

Thru The Garden Gate



Vol 3, No. 2 for December 2009, January, February 2010
The official publication of Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.
Member of Central Region and National Garden Clubs, Inc.

AWARDS 2010
Description please keep.
See pages 6 –10



A note ♪ from Lynn:

The phrase Growing More Than Gardens - caught my attention because it could apply to just about everything. Actually, in 1931 there were seeds and ideas in the minds of gardeners which blossomed and FGCM/MGC, Inc. was established.

As a member of MGC, Inc. we are One Team, all of us, working together to support one another in each endeavor. Fertilize ideas through communication, cooperation and enthusiasm, then each will blossom. Share ideas with members at district meetings, schools, garden club events and see what wonders bloom.

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Here's an idea from the Seedums Garden Club, District V. This club created a project "Cheboygan in Bloom" going door to door and leaving a "bloom" card and a congratulatory note for each owner recognizing their efforts towards beautification. Their goal was to recognize those citizens who enjoy gardening and enhance their neighborhood and community. A simple gesture yet appreciated by many. Another fun day to promote club activity was a community event sponsored by the local Jaycee club. It's a race ... taking about two hours to paddle the two mile route on a raft while cooking chili from scratch. The goal is to finish with a pot of chili having a temperature of 160 degrees when the raft crossed the finish line. Many members participated and decorate their raft in a garden theme. The Lotus Garden Club, District IIA, continue their on-going project with the Monroe Power Plant and DTE Energy in the restoration and rescue of plants, animals and the threatened American Lotus plants along the western shore of Lake Erie. The Lotus Garden Club co-host a Lotus Kayak Tour each summer to promote awareness. Yet another example of a community activity that promotes togetherness and MGC garden clubs.

Your website www.michigangardenclubs.org has many new ideas. Login using your password, then click on the "Writers Corner," where you can read articles, authored by Jane Geisler and Carol Sue Brodbeck. Jane is the Horticulture Chairman for the Garden Club of Dearborn. Carol is a member of the Good Thyme Garden Club and a Master Gardener. Both are excellent authors and you'll enjoy their articles. We hope you visit often.

District IIB will host the 2010 Annual Convention Committee with the theme "Seeds of Tomorrow." The committee is blooming with ideas to make this an exciting event you won't want to miss. A pre-convention event is planned for Monday, May 24, at the Fort Custer National Cemetery where a Blue Star Memorial Marker, sponsored by our MGC Districts will be dedicated.

The Convention is scheduled for May 25, 2010 in Battle Creek at the McCamly Plaza Hotel. Our National Garden Club President, Renee Blaschke, will be in attendance and is looking forward to visiting Michigan. The committee has a goal of 350 attendees and knowing our co-chairmen, Kathi Dominguez and Lois Snover Hanson and their dedication, we can help to achieve their goal. Please plan to attend the dedication and convention.

As you read this note, I have returned from the National Garden Club Fall meeting in St. Louis, Missouri with membership brochures for each District to share with their garden club, news of NGC School Gardens Project, "Beautify Blight, Plant it Pink, and Golden Days" which are Renee's President's Projects.

continued on page 4

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.

MGC WEB STORE IS NOW OPEN!

The MGC Logo Spiritware that you may have seen at your Spring District Meeting can now be ordered on-line through www.michigangardenclubs.org

Please visit on a regular basis to see the clothing and merchandise available. Additional items will be added in the future. Come shop with us in a secure environment.

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 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 also so be sure to come back and see what is new.

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

The official publication of Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. A 501(c)3 organization.

Lynn Dinvald, State President

"Growing more than Gardens"

Treasurer: Sue Wilbur, cswilber@yahoo.com

Editor: Gayle Nigg, gayle@glga.net

Calendar: Lynn Dinvald, ydoubleme@aol.com

Article Submission Deadlines:

Jun/July/Aug Issue: April 1;

Sep/Oct/Nov Issue: July 1;

Dec/Jan/Feb Issue: October 1;

Mar/Apr/May Issue: January 1

Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

President: Renee D. Blaschke

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

Central Region Director: Joan Hood

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Phone: 314-962-9421

Theme: "The Future is Now"

"CLUBS ON THE GROW"

St. Clair Garden Club (District I)

The St. Clair Garden Club originated as a social group of ladies studying flower arranging. That was more than 50 years ago. Since those formative years the Garden Club's focus has expanded to include the interests in all phases of home gardening, civic beauty and the promotion of better horticultural practices.

The Club is known for its beautification of our community through flowers and greenery in our Perennial beds, Memorial Garden and the pots distributed throughout town. During the summer months the Club sponsors the Farmer's Market, now in its 25th year. The holiday season affords members an opportunity to arrange and decorate greens to sell to family and friends through our annual Greens Sale. Additionally, a project the Garden Club is especially proud of is the funding of two scholarships to the MSU Master Gardener program.

The members of the St. Clair Garden Club are an enthusiastic group of women who take pride in making our community a warm, welcoming and beautiful environment in which to reside or visit.

Sunflower Garden Club (District III)

Our club was formed in 2001 in Three Oaks by family and friends who love gardening. We seek to gain knowledge, work to beautify the community and socialize together and with other clubs. Activities include touring gardens, exchanging perennials, having plant sales and planting large pots in the business district.

The club designed, landscaped and maintained the courtyard at River Valley HS, winning a second place award from MGC. We developed plans for Carver Park, including art, stonework and plantings and look forward to this community project.

For Flag Day the Club sold plants, seeds and sunflower aprons sown by members and have won awards many times for our floats. We welcome new members to plant the seeds of friendship.

Christine Stevens, Education Director

Great Lakes' Gardeners (District V)

In 2007, with fifteen charter members, the Great Lakes' Gardeners formed. Today the club has thirty-four members. Mrs. Christine Owen was the club's first president, with Mrs. Loraine Reese as the current elected president.

Annually, the club supports The Dahlia Hill Society of Midland, Michigan Garden Clubs State Scholarship Fund, World Gardening and Belize Scholarship.

Our objective is to provide service in civic beautification and therapeutic projects. Our members tend the flower border at Cleveland Manor, plant and maintain the garden beds at Dow Diamond baseball stadium, Kings Daughters' Home, and Seasons, an Adult Care Services. Each of these club projects requires time, dedication, and devotion from active club members.

