinator gardens created, these efforts have a huge potential to make a lasting difference and fundamental change in how the public thinks about pollinators and connects them with the health of our environment. To that end, we promote working with youth, teaching them an appreciation of gardening and the environment. We support various youth initiatives that teach an awareness and appreciation of protecting the world around us through National Garden Clubs' Youth Gardening activities, like the Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl program and the High School Essay Contest.



