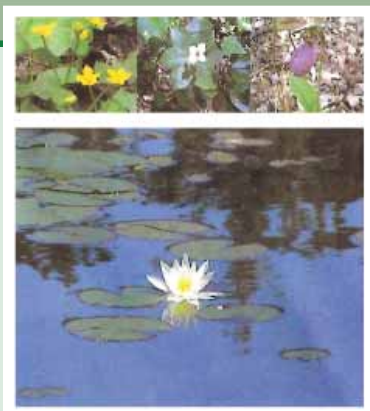


Thru The Garden Gate



Vol. 3, No. 4 for June, July, August 2010
 The official publication of Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.
 Member of Central Region and National Garden Clubs, Inc.
www.michigangardenclubs.org



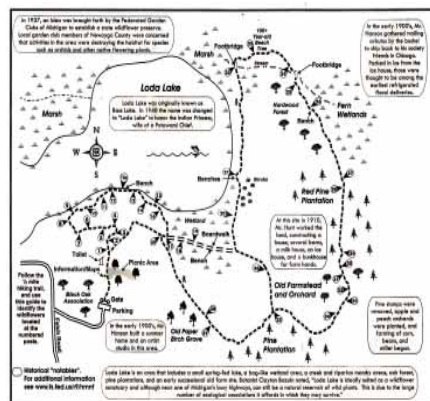
LODA LAKE WILDFLOWER SANCTUARY

Originally part of a 1000-acre private reserve, Loda Lake was sold to the U.S. Forest Service during the Great Depression. Because of the wide variety of habitats found in a relatively small area, the USFS invited the Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan (MGC, Inc., Inc.) in 1938 to assist in creating a sanctuary for native plants, especially endangered and protected species, to ensure their survival.

inside

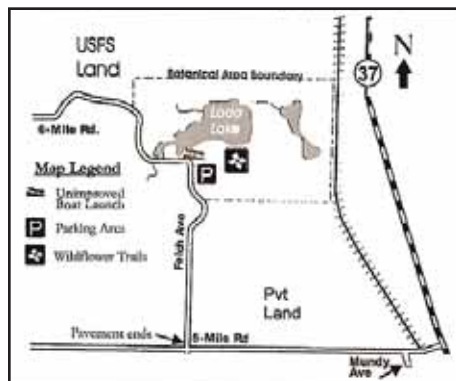
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Today the 72-acre preserve is still managed by the Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. and over the years has evolved into a unique haven for botanists, wildflower enthusiasts, and families looking for a short but scenic hike. Winding through the sanctuary is a 1.5-mile loop with 40 numbered posts, keyed to an interpretive brochure that



mark the locations of plants. Most are wildflowers and the trail guide informs you when they will be in bloom: early spring, summer or fall. If you stop to examine every one, plan on a good hour for this hike and longer if you like sitting on a bench searching a small lake for wildlife.

Help Loda lake plants flourish; please do not pick, dig or remove any plants from this area. If you are interested in volunteering with the care, operation or native plant rescue programs at Loda Lake please call the Baldwin Office at 231-745-4631.



Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary is located on the west side of Michigan, north of Grand Rapids. Follow Hwy M-37 approx 6.8 miles north of White Cloud. Turn west onto 5 Mile Road and travel west to the intersection with Felch Ave. Turn north on Felch (gravel) to the parking lot entrance road.



Our Mission is to provide education resources and networking opportunities for our members and to promote the love of gardening, floral and landscape design, and civic and environmental responsibility.

Visit http://www.michigangardenclubs.org/public/loda_lake to download brochure with listing of wildflowers at Loda Lake

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Article Submission Deadlines:

June/July/Aug Issue: April 1;

Sept/Oct/Nov Issue: July 1;

Dec/Jan/Feb Issue: October 1;

Mar/Apr/May Issue: January 1

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Theme: "The World Around Us-Love It-
Beautify It-Protect It"

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Theme: "The Future is Now"



A note ♪ from Lynn

Dear Club President and Garden Club Members:
Much has happened since the MGC, Inc. Board Meeting in November, 2009. The audit of the books that I had been trying to have done for almost a year finally happened. There was a strong negative reaction to the proposed increase in dues. And the economy (Jobs) is apparently going to take longer to recover than some of us thought. All of this culminated in some important events happening at the 4/8/2010 MGC, Inc. Board Meeting that the Club Presidents and Garden Club Members need to know about.

1. It was voted that the issue about raising dues be referred back to the Finance Committee. This means that there will be no vote at this year's Annual Convention about increasing dues, and **there will be no dues increase in the 2010-2011 fiscal year.**
2. We have a new Treasurer. Pam Dewey was approved by the MGC board as Treasurer - Interim. Pam is working hard at restructuring the last 2 1/2 years of transactions to be consistent with previous accounting methods. Pam was a previous Treasurer for MGC, Inc.; we have great confidence in her and are looking forward to financial reports in the future that are accurate, with proper totals and in a format that is understood by the membership.
3. Pam and the Finance Committee proposed a balanced budget for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. It was approved.
4. Marge McGoff, Finance Chairman, reported that a modified audit was performed on the MGC, Inc. Finance books dated from June 2007 to May 2009. A formal audit could not be performed because of missing data and lack of corroborating details. Then a list was made of missing items. Details were not kept in readily accessible sequential order. Basically there were many flaws in the bookkeeping. Even though a formal audit could not be conducted, data for the two years has been reviewed, organized and where possible reconciled. The reviewers made a list of recommendations that the Finance Committee will take seriously as will the new Treasurer. Pam will be continuing to work on this as part of her reconstruction activities.

Please stay tuned, more information about these issues will be forthcoming as they unfold. Board Minutes will be posted on our web site once they have completed the approval process.

Since it takes two years for a dues increase to take effect, the lack of one will not have an immediate effect and we will continue to function in the best way possible through this administration. It has been 21 years since the last dues increase. While this is not enough reason for a change, the costs associated with operating the organization have increased a great deal in that time. The cost of postage and printing, two of our largest expenses, are a good example.

While the above reasons will cause this issue to come up again in a future administration, forging ahead with the November plan would have polarized our membership and we would have lost many good members. Perhaps when this comes up again the economy will have improved and things will be easier for all of us.

In the process of the communications about dues some information was shared that may result in strengthening the MGC, Inc. – membership bond. It is apparent that we have many clubs that are not participating in the benefits that MGC, Inc. provides. Some even feel they are not getting their \$4.50 worth. Consequently I have been trying to find out from them what MGC, Inc. can do for them. While no one has yet come up with a suggestion, if we ask the question often enough someone will make a suggestion we can all rally around.

Continued on page 3

Book Review National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Marilyn K. Alaimo, Book Review Chairman

National Garden Clubs' Book Reviews are available in print in the *The National Gardener* and on the website at www.gardenclub.org. See Resources/Forms, Book Reviews.