At monthly meetings, members share information on bird habitats, wildflowers, horticulture and flower study, with scheduled educational guest speakers.

Two club members serve on the board of Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc., Nancy Stark, First Vice-President, and Sue Wilber, Treasurer.

Our club belongs to National Garden Clubs, Inc., Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc., and Central Region.

❖ Donation to Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary ❖

A gift of \$100 from Director Carol Beckius, on behalf of District III, was presented to Lynn Dinvald, MGC President, in support of Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary, President's Project. This gift was to honor Indian Hills Garden Club for hosting the District III Presidents Meeting in April and for all who worked on the State Convention in June, 2009. The donation was most appreciated. With my thanks, Lynn

The New R&R

Nancy Stark, 1st Vice President and Membership Chairman

R&R doesn't mean "rest and relaxation" when it comes to MGC, Inc. membership. My definition as Membership Chairman means "retain and recruit." Each member of a local club is on my membership committee because each member has a responsibility to their club to bring in new members. Here are some ways to increase membership and win the National Garden Club, Inc. competition on membership growth that will have a daylily named after the State with the largest increase in membership.

Retain current members through:

- ◆ Listening to their ideas and needs
- ◆ Implement their suggestions when it fits your goals
- ◆ Make them feel needed and assign them as a mentor to a new member
- ◆ Assign them as greeters at the entrance to meetings
- ◆ Assign them as a hostess
- ◆ Be flexible and shorten your business meetings
- ◆ Encourage them to share their knowledge at club meetings
- ◆ Ask them to present a short program in their area of expertise
- ◆ Look for their assistance in submitting a Book of Evidence for projects
- ◆ Encourage them to review and renew Bylaws and historical files

Recruit new members through:

- ◆ Asking a friend and neighbor personally to come to a meeting
- ◆ Provide publicity in your local paper on upcoming meetings
- ◆ Wear club shirts and aprons to gardening events
- ◆ Make a flower arrangement and place in a public venue
- ◆ Offer to help others plan and plant their own gardens
- ◆ Give beautification awards to gardens in your community
- ◆ Offer to help with gardens at local schools
- ◆ Offer a public speaker program and invite local residents
- ◆ Always talk positively about your club and its members

Retention and Recruiting is the new R&R. I am counting on you as a member of my membership team to make Michigan the leader in the race of membership growth for NGC, Inc. and the new daylily CAN be named "Michigan."

MGC Donations and Memorials

Nancy McGilliard, Scholarship Chairman

Thank you to all clubs and individuals who have contributed to MGC Scholarships this quarter. Send your donations to: Nancy McGilliard 2339 Sapphire Lane East Lansing MI 48823

DONATIONS \$1930

Niles GC	Westwood GC
Sturgis GC	Mt. Pleasant GC
Blue Water GC	Canadian Lakes GC
Wyandotte GC	Caro GC
Michiana Landscape Study Club	District VI for Lakeshore GC
Owasso GC for hosting District meetings	

MEMORIALS \$400

Lake Shores GC in memory of Joyce Einodshafer
Lake Shores GC in memory of Jeanne Wilson
Friendly GC of Traverse City in memory of H.W. Nichols, husband of member Ann Nichols
District I in memory of Pete Dashner
Sharon Yantis in memory of Pete Dashner
Faith Vollenweider in memory of Pete Dashner and Jack Passfield
Chula Vista GC in memory of Elnor Drier

Flower Show Judges-Student

Dolores Stouwie, Flower Show School Chairman

Congratulation to the following accredited student judges.

Flower show judges chairman, please keep this list for future reference.

Mary Dietrich
2492 Rockford
Dearborn, Mi 48124
313 565.9589

Lynn Toneman
P.O.Box 541
South Haven, Mi 49090
312 953.4587
Ltoneman@Yahoo.Com

Carol Carzon
3951 Prospeck Ct
Ann Arbor, Mi 48103
734 426.8088
Tedcarzon@Aol.Com

Debbie Morrow
20310 Plantation Lane
Beverly Hills, Mi 48025
248 258.9133
Ddeborrow@Aol.Com

Pat Bazany (April 15-Nov 30)
14012 132nd Ave
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616 842.3092
(Dec -April 15) Crystal River, Fl
616 566.8327
Rbazany@Yahoo.Com

Mary Weathers
741 Sadie Ct
Lansing, Mi 48906
517 321.7405
Mzyates@Aol.Com

Carol Brodbeck
6410 Crane Rd
Ypsilanti, Mi 48197
734 434.3795
Brodbeck@Aol.Com

Susan Molhoek
1055 Bradford Hollow Ne
Grand Rapids, Mi 49525
616 957.0818
suemolhoek@yahoo.com

All Club Treasurers-Please note:

- ◆ **MGC is no longer mailing to seasonal addresses!** Please include the zip+4 for new members or revised addresses.
- ◆ **All dues and new member info (as well as annual dues with club rosters) need to be mailed to :**
Sue Wilber, MGC Treasurer,
1407 West Union St
Midland MI 48640-4989
She can pull out payment and ascertain that it is correct. She will then forward the packets to Data Base Manager- Ester Lamb

Experience the Wonder... Wildflowers of Michigan

MGC District V Spring Meeting -- Wednesday, May 5, 2010

The Mason County Garden Club welcomes you to the 2010 District V Spring Meeting at Cornerstone Baptist Church, 112 Nelson Rd. in Ludington, Michigan. Invitations and registration forms will be mailed to club presidents by the end of February 2010. Cost for this perfect spring day in nature's gardens is \$23.00.

The morning business meeting includes presentation of the state awards, followed by U.S. Forest Service botanist Pat Ruta and MGC State Loda Lake Chair Karen Motawi talking about the Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary near White Cloud--the "jewel" of the U.S. Forest Service. You will enjoy a spectacular luncheon after which the afternoon session is all about native plants. Our dynamic speaker is Vern Stephens of Designs by Nature in Laingsburg, near Lansing. He will share his mission to provide native plants and education about our native flora and fauna to communities and individuals throughout Michigan. His lovely plants will also be available for purchase.

MGC will have logo merchandise for sale; proceeds benefit the Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary--one of President Lynn Dinvald's projects. An incredible array of very talented vendors will also be offering their wares for purchase.

Come share the day with us here on "the sunset side" in beautiful Ludington. Contact Suzanne Townsend at (231) 757-2565 or e-mail setownse@aol.com.

