

Thru The Garden Gate



Vol. 3, No. 3 for March, April, May 2010
The official publication of Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.
Member of Central Region and National Garden Clubs, Inc.
www.michigangardenclubs.org

Urgent!!!

MGC Members please note we have a new Treasurer (Pro-Tem), Pam Dewey. See page 11 for contact information.

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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.



The Joy Of Design

Erie Heermann—Michigan State Garden Club President 1983-1985

In 1958 when I became a garden club member, three issues were stressed equally. They were Horticulture, the growing of gardens, Landscape Design, the placement of trees, shrubs and flowers and land use practices, and the art of flower arranging, the use of elements according to the principles of design. The three studies worked together for success and joy of accomplishment.

We also studied conservation along with the main three studies. The planning, protection and wise use of our land, sky and water was emphasized.

Our club was blessed with a member who had attended Flower Show School and had become a flower show judge. We owe so much to Mrs. Grace Mead.

We were in awe of her talents that she had enhanced by attending Flower Show School. She brought the lessons learned to our members through programs and workshops. As we went from flowers plunked in a vase to the art of design, our homes within and without took on a beauty that brought us such a sense of accomplishment and joy.

Our members wanted to grow in some of these areas and like yeast in bread dough a few members attended the Flower Show School provided by the National Garden Clubs, Inc.

You could see the energy and excitement spread when these students returned and shared their lessons with the club. When you attend the National Garden Clubs, Inc. Schools, the joy of learning must be passed on. You just can't keep it to yourself.

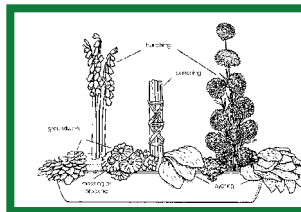
Our members branched out to the Landscape Design School and the Gardening School. Our communities were touched by their learning. Landscape Design contests were started and continue to this day. The idea that a Landscape Design Architect should be used early on when planning a new development was stressed. The business winning the above contests were proud and of course the yeast spreads.

Our club, the Friendly Garden Club of Traverse City, was organized in 1923 and federated in 1931. Our members continuously want to learn the three basics. When they accomplish a design of beauty for their homes or meetings or special events they are filled with joy. The yeast continues its expansion.

Do you want your club to have energy? Do you want to attract new members? Send your members to our wonderful NGC, Inc. Schools. Sending two at a time gives support to each other and is more fun. Pay their tuition if you can. You will never be sorry. Your club will take on a new life and the "Joy of Design" will take hold.

Gardening is the number one avocation in our nation. Gardeners love to share with others. Potential garden club members are lurking everywhere.

"Invite them in."



Reprinted courtesy of "Flower Arranging"
Judith Blacklock

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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

I am genuinely looking forward to 2010 with exciting events in the planning stages and many projects returning, which you will have an opportunity to enjoy being a member of Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. (MGC). We will continue to honor the new projects our National President, Renee Blaschke has proposed; "Beautify Blight," "Golden Days," and "Plant It Pink" and strive to make America more beautiful. You have honored

my request to create yellow ribbons of color by planting more than 60,000 daffodil bulbs throughout Michigan. Spring in Michigan will be beautiful this year.

Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. has a history of providing opportunities for its members in which to participate and grow in knowledge. We strive to promote good gardening practices and give gardeners across Michigan the inspiration to pursue their passion and to inspire others with their club activities and projects.

At the November Board of Directors meeting, it was brought to our attention that MGC dues have remained at \$5.00 for over 21 years. During this time our members have had access to schools sponsored by National Garden Clubs and Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. MGC has supported and encouraged seminars, symposiums, and conferences which provided experiences for growth to each MGC participant. Also available are workshops, symposiums and conferences in areas such as environmental education, wildflower culture, garden therapy, flower arranging, horticulture and crafts. Did you know that members of the MGC State Board are available to speak to your garden clubs and provide programs? Our scholarships have a direct impact on this state's colleges and are awarded to students interested in related fields of study.

We have continued to provide members with "Thru the Garden Gate" while reducing costs where possible. All of these activities cost much more than they did 21 years ago.

In 1988, Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan (FGCM) increased dues to \$5.00 with 50 cents reserved for National Garden Clubs, Inc. At the MGC November 2009 meeting, a motion was brought before the Board of Directors and adopted to increase dues by \$5.00. **This proposal will be revisited again at the April 2010 Board meeting to pin down the effective date and debate the exact amount that the proposal will carry.**

The results of the board meeting decisions will be posted on the member's side of our web site (www.michigangardenclubs.org), and it is important that each of the clubs become aware of the details before they vote on the proposal at the Annual Meeting in May. In addition I am delaying the letter to the Presidents of our clubs. It will be distributed in April after the details of this important proposal are finalized. It has been too long since the membership has had an opportunity to vote on insuring that we maintain MGC as a viable organization with resources to accomplish its goals in future years.

On a non-related issue I need to make you aware that Sue Wilber has resigned as MGC, Inc. Treasurer. We are in the process of making an orderly transfer of responsibilities. Please direct all Treasurer related materials to Pam Dewey, our Treasurer Pro-Tem.

The arrival of spring brings thoughts of Earth Day and Arbor Day, April 22 and 30, respectively. These two events are great days to spend with children and remind them about the environment and how important it is to celebrate every day of the year.

Have you noticed the increase of public interest in gardening and our environment? Now is a great time to invite people to visit your garden club. Let people in your communities know the good things garden club members do to make communities a better place to live. Share information and your knowledge and invite the public to special events. On a personal note, a co-worker suggested I should join her garden club and I did. Then I joined another ... well more than one to be truthful! Each are different, one a larger club the other smaller in membership ... each having different goals and objectives.

MGC 2010 Convention "Seeds of Tomorrow" is Tuesday, May 25 with a special Blue Star Memorial Dedication Monday, May 24 at the Fort Custer National Cemetery in Battle Creek. Mr. Paul Tukey will be our keynote speaker and more information is available in this

continued on page 3

Note from Lynn (continued from page 2)

publication. We are planning for you to arrive on Monday for the Blue Star Marker dedication and Tuesday for the MGC Convention. Renee Blaschke, National Garden Club, Inc. (NGC) President will be in attendance and our MGC committee is planning an outstanding and memorable dedication. Kathi Dominguez, Lois Snover Hanson and the 2010 Convention Committee members have planned a fabulous meeting. Come one, come all!

Have you ever wished for a beautiful thriving garden, one you can see the fruits of your labor? Whether you're a novice wishing to know more about gardening, or have mastered the knowledge of plant growth, this course offers something for you during those chilly winter months. NGC is partnering with Learn2Grow and has launched its online Gardening Study School – Garden Time Course I, is now available. Visit www.gardenclub.org and click on "Schools" Online Garden Study and follow the directions. MGC will continue to offer our Garden Study School, and Course IV is now being offered in Midland, April 19-20.

My wish for you during 2010 ...

- ◆ I wish you health ... so you may enjoy each day in comfort.
- ◆ I wish you the love of friends and family ... and peace within your heart.
- ◆ I wish you wisdom to choose priorities...for those things that really matter in life.
- ◆ I wish you generosity so you may share...all good things that come to you.
- ◆ I wish you happiness and joy...and blessings for the New Year.
- ◆ I wish you the best of everything...that you so well deserve.

Lynn Dinvald
President, MGC, Inc.