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Lore & Legends

- ❖ No killing frost will arrive after the Martin comes to stay.
- ❖ When swallows fly low rain is on the way.*
- ❖ If you see the underside of leaves in the gentle breeze, it will rain before you sneeze.

**This old saying has some scientific basis: When the air pressure falls rapidly, many airborne insects descend ground ward, hotly pursued by swallows eager to eat them.*

Note from Lynn continued from page 2



All of our clubs do amazing work in their communities. Most are also active in MGC, Inc. schools, functions and projects coordinated by MGC, Inc. and NGC. Some, however, are only interested in their local projects. While there is nothing wrong with that, we are looking for ideas on how MGC, Inc. can better help them accomplish their goals. I welcome your input and your suggestions. Together we will march down the trail of Daffodils so many of you planted and come out smelling like a rose.

Sincerely,
Lynn Dinvald, President

NGC, Inc. School Gardens Project—Bees

“Bee Nature’s Partner . . . Plants and Pollinators” is to educate school students by creating native gardens on school grounds. Gardens may be large or small, portable or stationary. Clubs may also incorporate educational instruction or materials and the sustainability of these gardens. Emphasis will be on native plants, organic methods, native pollinators that attract bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinators to the garden. Club presidents may have received School Garden Project Application forms; www.nationalgardenclub.org has all forms along with a full explanation of this exciting new program.

Bees are in the news these days and not only as pollinators. Apitherapy is the medical use of honeybee products. A major bee venom is Melittin, used in the treatment of inflammation associated with Rheumatoid Arthritis and Multiple Sclerosis. HortScience researchers discovered that using honey for chrysanthemum cuttings didn’t increase rooting, but honey treated plants favored shoot and leaf growth!

reprint from Garden Glories VolLXXVII, #2 Spring 2010

BOOK

“Gardening with Children”

has a wealth of information useful to persons working with children’s gardening activities.

Published in 1998, used and new copies can be purchased from Amazon, Barnes & Nobles and other similar outlets. The book is also available on Kindle



National Garden Clubs Schools.

Sherry Sanelli, Third VP



Did you know that Michigan Garden Clubs offers all four of the National Garden Clubs Schools. Each of these schools, Environmental Studies School, Flower Show School, Gardening Study School and Landscape Design School consist of a series of 4 courses, held about 6 months apart and consisting of 2 days of instruction each. These classes are a wonderful opportunity to increase your knowledge, share ideas and meet fellow gardeners.

In Michigan these classes are usually offered each spring and fall and rotate between districts. Garden Study, Landscape Design and Flower Show have all recently finished a series and will take a short break to allow time for new interest. Environmental just finished Course 1 and will offer Course 2 on October 12th and 13th. Watch for the other schools to start up next year. Each course is complete within itself, with different topics, so the courses do not need to be taken in order.

Gardening Study Courses are designed to provide information on topics of interest to those especially interested in gardening, horticulture and related topics. Topics include basic botany, soils, growing annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs, fruits and vegetables, lawns, pests and diseases of plants, plant classification, pruning and selected topics of local interest. Please keep in mind that the local schools offer instruction by local experts knowledgeable about gardening in your local area. The local 2 day course is \$60, and includes lunch and a continental breakfast each day, compared to \$100 online. You would also miss meeting and sharing ideas with fellow local gardeners and the camaraderie and friendship of these fellow students.

Landscape Design School Courses are designed for all those interested in expanding their knowledge of landscape design, use of plant materials, ecology, land utilization and developing a greater overall appreciation and understanding of their surroundings. The student will get on site practice in evaluation of public and domestic design.

Environmental Studies School is designed to stimulate interest and understanding of the environment. It encompasses land conservation, land trust, water conservation, ground water protection, air quality, energy awareness, waste, litter and recycling.

Those students completing any of the above 3 schools, who are also members of an MGC, Inc. club, can join the Michigan Consultants Council which consists of Landscape Design Consultants, Gardening Consultants & Environmental Consultants. It's objectives include protecting the environment, increasing knowledge in horticulture, promoting excellence in landscape design and advancing and continuing the study of the earth, gardening and landscape design.

Flower Show School is not only for prospective flower show exhibitors and judges, but also for all garden club members and all persons interested in flower design and horticulture. Each course is divided into one day of horticulture curriculum, consisting of information on proper gardening techniques from seed/plant selection to plant culture and control of problems and one day of design curriculum, covering traditional floral arrangements through contemporary styles. Those members completing Flower Show School become members of the Michigan Association of Accredited Judges.

This school's curriculum includes a wealth of information on Flower Shows. Even if they aren't interested in becoming a judge, having a member of your club attend this school and share the information learned with the club, will greatly help your club stage a flower show.

Those members who complete all four courses receive a Four Star Certificate. A Five Star Certificate is awarded to a garden club member who has completed all four National Garden Club schools and has attained Master Status in all four schools, a truly worthy accomplishment.

Pound, Press or Wax Flower Programs

Mary Van Tassel has been pounding, waxing and pressing flowers for the past six years and giving programs at Wedel's Expo, Wedels' Womens' night, Sheppard Senior Center and area garden clubs. She is a recent graduate of the Master Gardener Program, a practicing Registered Nurse and a Visiting Nurse for over 25 years. She has been the President of the Kalamazoo Garden Council for three times, Chair of the KGC Greens Sale for 4 years, President of her Westwood Garden Club for 3 years. Mary is currently the *Crafts Chairman* for the Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. She enjoys encouraging the hidden artistic talents of both children and adults.

Mary Van Tassel, Kalamazoo, MI
Phone 269.375.1708
E-mail: mvantasselk@aol.com



Gardening Study Student Observation

Sandy

"Hi- I was really impressed by this school and I was somewhat saddened that more people do not take advantage of these wonderful classes.

Clubs should be encouraged to offer members scholarships to the schools in return for some sharing at the meetings. Knowledge is golden! As a beginning gardener or for an experienced gardener, the classes give us so many ideas and basic skills everyone who goes with an open mind and willing heart comes away with knowledge and new friends. I am so glad I went."

❖ MARK YOUR CALENDAR ❖

Muskegon County GC Flower Show Title: "Floral Fantasy" June 24-25

"Going for the Blue" is the phrase used at the FREE flower show entitled "Floral Fantasy" at the Frauenthal Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Muskegon. The show starts at 1pm on Thursday, June 24, 2010 (1pm – 7pm) and continues on Friday, June 25th from 10am to 4pm.

You can vote for your favorite arrangement and automatically be entered to win a beautiful array of Michigan hardy perennials for your own yard, sponsored by Moon Flowers Gardens. A special children's activity area, in the adjoining Hilt Building and a garden Market Place, filled with bargain priced fresh flowers and garden related items, are available to add to your enjoyment.

The show is closed on Thursday morning while accredited judges from around the state make their decisions on blue ribbon placement. So come downtown on Thursday afternoon, bring a friend and your garden questions for an enjoyable flower filled visit.