Landscapers Garden Walk: Award-Rules/Application

It's located on the web. . .

MGC Web Site: click on Awards & Scholarships, then click on MCC Landscape Garden Walk Award and download the rules/application information.

Message from Lynn (continued from page 1)

Jean Moran, Sharon Yantis, Florence Smith and Dolores Stouwie were in attendance and serve on the NGC/MGC Board of Directors. Coming soon NGC Flower Show Committee has a plan to promote small flower shows by providing sample schedules with titles for design and horticulture. It's a menu format; the club selects titles from the examples that will be appropriate for their local flower show and proceeds from there to complete their own small flower show schedule.

The Winner Is! The State with the largest per capita rise in membership during June 1, 2008 until May 31, 2009 was (drum roll) ... Wyoming! They named the Canna (Cannaceae) Wildfire! Currently another membership contest, "Make Membership Bloom" is underway with the opportunity that this magnificent Daylily will be named to honor our State Garden Club. Increasing membership is imperative to keep the world's largest volunteer gardening organization alive and vital. Michigan has another opportunity for growth, so let's continue to promote club membership and our goals for this administration.

We have many events that are planned, implemented and attended in our state that we should thank those members for their dedication to MGC, Inc. The host clubs of our District Meetings, our Blue Star Memorial Markers dedicated throughout the state, our flower shows sponsored by garden clubs and districts, are to be commended for their dedication to their clubs and District. These events cannot be successful without dedication, and as your MGC, Inc. President, I thank you.

With Thanksgiving fast approaching followed by the Holidays, I ask you to take time to pause and give thanks for your gardening friends for their support.

Belonging to an organization brings friends and lasting fellowship to keep us Growing More than Gardens. I wish you peace and prosperity in the New Year.

Blessings,
Lynn

MICHIGAN GARDEN CLUBS NGC SCHOLARSHIP

Virginia Froehlich, NGC Scholarship Chairman

Once again this year, the National Garden Clubs are offering advanced one-year grants, which are available to junior, senior and graduate college students.

Thirty-five scholarships will be available in 2010 for the academic year of 2010-2011, each in the amount of \$3500. Applications may be made by sophomores for grants to be awarded for the junior year; however, no doctoral program students may apply.

NGC is proud of its scholarship program, which offers financial aid to students and promotes study in the Agriculture Education, Horticulture (including Fruit Science/Environmental/Communications), Floriculture, Landscape Design, Botany, Biology, Plant Pathology/Science, Forestry, Agronomy, Environmental Concerns (Management: Environmental, Horticulture Resource/Environmental Behavior, etc.), Economics, Environmental Conservation (including Engineering, Law, etc.), City (Rural & Urban) Planning, Wildlife Science, Habitat or Forest/Systems Ecology, Land Management and/or other related or allied subjects. Applicants must be majoring in one of these fields of study with a career related to gardening, landscape design, environmental issues, floral design or horticulture.

The deadline for applications is March 1, 2010, and should be mailed to Michigan NGC Scholarship Chair Virginia Froehlich, 8537 Voigt Avenue, Grosse Ile, MI 48138-1057. The application can be obtained online at www.michigangardenclubs.org or by contacting Virginia Froehlich at vafroehlich@comcast.net or (734) 675-2944.

Garden Therapy – The Healing Gardens of MSU

Susan Kropschot, the new MGC Garden Therapy Chairperson.



One of the first things I thought I might do was write articles for the Garden Gate about different ‘healing gardens’ located in our state, places we might visit on our travels to discover what different organizations and individuals have done to put together a space for this purpose.

The first location is the Healing Gardens of the MSU Radiology Building. The MSU Radiology Building is located on the south side of Service Road approximately 1/2 mile north of Mt. Hope Avenue between Hagadorn Road and Farm Lane, on the campus of Michigan State University, East Lansing Michigan. The address is 184 Radiology, East Lansing, Michigan 48824.

The garden is described in a campus guide in this manner. In 1993, Dr. E.J. Potchen, Chairperson of the MSU Department of Radiology, conceived the idea of a quiet garden space for the benefit of patients, staff and caretakers visiting the clinical center. In 1999 the gardens expanded to encompass the entire landscape surrounding the new Radiology Building. The gardens include five waterfalls, ponds and a variety of annuals, perennials, bulbs, shrubs and trees.

As a resident of East Lansing I have had time to tour the gardens at length, and would recommend that you visit these gardens to experience their peace and beauty. I have not seen them in the evening when they are lighted by artificial light but have been told that they are even more affecting then.

An interesting note is that the gardens are maintained solely by Horticulturist, Janet Gauthier, who was a recipient of an MGC scholarship that assisted her in obtaining her degree at MSU.

Blue Star Memorial Marker Dedication Ceremony— Sept. 19, 2009

Ester Hansen, Publicity Chair-South Haven Garden Club

On a beautiful early fall morning, members of the South Haven Garden Club, dignitaries and local folks gathered on the east side of the Lakeview Cemetery to dedicate a Blue Star Memorial Marker. After years of being lost, buried, being found then defaced, the marker proudly was in its place surrounded by beautiful landscaping.



Our State Representative, the Mayor, Michigan Blue Star Memorial Chair, a South Pacific vet, and Mothers from the Blue Star Mothers of America all spoke and a history of the markers journey was read. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts led in pledging to the flag, and a solo was rendered by a Viet Nam vet. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the American Legion presented a twenty one-gun salute and taps. As the bagpiper played her final number the crowd followed out of the cemetery and into the Fire House for a reception. Those in attendance found it to be a very solemn and meaningful remembrance.

The marker can now be added to the South Haven community places for remembering the veteran’s who have served and those who gave their lives to preserve our country’s freedom.

We hope that if you’re in South Haven, or are passing through, you’ll stop and visit the marker. It’s easily visible from Blue Star Highway. After many years of being lost and forgotten, it has now reached its final resting place.

More About 4-H in Belize

Chris Rochman, World Gardening Chairman



Belize was importing a majority of the pork consumed. The ‘pig project’ started by the 4-H Center has been very successful. A piglet is given to a child to raise and care for. The family must first build a pen. Parents sign a responsibility form. At maturity the pig is bred. Then 1 piglet is returned to the Center to be given to another child and 1 piglet is given to the owner of the boar. The remainder are raised to be sold or used for food for the family. One boy bought a cow for his family with his proceeds and another paid his high school tuition. This is one of the many projects carried on by the 4-H Center to help Belizian youngsters.