The Blue Star Experience

Lorrie Dyal, Michigan Blue Star Chairman

A Blue Star Memorial Dedication is a special day for a garden club and its community. Typically the ceremony includes:

- ★ Familiar patriotic music that could include a High School Band, Brass Quartet, Choral Groups, Soloists, or a Bag Pipe
- ★ Girl Scouts who distribute the programs
- ★ Boy Scouts who solemnly lead the Pledge of Allegiance
- ★ Military Moms relating their heart felt experiences
- ★ Elected officials reminding us of freedoms we enjoy in our country
- ★ Michigan State Board Members who relate Blue Star history in Michigan and the nation
- ★ Veterans who are reminded of their own service experience
- ★ Community groups who pitch in to support
- ★ Garden Club members who welcome everyone, work behind the scenes, and know this day will be remembered by all those present.

If your Garden Club wants to join the 44 other Michigan Blue Star sponsors, for such a special event, contact;

Lorrie Dyal, Michigan Blue Star Chairman,
1205 Heirloom View, Okemos, MI 48864-1244,
Cell 517.282.671
e-mail LeDyal8@gmail.com



★ ★ ★ Blue Star By-Way Dedication—
5/16/2009
Carnegie Garden Club of Paw Paw
American Legion Post #68
Taps & Gun Salute

National Garden Club, Inc

Accredited Horticulture Instructor—

Dolores J. Stouwie

dolores.stouwie@sbcglobal.net

VISIT:

- ◆ www.gardencentral.org/michigan/kentgardenclub/
- ◆ www.michigangardenclubs.org
- ◆ www.gardenclubs.org



Joining MGC_Newsletter, the Yahoo e-mail group

If a member chooses to get the newsletter via the e-mail group, an invitation will be issued to the member from the moderator. The member must accept the invitation or it will be dropped in 30 days. This invitation will arrive in e-mail as soon as membership information is processed. The content of the invitation:

From: MGC_Newsletter moderator

Subject: Invitation to join the MGC_Newsletter group

This invitation expires in 30 days. Thursday, 7 Month 2010-3:29 AM UTC

mgc.database@yahoo.com has invited you to join the MGC_Newsletter group!

A button appears in the e-mail below the message above, on the right, labeled "Join this group" Clicking on the button will launch a webpage for authentication. The member will have to read some text and re-type it in a box, click one more button and membership is complete. Anyone having trouble joining the group can e-mail mgc.database@yahoo.com and ask to be signed up without the invitation.



Corrections - from Issue #2

- ◆ Club on the Grow article;
Great Lakes Gardeners is in District VI
- ◆ Flower Show Judges Student List;
Lynn Toneman (revised address)
500 Erie St #103
South Haven, MI 49090
312.953.4587
Ltoneman@yahoo.com
Carol Carzon, please remove from list until she takes the tests.



★ Blue Star Memorial Announcement: ★ May 2010 there will be a 3% price increase.

A Letter To All Michigan Garden Club, Inc. Club Presidents

Nancy Stark,

1st Vice President, Membership Chairman and Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. Board of Directors

January 13, 2010

At your Fall District Meeting, I requested that each member of each club be on my membership team and recruit new members. I hope you have been successful and will continue to recruit during the next few months with renewed resolve for the new year.

Since your meeting and my presentation on "R&R" – retention and recruitment – of new members in our local clubs, Lynn Dinvald and I have developed an incentive plan for each of our seven Districts for the 2010 Spring and Fall District Meetings with the approval of the Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. (MGC) Executive Board and the Board of Directors.

Here is our plan. Clubs in each District will compete for the highest percentage of new members between June 1, 2009 and April 1, 2010. Using these dates as your guideline, the club in each District with the highest percentage of new members will receive free registration money for these new members to attend either the Spring or Fall 2010 District Meeting. Marge McGoff, MGC Finance Chairman, is managing the reimbursements to local winning clubs from the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation Edna Rosenfield Memorial Fund. Membership recruitment is the mission of this designated competition. The Rosenfield Fund also helped us design and implement our MGC website. Through this joint initiative, MGC and the Rosenfield Fund will continue to reach out to current and new members of our MGC family through future membership recruitment campaigns.

District meetings begin in April so we need the names of new members, along with the percentage of increase, turned in to your District Director no later than April 2nd via e-mail, phone call or a quick note. We will then calculate the winning club in each district. The winning club will send in their registration form as usual to the registrar along with a *special sheet* showing the new club members. This new member listing will be passed on to the presiding District Director. Include all payments for new members and current members when you register for the District Meeting. When we know the correct number of new members who *attended* the District Meeting, Marge McGoff will then send your club a check for the new member's registration fee. This will be sent to your club treasurer after your District Meeting.

If your District is having a Club President's meeting in the Spring, 2010, and then a full membership meeting in the Fall, 2010, we will reimburse the club accordingly for the Fall District Meeting, 2010. However, the numbers will be based on the given dates above.

Please continue to recruit new members so we can honor your club and new members during the 2010 District Meetings. This MGC initiative is also pertinent to our competition for the national daylily competition. Michigan CAN win the national competition with your help. Read this letter to your membership and light the fire to grow our membership to benefit not only your local projects but to support Lynn and me in our efforts to make Michigan the best in the nation for membership growth.

Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. would like to extend a warm welcome to the following garden clubs:

The Looking Glass Garden Club # 484
District IIB

Evening Blossoms Garden Club # 485
District VI

Belleville Garden Club # 486
District I

Mid-Michigan Flower Arrangers Guild # 487
District VI

WELCOME!

49th Flower Show Symposium

June 22-23, 2010

Holiday Inn, Ann Arbor, MI

Please mark your calendar to attend the two-day Flower Show Symposium in Ann Arbor, Michigan on June 22-23, 2010.

The Horticulture instructor will be Sandra Joyce, who will be teaching **"Heucheras & Moonlight Gardening"** on June 22. The second day, Judith Monnot, from Ohio will be teaching the design segment with the topic of **"Tactile Tactics" – Putting Texture & Form to work.**

District II-A chairman for this event is Marie Smith and the Registrar is Mary Snook, 3218 Ravine Hollow Ct., Lambertville, MI 48144.

This Symposium is open to all garden club members and for complete registration information on the Hotel and Symposium, please go to the www.michigan-gardenclubs.org to download the forms.

However, those who are a member of the Michigan Association of Accredited Judges Association, a brochure will be mailed to you in February in a letter from Kathy Clary, MAAJ's President.

Sharon Yantis, Flower Show Symposium Chairman



But I don't know how!

Marie Smith, Floral Design Study Chairman

I have heard this countless times, every time I stand in front of your club and hand out the floral material. Then I stand back and watch as you carefully look at the material and with that practiced eye you start placing your line material then your flowers and finish up with the filler material. With a few tweaks here and there, you sit back, sigh, and say "there". Whether you have studied the principals and elements of floral design or not, you have an intuitive idea of placement and what looks right to you. It is this same careful attention that you used with the planning and caring of your garden. And just look at your garden, it is a symphony of color, textures, patterns, forms, different sizes, space in and around, lines to direct your attention and light from above to only enhance the whole affect. You just knew intuitively where to place things to create visual stability, to have a visual path through out, to have just the right ration between area and amount of material as well as to have the proper size relationship. You knew to put plants together to show pleasing contrasts but without having anyone plant a greater force in your garden. You did all this with your special artistic concept and expressed your own style thus creating a distinctive garden, yours. Yes, you do know how to arrange!

MARK YOU CALENDAR

“FUN WITH FLOWERS”

DISTRICT III SPRING MEETING

Friday May 7, 2010 9:00 am

Petal Pushers GC will host “Fun With Flowers” on Friday, May 7th at the Second Reformed Church, 2323 Stadium Dr. in Kalamazoo. Registration, a continental breakfast and shopping will begin at 9:00 am. Business meeting starts promptly at 9:45.

The morning program, will be “Creating Community Gardens and Changing Lives” by JC Schneider, Advanced Master Gardener, following the theme of NGC President, Renee Blaschke.