Contact Linda Talkington at 231-755-4409 with any questions or for additional information.

District I Garden Walk Sunday, July 18

Seed & Sod Garden Club of Huntington Woods, District One, is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year with a Garden Walk on Sunday, July 18 from 1-4 pm.

Contact Meridith Weston-Band at 248-543-8215 or mwv@comcast.net

District III Fall Meeting Thursday, October 14,

Hosted by Seedlings Garden Club and Rose & Thistle Garden Club, celebrating the 150th Anniversary of WK Kellogg's birth. Held at St. Ann Catholic Church, 12648 East D Ave., Augusta.

Contacts: Pam Dewey, 269-671-5211, usrprd@tds.net or Carol Beckius, 269-372-6950, cbeckius@chartermi.net.

continued on page 9

"CLUBS ON THE GROW"

Wabigon Gardeners (District III)

Wabigon Gardeners were organized and federated in 1970. 'Wabigon' represents May on the Potawatomic calendar, meaning "month of flowers and bloom." Club objectives are to increase the love and knowledge of gardening, to protect native plants, trees and wildlife, to promote conservation and encourage civic and domestic plantings.

We currently have 18 active members who meet in homes the 4th Thursday evening of each month. Meetings consist of educational lectures by members or guest speakers, touring gardens, sharing information on conservation, horticulture or nature.

Activities include planting and maintaining gardens at a local hospital and memorial garden. We have planted daffodils at Rudy Park along with the city of Dowagiac and added plants to Habitat homes. We donate money for Dowagiac Woods and books and videos to the Dowagiac Library. At Christmastime monetary gifts are given to four local charities. Funds come from dues and plant auctions. Happy 40th Anniversary!

Canadian Lakes Garden Club (District IV)

Stanwood, Mecosta County

As a Club on the Grow we're multiplying and blossoming. From a seed sewn back in November of 1986, Canadian Lakes Garden Club now boasts a healthy membership of some 90 keen gardeners who on a monthly basis enjoy workshops, educational speakers and horticultural outings. With two State Life Members, one National Life Member and eight Master Gardeners, we are proud of our many achievements.

Twenty eight flower beds are planted and maintained in our beautiful community. We call our energetic group "Flower Power," we all enjoy the hundreds of daffodils when they show their friendly faces shortly after the snow melts away.

Our sixth annual Thanksgiving Wreath Sale has resulted in a handsome scholarship to a local Ferris State Horticulture student.

A yellow ribbon is planted yearly in "Honor of our Troops;" environmentally we are educating our neighbors about recycling, no more Styrofoam cups at our meetings! During these hard economic times encourage vegetable gardening in our own gardens. We gardeners can and will make a difference to our planet.

Mason County Garden Club (District V)

The Mason County Garden Club was founded in 1926 and federated on April 30, 1935. Current membership is 62, including 7 Life Members. It is involved in a variety of community-related landscape, beautification and conservation efforts, along with Junior Gardening Club, 4-H, Habitat for Humanity and Garden Therapy. Our Blue Star Memorial was installed in 2007 on the grounds of the Mason County Courthouse in Ludington. In 2008 we incorporated as a Michigan Non-Profit Corporation; in 2009 we qualified as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization.

The Club continues to sponsor its annual Garden Walk, Standard Flower Shows, and hosted the May 5 District V meeting at the Lincoln Hills Golf Club in Ludington. Our website is www.masoncountygardenclub.org; print publications include brochures about club activities, plants native to the area, and membership newsletters.

As we embark on our 84th year we celebrate the members who came before, and those who join us now and in the future, sharing our mission to stimulate a knowledge and love of gardening, landscape design and floral design, encourage home and community beautification, promote good horticultural practices, provide education and resources, and encourage protection of our environment and of our natural resources.

Edna Rosenfield Memorial Fund

Michigan Garden Clubs would like to acknowledge the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation Edna Rosenfield Memorial Fund. These grant funds are restricted for the following Michigan Garden Club, Inc. program services to: promote and market membership for the Michigan Garden Clubs, assist with implementation and maintenance of the Michigan Garden Club website, including periodic updates and other website related costs.

Thanks to a generous gift from Edna Rosenfield...

Edna passed away on June 11, 2004 and remembered Michigan Garden Clubs Inc. in a memorial established at the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation in Traverse City, Michigan.

- ◆ Edna was a life member of The Friendly Garden Club of Traverse City and lived with her husband John in Suttons Bay, Michigan. She was an outstanding organic horticulturist, Master Gardener, landscape critic and an Accredited Life Flower Show Judge.
- ◆ She was a Life Member of the Michigan Garden Club, serving on the state board for ten years, a Life Member of the National Garden Club, a founder of the Cherryland Garden Club of Traverse City and a member of the Punta Gorda Garden Club of Florida.

The Board of Directors of the Michigan Garden Clubs expresses its deep heartfelt thanks and appreciation in memory of Edna Rosenfield.

NGC's Youth Contest Winners From Michigan

Debra Zilka, Youth Activities Chair

- ◆ 2010 Poetry Contest:
3rd grade: Madison Bateson (sponsored by the Garden Club of Pentwater)
- ◆ 2010 Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contest:
1st grade: Alexis Wilgocki (sponsored by Swan Creek Garden Club)
2nd grade: Emily Chao (sponsored by Grosse Ile Garden Club)
3rd grade: Caleb Pittman (sponsored by Charlevoix Area Garden Club)
4th grade: Lauren Kwapisz (sponsored by Charlevoix Area Garden Club)
5th grade: Kyra Brazell (sponsored by Boyne Valley Garden Club)

My congratulations to all the winners, and my thanks to all who encouraged your children to participate in NGC's Youth Contests!

NGC is sponsoring a "Native Plants Patch for Girl Scouts," that encourages partnerships between girl scouts and local garden clubs to teach scouts about native plants. The patch is quite attractive and very unique...in that it can only be earned through this partnership. If you know of any Girl Scouts in your community, I encourage you to participate in this fun, educational opportunity. Please feel free to email me at dlzilka@earthlink.net for more information, or visit NGC's website at www.gardenclub.org/Youth/GirlScoutPatch.

◆ A few words of inspiration from MGC, Inc.'s Youth Chair ◆

"As you walk around your gardens...to discover what new life Spring has brought forth... grab a child by the hand...and allow them to discover along with you. It won't be much longer before greenhouses and other retail outlets have available all the makings of our gardens...and as you plan your flower and vegetable gardens this year...I challenge you to include teaching something about gardening to a child in your plans. The opportunities are endless...from leading a youth garden club in your community...to organizing special gardening projects involving youth groups within your community...to perhaps a neighborhood project...or just simply involving your own children or grandchildren in your gardening tasks. Yes we can!...get our kids outside...away from the television and video games...and make learning fun for them. I challenge you to challenge each other...to

"Discover the wonder of nature's secrets through the eyes of a child."



