

Thru the Garden Gate



Bing Photo

The MGC, Inc. Mission

is to provide education, resources, and network opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, floral and landscape design, and environmental responsibility.

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Nancy J. Ryan

From the 2023-2025 Incoming President...

Grow, Share and Connect Michigan!

This has been a busy spring with District Spring Leadership meetings as well as trips to various club activities. Earth Day with Gladwin County Master Gardeners, joining Ann Arbor, Quality Thyme and Loch Alpine Garden Clubs on a Saturday to hear Vince Ste Marie and attending a floral design demonstration by Bart Hassam with a luncheon at the Detroit Institute of Art with many District 1 clubs.

What a difference from 2021!

First a job well done shout out to Monica Taylor and the 2021-2023 Board of Directors! We continue to progress in providing value to our member clubs while simplifying and streamlining how we run Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.

Second, I look forward to working with a streamlined board and building a stronger standing committee structure which I believe, is essential to a vibrant volunteer organization. Following in the footsteps of our continued partnership with Homegrown National Park, it is also time for Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. to establish relationships with other organizations, particularly in our state, who share our mission.

But most importantly it is the time of year to partake in the many club activities happening across the state. Flower shows, garden walks, Blue and Gold Star Dedications, plant sales, bus tours – the MGC calendar is full of wonderful events!

Continued on next page.

I hope to see you as we continue to make Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc, **The Place For Gardeners Across the State to Grow, Share and Connect!**

Nancy

From the 2021-2023 Outgoing President...

It has been my honor to serve as the Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. President 2021-2023 and to represent Michigan at the National Garden Clubs, Inc. and Central Region, Inc. Meetings and Conventions.



Monica Taylor

To the 2021-2023 MGC Board-No One Succeeds Alone

As the 2021-2023 Administration puts a wrap on this term, I would like to thank all the men and women for their continued support of Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. You volunteered your time to work on the many items we have addressed during these past two years.

To name but a few: *(Be sure to read detailed reports in the Annual Report Edition of Thru the Garden Gate)*

- Homegrown National Park to restore biodiversity and ecosystems by planting native plants and “Get on the Map.”
- Support for the Black Swallowtail Butterfly legislation.
- Restructure of MCC and MAAJ.
- Support for ongoing projects: Scholarship Program, Loda Lake, Blue and Gold Star Memorials.
- Educational opportunities through NGC Schools, MGC Member Meetings, Spring & Fall District Meetings.
- Build a team in each District and schedule Club President’s Meetings for increased communications.
- Review and simplify our processes.

Thank you for your dedication bringing Member Clubs new benefits, new opportunities to Grow, Share and Connect. I am grateful for all the support you have given!

To Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. Members

Thank you for the hospitality and support you have offered as we connected at District Meetings, Annual Conferences, Zoom Presidents Meetings, Zoom events and your Community and Club events. It was enjoyable to travel the roads of Michigan, visit [new places](#) and discover all the wonderful things going on in Garden Clubs! Gardeners are a delightful group! For all the things you do, both big and small know that you make a difference in your community. Thank you!

Looking Toward the Future

Nancy J. Ryan and I are both from District 4, therefore we have been travelling companions these past two years. Nancy brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to her role as MGC President. Nancy has great organizational skills, connects easily with people and is fun to be with. Let us welcome Nancy and the 2023-2025 Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc Board and give them our continued support!

Monica Taylor

Homegrown National Park Report

Michigan Data	Apr 6, 2021	May 15, 2023
Active Counties	39	61
Active Zip Codes	94	273
User Count	124	539
Plantings Count	167	831
Planted Acres	373.42	1114.766



Get on the Map: www.homegrownnationalpark.com

Constant Contact

Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc, utilizes the **Constant Contact** platform to increase and improve our communications and connections with our member clubs and individual club members, like you.

If you **accidentally unsubscribe** to **Constant Contact**. You will not receive our quarterly Newsletter, *Thru the Garden Gate* or additional communications listing events, topics of interest, MGC Sponsored schools, Annual Conference information and other important reminders.

Please go to the MGC website and resubscribe to **Constant Contact** so you can stay connected.

Directions to subscribe to Constant Contact:

- 1) Go to www.migardenclubs.org
- 2) Login to Member Area
- 3) Click the orange box: "Sign up for MGC Emails"
- 4) Complete form: **Submit**
- 5) Once you sign up check your inbox for a confirmation email. If you do not see one, check your spam or junk folder and **be sure to add emails from MGC back into your inbox.**