A BIG thanks to those donating to our project in Belize:

- Niles Garden Club
- The Friendly Garden Club of Traverse City
- Westwood Garden Club
- Lyn Butus
- Spirit of the Woods Garden Club
- Petal Pushers Garden Club



“Life is not measured in the breaths you take, but by the moments that take our breath away.”

Author Unknown

2010 MICHIGAN GARDEN CLUBS, INC. AWARDS

Please retain this information for the awards for the year 2010

Michigan Garden Club Awards are also found online: www.michigangardenclubs.org. The awards year is January 1 through December 31 unless noted. If you have a project occurring after October 15 and need an extension of the deadline please contact the appropriate awards chairman. All Michigan Garden Club Awards are due to the respective chairman by November 1, unless stated otherwise in the Awards description.

GENERAL AWARDS

National Garden Club, Central Region AND Michigan Garden Club are printed in *The National Gardener* Fall 2009. A Complete listing of all NGC awards and rules can be downloaded from NGC website: www.gardenclub.org

Central Region Awards are printed in the 2009 Summer Issue of the Central Region's Newsletter. A complete listing can be found on www.ngc-centralregion.org

Please read these awards carefully as your project may have a broader application and fit into a different award. All prior Michigan awards not listed below fit into a NGC award.

❖ Where to send BOOKS OF EVIDENCE

Send to MGC Awards Chairman Bobbie Quick, 2442 Dick St., Niles, MI 49120-9362, 269-684-7772, e-mail: bobbierae2001@yahoo.com by November 1. First Place Award will be sent to NGC (only one per state allowed in each category) by the Awards Chairman. The remainder will be judged in each category and given MGC 2nd, 3rd and Certificate of Appreciation.

❖ Where to send YEARBOOKS & DIRECTORIES

Send 1 Yearbooks/Directory to Program/Yearbook Chairman: Bobbie Quick, 2442 Dick St., Niles, MI 49120-9362, 269-684-7772, e-mail: bobbierae2001@yahoo.com

Send 1 Yearbooks/Directory to Program/Yearbook MGC President: Lynn Dinvald, 6802 Springbrook Lane, Kalamazoo, MI 49004-9665, 269-343-3827 e-mail: YdoubleLNE@aol.com

Send 1 Yearbooks/Directory to MGC 1st Vice President: Nancy Stark, 1801 Sylvan Lane, Midland, MI 48640-6760, 989-835-2394

And Send 1 Yearbooks/Directory to your club's District Director:

❖ Newsletters (NGC Award #13A) are sent to MGC Awards Chairman Bobbie Quick, 2442 Dick St., Niles, MI 49120-9362, 269-684-7772 bobbierae2001@yahoo.com

CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION: MI#1 Civic Beautification – Michigan Award of Merit may be awarded to a garden club or clubs for the planting of annuals and/or perennials that beautify a public area.

MI#2 Civic Beautification with Wildflowers and Native Plants – Michigan Award of Merit may be awarded to a garden club for planting wildflowers and/or native plants that beautify a public area.

HORTICULTURE: MI#3 Horticulture – Michigan Award of Merit to a club/individual which is outstanding in promoting and stressing horticulture by participating in two or more of the following horticultural practices:

Growing plants under artificial light.

Pest control avoiding hard pesticides.

Placing permanent labels on plant material in areas used by the public.

Other-field trip, memorial garden, public workshops.

MI#4 Horticulture – Certificate of Appreciation to a district, club or individual member of a garden club for outstanding achievement in either of the following:

An outstanding educational activity to promote good horticultural practice.

Overall excellence and a well balanced program for the year in horticultural activities. Include program yearbook.

MI#5 Liberty Hyde Bailey Award to the club which has contributed the most comprehensive offering in any phase of horticulture. May be given to the club applying for one of the above Horticulture awards.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN: MI#6 Elsie Cook Award for Landscape Design – Michigan Award of Merit to a small, medium and large member garden club which has made the most significant contribution in providing, planning for one of the following completed projects: commercial property, church, hospital, library, civic center, park, waterfront, other.

PHOTOGRAPHY: MI#7 Photography – Michigan Award of Merit to the club or individual member which presents the best set of 5 vertical or horizontal 5"x7" color prints suitable for use by Michigan Gardens Clubs, Inc. on MGC's Website or other promotional uses; photographer will be credited. Entry should be accompanied by a typewritten commentary keyed to pictures. Plant material in artistic designs as well as prominent trees or plants should be identified using common and botanical names. Photos will be retained by Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. Submit entries in an Envelope, put one copy of the Application inside with the photos and the Commentary describing photos and plant identification, glue the second copy of the Application on the outside of the envelope. (Book of Evidence Not Required)

WORKING WITH YOUTH AWARDS: MI #8 Ecoteer and Ecoteen (Jr. and Intermediate Gardening) – Michigan Award of Merit to the registered junior or intermediate clubs, and their sponsoring senior club, which is outstanding in carrying on a balanced gardening program. Include yearbooks of both clubs.

MI#9 The Caroline Gray Award of Merit sponsored by the Kalamazoo Garden Council. A \$50.00 award to one small, to one medium and to one large garden club participating in an outstanding project with school-age children in the area of horticulture, nature study, conservation, flower arranging, beautification or civic concern

PUBLICATIONS: MI #10 Educational Articles – Michigan Award of Merit to a club, or group of clubs having the most outstanding 13 consecutive weeks of high-caliber educational articles on various aspects of gardening published by a newspaper. Must use the MGC by-line; must have 5 or more members participating in writing articles. Dated copies of articles must accompany presentation.

MI #11 Feature Article – Michigan Award of Merit for the best feature article of approximately 1000 words by an individual member of a Michigan Garden Club published in a newspaper or periodical other than MGC Newsletter.

DECORATIVE DESIGN/HORTICULTURE DISPLAYS: MI #12 Marge McGoff Decorative Design–Michigan Award of Merit for decorative design in a building/homes open to the public sponsored by one or more clubs, a district or an individual member. A worthy floral display or arrangements using plant material with accessories permitted as a community project for special occasions (ie: Holiday home tour or celebration etc.) Include description of display, photography, length of time for viewing, number participating, publicity. The first place club will receive \$50.