❖ MARK YOUR CALENDAR ❖

DISTRICT IIB MEETING Wednesday, October 20,

District IIB cordially invites you to attend their fall meeting, "The Garden of Earthly Delights," scheduled for Wednesday, October 20th, 2010. Hosted by the Meridian Garden Club, this event will be held at the Eagle Eye Golf and Banquet Facility at 15500 Chandler Road, Bath, Michigan.

"Food, the Environment and Climate Change" will be presented in the morning by MSU Professor; Dr. Bonnie Bucqueroux. Dr. Bucqueroux has received training and worked with the Climate Control Project. Our afternoon speaker and author; Deanna House, will give an entertaining presentation called "Foods From Michigan's Good Earth."

Registration packets will be distributed to all club presidents in August with a sign up deadline of September 29, 2010. Each club should send 1 check made payable to Meridian Garden Club.

For Registrar questions contact Lynn Seeley at 517-242-2540 or by email at seeleyfl@aol.com. For questions concerning food/dietary restrictions please call Kathleen Denisi at 517-339-2527.



www.michigangardenclubs.org

Make **this address** a regular stop when you surf the web. Remember to tell your friends that the newsletter is now available on the public side of the site. Check out the latest information on schools, and garden clubs activities.

Available for you—Pictures, Knowledge, Calendar, Clothing and Information

- ◆ Check it out and see for yourself!

Scholarship & Donations

Donations to Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary

Thank you to all clubs who have contributed to MGC, Inc. Loda Lake President's Project in support Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary and their wish to provide an educational pavilion on the sanctuary grounds. Seed and Sod, Burr Oak, District III, Pentwater, Livonia and the Mason County Garden Clubs have contributed a total of \$448.00.

MGC, Inc. was remembered through a trust from Edwina Surdyk-Mitz who passed away November 2009. Edwina became MGC, Inc. treasurer in 1977 and held that position until 1991. In 1978 she was co-chairman with Vera Sullivan of the National Convention held in Dearborn. She toured the state giving flower arrangement workshops for the Federation. She was Historian from 1991 to 1998. Through Edwina's generous gift two MGC, Inc. projects will prosper, the scholarship fund and the Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary President's Project with each receiving \$500.

While attending the District IV meeting in Fremont, May 19, Karen Motowi and I were presented with three additional donations from District IV members and clubs; The Big Rapids and Kent Garden Clubs plus a donation from all the attending members who contributed to the Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary through generous donations. Our new total provided through donations is \$1,814.41. Karen Motowi, Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary Chairman, and I truly appreciated our kind donations.

Our goal is to raise \$20,000 and we have a long way to go. Please consider donating any amount, large or small. to this worthwhile project. Mail checks payable to Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc., c/o Lynn Dinvalid, 6802 Springbrook Lane, Kalamazoo, MI 49004-9665. Your gift will be remembered for years to come by MGC, Inc. and Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary visitors.

With my thanks, Lynn



In the last issue of the Gate, 18 students were listed as MGC, Inc. scholarship recipients. This issue adds two more: from Michigan State University, Lindsey Hankwitz and Derick Misiuk both Landscape Architecture majors. Total amount given for scholarships this academic year was \$30,000.

Thank you to all who donated to MGC, Inc. Scholarships from December 31 to March 31, 2010. Send donations to Nancy McGilliard 2339 Sapphire Lane East Lansing MI 48823.

◆ HONORARIUMS \$95

Tri Cities GC for program given by Dr. Rick Peters
Pleasant Ridge for program by Edie Ho

◆ DONATIONS \$755

Mason-Union GC
Good Thyme GC
District IIB for clubs hosting Fall District Meeting: Dansville Backyard Buds, Mason Sycamore Creek, Williamston Red Cedar
Bonny Ion to honor Mary & Mike Pulick's 50th wedding anniversary
Standale GC
District IIB to honor judges of District Flower Show

◆ MEMORIALS \$175

Bryan Gallagher, husband of Ethel from Nancy Goulette, Mary Pulick
Anne York from Grosse Ile GC
June Kemeny from Niles GC
Joe Grathwohl from Niles GC
Pauline Eley from Meek's Mills GC

World Gardening

Chris Rochman, World Gardening

Thank you Loch Alpine Garden Club and Great Lakes Gardeners for your donations to our work with the young people in Belize, C.A. Please send donations to Chris Rochman, 4806 Holly Way, Ann Arbor MI 48103. Make Checks payable to MGC, Inc. and put World Gardening in lower left hand corner



❖ Garden Walks

❖ Flower Show

❖ Blue Star Memorial Celebrations

❖ Meetings

These and more are included on MGC, Inc. website and starting on page 14 of this issue see Calendar.

Dear Members,

All financial activities should be sent to the Pro-tem MGC, Inc. Treasurer Pam Dewey at the address below.

Pam Dewey, Treasurer MGC, Inc.
13998 Kelly Rd.
Hickory Corners, MI 49060-9781
Ph: 269-671-5211
E-mail: usrprd@tds.net

Your continued support is most appreciated.

Lynn Dinvalid, President MGC, Inc.

Blue Star Memorial

Lorrie Dyal

A big year for Blue Star in 2010? We are honored to participate in seven dedications that are scheduled and are listed below.

1. Fort Custer National Cemetery- All Districts and MGC, Inc., Inc. sponsored. All members of MGC, Inc. are invited to be present at MGC, Inc.'s Fiftieth Blue Star. Monday May 24 at 3:45 pm.
Renee Blaschke, our National Garden Clubs. Inc. President will be the featured speaker.
2. Pleasant Ridge Garden Club, District I—5/08/10
3. Thornapple Garden Club, District IIB TBD
4. Spirit of the Woods, of Manistee, District V—5/15/10
5. Landscapers Garden Club of Kalamazoo County, District III —6/14/10
6. Sturgis Garden Club, District III—6/11/10
7. Grand Ledge Garden Club, District IIB—9/11/10

It is not too late to mail in your club's Blue Star application for Fall of 2010. Prices have raised as of 5/1/2010
\$1250/Large Marker
\$410/By Way Marker

Lorrie Dyal
Michigan Blue Star Chairman
1205 Heirloom View, Okemos MI 48864
phone: 517.282.3671
e-mail: ledyal8@gmail.com



Membership Campaign Results

Nancy Stark, Membership Chairman & Ist Vice President

The campaign I proposed to all MGC, Inc., Inc. clubs last fall has been completed as of April 1, 2010. It was very successful and most clubs brought in one or more new members since May, 2009.