CONTACTS



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Upcoming Events Calendar

June 2023		
3	Belding Gardeners Plant Sale	9 AM — 12 PM Belding
4 -10	National Garden Week	
6 -7	<u>MGC Convention and Annual Meeting</u>	<u>Grand Rapids</u>
11	Gold Star Dedication	2 PM Manistee
17	Blue/Gold Star Dedication	2 PM Beaverton
24	Belding Gardeners Garden Walk	9 AM - 3 PM Belding
24	The Secret Gardens	10 AM- 4 PM Spring Lake
July 2023		
1	Through the Fairy Doors Garden Walk	10 AM - 4 PM Norton Shores
8	South Haven Garden Walk	10 AM - 4 PM South Haven
8 - 9	Welcome to my Garden Tour	10 AM - 4 PM Marshall
9	Hidden Garden Gems Walk	10 AM - 4 PM Charlevoix
13 -15	Tri-Cities Garden Show	8 AM - 4 PM Spring Lake
15	Milan Garden Tour	10 AM - 3 PM Milan
15	Bay City Garden Tour	10 AM - 3 PM Bay City
15	Woods & Waters Summer Blooms	10 AM - 4 PM Holland
15	Garden Walk & Plant Sale	10 AM - 4 PM Douglas
18	Elk Rapids Garden Walk	10 AM - 5 PM Elk Rapids
20	Friendly Garden Walk	10 AM - 5 PM Traverse City
20	Gladwin Garden Tour	1 PM - 7 PM Gladwin
22	Lakeshore Garden Walk	10 AM - 3 PM Lexington
23	Open Gate Garden Tour	10 AM - 5 PM Grand Blanc
August 2023		
15	District 5 President’s Meeting	10 AM — 11 AM Zoom

Online Member Meetings will resume in September 2023.

Until then check out the Monday Morning Meeting Folders on the MGC webpage in the Member Section(www.migardenclubs.org).

Download the one’s that interest you and enjoy the ideas presented!

2023-2025 Elected Executive Committee

Nancy J Ryan, President



- ◆ Member of Kent Garden Club-District 4 and Indian Hills Garden Club (former President) - District 3
- ◆ Retired after forty-year business career with GM and Workplace Transformation, Inc
- ◆ Have served on several non-profit volunteer board beginning in college
- ◆ Master Gardener and American Tree Farm System Member
- ◆ Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design Consultant
- ◆ MGC Board of Directors -Strategic Planning Chair, Finance Chair, 1st VP

Look forward to working with the MGC Board and Member Clubs to continue to Grow, Share, and Connect Michigan Gardeners!

Lisa Robinson, First Vice President—District Activities and Membership Committee

- ◆ Holland Garden Club and West Michigan Flower Arrangers Guild
- ◆ Master Flower Show Judge; American Daffodil Judge
- ◆ Former professional Landscape Designer/Consultant and Business Owner
- ◆ Serving Garden Clubs since 1999
- ◆ NGC Board since 2015, currently Scholarship Chairman 2019-2025
- ◆ Held many positions on State Board, Executive Committee and committee chairmanships in Georgia, Virginia and now, Michigan.



Looking forward to working with Michigan Garden Club members and exploring this beautiful state!

Carol McGregor, Second Vice President



- ◆ Member of the Lowell Showboat Garden Club since 2004
- ◆ Moved to Florida from Canada in 1983 then moved to Michigan in 1998
- ◆ Own and operate a drafting service business
- ◆ Previously served as MGC Historian, Recording Secretary and District 4 Director
- ◆ Love to be in my garden and spend time helping my Club beautifying Lowell

Anxious to move on to a new venture with MGC and learn about the Civic Affairs Committee and all it's sub committees: Habitat for Humanity; Blue & Gold Star Markers; Civic Beautification; Legislative and Healing Gardens .

2023-2025 Elected Executive Committee

Denise Clegg, Third Vice President—Education and Schools Committee



- ◆ Denise Clegg-Third Vice-President
- ◆ Member Western Hills Garden Club
- ◆ Has been the local chair for Gardening School in 2021
- ◆ Local chair for Tri-refresh 2022
- ◆ State Gardening School Chair
- ◆ Retired Nurse and avid crochet enthusiast

Nancy Smith, Fourth Vice President

- ◆ Taylor Garden Club
- ◆ President of Taylor Garden Club for many years
- ◆ Honored to serve as Fourth Vice President with MGC
- ◆ Current garden interest is native plants
- ◆ Hoping to reduce maintenance time in my yard and garden with natives



Bunny (Rosemary) LaDuke, Treasurer



- ◆ Former president of Chula Vista Garden Club, president of Kalamazoo Garden Council, Inc., and Treasurer of Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.
- ◆ NGC Landscape Design Consultant and pollinator garden enthusiast
- ◆ Retired as Director of Global Marketing Communications for Pharmacia (Upjohn) in New Jersey and became a Pfizer retiree.
- ◆ Served as Board President and later as Executive Director for Susan G. Komen Southwest Michigan for about 12 years.
- ◆ Currently a member of City of Plainwell Parks & Trees Commission.