The afternoon will offer a choice of Flower Arranging Workshops by the Michigan Association of Accredited Judges or a talk by Ben Yost on “Reproducing Forbs” (non-woody perennials).

The workshops are designed to help us all learn how to take flowers from our yards and bring them indoors to enjoy. Cost for the day is \$20, with an additional \$10 charge for those signing up for the workshop. This fee will cover all materials and you will go home with a lovely arrangement for Mother’s Day.

Send checks to the Registrar:

Diana Schneider
32184 Fish Hatchery Rd.
Kalamazoo, MI 49009-9204
phone 269-668-6686

Deadline—April 23rd

For more information contact Chairman Ann Spaeth, 269-375-4851, alespa@juno.com.



DISTRICT V SPRING MEETING

Wednesday May 5, 2010

Location change:

**Lincoln Hills Golf Club,
1527 N. Lakeshore Dr., Ludington MI**

It is a gorgeous facility. Everyone attending the meeting will enjoy the event. We expect to mail the call letter about February 25 and you will all receive the mailing.

Suzanne Townsend, President, Mason County G.C.

“CLUBS ON THE GROW”

Belleville Garden Club (District I)

The recently formed Belleville Area Garden Club had its first meeting in late September, 2009. Twenty-two people attended that inaugural meeting. In four short months we have grown to 28 dues-paying Michigan Garden Club members, with a full complement of officers. At our January meeting we added a committee to investigate a civic project for our club to adopt. We also supplemented our program chairs with a committee to plan some fun field trips. We are excited and on a roll!

Our meetings are held the third Mondays of each month at the United Methodist Church in Belleville at 7:30pm. Our club is open to beginning gardeners as well as those with lots of experience. So, don't be shy. Check us out! Perhaps you'd like to become a member!

Mt. Pleasant Federated Garden Club (District VI)

This club was organized in 1961 and federated in 1962. It has 37 members and the only club in the nation to have two members with the title of “Master Consultant” in all four schools. They take care of four community gardens, help with a Christmas Outreach program for children and furnish gardening books for the library. They are planning to fund a project to beautify the back library entrance once the remodeling is finished. On May 11, 2010, this club will host the District VI meeting at the Doherty Hotel in Clare, Michigan. As you can see they are a club that works hard on their civic projects.

Pat Wilber, District VI Director

“Get to Know Our District Directors”

“... add to my GARDENING FAMILY”



District VI—Patricia Wilber

When I was ten, we moved from Atlanta to Stone Mountain, Georgia, where we had a farm. I learned at a young age to love the smell of good garden soil between my toes. I married and had three children, living in five different states. When I retired in 2001, my neighbor invited me to a garden club meetings and I loved being with people that loved growing things as much as I did. It was easy to get involved with the activities of the garden club and in 2002 I took the secretary position on the board. In 2004, I became President of the Yard and Garden Club of Flint. I have enjoyed working with my gardening friends and appreciate all the support and help they give me. My new position on the State Board is allowing me to meet new gardening friends to add to my gardening family.

Your District Directors

I Virginia Froehlich
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vafroehlich@comcast.net

IIA Margaret Jahnke
(734) 604-9256
Margaret.jahnke@gmail.com

IIB Kathi Dominguez
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IV Deannie Picciotti
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dmp77@charter.net

V Sandy Bodenbender
(231) 331-4476
sbodenbender@charter.net

VI Patricia Wilber
(810) 732-7894
pawilber@ameritech.net

Scholarship & Donations

Nancy McGilliard, Scholarship Chairman

Report from the Scholarship Committee on Donations from October 1 to December 31, 2009. Thank you to all who donated. Send donations to Nancy McGilliard 2339 Sapphire Lane, East Lansing, MI 48823.

DONATIONS—\$650

- ◆ Pleasant Ridge GC
- ◆ District III to honor hosts of Fall District meeting: Four Flags GC
- ◆ Juniper GC
- ◆ Petal Pushers GC
- ◆ Beverly Hills GC
- ◆ Livonia GC
- ◆ Grosse Ile GC

MEMORIALS—\$375

- ◆ Lenore Moe from GC of Greater Lansing
- ◆ Phyllis West from Saline Stone & Thistle GC
- ◆ Pete Dashner from Anne Javoroski
- ◆ John Passfield from Anne Javoroski
- ◆ Dr. Joseph Mullen from Anne Javoroski
- ◆ Randolph Pete Guest from Anne Javoroski
- ◆ Ed Doub from Mary Pulick
- ◆ Vonda Secory from Grosse Ile GC
- ◆ June Kemeny from Lyn Butus
- ◆ Rosalind Meyer from Grosse Ile GC
- ◆ Ernest Boudreau from Grosse Ile GC

HONORARIUMS—\$75

- ◆ Pleasant Ridge GC for program given by Mary Pulick

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to report the winners of MGC scholarships for the academic year 2009-10. Each scholarship was \$1,500. Two more scholars will be reported in the next Thru the Garden Gate.

- ◆ Central Michigan: Angela Bollini, Biology/Botany Major
- ◆ Eastern Michigan: Brenna Smith, Ecology and Biology Major
- ◆ Ferris State: Joshua Ackerman, Ornamental Horticulture Program
- ◆ Grand Valley: Jesse Lincoln, Plant Biology Major
- ◆ Michigan State: Brendan Landhuis, Horticulture
James Moylan, Horticulture
Roy Merker, Horticulture
Corey Blake, Forestry
- ◆ Michigan Tech: Jonathan Bontrager, Biological Services
Kathryn Hietala, Applied Ecology & Environmental Science
- ◆ Northern: Chelsea Moyle, Biology Major
- ◆ St. Clair County Community College: Justin Hagel, Horticulture & Art Education
- ◆ University of Michigan: Katherine Hollins, Behavior & Environmental Education
Loang Leuthvilay, Landscape Architecture
Kathryn Druback, Landscape Architecture
Christopher Nordstrom, Landscape Architecture
- ◆ Western Michigan: Lorah Patterson, Biology & Environmental Studies
David Haubenstricker, Biology

DONATION TO LODA LAKE WILDFLOWER SANCTUARY

A gift of \$100 in support of the Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary President's Project was donated by the Livonia Garden Club to Lynn Dinvald, MGC President. A note of gratitude and thanks was written to the Livonia Garden Club members and sent to Jean Peterson for this most appreciated gift. --Lynn

World Gardening

Chis Rochman, World Gardening Chairman



The 4-H Center is encouraging young people to plant gardens to improve their diet. Some of the young people go on to study horticulture as a profession. The Center encourages education in many ways, academic and practical, to improve the future life of the youngsters.

A big thanks to the following for their donations to our work in Belize:

- Juniper Garden Club
- Friendly Garden Club of Lake City
- Swan Creek Garden Club
- Grosse Ile Garden Club
- Nancy Goulette
- Livonia Garden Club



Minds and Gardens Grow

Upon reading the "note from Lynn" in the Sept-Nov. issue of Thru the Garden Gate, we, of the St. Clair Garden Club, have taken one of her ideas to heart. The horticultural education of our children can never begin too early. (We all remember Jack and the Beanstalk).

We have partnered with the librarians in our three elementary schools in the selection of software and/or books to be donated by our club to increase awareness of gardening and it's results. We anticipate presenting the materials to the children once the selections are complete.

Thanks for your time,
Carol Debski
President, St. Clair Garden Club

79th Annual Convention "Seeds of Tomorrow"

Battle Creek, MI May 25, 2010



A Special Invitation Just for you

You are cordially invited to the 79th Annual Convention of the Michigan Garden Club, Inc. Please plan to attend both the convention and the pre-convention dedication of a National Blue Star Memorial.