First, I want to thank everyone who brought a guest to their garden club events. As we all know, the one-on-one contact is always the shining star in recruitment. As a result of your efforts, below are the winning clubs in each district. The numbers are based on the percentage of increase and not by head count. Any club 20% and higher is recognized. These numbers were based on figures provided by the MGC, Inc., Inc. Data Base Manager and District Directors information that was provided by the individual clubs. As you can see it is very important to keep your rosters current when new members join. The new member information is critical to our data base and is only as accurate as you can provide us from the local club level.

District I – Gardeners of Northville, Novi increased 28% - 7 new members

Honorable Mention: St. Clair Garden Club – 25% increase
Taylor Garden Club – 25%
Livonia Garden Club – 20%
2009 New Club: Belleville Area Garden Club – 28 members

District IIA – Good Thyme Garden Club increased 22% - 7 new members

Honorable Mention: Dundee Diggers Garden Club – 20%

District IIB – Inland Lakes G.C. of Delton increased 46% - 12 new members

Honorable Mention: Mason Sycamore Creek Garden Club – 24%
Eaton Rapids Home & Garden – 23%
2009 New Club: Looking Glass Garden Club – 35 members

District III - Buchanan Garden Club increased 30% - 11 new members

Honorable Mention: Wabigon Garden Club – 29%
Town & Country Garden Club - 27%
Western Hills Garden Club - 26%
Burke View Garden Club – 21%

District IV - Garden Club of Pentwater increased 28% - 13 new members

Honorable Mention: Tri-Cities Garden Club – 21%

District V – Presque Isle County Garden Club increased 36% - 8 new members

Honorable Mention: Stepping Stones Garden Club – 26%
Morning Glory Garden Club – 25%
West Mackinac Garden Club – 20%
Cherryland Garden Club – 20%
2009 New Club: By-The-Bay G.C. of Sutton's Bay – 28 members

District VI -Great Lakes Gardeners increased 58% - 26 new members

Honorable Mention: Goodrich Garden Club – 45%
Rainbow Lakes Garden Club – 21%
Sow & Hoe Garden Club – 20%
2009 New Club: Evening Blossoms Garden Club – 20 members
Mid-Michigan Flower Arrangers Guild – 9 members

All clubs are being recognized at the Spring and Fall District Meetings for their outstanding efforts in membership recruitment. The MGC, Inc. Board congratulates all of you for

“Growing More Than Gardens.”



Western Michigan is excellent butterfly territory with its abundant variety of trees and plants to attract butterflies. There are often articles written on the plants available to attract butterflies but not as many on what types of trees to use. This article will give pertinent information concerning butterfly attracting tree options. There are a variety of trees that are egg/caterpillar host plants. Host trees for both the Spring and Summer Azure are the Flowering Dogwood, Maple-leaf Viburnum, Red-Osier Dogwood, Sumac and Wild Cherry. For the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Black and Wild Cherry, Sweetbay Magnolia and both the Tulip and Yellow Poplar are options. The Mourning Cloak butterfly uses the Aspen, Hackberry, Paper Birch and the Black and Weeping Willow. Many of these same trees are also sources of butterfly nectar including the Flowering Dogwood, Maple-leaf Viburnum, Red-Osier Dogwood, and the Wild Black Cherry. Below is information concerning these trees that may help you make better choices when planning your landscape.



Both the 'Cherokee Chief' Flowering Dogwood and the Japanese Flowering Dogwood are striking. The 'Cherokee Chief' grows to a height of 20-25 feet, spreads 12-15 feet and has impressive spring blooms. This tree puts out red blooms in spring, while its fall foliage is bronze-colored. The Japanese Flowering Dogwood usually bears white, star-shaped blooms. Fall foliage is purplish-red and the red berries with the added benefit of being winter food for wild birds.

Sumacs are small trees that can reach a height of 30-33 feet. The leaves are spirally arranged with flowers in dense spikes. With five petals, each flower is very small and greenish, creamy white or red. The fruits form dense clusters of reddish drupes. You need to think before planning since sumacs propagate both by seed and by new shoots forming large colonies.

The Wild Black Cherry is the largest cherry, commonly a 50-60 foot tree with pyramidal forms and the tips of branches arching downward. White, five petal flowers are borne on finger-size panicles produced at the ends of branches. The pea-size, red-changing-to-black, berries appear in August. Black Cherry leaves are glossy green with the fall color a subtle yellow to orange.

The Spicebush typically grows 6-12 feet tiny, aromatic, greenish-yellow flowers spring before the foliage emerges. turn an attractive yellow in autumn. woodland gardens, or in moist areas

The American Tulip tree, Tulip an average height of 70-100 feet. period. The flowers are pale green or tepals; they yield large quantities of moist soil. In autumn the leaves turn dark red.

Aspens are shade-intolerant and fast growing. Chestnut-sided Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Indigo

The Hackberry is deciduous and stands 50 feet tall making a good shade tree. It is tolerant to adverse growing conditions surviving long periods of drought and grows in sun or partial shade. The fruit is small and turns from orange red to purple, just as the leaves start to change in mid-autumn. Location is important since the fruit will temporarily stain walks.

There are several types of Birches from which to chose. They are sun loving and flower in the spring. The bright white, peeling bark of paper birch makes this tree one of the easiest to identify. Small samaras ripen in paper cones in the late summer.

Willows are trees that tend to prefer moist, cool sites. They are usually found along stream courses or in wetland complexes. Most willows have pretty flowers that bloom early in the spring (good for bees). Often with multiple trunks, trees can reach diameters of over 3 feet but rarely grow taller than 50-60 feet.

The Sweetbay Magnolia is a deciduous tree with two or three dominant trunks with a height and spread of 10-20 feet. It is often grown as an ornamental landscape tree because of its attractive foliage, flowers, and fruit. This small tree has dark green lustrous leaves and crimson fruiting cones. It flowers in May and June and is known for its very fragrant lemon-scented creamy white flowers that have gold centers. The best growth occurs in woodland type settings or high organic soils. In Michigan, in mild winters, foliage may remain on the outer branches through December making it semi-evergreen.

These trees all grow well in Michigan and will help in perpetuating the butterfly population in your area. Be sure to choose trees wisely and project ahead five to ten years. For best growth follow directions on the time of year to plant and the correct distance between trees.

**Be sure to choose trees
wisely and project ahead
five to ten years.**

high in moist bottomlands. Clusters of bloom along the branches in early Thick, oblong, light green leaves It is used as a border, in shade or along streams or ponds.

Poplar or Yellow Poplar grows to June marks the start of the flowering yellow with an orange band on the nectar. It prefers deep, rich, and rather a clear, bright yellow. Winter buds are

Along with butterflies, young saplings attract the Bunting, and Golden-winged Warbler.