2023-2025 Elected Executive Committee

Sue Hendrix, Recording Secretary



- ◆ Member of Touch the Earth Garden Club since 2013 having held every club officer position; MGC District 6 Treasurer
- ◆ Grandmother of 4, ages 1, 3, 4 and 13
- ◆ Proud owner of a green thumb inherited from both parents and my grandmother Lottie Almira
- ◆ MSU Extension Master Gardener, Genesee County
- ◆ Retired RN, having worked in Critical Care, Nursing Education and as an IT Business Analyst

I am looking forward to serving as Recording Secretary on the MGC Board.

Anne Ryan, District 1 Director

- ◆ Junior League of Detroit Gardeners; President for 3 years
- ◆ Experience in banking and finance; Retired from Raymond James
- ◆ Detroit Institute of Arts and Friends of the Arts volunteer
- ◆ Fifty year interest in floral design/gardening initially nurtured by her mother



I am here to help you. I hope you use the many program ideas and resources that MGC provides for its members.

Mary Moore, District 2A Director



- ◆ Over fifty years ago my husband and I moved to Reading, MI to his Grandmother's house
- ◆ I have held several positions in the Hillsdale Garden Club including President
- ◆ Presently learning the District IIA Directors position
- ◆ It's a pleasure getting acquainted with club members in the District and State

2023-2025 Elected Executive Committee

Carol Grainger, District 2B Director



- ◆ Past President of Williamston Red Cedar Garden Club
- ◆ Current Treasurer of Williamston Red Cedar Garden Club
- ◆ Serves on the Board of Directors for Sowing Growth (which operates the Eastern Ingham Farmers Market)
- ◆ Advanced Master Gardener, MSU Extension Services
- ◆ She and her husband David, raised 3 children in Williamston, MI
- ◆ Carol and David own a small farm where David grew up
- ◆ Carol has a passion for “farm to table” programs

Judy Nelson, District 3A Director

- ◆ As a teenager, I worked for some of local farmers, trimming and picking berries for the open market
- ◆ Moved to St. Joseph County where I raised my family
- ◆ Once the kids left home the whole yard became flowers, bushes and trees; the kids bought a small greenhouse so I could start plants typically not found commercially
- ◆ My passion has led to raising Monarchs; last year I collected over 250 eggs
- ◆ Joined Three Rivers Club of Little Gardens; served as VP; six years as President



Being District 3A Director is my opportunity to meet more great leaders within our organization with a love for diversity in nature and natural beauty.

Kathy Wolverton, District 4 Director



- ◆ Member of Kent Garden Club
- ◆ Served as Club President (2019 – 2021), 1st VP, 4th VP and Chair of Veteran’s Memorial Garden Project
- ◆ Past MGC Corresponding Secretary
- ◆ Editor of MGC District 4 Newsletter
- ◆ Retired to Michigan (2008) after 34 years in Southern California, Worked as a Registered Nurse.

Looking forward to continue working with District 4 Garden Clubs.

Dorothy Sandoval, District 5 Director



- ◆ Charlevoix Garden Club
- ◆ Grew up in Gaylord, Michigan
- ◆ Traveled the country in a career as a Chaplain/Director of Pastoral Services
- ◆ Avid vegetable gardener since childhood.
- ◆ Became a Master Gardener while living in the state of Arkansas

Hope my power of observation and keen listening skills can help move Garden Clubs into the future with less labor and more satisfaction.

Kathy Sauber, District 6 Director

- ◆ Caro Garden Club (in Michigan’s “Thumb”) for 41 years
- ◆ Held many club positions including twice as President
- ◆ Advanced Master Gardener for 27 years
- ◆ MGC Youth Contests Co-chair for 4 years
- ◆ Retired after 30 years as a Dental Hygienist
- ◆ 6 children and 11 grandchildren shared with husband



Excited to continue serving as a District Director and look forward to meeting the great gardening folks in my district.



----- 25 Years In Milan -----



Milan Garden Club

This year marks the 25th Anniversary of Milan Garden Club. As a club, our goal and mission is to learn more about plant care, stimulate gardening, and promote home and community beautification and conservation. We plant and maintain the gardens at Friend-Hack House Museum in partnership with the Milan Area Historical Society.

Many of the gardens at the museum are similar to how they looked over 100 years ago. We label the plants so when people come to tour the house they can also tour the gardens and learn the names of the plants.

Each year we also plant and maintain the Veteran's Wall of Honor gardens in Wilson Park where we sponsored a Blue Star Memorial in 2005. We love to be a part of our community in other ways. In May, we hold a very successful perennial sale as a fundraiser for our club.

Yearly we co-sponsor two beautification awards each month to local homes, and "adopt a barrel" with plants in the City of Milan. We proudly offered a scholarship to a Milan high school senior in 2021. Our recipient is planning on using it for a career in horticulture.

During the summer we are often a part of the

"Third Thursdays" events in downtown Milan.

One year we had a "succulent in a teacup" program for children that was very well attended. We used over 75 teacups that day and community members still talk about it.

We have also participated in Milan's Halloween Scarecrow Contest three years in a row and have won two of those years.

This year, after being inspired by another local garden club's garden tour, we are planning to have our own garden tour in July, with six local gardens being on the tour. We are hard at work making this happen.