May 24, 2010 – Pre-convention evening:
Historic Event —Dedication of a National Blue Star Memorial
4:00 PM – Fort Custer National Cemetery
Registration: Monday, May 24, 2010 – 2:00 – 7:00 PM

May 25, 2010 – 79th Annual Convention:
"Seeds of Tomorrow"
8:30 AM – 4:00 PM
Registration: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 – 7:30 – 8:30 AM

District IIB is excited to host a worthwhile convention day filled with interesting speakers, educational workshops, unique vendors, door prizes and a rare opportunity to attend the dedication of a National Blue Star Memorial.

The McCamly Plaza Hotel boasts recently renovated meeting and sleeping rooms with stunning city views from the 16th floor. Plenty of sleeping rooms have been earmarked for our club members. Carpool in, stay the night, meet with your friends for a relaxing get away.

Help us fill the ballroom with garden club members from across the state. Come along for a memorable day. Mark your calendars and see you in Battle Creek.

MGC President-Lynn Dinvald & Convention Co-Chairs—Kathi Dominguez and Lois Snover-Hanson



Renee Blaschke, President – National Garden Clubs, Inc. – Opening Speaker

Michigan Garden Clubs is honored to have our National President, Renee Blaschke as our guest at the 79th Annual Convention. Renee will take part in the Blue Star Memorial Dedication at Fort Custer National Cemetery, on Monday, May 24th and will be present as the opening speaker on Tuesday, May 25th. Renee has chosen an official theme for her administration that reflects some of today's most pressing concerns. Her theme, "The World Around Us: Love It, Beautify It, Protect It," encompasses a wide range of projects designed to promote clean air, pure water, recycling and "green" practices. "Our organization blends gardening education, floral design and community service, offering members an opportunity to make a difference while engaging in activities they enjoy," she says. Attend the convention and meet Renee. Arrive early to get a good seat; you won't want to miss this dynamic Texan.



Paul Tukey, Keynote Speaker

Michigan Garden Clubs is excited to welcome convention keynote speaker; movie producer, bestselling author, public speaker, magazine publisher and America's 2006 Gardening Communicator of the Year, Paul Tukey.

Among the most accomplished and sought-after public speakers in the nation, Paul Tukey shares his passion for organic gardening, lawn care and community activism through all forms of media.

Paul appears regularly on radio, television, print and the Internet, including most of the nation's major newspapers, Martha Stewart Living and Good Morning America.

He has spoken at public events more than 1,000 times, about community activism, environmentally friendly gardening, organic lawn care, stewardship of the planet and garden photography.

Mr. Tukey will present two learning presentations as well as the keynote and a book signing. Check out his web site at: Paultukey.com

★★★YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THIS HISTORIC EVENT★★★

**National Blue Star Memorial Dedication —Monday, May 24, 2010, 4:00 pm,
Fort Custer National Cemetery, Augusta, MI**

Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. will dedicate A National Blue Star Memorial, located within the serenely beautiful, Fort Custer National Cemetery, just a twenty minute drive from the convention hotel.

This memorable ceremony is planned with special guest speaker, National Garden Clubs, President, Renee Blaschke.



*Please plan to arrive on Monday, May 24th in time to attend this once in a life time event.
You'll long remember the setting, the music, and the feelings of taking part in this dedication.*

79th Annual Convention ♦ Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. ♦ Registration

"Seeds of Tomorrow"



May 25, 2010 – McCamly Plaza Hotel, Battle Creek, Michigan

50 Capital Avenue Southwest, Battle Creek, MI 49017-3515

Registration Fee: \$40.00 - Make checks to: Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.

Fee includes breakfast, lunch, keynote speaker, annual meeting, and an opportunity to attend the dedication of a National Blue Star Memorial, table favors, door prizes, plus many unique vendors

Please check MGC website for more information

AGENDA:

- ♦ Monday, May 24, 2010 – Invitation to a Pre-Convention Historical Event:
 - 2:00 – 7:00 pm Registration Table Open
 - 4:00 – 6:00 pm National Blue Star Dedication (free)
 - Fort Custer National Cemetery – 15501 Dickman Road, Augusta, MI 49012
 - Guest of Honor: Renee Blaschke, President, National Garden Club, Inc.
 - ♦ Tuesday, May 25, 2010 – 79th Annual Convention
 - 7:30 – 8:30 am Registration
 - 8:30 – 10:00 am Breakfast and morning speaker Renee Blaschke – President – National Garden Clubs
 - 10:30 – 11:50 am Annual Meeting – Conducted by Lynn Dinvald – President – Michigan Garden Clubs
 - 12:30 pm LUNCHEON
 - 1:30 – 2:30 pm Keynote speaker: Paul Tukey – “Safe Lawns: How and Why to Tend Your Landscape Organically”
 - 2:30 – 3:45 pm Awards, Memorial Service
 - 3:45 – 4:00 pm Drawing, Closing Remarks, Invitation to 2011 Convention, Benediction
- Two (2) Optional Learning Opportunities:**
- 1) 10:15 am – 11:00 am Garden Photography in the digital age – 16th floor
 - 2) 11:15 am – 12:15 pm Film “A Chemical Reaction” – 16th floor

LODGING:

Make reservations directly with the hotel by phone at: 1-888-622-2659, or by internet booking link.

Booking link for the 2010 Michigan Garden Club State Convention:

https://reservations.ihotelier.com/crs/g_reservation.cfm?groupID=423021&hotelID=11822

This information is also available on the MGC web site under

Convention Registration; Newsletter & Events - 2010 MGC Annual Meeting

MGC –Convention room rate of \$94.00 + tax – available until May 3, 2010



REGISTRATION FORM:

Submit this form with \$40.00 fee by May 10, 2010 to: Pam Dewey, Registrar, 13998 Kelly Road, Hickory Corners, MI 49060; ph: 269-671-5211. Confirmation notifications returned to you by May 18, 2010.

PLEASE PRINT:

Name _____ E-mail _____

Address _____
Street City Zip

Phone _____ Garden Club _____

I will be attending the National Blue Star Dedication at Fort Custer National Cemetery Yes

I would like a vegetarian lunch selection Yes

I am a delegate to the convention Yes

A \$10.00 processing fee retained, with remainder returned, if cancelled by May 5, 2010. No refunds after May 10, 2010.

Questions: Kathi Dominguez 517-669-5112 or Lois Snover-Hanson 517-694-8091

Much Ado About..... Mulch*

Jane Geisler

Mulch is a protective layer of material for the soil. As a functional garden addition, mulch provides winter insulation for plants, reduces watering, weeding, and soil compaction, stabilizes soil temperatures, holds moisture, assists in controlling insects and diseases and enriches the texture and structure of soil through the gradual decomposition of natural materials. As organic mulches decompose, they release nutrients that will enhance soil fertility. Mulch will cool the soil during the summer and warm the soil in the winter. Mulches will also accent garden plants by adding color, contrast and texture to the landscape.

Winter mulch has two purposes; it keeps the soil temperature from wide fluctuations by keeping the soil frozen during periodic winter warm spells and reduces heaving which occurs when cycles of freezing and thawing push a plant from the soil. Mulch also keeps extremely cold temperatures from harming plants. Winter mulch is best added to the garden after the ground is cold while summer mulch is added after the soil has warmed.

Natural mulch fits with any landscape. Organic material will feed the soil food web. Leaves chopped, mowed or shredded are a readily- available and cost-efficient mulch. Compost mixed with shredded leaves is like 'frosting on the cake' for the soil. Leaves raked into a shrub border will break down and nourish that soil. In the fall spread leaves over the vegetable garden or flower bed; chopping the leaves and mixing with garden soil speeds up decomposition. In the spring, remove any leaves not decomposed or dig them into the beds. Let leaves lie where they fall and mow them into the lawn where they will nourish the soil without harming the grass.