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Light Pollution

Karen Jencks, *Environmental Issues*

Humans have gazed at starry skies, in awe, for thousands of years but as man-made light spills into the darkest hours of the night, it's getting harder to catch a glimpse of our galaxy. The cause of this is light pollution. What is light pollution? In a nutshell light pollution is misdirected or misused light. Light pollution comes in several different forms, Sky Glow is light wastefully escaping into the night sky and causing a glow over urban and suburban areas. Glare is light shining dangerously out into peoples eyes as they walk or drive by. Light Trespass is unwanted light shining onto a neighbors property or into their home. Dark skies offer more than the chance to connect with something bigger than ourselves. They're a precious resource that affects some very earthly matters, like the natural rhythms of wildlife and the health and well-being of humans.

Satellite maps of the United States show an eastern seaboard lit up like a Christmas tree every night. The west shows darker areas, but skies over even remote places have been getting brighter as the U.S. pollution grows.

Astronomers were the first to sound the alarm on light pollution, but the issue goes deeper than stargazing alone. On a basic level people lose something when they're cut off from views into the universe. We are the generation in the recorded history of the human race that's lost our connection with the night sky. Dark skies are our heritage. When we cut ourselves off from our heritage, we lose our root. There is a peacefulness that comes from being tied to nature.

Recent studies by Richard Stevens, a University of Connecticut epidemiologists, show a possible correlation between increased prostate and breast cancer and areas with high levels of artificial light. For the same reason the American Medical Association is advocating for light-pollution control and glare-reduction efforts around the country.

Wildlife suffers too. Insects are lured to their deaths when artificial lights make them more visible to predators and easier to hunt. Owls and songbirds that migrate in the night collide with buildings, attracted by the man-made glare. Reptiles shy away from artificial lighting, which limits where they can forage for food. Sea turtle mothers and their hatchlings become disoriented by the glow of lights from beach communities, setting off on the wrong course as a result. Our National Parks are concerned about remaining a refuge for wild species. They are addressing the effects of light pollution on those residents.

What can we do: Americans can help preserve night skies, starting with their own homes. Americans could cut roughly 2 percent of their power use by aiming and shielding outdoor light so they point down instead of up, using slightly dimmer outdoor lamps, and turning lights off when they're not needed or installing motion sensors. Two percent might not seem like much, but in the end it amounts to about 44 million metric tons of carbon dioxide.

Looks like it is time for us to take action - remember what mother always said "turn out the light" especially before you go to bed.

A Fungus Among Us

Judy DeJaegher, *Horticulture Chair*

A summer time culprit to warn you about is a little fungus that grows in mulch. There are many kinds of fungi that grow in mulches, but as this one grows it swells, then it explodes, appropriately named "Shotgun or Artillery Fungus." This fungus can permanently stain homes and cars within 30' with tiny "tar spots."

Shotgun fungi spores do no structural damage to houses, cars, plants, etc. but removing the fungi is extremely difficult (Mother Nature's version of 'super glue'). Scrubbing and scraping or washing with soap aids somewhat in removal; however, use of tools or harsh chemicals may damage surfaces. There is no fungicide treatment registered to control this fungus at this time.

Wood mulch (versus bark mulch) and increased use of wood products in potting media have been associated with Shotgun fungi. Keeping mulch loose so air can circulate makes it less likely to grow fungi. Don't keep adding layer after layer of mulch around your house. Skip at least every other year; just loosen the mulch you already have. Also, use of gravel, stone, pea gravel, and black plastic next to buildings will reduce the problem. Use of bark products, rather than wood products, may lessen the fungal spread.

An Ohio State University Extension bulletin suggests soaking mulches immediately after being applied. The high-moisture rapidly colonizes bacteria to compete with fungi, reducing potential development of major mold problems. This strategy has been successfully applied over the past decade to hardwood as well as softwood composts and mulches.

◆ Central Region Convention ◆ October 4-6, 2010

Ladies, the following message is from Kitty Larkin, Wisconsin 2010 CR Convention Chairman. Michigan is hosting the Central Region in 2011 and we hope many of us will be attending their

October 4-6, 2010 meeting. More information below.



Hi to Everyone: (from Kitty Larkin Wisconsin 2010 Convention Chairman)

Attached is a rough schedule of scheduled programs and activities for "Mother Nature's Follies" being held at Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin Oct. 4-6, 2010

Please send this information along with the Pool Party Particulars listed below to the editor of your publication and/or website master.

CR POOL PARTY PARTICIPATION PARTICULARS

We're planning lots of fun for the Tuesday, Oct. 5, 2010, 8:30 PM pool party! Two of our activities do require you to do a little homework.

POOLSIDE PROJECT RUNWAY: As Tim Gunn says "Make it work"so get in touch with your "inner designer" and embellish a swimsuit to compete for the following awards: 1. Best Tushie Treatment; 2. Best Thunder Thigh Concealment; 3. Best Bosom Bouquets.

FLOATING DESIGN COMPETITION: Get your creative juices "flowing and floating!" Yes, your design must float. Prizes will be awarded for: 1. Most Unique Use of Lights and/or Motion; 2. Best Interpretation of the Convention Theme "Mother Nature's Follies;" 3. Most Humorous; 4. Most Appealing Fruit and/or Veggie Delight.

All components must be secure. You may use fresh and/or artificial materials but no dried plant material is allowed. We must keep the pool clean for swimming. If you have any questions call Muriel Shervey at 715-723-3172 or mshervey@aol.com.

See registration form on page 12

The Wisconsin Garden Club Federation invites you to attend the
 78th Central Region Meeting
 October 4-6, 2010
“Mother Nature’s Follies”
 The Osthoff Resort
 101 Osthoff Avenue, Elkhart Lake, WI, 800-876-3399, www.osthoff.com

REGISTRATION FORM: PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

Name _____ Name Preferred on Name Tag _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email (To Receive Confirmation) _____

Your Status (Check All That Apply)

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Officer | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Officer | <input type="checkbox"/> State President |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Representative | <input type="checkbox"/> National Board Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Past Regional Director |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Past State President | <input type="checkbox"/> Club President | <input type="checkbox"/> National Life Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Club Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Life Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse or Guest |

PRE-TOUR REGISTRATION (Optional) \$ 15.00 \$ _____

Deadline to Register: September 15, 2010 Limited to first 54 reservations.
 Monday, Oct 4th, Tour The Wreath Factory, Abler Art Glass Gallery and
 Two Fish Gallery. Depart at 1:00 P.M. and Return 4:30 P.M.