Another part of our summer activity is going on tours of botanical gardens or personal home gardens. We have seen some stunning gardens this way.

In November and December, we have our annual Christmas Centerpiece sale. It is looked forward to by all our members and the community. Last year we made 90 centerpieces and sold them all! This is another great fundraiser for our club.

We've had a lot of new members and are excited for the next 25 years for our club. Learn more about us on Facebook!

Submitted by Stephanie Mills
Milan Club Historian



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NEWS ALERT for Group Tax Exempt Program (GTEP) Club Members

Hello GTEP Clubs,

I want to alert all GTEP clubs that new forms will be issued on the Member side of the MGC website about June 1st. Changes are as follows:

1. Current Clubs renewing membership in GTEP will no longer need to file a Notice of Renewal. That form will no longer be in the 501c3 folder on the website.
2. The renewal of club membership form will be a much shorter in length (hopefully only one page, but that is still under revision so I cannot yet promise.
3. The contact person for the GTE Program will now be the Resident Agent for all clubs. Only when you change your Resident Agent will you have to change the contact person's name and contact information. You may still have your Recording secretary maintain the filings and keep your annual reports, but the official contact will now be the Resident Agent. The reason for this change is two-fold:
 - a) the Resident Agent is the personal contact for any corporation, the public face and name. The name and address of the Resident Agent for each club will now be the contact information I give to IRS when I file my annual report.
 - b) IRS wants to know who to contact in your club should they have questions; having someone who is in the RA position for a long period of time is efficient for me and for IRS as they do not have to change their records each year and neither do I. And it saves you, who file the renewal form, time as well.

A win/win for everyone.

Please wait until after the Annual Meeting and MGC Conference before filing any forms with me. As always, if anyone has any questions, please let me know.

Thank you.

Rose Houk, 501(c)(3)/GETEP Chair



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Sustaining MGC Scholarships

1. Go to migardenclubs.org by entering the address into your preferred search engine, i.e. Microsoft Edge, Chrome, etc.
2. You should now be on the “**Home**” page of the MGC website.
3. Look at the [Index Line](#) just below the Michigan Garden Clubs logo and find the word “**Scholarships.**” (It is the seventh word on this line.)
4. Move the cursor to the word, “**Scholarships,**” and hold there to view the words “**Program Information.**”
5. **Slide to Right click** on Program Information.
6. Scroll down the page slowly until you see the words, “**Donation Form.**” Right click on these words and the **Form** is in front of you
7. This is a “**fillable**” form. You should complete it online and [Left Click](#) your mouse to print the form on your printer. Send form with your Scholarship donation check to the address indicated on the form.

----- Garden Walks -----

Muskegon County Garden Club invites you to attend their Summer Garden Walk: *Through The Fairy Doors*. This event is for one day only (regardless of the weather) on Saturday, July 1, 2023, from 10a-3p. There are no rain dates planned. Tickets (\$10.00 and kids under 12 are free) can be purchased in person the day of the Walk at each of the gardens. Please see our website for additional details for this event: www.muskegongardenclub.org.

The **Valley Garden Club of Bay City** is hosting a Garden Walk on July 15, 2023. The tour will consist of 5 homes with a nice mix of garden styles. Tickets can be purchased the day of the walk at the featured homes.

Contact President Gene Cianek for more information ejcianek@hotmail.com or 989-686-3803.

Gladwin County Master Gardeners & Friends are hosting a Garden Tour: "Beautiful Gardens Throughout the City of Gladwin & Wooden Shoe Area" on Thursday July 20, 2023. Tickets are \$20 and sales begin in June.

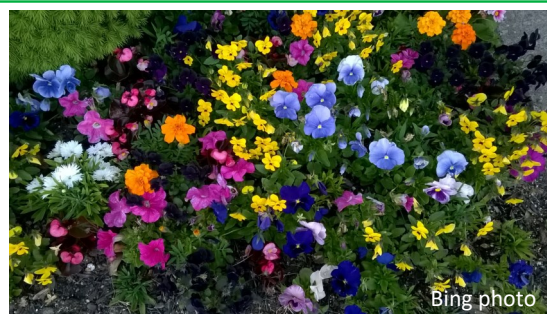
Contact Laurie Wagner for more information: 989-329-7470, lauriewagner58@gmail.com.

Evening Bloomers Garden Walk

It will be held on Sunday, July 9, 2023, and will include 5 gardens. And runs from 1 to 5 p.m. in the afternoon. Tickets for the walk are \$5.00 and can be purchased at several businesses around town and also at each of the gardens on the day of the

walk. There is a "moon garden" on the walk this year as well as one that includes garden art designed by two artists in the area.

A "Trash and Treasure" sale is hosted by one of the gardens and a hospitality house with refreshments at another. A raffle during the walk will be held with some planters and glass garden towers as prizes.