Other organic mulch materials include bark which comes in many sizes and colors (color dyes in mulch pose no significant risks to pets or the environment); larger chunks will not compost as fast. Finely shredded wood is good erosion-control mulch. Michigan State University recommends using locally processed wood products, such as hardwood bark and ground pine bark. Plants grow well in these mulches and are typically among the most cost-effective and natural looking mulches available; they also help support the Michigan economy. Dry, chemical-free grass clippings in one-inch layers add nutrients to the soil. Cocoa hulls offer a dark accent to a landscape; however they are toxic to dogs. Pine needles are great mulch around acid-loving plants such as rhododendrons and azaleas. Hay and straw are useful mulches in a vegetable garden. By diversifying the kind of mulch used in sections of a garden, different types of microorganisms will contribute different nutrients. Three to four inches of coarse mulch or one to two inches of finer mulch, is sufficient around evergreens, trees and shrubbery; one to two inches is suggested spread around perennials and roses. All mulches should be at least two to six inches away from stems and trunks.

Recent research indicates organic mulches are more effective than plastic or rubber mulch, rocks or landscape fabric. Artificial mulches are more expensive and do not decompose to enrich the soil with nutrients. Inorganic mulches such as stone and rock will not degrade or blow away; but may not suppress weeds or allow moisture for the plants. They can stress plants by absorbing and holding heat.

Trees thrive with a periodic application of composted mulch for a slow-released fertilization, weed suppression and improved water retention. Mulch should be placed 4-6 inches away from a tree trunk, allowing the root flare zone to be visible. Eliminating airflow at the base of a plant is an invitation for fungus. Creating a volcano-look with mulch can slowly kill trees. This type of mulching keeps moisture against the bark inviting insects and disease and may be home to rodents who will destroy the bark. Mulching around trees will protect the trunk from mower and weed whacker damage by eliminating the need to trim closer to the trunk. Think of a 'doughnut' mulch application rather than a 'volcano'.

It is thought that high-carbon mulches such as wood chips or bark, will take nitrogen from the soil as it breaks down. This process happens very gradually and only where soil and mulch are in direct contact. Nitrogen is then re-released into the soil by dying microorganisms at a similar rate as it is lost. Pine needles will initially add acidity to the soil, but over time the acidity slides back to neutral. Maintaining organic mulches will require replenishing each year.

Nature has mulched for eons by dropping leaves on to the forest floor and gently blowing them away from the base of the tree. Following nature's pattern provides us with a way of providing a nutritious and protective ground cover for our soil.

**Dearborn Press and Guide*

Penny Pines Rejuvenates Forests Across The U.S.

News From:-National Garden Clubs Inc

More Than 80 National Forests Benefit As National Garden Clubs and U.S. Forest Service Team Up For The Environment

ST. LOUIS--Since launching a partnership with the U.S. Forest Service in 2004, National Garden Clubs Inc. (NGC) and its various affiliates across the country have collected more than \$75,000 on the local and state level for the U.S. Forest Service's well-known Penny Pines program, which is dedicated to replanting damaged forested areas. These funds have taken root coast to coast, benefitting 80 national forests in 42 states. But, as environmentalists know, saving forests is an ongoing task. To step up the effort in 2010, NGC is issuing a plea to communities and civic organizations nationwide to pitch in.

"Deforestation through natural disasters or human activities remains a major concern to National Garden Clubs' membership," says Renee D. Blaschke, of Smithville, Texas, NGC president. "The loss of trees is not only an aesthetic blight but also an environmental threat."

Blaschke says that donations made to the NGC Penny Pines effort can designate a specific state or national forest to benefit. Contributions to Penny Pines can be made individually or through school, organization or club fundraisers.

NGC requests that donations be made in multiples of \$68. This was the cost of planting 10 acres when the Penny Pines program was first started in California in 1941 as a statewide conservation program, and has been retained as a minimum donation through the years. According to Art Loesch, NGC Penny Pines chairman, \$68 now covers the cost to plant approximately 350 seedlings, which translates to about one acre. NGC issues handsome personalized certificates recognizing donors or their honorees. Complete information is available on the NGC Web site at www.gardenclub.org.

In addition to the Penny Pines program, other service projects offered by National Garden Clubs Inc. include the Plant It Pink project, healing gardens and horticultural therapy programs, Blue Star Memorials, school gardening initiatives for children, flower shows, and a host of civic beautification and improvement efforts. Founded in 1929 and headquartered in St. Louis, NGC (www.gardenclub.org) has 200,000 members connected to a vast network of 6,300 local clubs, 50 state clubs, and a National Capital area club, as well as a sizable group of international affiliates. NGC is the largest volunteer organization of its type in the world.

Environmental Studies—Course I

Sponsored by District III, Colon Garden Club, Michigan Garden Cubs, Inc., National Garden Clubs, Inc.

May 4 & 5, 2010

Location of Course: 26455 Banker Street Rd, Sturgis MI 49091

Accommodations available at the Amigo Centre; Reservations: Contact facilities directly 269.651.2811.

MGC President, Lynn Dinvald ♦ District III Director, Carol Beckius

♦ Environmental State Chairperson, Marie Fisher ♦ Local Chairperson, Marcia Blackman

Please check MGC website for more information



♦ Tuesday May 4, 2010

8:15-8:45 Registration/Continental Breakfast
9:00 Registration/Continental Breakfast
9:30 Ecology—Jo Barton
10:30 Break
10:45 Plants-Biodiversity—Jo Barton
11:45 Lunch
12:30 Backyard Wildlife Habitat—Bill Stovall
1:30 Break
1:45 Review
2:00 Break
2:15 Nature Discovery Field Trip/Amigo Centre
Cheryl Mast & Jo Barton

♦ Wednesday May 5, 2010

8:30 Registration/Continental Breakfast
9:00 Urban Forestry—Mike Graham
10:00 Break
10:15 Historic Environmental
Actions And Leaders
Dr. Lynne Heasley
11:15 Break
11:30 Environmental Science—Dr. Chuck Ide
12:30 Lunch
1:15 Earth Stewardship
Earthwise Lifestyle
Cheryl Mast
2:15 Break
2:30 Networking And Outreach
Michael Greggor
3:30 Review
3:45 Break
4:00 Open Book Exam

♦ Reading Assignment

The National Gardener

Living In The Environment By G. Tyler Miller Jr.

Reading assignments depend on the edition of the book. The 7th edition is the earliest acceptable edition. The 15th edition is available for \$139.95 Retail from NGC Member Services 800-550-6007.

Contact Pat Hjertos, Registrar for details on buying used texts on the web at 269-496-4815.

♦ Future Courses & Dates

Course II: Land And Related Issues
October 12 & 13, 2010

Course III: Air And Related Issues
May 3 & 4, 2011

Course IV: Water And Related Issues
October 11 & 12, 2011

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES SCHOOL

A series of four courses designed to stimulate interest and understanding in the environment. These encompass land conservation, land trust, water conservation, groundwater protection, air quality, energy awareness, waste, litter, and recycling. Course I, "The Living Earth" is the first of the current four course series.

Members of NGC Garden Clubs who complete the program are designated as Environmental Consultants and are eligible to join the Michigan Consultants Council that organizes programs for members to further their education in Environment, Landscape Design, and Horticulture.

Each course consists of 10 hours of lectures, a course outline, and reading assignments. A student wishing to take the optional exam must attend all ten hours of the course.