FULL TIME REGISTRATION

Package Plan Includes: Registration, Meals, Programs (tour not included)

Tuesday, Oct. 5: Meal Choice: Rib Eye _____ Tilapia _____

September 15th on or Before.....	\$154.00	\$ _____
September 15th or After.....	\$164.00	\$ _____

PART TIME REGISTRATION

Monday, Oct. 4: Registration, Banquet Program	\$ 45.00	\$ _____
Tuesday, Oct. 5: Registration, Luncheon Design Program	\$ 35.00	\$ _____
Tuesday, Oct. 5: Registration, Dinner Banquet Program and Pool Party.....	\$ 49.00	\$ _____
Meal Choice: Rib Eye _____ Tilapia _____		
Wednesday, Oct. 6: Registration, Brunch and Program	\$ 35.00	\$ _____
Add \$10.00 to All Part-time Registrations after September 15, 2010	\$ 10.00	\$ _____

SEMINARS: Pre-Registration Required for Seminars

Judy Newman: “Live Succulent Topiary”	\$ 15.00	\$ _____
3:00 P.M. First Session _____ 4:15 P.M. Second Session _____		
Lynn Laufenberg: “Fall Decorative Unit”	\$ 20.00	\$ _____
3:00 P.M. First Session _____ 4:15 P.M. Second Session _____		

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Make check payable to: WGCF Central Region 2010

Mail to: Lani Becker, W214 N10385 Oak Lane, Colgate, Wisconsin 53017
 Phone: 262-293-3170 E-mail: cr10registration@yahoo.com

CANCELLATIONS: All cancellations are subject to a 25% processing fee. Notification of cancellation should be made prior to the September 15th deadline in order to ensure proper event counts.

Make room reservations with The Osthoff Resort directly: 800-876-3399 or www.osthoff.com

In order to receive the special room rate of \$109.00 for a one bedroom suite or \$159.00 for a two bedroom suite, inform the hotel that you are attending the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation - Central Region Meeting. Make reservations before September 15th. After September 15th, reservations are released on first come, first serve basis.

livingcolor fundraiser



2010 RAKER TRIAL GARDENS

Dedicated to community development and horticulture education, the **living color fundraiser** program provides **Michigan Garden Clubs** the opportunity to raise money by selling locally-grown young plants and flowers.

As part of this program, C. Raker & Sons, Inc. (Litchfield, Michigan) one of the world's premium suppliers of young plants to the horticulture industry, is pleased to invite you to the **2010 Raker Trial Gardens**.

The **2010 Raker Trial Gardens** present more than three acres of 1,200+ plant varieties. We invite you to visit and participate in this **FREE** event at your convenience. **The Trials are open July 14 – September 3, 9 A.M. – 5 P.M., Monday - Friday.**

PROGRAMS

The **living color fundraiser** offers two programs to help your group raise money. We support campaign (order-taking) and event (single-occasion) fundraisers:

FALL POINSETTIAS

Take Poinsettias orders in October for pre-Holiday delivery to your customers.

SPRING FLOWERS

Sell bedding flats, color bowls, hanging baskets, herbs & vegetables in March for Mother's Day delivery to your customers.

CONTACT US

Custom-grown plants / flowers and the perfect sales window make the **living color fundraiser** an ideal money-making opportunity for your Garden Club.

Contact Lori Ricketts (517.542.4536 | loriricketts@raker.com) today to register.

SUMMER

Attend the 2010 Raker Trial Gardens, open July 14 - September 3.

Our Trials are a destination on the Michigan Garden Plant Tour and are **FREE** to attend.

C. Raker & Sons, Inc.
10371 Rainey Road
Litchfield, MI 49252
call: 517.542.2316



FALL

Sell Poinsettias in October to deliver the early part of December. Campaign registration ends October 1 and Event registration ends October 29, 2010.

SPRING

Sell plants and flowers in March to deliver Mother's day. Campaign registration ends March 12 and Event registration ends April 19, 2011.

www.livingcolorfundraiser.com

517.542.4536

Calendar items: May Thru October 4, 2010

Also check MGC, Inc. web site for updates

May 22, 2010

Rapid City - Fundraiser "Once Upon a Tea Party," Vintage Wedding Gown Show, 2pm. Tickets \$15, Pre-paid tables of 8, \$108. Host Juniper Garden Club. Location Clearwater Township Hall, 5440 River Street, Rapid City. Contact: 231-331-4018.

May 24, 2010

National Blue Star Dedication Battle Creek 4:00 PM, at FORT CUSTER NATIONAL CEMETERY, 15501 Dickman Road, Augusta, MI 49012; ph: (269) 731-4164 contact Jeanette Foster 517-645-2208 or Julie Partee 517-675-5735.

May 25, 2010

2010 MGC, Inc. State Convention, McCamly Plaza Hotel, 50 Capital Avenue Southwest, Battle Creek, MI. 49017. Co-Chairs, Lois Snover Hanson and Kathi Dominguez. dominguezk@comcast.net

May 29, 2010

Charlevoix Area Garden Club Plant Sale - At East Dixon and Mercer Avenues, Saturday, May 29, 8:30 AM Contact Mary Chavez mlwfever@aol.com or call 231-547-8015.

June 2, 2010

Michigan Consultants Council tour of Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary Contact MCC President Mary Pulick, 734-665-4703/ marypulick@gmail.com

June 5, 2010

Petal Pushers Garden Club Plant Sale. 8:00 - 2:00 PM. Location: 2129 Ames Dr. Portage

June 11, 2010

Sturgis Garden Club, Blue Star Memorial Dedication, Friday, June 11 at 11:00AM. Location U.S. 12 & N. Centreville Rd. Contact 269-651-8424

June 14, 2010

Portage - Blue Star Dedication, 11:00 AM Veterans Memorial Park 101-399 Library Lane, Portage, MI. The Landscapers Garden Club

June 22-23, 2010

Michigan Flower Show Symposium, Holiday Inn, 3600 Plymouth Rd., Ann Arbor, MI. Contact Sharon Yantis, 269-327-6837

June 24, 2010

Muskegon County Garden Club Flower Show, "Floral Fantasy." Location: Frauenthal Center for the Performing Arts, 1pm - 7pm Friday, June 25th 10-4pm. Contact Linda Talkington at 231-755-4409.

June 26, 2010

Spring Lake Garden Walk Tri-Cities Garden Club. More details to follow.

June 26, 2010

The Carnegie Garden Club, Paw Paw, Michigan "Splendor in the Garden" Tour, Craft & Plant Sale, 10-4 PM \$8/\$10 Contact 269-668-3662.

June 26, 2010

Grosse Pointe Garden Tour Saturday & Sunday June 26 and 27, 10-4 pm. Tickets are \$12 / \$15 pre-tour and \$15 (313) 881-7511 ext. 206.

June 27, 2010

Evening Bloomers Garden Club Garden Walk Sunday June 27 1-6 PM, Mt. Pleasant. Tickets \$5.00 Contact, Sally Herman 989-644-2328

July 10, 2010

South Haven Garden Club Garden Walk, 11-4:00pm, Tickets \$10 at Liberty Hyde Bailey Museum, 903 S. Bailey. Contact: 269-637-2478.

July 10, 2010

Thornapple Garden Club of Hastings, Garden Thyme Market, Saturday July 10, 9-5 pm. \$8/\$10- thornapplegardenclub@yahoo.com, Barry County Court House Lawn, 220 West State Street, Contact: Donna Brown 269-948-2790 or Anita Lyons at 269-948-8234.