Bing photo

St. Clair in Bloom Garden Walk

July 15, 2023 10 am - 4 pm

Ticket information available on www.stclairgardenclub.com

Plan to spend a lovely summer day in beautiful St. Clair!

Tour 9 show stopping gardens, featuring a large country estate, 2 charming gardens overlooking the marina and an interesting, diverse country garden located in the city.

Also featured are 2 lovely homes overlooking the beautiful St. Clair River and a spectacular garden in a park-like setting bordering the Alice Moore Woods Nature Sanctuary. Also featured on the walk is a beautifully landscaped and peaceful garden as well as a lovely garden with many hydrangeas.

Proceeds from the event will be utilized for ongoing beautification projects in the community.

——— Loda Lake News ———

Thanks to the wonderful support of our clubs, we are able to continue to make improvements to the plantings and paths at the sanctuary. Planned for this summer are trail improvements and a new wildflower garden near the parking area. A stepping stone pathway will be constructed through the fenced area at the pollinator garden site where we find unique wildflowers such as Goat's Rue pictured here.



Thanks to these MGC clubs who have donated to the MGC Loda Lake Fund in the past six months:

- Lake Shores Garden Club in memory of Lily Andrews, Petoskey Area Garden Club,
- Portage Garden Club,
- Caro Garden Club,
- Petal Pushers Garden Club, Elk Rapids Garden Club, Big Rapids Garden Club,
- Garden Club of Michigan,
- Chula Vista Garden Club in honor of Ruth Caputo,
- Meek's Mill Garden Club in memory of Dorothy Hassinger,
- Dewitt Millennium Garden Club, Inc.,
- Kalamazoo Garden Council in memory of Louise Adams,
- Hillsdale Garden Club, Chula Vista Garden Club in honor of Scott Stokes,
- Grosse Ile Garden Club and Kent Garden Club.

For those wishing to make a club or individual donation to the sanctuary, down-loadable forms are on the MGC website:

www.migardenclubs.org.

Also check out the website for a copy of the latest brochure which includes a trail map and plant list.

Karen Motawi, Loda Lake Administrator

Lynn Dinvald Memorial

Bing



Sunday June 25
Service 11 AM
Memorial gathering 12:00-2

Donations:

For the Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary, memorial donations are matched 100% by the Fremont Area Community Foundation, 4424 W. 48th Street, Fremont, MI 49412, if the donation is noted "in memory of Lynn Dinvald for the MGC Loda Lake Fund."

Donations in memory of Lynn Dinvald for the Michigan Garden Clubs Scholarship Fund can be directed to Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc., c/o Suzanne Budrow, 9142 Hobbitt Circle, Kalamazoo, MI 49009-8413.

Notes of sympathy may be sent to the family:

Kathy & Mark Patterson and Michael Dinvald
1575 Dogwood Drive
Portage, MI 49024

[Obituary for Lynn L. \(Worsham\) Dinvald | Langeland Family Funeral Homes, Inc. \(langelands.com\)](#)

District News

District 1 Anne Ryan



Happy Holidays to everyone. Thank you very much to the Livonia Garden Club for hosting the Fall District 1 Conference on a

beautiful day at a beautiful place: One Under Banquet Center on Idyl Wyld Golf Course. The Theme was "Fall in Love with Fall" and we had great speakers, fun vendors and good food. In the morning Cheryl Linck did a presentation and Demonstration on the Art of Ikebana and our own Creative Flower arrangers Guild taught us how to present plants for a Flower Show, after that we headed over to Greenmead Historical Village in Livonia to see the gardens there.



Congratulations to Dearborn Heights Garden Club and Ferndale Club, both received \$200.00 Grow and Share Grants from MGC to use in their communities.

Southfield Parks and Gardens Mary Thompson Farm Garden Project has been given a "Keep Michigan Beautiful " Organization Award. With the Club, Southfield Historical Society, Southfield Parks and Recreation Department and a grant from MGC they were able to create an early 1900s garden around the farmhouse.

I encourage your club to apply for these grants under Awards on the MGC website.

aryan@migardenclubs.org

District 2A Mary Moore

Most of the 14 clubs are meeting in person getting back to everyday garden club business. All total District 2A has 330 MGC members.



Congratulations to all the presidents for completing their presidents report and turning them in before the deadline. The Roster managers of each club updated their rosters and were completed before the deadline.

Morenci Garden Club of Morenci, MI hosted the Spring District 2A conference in April of 2022 with 48 members attending. This year The Little Garden Club of Tecumseh is host club for the 2023 Spring conference on April 28, 2023 where 45 are planning to attend.

Our Fall Conference was held in Adrian, MI with Adrian Garden Club hosting the meeting. Guest speakers Lee Walsh and Jon Nash of Nash Nurseries were knowledgeable and wonderful speakers. We had 85 MGC members and two master gardeners attend to get the two hours of education that were offered. The 2023 Fall meeting is presently being planned for Friday, October 13th with Good Thyme Garden Club in Ann Arbor.