MI #13 Holland Garden Club Horticulture/Design Display-Award of Merit for a display of Horticulture and or Design in a public building such as a library, art center, museum, city hall, etc.

New display on a weekly basis through out the year. First Place to receive \$100.

A new display on a monthly basis through out the year. First Place to receive \$100.

ENVIRONMENTAL: MI #14 Environmental Award-Michigan Award of Merit may be awarded for:

The Best Project promoting conservation, recycling, other environmental concerns

The Best Educational Environmental Program for club meeting, District Meeting, or other type of meeting.

For all of the above awards, either NGC or MGC follow these rules and send Books of Evidence to the MGC Awards Chairman Bobbie Quick, 2442 Dick St., Niles, MI 49120-9362, 269-684-7772 E-mail: bobbierae2001@yahoo.com

GENERAL RULES FOR BOOKS OF EVIDENCE: (*NOT FOR FLOWER SHOW BOOKS OF EVIDENCE*)

Folder: Report cover or 2-pocket folder with center fasteners; no scrapbooks or oversized books. Folder should be sturdy enough to be mailed for judging.

Label on Outside Cover: Number and name of Award, Category (size and eligibility), name of club, city and state. Include all required information. No required size of label.

Examples:

MI #1 Civic Beautification: A ii

Any Name Garden Club: Somewhere, MI

APPLICATION FORM: Use MGC Awards Application form. The State President and Awards Chairman will sign if it is sent to NGC. Use this form even for NGC awards and send to MGC Awards Chairman.

Attach one copy of the completed application form to the inside front cover (use staples); over the top attach second copy with a paper clip. Summary of project appears on application form, approximately 3-4 sentences (Include in the summary the Name of the Garden Club, City and State.) Type this section.

Categories by Size: Garden club application shall be judged according to size as determined by number of members on whom MGC dues are paid including Active, Associate, Inactive, Honorary, Life, et al. Use number of members as of June 1:

i small club 29 members and under

ii medium club 30-99 members

iii 100 and over

◆ Eligibility: Capital letter used throughout NGC Awards. A – Single member garden club (Small, medium, large – see above); B – Group of member clubs; C – Individual garden club member.

◆ Presentation: Not to exceed 6 pages, front and back for a maximum of 12 surfaces.

Use standard 8-1/2 x 11” paper.

Pages may be placed in top loading sheet protectors available at office supply, discount stores, etc.

All material must be attached to pages; secure photographs neatly and firmly.

Proofread carefully. Neatness is important.

No Table of Contents or Summary needed. Summary appears on Application form.

Check description of award.

Top of first page: Number and name of NGC (or MGC) award, name of club/s, number of members who have paid state dues.

Example: #53; National Garden Week

Any Name Garden Club,

32 members

◆ Written Text: Concise, covers all requirements in award description and Scale of Points

Scope of Project; need and fulfillment, comprehensiveness of work

Involvement of members, community, government agencies, youth, etc.; planning; activities to attain goal; evaluation of goals reached; how project benefited the community

Very brief history if continuing project

Specific information required in each award; e.g. landscape plan, budget, and financial report (check for this!)

◆ Record or Documentation: Letters of appreciation, community awards, newspaper/magazine articles, radio/TV script, etc.

Photocopying, scanned material, reduction of material and digital photographs are allowed (except Publicity Press Book)

Landscape plan may be reduced to fit

Clear, well-labeled photos, neatly attached, before and after photos from same perspective. Photos may be interspersed throughout or following text.

Yearbook or yearbook pages not needed for documentation.

When the same project is eligible for various awards: Submitting exact duplication of Books of Evidence is not acceptable. The text should be written to address the award requirements. Ex.: Landscaping the public library could be entered as #1 Civic Achievement and text would address the benefit to community, low maintenance for city, and interaction with other civic groups. The same project could also be entered for #49 Community Landscape Design with emphasis on the landscape plan, work of members with designer, choice of plants, execution of design, etc.

PUBLICITY PRESS BOOK (NGC #44): Send to MGC Awards Chairman Bobbie Quick, 2442 Dick St., Niles, MI 49120-9362, 269-684-7772, e-mail: bobbierae2001@yahoo.com by January 25. Use MGC Application Form. Michigan Award of Merit for publicity may be given to garden clubs for outstanding publicity material submitted in press book form.

The Book of Evidence is submitted to the MGC Publicity Press Book Chairman and the one deemed most outstanding will be forwarded to Central Region to compete for comparable Central Region award.

Requirements for Preparing Publicity Press Book:

Label on outside cover: number and name of NGC award, category, name of club/s, city and state.

Submit in report cover or folder; 8 ½ x 11" or 9 x 12". No heavy scrapbooks or oversized portfolios. There is no limit on the number of pages. Plastic page protectors may be used

Material must consist only of newspaper, magazine, newsletter or any printed publication clippings with the name and date of publication over each article. Clear photocopies are permitted; reduced photocopies of large or lengthy articles are permitted. Downloading of published newspaper articles from the Internet is permitted.

Include Table of Contents. Affix contents in chronological order January 1 through December 31.

Clippings evenly cut. No loose clippings permitted.

Each published item must contain the name of organization and/or individual/s identified as a member of the organization. Underline first use of name of organization and/or member in each article.

Articles should include who, what, when, where, etc.; publicity should relate to organization's or individual's projects and/or activities; promotion of NGC objectives and goals

TRIBUTE TO A GARDEN CLUB MEMBER: Award of Honor to recognize outstanding contributions by an Individual. Send to MGC Awards Chairman Bobbie Quick, 2442 Dick St., Niles, MI 49120-9362, 269-684-7772, e-mail: bobbierae2001@yahoo.com by November 1.

This award is to honor our members whose volunteer efforts, during a period of five or more years have made outstanding contributions to club and community in one or more of the following areas: Civic Development, Conservation, Design, Garden Therapy, Horticulture, Landscape Design, Youth Activities, All-around Excellence. Book of Evidence is not to exceed 6 pages, typed and secured in a folder. Include:

A short typed description of nominee's accomplishments.

Title page to include: a. Name of State Federation and Central Region; b. Area/s of nominee's contribution; c. Name, complete address and phone number of nominee and nominee's garden club/s; d. sponsoring club including club President's name, mailing address and signature.