REGISTRATION
Environmental Studies School—Course I
Registration Deadline—**April 22, 2010 (Earth Day)**

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Garden Club or Organization: _____

Full Course Registration: \$85.00

Includes 2 Continental Breakfasts, 2 Lunches, and Study Outlines

Taking Exam? Yes No Refreshing? Yes No

Fee: \$ 5.00

Part Time Registration:

Tuesday, May 4, 2010 \$45.00

Wednesday, May 5, 2010 \$45.00

Total _____

Make Checks payable to: MGC – Environmental School

Note: A \$10.00 processing fee assessed if canceled after registering; no refund after April 22nd deadline.

Mail registration form, check and label (from the *National Gardener*) stapled to registration form, to registrar.

REGISTRAR: Pat Hjertos
30989 Michigan Ave.
Leonidas MI 49066

Horticulture-Winter Seed Sowing

Jane Geisler

In her book, *Fun With Winter Seed Sowing*, Monica Milla describes winter seed sowing as mimicking Mother Nature and creating hardy seedlings in the midst of our cold, snowy winter. Monica, an Ann Arbor Master Gardener, introduces a method of seed sowing outdoors indoor eliminating indoor grow lights and space restrictions. And as these cold-sown seedlings sprout in the spring, they are acclimated to the environment and need not be hardened off before transplanting. Monica creates miniature greenhouses out of recycled containers such as milk jugs, yogurt containers, plastic pots and plant flats. Winter seeds can be sown from late December to early March; the seeds remain dormant over the winter, requiring little attention. Rain and melting snow provide the moisture and the warm spring weather promotes germination as nature's calendar warrants. Seeds develop naturally into strong, healthy plants that can easily be transplanted into garden beds as soils warm in the spring.

Seeds that respond well to winter sowing include perennials, biennials and annuals, vegetables and fruits, heirloom plants, native plants and herbs. The lengthy list of possible winter seeds includes asters, bee balm, foxglove, iris, Black-eyed Susans, daisies, poppies, wildflowers, pansies, beans, carrots, lettuce, chives, oregano, thyme, tomatoes, goldenrod, coneflowers and hollyhocks, just to name a very few.

LeRoy Wolff of Riverview gets an early start on his lettuce crop. In January or February each year this Master Gardener sows saved lettuce seeds on frozen garden soil or even on top of the snow. This cool weather crop will germinate and appears as the ground warms and daffodils grow; most lettuces require 45 to 65 days from germination to harvest.

I have seven containers of planted seeds sitting outside in my yard as I write. I will report back on how this technique works out. I can say that it felt very good to be playing around in the soil and seeds in January!

Winter seeding provides the 'scratch' that we gardeners need for that winter gardening 'itch'. For further information and the availability of her book, check out Monica's website at www.thegardenfaerie.com and the website www.wintersown.org.

If any member has a particular horticulture problem, plant or questions, please contact me and I would be happy to research and write on that subject.

BEES



Joan Blincoe, *Chairman of Bees, Birds & Butterflies*

Imagine walking into your grocery store and not finding any strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, pears, apples and I could continue to list all the wonderful fruits and vegetables we eat. A world void of honey bees would be a world empty of most all of the fruits and vegetables we eat as well as all of the beautiful flowers we grow in our gardens.

In late 2006 worker bees from beehives abruptly disappeared world wide. It is called Colony Collapse Disorder. The reasons are not yet really understood. Several different factors are suspected: Pathogens, parasites, environmental stresses and bee management stresses such

as poor nutrition.

It is unlikely that any one factor is to blame. Why should we care? Bee pollination is responsible for \$15 Billion in added crop value, particularly for specialty crops such as almonds and other nuts, berries, fruits and vegetables. About one mouthful in three in our diet directly or indirectly benefits from bee pollination. The almond crop in California alone, uses 1.3 million colonies of honey bees. The number of managed honey bee colonies has dropped 50% since the 1940's. At the same time the call for hives to supply pollination is climbing. Commercial Beekeepers truck hives long distances to provide pollination services.

The best action we can take to benefit honeybees is not to use pesticides indiscriminately and to teach younger generations the importance of these insects.

In addition, we can plant and encourage the planting of good nectar sources such as red clover, foxglove, monarda (bee balm), joe-pye weed, parsley, aster, daisy, verbena, rose and many other flowers.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Karen Jencks, *Environmental Issues*

Can Biochar Save the Earth? Fans of the porous charcoal known as "biochar" say it can do just about everything: take carbon out the atmosphere, increase crop yield, cut fossil fuel use and reduce the fertilizer runoff that creates offshore dead zones. The non profit International Biochar Initiative says that by its most conservative estimate, biochar could offset a quarter of a gigaton of carbon each year by 2030 - the equivalent of shutting down 250 coal fired power plants.

Invented around 450 B.C. in the Amazon basin, biochar is created by burning or baking biomass in a low-oxygen environment. Ancient Amazonians used it to convert nutrient poor rainforest dirt into thick, dark soils that are still productive 2,500 years later. Today, biochar can be made out of anything from wood chips to manure. Cornell and Delaware State Universities show that biochar helps soil retain nutrients, store water, and sustain beneficial microorganisms. This ultimately increases crop yield. Biochar helps clean the air in two ways; by preventing rotting biomass from releasing harmful CO² into the atmosphere and by allowing plants to safely store the CO² they pull out of the air during photosynthesis.

A lot of researchers are focused on using biomass for renewable fuel, but at the University of Georgia, the renewable fuel generated is secondary to the creation of biochar. For agriculture, biochar could be something of a magic bullet, or as scientists are calling it, "black gold".

No one, however, has yet examined the feasibility or potential unintended consequences of sprinkling the stuff from one end of the earth to the other. Even so, the idea is gaining traction.



Dear Members,

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

Pam Dewey, Treasurer MGC
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

LANDSCAPE DESIGN STUDY PROGRAM – Series XVIII - Course IV

Hosted by National Garden Clubs, Inc.; Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc., & District IIB

April 28-30, 2010

Location of Course: MSU Radiology Department – Room 110, 184 Service Drive, East Lansing, MI 48824-1376

For HOTEL RESERVATIONS: Contact facilities directly—Holiday Inn Express - ph: 517-349-8700 Comfort Inn - ph: 517-347-6690

MGC President, Lynn Dinvald ♦ Michigan Consultants Council, Mary Pulick ♦ State Landscape Design School Chair, Terry Harding
♦ MGC Local Chairperson, Bev Johnson 1-517-339-9769 ♦ and Chairperson, Kathi Dominguez 1-517-669-5112

Reading List: Book “Stewards of the Land – A Survey of Landscape Architecture and Design in America” and a National Gardener Subscription can be obtained from NGC at 1-800-550-6007 or online at www.gardenclub.org You must have the 3 year subscription to the National Gardener to receive credit for the course.