Zoom meetings have been held every six weeks with new information and current events for the presidents.

A Blue Star memorial was dedicated by Morenci Garden Club and a Gold Star at Saline Library by Saline Stone and Thistle Garden Club. Eden Garden Club also dedicated a Blue Star memorial.

It has been a delight to get acquainted with the

Continued on next page.

---- District News ----

presidents and co-presidents of District 2A. Carol Brodbeck and I helped to install Catherine Brennan and Jessica Kholi as co-presidents of Saline Stone and Thistle Garden Club. Visiting all the clubs would be a delightful experience.

To promote the Black Swallowtail bill HB 4159 a visit to The Little Garden Club of Tecumseh was planned to pass out information and as club members to email Representative Laurie Pohutsky who is the chair of the House Natural Resources, Environment, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation Committee and ask that the Black Swallowtail be made the state butterfly. My plans are to pass out this information at our Spring Leadership Meeting.

Almost all the garden clubs in District 2A have a Facebook page where each post club events and speakers that attract new members. Facebook has been a helpful tool in gaining new members.

mmoore@migardenclubs.org

District 2B Carol Grainger



2023 is winding down to a close and clubs have been meeting now since August 2022. Most of our clubs have gained membership and there were a few member losses. However, overall, our clubs have been stable or growing.

We lost one club within our District and that was the Sherwood Garden Club from the Coldwater area. Sherwood Garden Club had 18 members and we encourage those members to consider joining another Garden Club.

Our Fall Meeting was October 11, 2022 held in Howell. The theme of this Fall Meeting was Flannel Festival. The decorations were outstanding.

Howell planned a well-orchestrated event with 6 vendors, a silent auction, several displays, MGC and District sales tables and two educational presentations on pollinators and plants. It was an incredibly fun day with tasty food and time to network with other club members.

The district hosted a Spring Leadership Meeting in Lansing on April 25, 2023. District 2B hosted the meeting and invited District 4 to participate. All club members, specifically those in leadership positions or those and considering leadership came to learn from other leaders.

A save the date for 2023 2B Fall District Meeting. It scheduled for either October 10 or 12. Please keep these dates open for another fun Fall event.

Our district is busy revising the D2B website and making sure the clubs have a resource for information about what goes on within the district and its clubs. The website parallels much of what we post in our quarterly newsletter with more current information or details in the newsletter. We like to think of our newsletter as an expansion of the information we share on the website and in our District Club Presidents' Meetings.

District 2B Presidents and Steering Committee continue to conduct monthly meetings to stay on track and keep Clubs posted on NGC, MGC and local news.

cgrainger@migardenclubs.org

District News

District 3A Judy Nelson

The Kalamazoo Garden Council was nationally recognized, and attended, for their sponsorship of the first all virtual Zoom MGC Gardening School held in 2021.



The Petal Pushers GC and Landscapers GC dedicated a Gold Star Memorial at the Air Zoo Museum in Kalamazoo.

Additional garden walks, community plantings, environmental speakers, plant sales and giveaways, growing eatables, arbor day youth projects, holiday cheer for shut-ins, etc. are on the Michigan Garden Clubs District 3 Facebook page and the individual club's website and social media sites.

The festive Fall District 3 meeting, hosted by Chula Vista GC in Plainwell, was well attended with everyone enjoying a day of speakers, shopping, and sharing gardening stories.

Fernwood Botanical Gardens was the wildflower backdrop for the *Spring District 3 Grow + Share + Connect Leadership* meeting, hosted by Indian Hills GC, for clubs to share solutions and ideas on being a strong spirited club. Club connections increased with monthly Club President's Zoom Sessions coordinated by me, a privileged District 3 Director.

jnelson@migardenclubs.org

District 4 Carol McGregor

As my term as District 4 Director comes to a close, I have to say with some sadness, I will miss you all and this experience has given me so much satisfaction and joy over the past 4 years.



How can I count the number of new friends who I have come to know which goes along with such a deep respect for the time and energy that so many people put into volunteering for our Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. organization.

What fun we have had, along with lots of good food, and all the information that we have gathered from listening to tips that other clubs have learned from each others experiences in gardening and being in a Garden Club.

Many of the garden clubs in District 4 are now planning this summer's events, i.e. The Tri-Cities G.C. "The Secret Gardens" Garden Walk in June and a "Gardens Inspire Us" Flower Show in July; the

Holland G.C. a Garden Tour "Woods and Water Summer Blooms" in July and a luncheon at the Cappon House in July which they take care of.

The Rockford G.C. is going on a tour of Spring Meadows Nursery in July, a Home Tour in July and a Fall Plant Sale in September just to name a few of the events planned by the District 4 garden clubs.

Our new District 4 Director, beginning in June, Kathy Wolverton, has been accompanying me on three trips this past few weeks, visiting garden clubs in Belding, Saugatuck/Douglas and Pentwater. She is looking forward to her new adventure.