Supporting information to include: a. Maximum 2-page outline listing accomplishments of nominee including offices and chairmanships held; b. A picture of nominee (minimum 3"x5", preferable 5"x7" of good quality for reproduction. To prevent damage to the picture, place data on an adhesive white label adhered to surface. Place picture in self-addressed envelope and enclose in left pocket of folder. Do not seal.

YOUTH AWARDS: Refer to *The National Gardener*, Fall Issue for NGC Awards and send to MGC Youth Activities Chairman (Debra Zilka, 36801 Porter St., Romulus, MI 48103-9448 734-426-5736, e-mail: dizilka@earthlink.net). Rules for entries and selection of each school's winner may be obtained from the MGC Youth Activities Chairman. NGC Flower Show Award #47 is for junior gardeners and is to be sent to the MGC Flower Show Advice and Awards Chairman.

YA #1 Ecoteer (Junior) Gardening Yearbook – Michigan Award of Merit to the registered junior or intermediate garden club which prepares and submits a yearbook to be judged in the following membership categories: 1. Clubs under 25 members; 2. Clubs 25-75 members; 3.

Clubs of 75 or more members. (Debra Zilka, 36801 Porter St., Romulus, MI 48103-9448 734-426-5736. Due December 1.

YA #2 Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl Poster Contest – Open to all youth. (Debra Zilka, 36801 Porter St., Romulus, MI 48103-9448 734-426-5736. Due January 15.

YA #3 High School Speech/Essay Contest MGC (Debra Zilka, 36801 Porter St., Romulus, MI 48103-9448 734-426-5736. Due December 1.

DISTRICT AWARDS: June 1 – March 31 (given at Convention) Michigan Award of Merit determined by appropriate Chairman:

DA #1 District with the most new MGC Life Members. (Determined by Life Membership Chairman, Anne Wineman, 2139 Arbor Meadows Dr., Dewitt, MI 48820-8834 e-mail: winemana@comcast.net

DA #2 District with the greatest number of new clubs. (Determined by Data Base Chairman: Ester Lamb, 67101 Sherman Mill Rd., Sturgis, MI 49091-8206, 269-651-3100 e-mail: mgc.database@yahoo.com

DA #3 District with the greatest number of new members. (Determined by Data Base Chairman: Ester Lamb, 67101 Sherman Mill Rd., Sturgis, MI 49091-8206, 269-651-3100 e-mail: mgc.database@yahoo.com

DA #4 District with the largest percent of clubs represented at Fall district meetings. (1st Vice President: Nancy Stark, 1801 Sylvan Lane, Midland, MI 48640-6760, e-mail: Nstark1801@aol.com)

YEARBOOK AWARDS: Send one copy of the Program/Yearbook to the Yearbook Chairman Bobbie Quick, 2442 Dick St., Niles, MI 49120-9362, 269-684-7772 E-mail: bobbierae2001@yahoo.com by November 1. Refer to *The National Gardener* Fall issue for Scale of Points. Scale of Points for Judging Yearbook

Book format – Cover: design, name of club and state garden club. Title Page: name of club, town, state and year, sponsoring club's name.

Club membership roster. No application form required. 15

Club Programs – Includes a balanced program of horticulture, nature study, conservation, flower arranging, civic concern or beautification.

Include meeting information such as when, where, what. Include description of club projects. 85

Total Points: 100

FLOWER SHOW ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS: Send to Flower Show Advice & Awards Chairman (Nancy Johnson, 5901 County Line, Buckley, MI 49620) by November 1

NGC Flower Show Achievement Awards: See Handbook for Flower Shows, 2007 edition and *The National Gardener*, Fall 2007.

◆ MGC Flower Show Achievement Awards:

If there is a corresponding NGC Award, it is listed: (NGC #) after the award title. Only one book of evidence from the MGC, Inc. entries will be sent to NGC for each National Flower Show Award (ONLY ONE BOOK OF EVIDENCE IS REQUIRED FROM YOUR FLOWER SHOW—MGC Awards Chair will prepare your book for NGC consideration.)

Buttercup Award: A small standard show given by one garden club. Award sponsored by MAAJ: First Place in each category will receive

\$50: Small Size Club (under 29 members) Medium Size Club (30-99 members) Large Size Club (over 100 members).

Daffodil Award(NGC #25): A Petite Standard Flower Show of Miniature and/or Small Exhibits.

Eden Award: A standard show given by one or more garden clubs for the first time or applying after a 7-year hiatus.

Holly and Ivy (NGC #22): Standard show given by one club or group of clubs; show must feature the spirit of the holidays using a minimum of artificial decorative materials and NO artificial flowers or foliage. Three or more educational and/or youth exhibits are required.

Michigan Gold (NGC #5): May be awarded to each of four clubs based on membership, no club may win more often than every other year.

- a. Fewer than 21 (one or more educational and/or youth exhibits)
- b. 21-49 (two or more educational and/or youth exhibits)
- c. 59-99 (three or more educational and/or youth exhibits)
- d. 100 or more (four or more exhibit)

Nancy R. Passfield Schedule Award \$25.00. All entries considered for the best standard show schedule.

Apple Blossom (NGC #17A): Standard show given by one or more garden clubs held in a home or homes with a tour of two or more gardens. Three or more educational and/or youth exhibits are required.

Pink Placement (NGC #17B): Standard show given by one garden club, held in a home or homes. Garden tour NOT required. One or more educational and/or youth exhibits are required.

Blue and Gold (NGC #18A): Standard show given by a council (association, circle) of MGC clubs. Five or more clubs must exhibit in the show. Not awarded to same council in two consecutive years. Three or more educational and/or youth exhibits are required.

Green and White (NGC #35): Standard show sponsored by two or more MGC clubs located geographically near each other. Three or more educational and/or youth exhibits are required.

Robin Award: A standard show emphasizing better staging and new varieties

Cherry Blossom Award: The best educational exhibit in a standard show.

Bronze Award for Social Situations: Standard show staged in a nursing home, school for special education, veteran's hospital, etc.

Copper Award: Youth division in a standard show (junior, intermediate or high school).

Red, White and Blue (NGC #21): Standard show given by one or more MGC clubs located geographically near each other. Theme of the show must have been patriotic in terms of advancement of Americanism. The flag of the United States of America shall have been correctly and prominently displayed as a feature of the show. Exhibitors shall not be limited to the use of so called patriotic colors (red, white and blue) in the entries. All colors and values shall be permitted. The show must have been given and staged by the clubs that apply for the award. The show must feature the spirit of patriotic traditions, using a minimum of artificial decorative materials and NO artificial flowers or foliage. Three or more educational and/or youth exhibits are required.