Please check MGC website for more information

MISSION: To Develop A Greater Appreciation Of The Environment Both Natural And Manmade And To Advance The Fine Art Of Gardening, Landscape Design And The Study Of Horticulture

♦ Wednesday, April 28, 2010

8:15-8:45 Registration/Continental Breakfast
8:45-9:00 Introductions/Announcements
9:00-10:00 Development of Landscape Architecture
From World War II to Present – Ch 26 - Ion
10:00-10:15 Break
10:15-11:15 Community Participation – Organization
& Individual Responsibility – Ch 33 - Mullins
11:15-11:30 Break
11:30-12:30 Herbaceous Materials in the Landscape –
Ch 14 - Myers
12:30-1:15 Lunch
1:15 -2:15 Cottage Garden Design – No Reading - Myers
2:15 – 2:30 Break
2:30-3:30 Contemporary Landscape Design –
Ch 21 - Schutzki
3:30-3:45 Break
3:45 – 4:00 Review

♦ Thursday April 29, 2010

8:15-8:45 Registration/Continental Breakfast
8:45-9:00 Introductions/Announcements
9:00-10:00 Evaluating the Landscape Designs of
Residential, Public, and Business Property
Ch – 31 - Banfield
10:00-12:00 FIELD TRIP – Evaluations - Banfield
12:30-1:15 Lunch
1:15-2:15 Designs for the Future – Ch 36 - Schutzki
2:15-2:30 Break
2:30-3:30 Redesign of Areas – Ch 20 - Schutzki
3:30- 4:00 Review
4:00 – 6:00 TEST (Option #1)

♦ Friday, April 30, 2010

8:30 – 10:00 TEST (Option #2)

♦ Course IV - Instructors

Tim Banfield - Landscape Design & Construction
Bonnie Ion - Landscape Architect
Lori Mullins – East Lansing Department of Planning and
Community Development – Senior Project Manager
Ellyn Myers – Lansing Community College – Instructor
Horticulture and Landscape Architecture
Dr. Robert Schutzki - MSU, Dept of Horticulture



REGISTRATION
Landscape Design School, Series XVIII - Course IV
Registration Deadline—**April 15, 2010**

Name _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____
Garden Club or Organization: _____

I prefer vegetarian lunches - circle Y or N
I need a parking pass - circle Y or N

For New Students: Single Day - \$40.00 Exam Fee \$5.00

Wednesday, April 28, 2010 (lunch included) @\$40.00 _____
Thursday, April 29, 2010 (lunch included) @\$40.00 _____
April 29 or 30, 2010 —Exam Fee @\$ 5.00 _____
Total Enclosed. \$ _____

For Landscape Design Consultant - \$37.50 Refresher Fee \$5.00

Wednesday, April 28, 2010 (lunch included) @\$37.50 _____
Thursday, April 29, 2010 (lunch included) @\$37.50 _____
Refresher Fee @ \$ 5.00 _____
Total Enclosed. \$ _____

Make Checks payable to: **MGC – Landscape Design School**

Note: A \$10.00 processing fee assessed if canceled after registering; no refund after April 15th deadline.

Mail registration form, check and label (from the *National Gardener*) stapled to registration form, to registrar.

REGISTRAR: Anne Wineman
2139 Arbor Meadows Drive
DeWitt, MI 48820-8834
Ph: 517-669-3152
E-mail: winemana@comcast.net

livingcolor fundraiser



OVERVIEW

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

C. Raker & Sons, Inc. (Litchfield, Michigan) is a premier commercial wholesaler of young and finished plants to the horticulture industry. We offer the **living color fundraiser** programs to support our local community and industry.

All plants and flowers are custom-grown to commercial wholesale specifications and delivered directly to your location. In addition to the plants and flowers, **living color fundraiser** provides all necessary promotional and order taking materials. Both shipping and materials are included free.

PROGRAMS

The **living color fundraiser** offers two programs, we support both campaign (order taking) and event (single occasion) types of fundraisers:

Spring Flowers

Start selling bedding flats, color bowls, hanging baskets, herbs & vegetables in March for Mother's Day delivery.

Fall Poinsettias

Start selling Poinsettias in October for Holiday delivery.

CONTACT US

Custom-grown plants and flowers, tailored sales materials, 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) today to register.

SPRING

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



SUMMER

Plan on attending the Raker Trial Gardens, open July 14 - August 31. We are part of the Michigan Garden Plant Tour and offer over three acres of comprehensive trials.



FALL

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

www.livingcolorfundraiser.com

517.542.4536

Environmental Celebration is in the Air!

Jacquelyn Warwick, Arboriculture Chairman

Did you know there is a tie between Arbor Day and Michigan? How? J. Sterling Morton, the founder of Arbor Day, was originally from Detroit but then moved into the Nebraska Territory in 1854. Morton understood the importance of trees and in January 1872, after becoming Secretary of the Nebraska Territory, he proposed a tree planting holiday called "Arbor Day" (Arbor comes from the Latin for tree). Prizes were offered to counties and individuals for properly planting the largest number of trees on that day. It was estimated that more than 1 million trees were planted in Nebraska on that first Arbor Day. In 1885, Arbor Day became a legal holiday in Nebraska and April 22, Morton's birthday, was selected as the date for its permanent observance.

Today, Michigan celebrates Arbor Day on the last Friday in April, which is the most common date for observance although a number of states chose a date that better coincides with the best tree planting weather. Thirty-three other countries also celebrate some form of Arbor Day including our neighbors Canada, with Maple Leaf Day which falls on the last Wednesday in September during National Forest Week and Mexico, which celebrates Dia del Arbol (Day of the Tree) or National Tree Day in July.

Almost 100 years later on April 22, 1970, Earth Day was founded by Senator Gaylord Nelson from Clear Lake, Wisconsin. Earth Day focuses on environmental awareness and should not be confused with another Earth Day called International Earth Day which takes place on the Spring Equinox. Earth Day has become a national event to learn about ecology and what we can do to reduce environmental harm.

Senator Nelson searched to find a way to focus public attention on the environment deciding what was needed was a national scholastic teach-in on the environment. He sent an Earth Day article to all college newspapers explaining the event and one to Scholastic Magazine, which went to most high schools and grade schools. He wrote letters to all 50 governors and the mayors of major cities asking them to issue Earth Day Proclamations. It worked. An estimated twenty million people participated in educational activities and community events demonstrating their interest in the environment.

This has also become a global event with over 500 communities around the world holding town-hall style meetings in the U.S. and international cities (i.e. London, Mumbai and Sydney and by partner organizations in cities such as Rio de Janeiro, Beijing, Tokyo, and Barcelona) involving local citizens, mayors, and community leaders discussing issues of climate change.

With both national events so close together each year, Earth Day 2010, April 22nd and Arbor Day, April 30th, now is the time to get involved in either or both of the celebrations. Suggestions for your garden club becoming involved:

1. Organize an Arbor Day or Earth Day Fair. Make the day fun.
2. Organize a beautification project in a public area.
3. Promote a paper drive for recycling. Use the proceeds to buy a tree for a park or other special public place.
4. Hold a poster/poetry contest.
5. Sponsor a children's play with an environmental theme.
6. Have an Arbor Day or Earth Day concert of songs about trees or with tree names in their titles.
7. Ask people to find large, unusual or historic trees in your community. Publish a map that highlights the winners, or hold a walk showcasing them.
8. Coordinate a tree identification hike with members acting as guides.
9. Dedicate a tree, or a flower bed in a park, and make it an occasion to talk about stewardship. Coordinate with a local nursery or garden center to hold an open house or field day.
10. Encourage neighborhoods to hold block parties and get them to adopt and care for street trees in front of their homes. Pass out buttons. Give away trees.
11. Sponsor a tree trivia contest. Give away trees to winners.

Since suggesting planting/giving trees away, what types of trees are best for Michigan? First, the state tree the Eastern White Pine which grows up to 80 ft. tall is always a good choice. If looking for fast growing hardy trees there is the white dogwood or for shade the Autumn Red Maple or Cleveland Pear Tree. For both flowering and shade you might consider giving the Kwanzan flowering cherry tree. If the community needs to plant a row of evergreens, try the Thuja Giant or Leyland Cypress. They both grow quickly to form a uniform, living green wall. When looking for a fast growing privacy tree, you might consider the Austree that grows up to 6 ft. a year. These are just a few suggestions for adding beauty to your town or neighborhood. Whichever you chose, enjoy the festivities and get your town involved with the celebrations!

Membership Record

What constitutes a membership record in the Michigan Garden Clubs database?

In order to enter a member record, values need to be supplied for the following fields: first name; last name; Post Office Box **OR** Street address; city; state; zip code (9 digit zip +4 is needed); email address; phone number; Street address if PO Box is used for mailing (fieldname=ADDRESSPRIVATE); cell phone number; year member joined club; and mailing preference*.