July 11, 2010

DeWitt Millennium Garden Club "Midsummer Blooms" Garden Tour, Sunday July 11, 2010, 11-6 pm. Tickets are \$6 / \$8. Contact Linda Fitzpatrick at 517-669-1628 or Carol Bennett at 517-668-6592.

July 10, 2010

Goodrich Garden Club Garden Walk—10-4PM Tickets \$10. Contact Kathy 810-636-4011.

July 13, 2010

Charlevoix Area Garden Club's Standard Flower Show: "Dancing with the Flowers" Community Reformed Church. Corner of US 31 (Petoskey Avenue) and Meech Street. Contact Audrey Etienn Contact: 231-582-2739.

July 13, 2010

The Elk Rapids Garden Club Garden Walk, Tuesday July 13, 2010. 11- 7:00 P.M. Tickets \$10/ \$15 Information: elkrapidsgardenclub.com

July 14, 2010

Charlevoix Area Garden Club's Garden Walk: "Dancing with the Flowers" 10-4 PM, July 14, 2010. Contact Karen Benning kbenning1@aol.com or call 231-547-2702

July 14, 2010

Edelweiss Garden Walk (Gaylord), July 14th, 1-7PM "Country Scapes and Gardens." Contact: Linda Reinhardt, 231-546-4147.

July 15, 2010

Tri-Cities Garden Club Flower Show "Bejeweled & Bedazzled" Spring Lake Library 123 E. Exchange St. Spring Lake July 15-17. Contact Pat Bazany, mailto: rbazany@yahoo.com

July 15, 2010

Friendly Garden Club of Traverse City Garden Walk, July 15, 2010 Contact: Vickie (231)922-9528 or Susan (231)276-6905

July 16, 23, 30 & August 6, 2010

Kent Garden Club of Grand Rapids, Garden Tours. The tours feature one garden on four consecutive Fridays. Tour dates: July 16, 23, 30 and August 6

1. Slugs n' Bugs n' Thugs: learn about pests in the garden
2. Busy Bees, Birds, and Butterflies: encourage beneficial insects and animals
3. Eat Your Veggies: steps in planting a vegetable garden and edible plants
4. A Fairy Tale Tea Party: a tea party using herbs and edible flowers

Free to children who are accompanied by an adult. Adult tickets are \$5 and up to three children are allowed. Tickets call Gabi Blackledge at 616-866-4143.

July 17, 2010

Pentwater Garden Club Garden Walk, July 17, 1-5PM Contact Linda Osborn at 231-869-4122.

July 18, 2010

Seed and Sod Garden Club of Huntington Woods Garden Walk July 18, 1-4PM Contact Meredith Weston-Band, 248-543-8215

July 24, 2010

Lexington Area, Lake Shore Garden Club Garden Walk July 24 "A Patchwork of Flowers" Lakeshore Road/M25. 10-4PM, Tickets \$10/\$12. Contact Ann (810) 679 4610.

July 26, 2010

Holland Garden Club presents "Life Around the Great Lakes," Flower Show July 26-31. Ottawa County Fairgrounds, 1272 Ottawa Beach Road, Holland, MI. Contact: Rose M. Albers, 616-335-3934.

July 31, 2010

The Farmington Garden Club's Garden Walk "The Flowers Of Summer," 10-4PM Tickets \$10. Contact: Betti Pool 248-442-2742

continued on page 15

SPIRIT WEAR MERCHANDISE

Proceeds from the merchandise you purchase here will benefit both, Michigan Garden Clubs and Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary. At this time we are opening the ON-LINE store in cooperation with "Sports Image Apparel." This is a secure site that is administered by Wendie Stephenson, a member of

The Niles Garden Club. In the coming months we will be adding items directly on this site. Be sure to come back to the site and see what is new.



*The link:
www.michigangardenclubs.org
will take you to the MGC, Inc. Store where you can purchase MGC, Inc. Logo*

Merchandise. We have gone out of our way to insure that these are quality items. Samples were available for viewing and purchase at the District Meetings.

September 24 & Oct 8, 2010

Beginner Flower Arranging Lessons. Saline District Library, 555 North Maple Road, Saline. Cost: \$35.00 (includes instruction, manual, supplies to make 4 fresh flower arrangements). Contact Mary Pulick at 734-665-4703 or marypulick@gmail.com

September 28, 2010

District VI Fall Meeting

9-3PM Cost: \$22.00.

"Pumpkins and Spice and Everything Nice"
Host: Yard & Garden Club of Flint,
Location: Genesys Health Park-One Genesys Parkway, Grand Blanc, MI

September 30, 2010

District V Fall Meeting

Host: The Friendly Garden Club of Traverse City, "Autumn Collage" along with a Small Standard Flower Show "Itty Bitty Autumn." Location: Hagerty Center on the Bay, NMC Great Lakes Campus, Traverse City.

Registrar: Patricia Jean 231-275-3242

October 4, 2010

2010 Central Region Annual Meeting

Central Region's 78th Annual Meeting, "Mother Nature's Follies," October 4-6, Location:

Osthoff Resort, Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin.
800-876-3399 or www.osthoff.com
Reservations before Sept. 15.

Calendar cont from page 14

August 12, 2010

South Haven Garden Club Flower Show, 1-5PM. Location: Liberty Hyde Bailey Museum, 903 S. Bailey. Information: 312-953-4587.

September 8, 2010

1:00pm, Finance Meeting - Lansing - Hampton Inn.

September 9, 2010, 9 AM


Executive Meeting. 10AM, State Board Meeting - Lansing. Coffee served at 9:30am. Location: Plymouth Congregational Church, Lansing.

September 14-15, 2010

2010 - MAA Judges Meeting. Board Meeting will be held September 13, 2010.

September 23-26, 2010


2010 NGC Board Meeting
Scheduled for Great Falls, Montana,
September 23-26



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Legislative Update

Anne Wiseman, Legislative Chairman

THE THREAT OF ASIAN CARP

In February biologists and commercial fishermen combed a network of Chicago area waterways where Asian carp DNA had been detected. They spread netting across large areas and used electric stunning prods where the Asian Carp were most likely to gather. No Asian Carp that have infested sections of the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, plus the Chicago waterways south of the electric barrier 25 miles from Lake Michigan, have been found.

The barrier's effectiveness is a key issue in whether to close shipping locks to prevent Asian Carp from entering Lake Michigan, as most Great Lakes States would prefer, as, if the species spreads, it could seriously cripple the \$7 billion fishing industry and also recreational fishing and boating.

Illinois and the Obama administration oppose closing the locks, siding with the Chicago barge and tour companies. They contend that the electric barrier is performing well.

The U.S. Supreme Court refused for the second time Michigan's request to close the locks.

The sampling operation was conducted by the Illinois DNR, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. They spread more than 5 miles of netting in the main channels of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, the Des Plaines River and other likely carp hideouts.