Lavender Lace (NGC #57): Standard show given by one or more MGC club held in a public building, such as: historically preserved home, museum, church, business district, shopping center, mall, housing development, world, state or county fairs, furniture stores or other suitable commercial public buildings. Garden tour(s) may be included. Shows may have a patriotic or Christmas theme. Three or more educational and/or youth exhibits are required.

Red Rosette (NGC #30): Standard flower show given by a district of a state garden club, all of whose clubs are members of NGC. 75% of the clubs in the District must exhibit in the show. Only one application may be made by each state. A district is defined as an area within a radius of close proximity, established by a state garden club for organizational purposes and including an indefinite number of clubs. Four educational and/or youth exhibits are required.

Before the Show: 2 months before show: Send a letter or e-mail to Flower Show Advice & Awards Chairman (Nancy Johnson: 5901 County Line, Buckley, MI 49620, e-mail: gizabwacket75@live.com) naming the award desired.

6 weeks before: E-mail a working schedule before the final printing. It will be returned by e-mail with suggested changes. Need only be draft of schedule and need not include committees, point scoring, etc. 30 days prior to show: Send list of the judges. The evaluating judges' panel will be chosen by the Flower Show Chairman and forms sent directly to the panel.

After the Show: The evaluating panel will tell the flower show chairman if the show qualifies for an award. A state award must receive 90 points; if 95 or better it may be eligible for a NGC award and will automatically be forwarded by the Flower Show Awards Chairman.

FLOWER SHOW BOOKS OF EVIDENCE: Only one Book of Evidence is needed. The deadline for the Book of Evidence is November 1. Send to the Michigan Flower Advice & Awards Chair: Nancy Johnson, 5901 County Line, Buckley, MI 48108 Requirements as published in Handbook for Flower Shows, 2007 edition.

Cover: Outside label showing the award name and number, name/s of the sponsoring clubs, city and state. Application form permanently attached to inside the front cover and a duplicate form attached with paper clip. Form must be completely filled out. Include only items needed.

Pages: Maximum 20 sides (10 pages). Number pages, liberal margins, neat spacing of material and no loose items.

Contents: Title Page and Table of Contents: Show name of state, award name, name of applicant with address of club, council, district or state. Give address of club president or district director, total membership at time of the show, number of members exhibiting, number of non-members exhibiting. Give brief description of show (type of show, size, scope – 300 words or less. List items in Table of Contents by page number.

Show Data: A NGC Standard Flower Show Achievement Award Data Sheet is to be completed and follow the show description. This is available from the Flower Show Advice & Award Chairman.

Schedule: Place one copy in inside back folder pocket.

Photographs: Include pictures without people. Adequate pictures of the horticulture, design, Special Exhibits and theme staging will reflect the quality of the show. Pictures of Top NGC Award winning exhibits are needed. Winning horticulture exhibits may be grouped together. Label each picture and work the descriptions of the photographs into the book.

Descriptions: Descriptions of Educational Exhibits with titles should be included. If copies of handout materials are included they must not be bulky. Show how Youth Groups or other Sponsored groups participated. List educational exhibits if space permits. Describe staging, unusual features, etc.

Judges: List judges and status. If plant society or specialist judges participated in judging list their status.

Publicity: Include clippings from newspaper or other publications with name for newspaper and the date of publication. At least one is required, either before or after the show.

Distinction: Evidence of creative staging, unity and special features of the show.

Conformance: Conformance to the above outline.

Scoring: Book of Evidence determines 25 points. Score on evaluation sheet determines 75 points.

MICHIGAN CONSULTANT COUNCIL LANDSCAPE AND GARDEN AWARDS: Send books of evidence to Michigan Consultant Council Pres. Mary Pulick, 1745 Stonebridge Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48108, 734-665-4703 by Nov. 1.

LANDSCAPE GARDEN WALK AWARD: Two \$100 awards are given: one to a club membership up to 35 and one to a club over 35 members. No Book of Evidence is required.

In a large envelope, include the following: MGC Award Application, Walk Map/Ticket, Publicity, Labeled photos of the garden walk (limit 10), educational handouts, a one page narrative that show cases the walk: brief description of gardens, number of members and their participation, member recruitment, educational displays, etc.

A garden club that holds a garden walk will ask three Landscape Design Consultants to evaluate the garden walk using the criteria below. The evaluations (scores and comments) will be sent to the MCC President after the walk.

Use the following scale to create forms for judging: Scale of points for Landscape Garden Walk Award

- 20 Points -- Clarity of map and tour schedule, and location of gardens in relation to distance
- 20 Points -- Overall appearance of gardens
- 20 Points -- Variety of garden types (Shade, rock, formal, water, etc.)
- 10 Points -- Publicity
- 10 Points -- Educational Value (Plant markers, worthy features)
- 10 Points -- Club Involvement (membership recruitment, budget, members involved)
- 10 Points -- Miscellaneous (Floral designs, plant sales, displays, refreshments)
- 100 Points -- TOTAL

MIRIAM PETRIDES GARDENING AWARD: The following information must be submitted to the Michigan Consultants Council President by Nov. 1st, (Mary Pulick, 1745 Stonebridge Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48108, 734-665-4703 E-mail: marypulick@gmail.com)

\$100 will be awarded to the garden club member for an outstanding garden within the home landscape developed by the member. The garden must show overall excellence and skill in design, plant selection, growth and maintenance.

A Book of Evidence is not required. Send the following: MGC Award Application, Garden sketch/plan, labeled pictures (limit 10), a one page narrative to include: general description of the garden and plants grown, seasonal changes in bloom, color rotation of the garden, etc.