Continued on next page.

District News

So, I hope to see you all at our 92nd MGC Conference in June and our District 4 Fall Meeting in October.

It has been my pleasure working with all clubs and members and I will miss you.

Carol McGregor



District 5 Dorothy Sandoval

Club visits began for me this spring by attending the East Jordan Garden Club meeting and the Presque Isle Rogers City Garden Club's annual luncheon.

Visits are on my calendar for the Cadillac and Edelweiss Garden Clubs over the summer. If you would like me to make a visit, I am always open to invitations.

Our District 5 Fall Meeting will be held in Charlevoix at the Community Reformed Church on September 14, 2023. **Mark your calendars!**

Congratulations to The Friendly Garden Club of Traverse City; they will be celebrating 100 years at the Hagerty Center on September 26, 2023.

dsandoval@migardenclubs.org

District VI Kathy Sauber

District 6 is buzzing like a pollinator with activities. We had a marvelous Spring Leadership Meeting on April 26th in Midland hosted by The Great Lake



Gardeners. We brainstormed solutions to key topics that every garden club faces and came away with great new ideas and solutions.

Denise Keipert of Touch the Earth Garden Club in Grand Blanc administered personality tests which were very thought provoking. Her title was "Learning Personalities, Building Strong Clubs, Communities, and Boards". She showed us how fitting personality types to the perfect positions or committees in a club is useful and fascinating.

District 6 has been asked to host the 2024 State Conference in June of 2024. We have a dynamic and energetic committee busy in the process of planning the event. We have selected Bay City and the Double Tree Hotel as the venue. The Double Tree is lovely and located on the river that leads out to Saginaw Bay. Bay City is a fantastic destination for many reasons, and we're excited to be your hosts next summer!

The Butterfly Kaleidoscope Gardeners of Beaverton are hosting a Blue & Gold Star Dedication on Saturday June 17th at 2:00. The location is Billings Township Community Park, 4404 Weimen Road, Beaverton. We hope to see many of you there for this moving ceremony!

We have 2 exciting Garden Walks in our District this summer. The first is on Saturday July 15th hosted by the Valley Garden Club of Bay City. The time is 10:00-3:00. Contact club president, Eugene Cianek for more information at:

ejcianek@hotmail.com

The second Garden Walk is on July 22nd hosted by Lakeshore Garden Club of Lexington. The time is 10:00-3:00. Contact club president, Jeannine Wypasek for more information at:

roma_locuta_est2002@yahoo.com

District News

We look forward to a wonderful Fall District meeting on October 18th at The Food Bank of Eastern Michigan in Flint. The host club is Touch the Earth Garden Club of Grand Blanc who have been hard at work planning for some time now. The speakers and venue are both amazing, and it promises to be a memorable meeting.

All 18 clubs in our District are now busy beautifying their communities with their truly amazing gardens. Thanks so much for all that you do!

ksauber@migardenclubs.org



Bing Photo

Carol M. Brock Passes

Carol Marie Brock, 83, of Grant, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on May 22, 2023, at the Newaygo County Compassion Home.

Carol was a past member of West Michigan Flower Arrangers Guild, and Kent Garden Club. Carol was a Master Flower Show Judge, Landscape Consultant, MGC and Central Region Life Member. Carol retired in 2018 due to health issues.

She will be missed greatly by many. [Photo Link](#)

High School Essay Contest

1st Place in the State: Ammond Willmott
[Special Guests in the Garden - By Ammon Willmott 4.pdf](#)

1st Place District winners:

District 1: Ammond Willmott

Sponsoring Garden Club: Livonia Garden Club

District 2A: Hannah Baker

Sponsoring Garden Club: Hillsdale Garden Club

District 5: Alivia Farr

Sponsoring Garden Club: Elk Rapids Garden Club

District 6: Arryelle Wiesen

Sponsoring Garden Club: Caro Garden Club

Youth Sculpture Contest

1st Place District Winners:

4th Grade: Trace Stumbrie, District 5

4th Grade: Ian Burns, District 6

5th Grade: Noah Shields, District 6

6th Grade: Jaylah Fisher, District 6

1st Place in State Winners:

4th Grade: Ian Burns, District 6

5th Grade: Noah Shields, District 6

6th Grade: Jaylah Fisher, District 6



MGC, Inc. Photos



Wildlife and Pollinators

A great to get started to help our Wildlife and Pollinators is by choosing native plants, trees and shrubs.

An easy way to ensure you're planting native, regional trees and shrubs that are most likely to thrive where you live is to work with your local conservation district or nature center. Genetic diversity in trees is just as important as it is among fish and wildlife species. [Visit](#) Michigan Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) to find your district, learn about programs, and get on the mailing list.

Support forests of all ages

Say the word "forest" and most people think of thick stands of mature trees that stretch to the sky. If you've been to the Porkies in the western Upper Peninsula's Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park or Hartwick Pines in Grayling, you've seen true gems – some Michigan trees are hundreds of years old. But these old-growth forests alone aren't enough to support the fish and wildlife that depend on them for food and shelter.



Most private forest landowners don't like to cut trees, and I get that, but we have to have forests of different ages to provide the different habitat that different species need to survive. If all private landowners do nothing to create young, successional forest types, there is a whole slew of species that are going to be lost – and we'll wind up with only birds and animals that like to live in

old-growth forests. The Kirtland's warbler, for example, only nests in jack pine forests that are 5-20 years old.

If you or someone you know owns private forest land, consider working with a forester to develop a plan for your forest. Explore the [DNR's resources for private forest landowners](#) to learn more about the Forest Stewardship and Forest Legacy programs.

Be a savvy searcher

We get it. Spending a day outdoors is a treat, and sometimes you want to take home a little something you find there. In most cases that's OK, but when foraging for wild foods, make sure you know ahead of time what you can take and what needs to stay.



Wild berries and mushrooms? Enjoy! Wildflowers? Leave them there, especially if a bloom is on the protected, endangered or threatened list; check out the [Michigan Natural Features Inventory rare plants list](#) for more information.

No matter what you're looking for – morels, sap for maple syrup, berries or something else – visit the [DNR's Foraging webpage](#). It has the facts on what is permitted for harvest (and where), what to leave in the wild to protect sensitive and rare species, and how to safely prepare anything you plan to eat.

Know your invasives

Invasive species are plants, animals and other organisms that aren't native to Michigan and whose

Wildlife and Pollinators continued.

introduction harms, or is likely to harm, the state’s economy, environment or human health. The good news is that anyone, anywhere in the state can make a difference in the fight against these land and water invaders, just by knowing what to look for and reporting what you see.

Visit Michigan.gov/Invasives to learn more about [identifying and reporting problem species](#); get tips on how to reduce the spread of invasives; and explore the popular [NotMISpecies webinar series](#). It covers everything from rock snot (yes, a true aquatic invasive species) to protecting your own backyard or neighborhood from damaging bugs like Spongy Moth or Spotted Lanternfly (right).



Make time for the outdoors

The more you know about plants, fish and animals, the more you tend to care about their health and survival. Sometimes that’s the first step toward having a more deliberate conservation mindset. Jacque Cousteau said people protect what they love, and it’s true. You start thinking about what small actions you can take to better protect these amazing natural resources.

Though the pandemic is still part of the landscape, life has (mostly) returned to normal.

Consider these other conservation-minded resolutions to round out your year:

- Spend more time discovering Michigan state parks, trails and waterways.
- Take advantage of local, regional and state trails, parks and nature centers in your area. Many offer educational programs perfect for all ages.

- Discover new ways to support the natural and cultural resources you value.

Visit gov/DNRvolunteers for dozens of volunteer opportunities.



MI DNR photo

Submitted by Rita Crawley, Environmental Issues Resource

Houseplant Care

1. Create a schedule for watering your plants.
2. Provide proper lighting.
3. Fertilize on a schedule.
4. Help pots hold water longer.
5. Repot houseplants on a regular schedule.
6. Clean, dust, or bathe plants occasionally.



Snake Plant
Bing Photo



6 Ways that Trees Help Us*

- #1. **Trees eat greenhouses gases that contribute to climate change** – Photosynthesis absorbs carbon dioxide in the air and stores it in the wood!
- #2. **Trees improve mental and physical health** – A walk in an wooded area like a park reduces anxiety and depression.
- #3. **Air is cleaned by the trees in our environment** – Particulate matter, the most dangerous to health, is removed by trees.



- #4. **Wildlife finds homes among the trees** –Trees and woodlands provide habitat for critters and the woodland provides for the most diverse and resilient habitats.
- #5. **Trees reduce temperatures cooling the environment** – Shade provides refuge from high temperatures which is especially Important in areas with an abundance of paved surfaces.
- #6. **Supplies of drinking water are filtered by Trees** – More than half of the United States drinking water is filtered by tress near and far.

*Adapted from Nature.org

Newsletter Submission Requirements

- 1. **Submit in unformatted MSWord; NO PDFs.**
- 2. **Use Size 12 Calibri font.**
- 3. **Single space between sentences.**
- 4. **Respect Seasonal themes when possible:**
 - **Spring — Horticulture/Landscaping**
 - **Summer — Wildlife/Pollinators**
 - **Fall — Trees/Bulbs/Youth Activities**
 - **Winter — Spring Gardening/Seeds**
- 5. **Submission deadlines:**
 - Spring Issue — February 1
 - Summer Issue — May 1
 - Fall Issue — August1
 - Winter Issue — November 1

Note to Contributors: The editor retains the right to edit articles due to space constraints.

Please feel free to send timely information for each issue focusing on the seasonal theme when possible.

Regular MGC columnists should continue to send articles honoring the current deadlines.

Send articles to:
newsletter@migardenclubs.org.

Thank you!