The garden will be evaluated at prime maturity by a panel of three Gardening Consultants or two Gardening Consultants and a Landscape Design Consultant or Gardening Study Student. Their NGC evaluations and comments will be sent directly to the MCC President after completing the evaluation. Use the following scale to create forms for judging:

Scale of points for M. Petrides Award

- 20 points -- Overall Year-Round Appearance
- 20 points -- Garden Design (Unity 5, Environmentally suited 5, Placement of components 5, Appropriate of components 5)
- 40 points -- Plant Material (Selection/Suitability 10, placement 5, Quality /Condition 5, Maturity 10, Bloom and Color Rotation 10)
- 10 points -- Maintenance
- 10 points - Distinction/Marked Superiority
- 100 points TOTAL



CENTRAL REGION AWARDS (PRINTED IN CENTRAL REGION NEWSLETTER AWARDS ISSUE: 2009 SUMMER ISSUE)

Send directly to Central Region Awards Chairman by date requested in CR Awards section:

Fran Stueck, 5589 22nd Ave., Trail, Vinton, IA 52349, 319-472-3032, email: franstueck@yahoo.com)

2009-2010 AWARDS APPLICATION FORM

Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. / National Garden Clubs (Type or print all information)

Date of Application: _____

Award Number: _____ Award Name: _____
Submitted by State Garden Club/MI

Name of Applicant _____
(type exactly as name should appear on any award received: name of club, group of clubs, district, state, region, individual, institution or organization)

Size of Garden Club (if applicable) _____
(i – small under 29 members, ii – medium 30-99, iii – large over 100; determined by number of members on whom NGC and state dues are paid, including Active, Associate, Inactive, Honorary, etc.)

Size of State Garden Club (if applicable) _____
(size determined by number of members on whom NGC dues are paid, including garden club members, Affiliates, State Life Members, etc.)

Summary of Project (not needed for Yearbooks) approximately 1 or 2 paragraphs including: (Name of club/s, city, state, description of project, benefit, accomplishments, other organizations involved, etc.)

Flower Show Achievement Awards: Do Not use this form, use the form for Flower Show

Calendar items: October 2009 Thru April 2010

Also check MGC web site for updates

October 22, 2009

District IIA 2009-Fall Meeting, Thursday, October 22 District Meeting Host: The Good Thyme Garden Club of Ann Arbor. Theme for this event is "Thyme for Autumn Pleasures."

October 25, 2009

2009 Central Region Convention, 77th Central Region Convention, Naperville, Illinois - October 26-28 and a NGC Central Region Multi-Refresher will be held on Sunday, October 25, 2009.

October 27, 2009

Cheboygan - Luncheon Seedums Garden Club, Cheboygan will be hosting a "Pot-pourri" Luncheon 11:00am Fraternal Order of Eagles - Banquet Hall, 626 N. Main, Cheboygan, Michigan/ Contact Aggie Buback, 231-625-8093

November 11, 2009

State Finance Committee 11:00am, Location: Plymouth Congregational Church, East Lansing.

November 12, 2009

State Board Meeting 10:00am, Location Plymouth Congregational Church, East Lansing.

December 4, 2009

Kalamazoo Garden Council-Greens Sale & Gifts. Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds, Friday, December 4, 9am-7pm and Saturday, December 5, 9am-5pm.

December 5, 2009

Garden Club of Dearborn presents the 13th annual Holly Berry Brunch at the Dearborn Inn, 20301 Oakwood Blvd. in Dearborn, 10am to 2pm. Brunch, \$35/person For more information call Mary Lou Herrst 313-336-3184 or clmlherrst@att.net

December 5, 2009

Four Flags Garden Club - 18th Annual Hometown Christmas Event, 4:30 - 6 p.m., Niles Historic Depot, 600 Dey Street. Holiday decorations, visit with Santa, homemade goodies, entertainment and at 6pm, official lighting of the Depot outside.

December 5, 2009

Livonia - Fresh Greens Workshop. 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., at the Livonia Senior Center (Five Mile and Farmington) in Livonia. Cost \$24 payable to Livonia Garden Club. Contact: Diane 248-486-9676 or e-mail rb@rc.net. Registration forms can be found on our website: www.orgsites.com/millivoniagardenclub

December 5, 2009

Cadillac - Holiday Home Tour. Cadillac Garden Club. 11:00am - 4:00pm. Refreshments provided. Tickets call 231-510-9047 for information.

March 4, 2010

Grand Rapids - District IV Flower Show, "International Table." March 4-7, 2010. Location: The West Michigan Home and Garden Show at DeVos Place, 303 Monroe NW, Grand Rapids, MI. Time/date: March 4, 1pm-9pm, March 5, 10am-9pm, March 6 and 7, 10am-6pm. Free and open to the public.

March 18, 2010

District IIB 2010 Flower Show. "Floral Fantasies, Fairy Tales and Fables" Location: MSU Pavilion, March 18-21, 2010. Contact Kathi Dominguez, 517-669-5112, or by email: dominguezk@comcast.net

April 7, 2010

State Finance Committee 11:00am, Location: Plymouth Congregational Church, East Lansing.

April 8, 2010

State Board Meeting 10:00am, Location Plymouth Congregational Church, East Lansing.



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The National Gardener

Quarterly Bulletin of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

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GARDENING RESOLUTIONS 2010

Judy DeJaegher, Chair—Horticulture Chairman

It's a New Year and time to reflect and make resolutions – even in our gardens. You may identify with the following:

- ◆ I resolve when ordering seeds this winter, being realistic and order only what I can plant, and more importantly, maintain.
- ◆ I'll research this winter to identify those plants in my garden which guests ask me about, those I no longer remember their names, labeling the plants in the garden or making a list of perennials by bed.
- ◆ Making a priority to get the beds cleaned earlier, keeping up with the weeds. I'll start saving newspapers, laying them down early, and cover with mulch, sawdust, or wood shavings from the local mill.
- ◆ Compost early in the season spreading it on my beds before the perennials get tall.
- ◆ I'll make successive plantings so my lettuce and carrots don't ripen at once; the same with my gladiolus corms, setting them 10 days apart.
- ◆ Plant enough vegetables to freeze or visiting local farmers' markets regularly to get what I don't grow.
- ◆ I'll be more diligent in making good compost, turning my pile more often.
- ◆ I resolve to use garden tools properly, lifting heavy loads with my legs not my back, stretching and loosening muscles before gardening, drinking plenty of water, taking breaks (especially when hot), and avoiding long stretches of repetitive tasks, alternating every 10-20 minutes.
- ◆ When buying, looking for plants in pots made from recycled materials or in reusable pots. Then drop off empty pots at participating nurseries.
- ◆ I'll begin to reduce my carbon footprint in my garden, using more hand tools and less power tools.
- ◆ Most important, I resolve to take time to smell the flowers, savor the vegetables, and enjoy all my efforts.