Members need to submit the information to their clubs; the club treasurers will get the information to the database. As much as possible, business will be done by email to reduce time spent and the expenses of paper and postage. To facilitate this savings, the treasurer's email is the most important address to have correctly entered. Treasurers without email can designate someone else in their club to receive and print emailed documents for them.

Ester Lamb is the new database manager and any member can contact her by email: mgc.database@yahoo.com. If you suspect there is a problem or error in your record or if you did not receive the last newsletter, please let her know!

*Mailing preference codes: M=mailed; N=no mail; S=Spouse, significant other, sister, etc., no mail; R=redundant, sent from another membership record; E=email group membership; D=self serve by download from website.

Ester Lamb, Database Manager
Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.
67101 Sherman Mill Rd., Sturgis, MI 49091
mgc.database@yahoo.com



Calendar continued from page 15

June 2

Michigan Consultants Council tour of Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary, lunch and business meeting in city of White Cloud.
Contact: MCC President Mary Pulick, 734-665-4703/marypulick@gmail.com

June 22

Michigan Flower Show Symposium. June 22 & 23, Holiday Inn, Ann Arbor, MI.
Registrar: Mary Snook, 734-856-5649/
maddgardener@buckeye-express.com

June 26

Spring Lake-Garden Walk. Tri-Cities Garden Club

June 26

Carnegie Garden Club--Paw Paw, 10 am.
Contact: 269-668-3662

June 26

"Grosse Pointe Garden Tour" June 26 & 27, 10 am - 4 pm. Tickets: \$12/\$15 day of walk. Location: Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lake Shore Drive, Grosse Pointe Farms (313) 881-7511 ext. 206. / M25. Contact Ann (810) 679 4610.

Calendar items: March 2010 Thru June 2010

Also check MGC web site for updates

March 2

Burr Oak Garden Club, "Breath of Fresh Air at Our Spring Lecture!" 7 pm, United Methodist Church 105 S. Fourth Street, Burr Oak (corner of 4th and Main). Guest Speaker: Susie Raker Zimmerman, Product Support Specialist, C. Raker and Sons, Inc.

March 4-7

District IV Flower Show, "International Table." Location: The West Michigan Home and Garden Show at DeVos Place, 303 Monroe NW, Grand Rapids, MI. March 4, 1-9 pm, March 5, 10 am-9 pm, March 6 & 7, 10 am - 6 pm. Contact: Dolores Stouwie, 616-949-5828, Jeanne Poll, 616-335-3585

March 16

The DeWitt Millennium Garden Club hosts: Janet Macunavich, will present, "Crafty Continuous Color," 7- 9 pm at Redeemer United Methodist Church, 13980 Schavey Road, DeWitt, MI 48820. Contact: Carol at 517-230-6567.

March 18

"Floral Fantasies, Fairy Tales and Fables" 2010 District IIB Flower Show, MSU Pavilion, Lansing Home and Garden Show, East Lansing. Contact: Kathi Dominguez, 517-669-5112, email.dominguezk@comcast.net

April 7

State Finance/Board 2010 Spring Meeting-Lansing, 11 am, Location: Plymouth Congregational Church, Lansing.

April 8

9 am, Executive Board Meeting Location: Plymouth Congregational Church, Lansing. 10:00am, State Board Meeting - Lansing, Coffee served at 9:30 am, Plymouth Congregational Church, Lansing.

April 15

District I, Spring Meeting, Meeting location & detailed information to follow.

April 19

Gardening Study School Course IV, Midland First United Methodist Church

April 24

District IIA - 2010 Spring Meeting, District IIA President's meeting. More details to follow.

April 28

Landscape Design School - Course IV, April 28-30, District IIB MSU - Radiology Department - 184 Service Road, East Lansing. Contact Bev Johnson at 517-339-9769. Registrar: Anne Wineman at 517-669-5112 or by email at winemana@comcast.net

May 4

Environmental School, Course I, May 4-5, Location: Amigo Centre, 26455 Banker Street Rd. Sturgis. District III, Colon Garden Club. Registrar: Pat Hjertos, 269-496-4815.

May 4

Holland - Tulip Time Flower Show, May 4-7, Holland Garden Club, "Reading in the Garden" Location: Holland Arts council 8th Street. Holland, MI. Entries welcome. Contact: Jeanne Poll, 616-335-3585

May 5

District V, Spring Meeting, The Mason County Garden Club. Experience the Wonder ... Wildflowers of Michigan. Location: Lincoln Hills Golf Club, 1527 N. Lakeshore Dr., Ludington. Contact: Suzanne Townsend 231-757-2565.

May 7

District III - Spring Meeting, Petal Pushers GC will host, "Fun With Flowers" 9 am, Location: Second Reformed Church, 2323 Stadium Dr., Kalamazoo. Contact: Ann Spaeth, 269-375-4851, Carol Beckius, 269-372-6950 cbeckius@chartermi.net

May 8

Blue Star Dedication, Pleasant Ridge Garden Club.

May 11

District VI - Spring Meeting, Host: Mt. Pleasant Federated Garden Club, Location: Doherty Hotel, 604 N. McEwan, Clare, MI

May 11

NGC - 81st Annual Convention "Atlanta Abloom," May 11-16, Atlanta Georgia. Reservations prior to April 10, 2010.

May 15

Niles - Plant Sale. The Four Flags and The Niles Garden Club, 8:30-12:30 pm, Niles Riverfront Park. Contact: Elva 269-683-6015 or Elaine at 269-683-5292.

May 19

District IV, Spring Meeting Host: Fremont Garden Club. Location: Dogwood Center for the Performing Arts, 4734 South Sampus Court, Fremont.

May 21

Okemos - Plant Sale. 9 am - 2 pm. Meridian Garden Club, Central Park Farmers Market Pavilion, North of Meridian Mall, Okemos <http://meridiangardenclub.org>

May 22

Saugatuck, Douglas - Plant Sale. Location: Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver Street, 9 am - 2 pm. Contact: Katherine Economos 269-857-1248.

May 24

National Blue Star Dedication Battle Creek. Please plan to attend this historic dedication ceremony on 4:00 PM, at FORT CUSTER NATIONAL CEMETERY, 15501 Dickman Road, Augusta, MI 49012; ph: (269) 731-4164. See convention notice in this issue: "Seeds of Tomorrow." Contact: Jeanette Foster 517-645-2208 or Julie Partee 517-675-5735.


May 25

"Seeds of Tomorrow," 79th MGC State Convention. McCamly Plaza Hotel, 50 Capital Avenue Southwest, Battle Creek, Registrar: Pam Dewey 269-671-5211

May 29

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

June dates continued on page 14



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Legislative Update

Important Federal Legislation to Protect Our Waters

Anne Wiseman, Legislative Chairman

A series of important WATER related bills before the U.S. Senate merit our attention following on four years' work by interest groups representing industry, agriculture, the environment and public health. The Great Lakes Legacy Act is proving to be a very effective tool for cleaning up the Great Lakes.

- ◆ S. 787 The Clean Water Restoration Act would strengthen protection for rivers, streams and wetlands which had been protected under the Clean Water Act of 1972 that had been weakened by several. Supreme Court decisions—The following three water-related bills were passed by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and will be voted on by the full Senate.
- ◆ S. 878 The Clean Coastal Environment and Public Health Act requires rigorous beach water quality testing and timely public notification of beach closure. The bill also includes pollution source tracking and prevention efforts to avoid closures. Good news for beach goers around Bay City.
- ◆ S. 933 Contaminated Sediment Remediation Reauthorization Act (Great Lakes Legacy Act), which would increase funding for cleanup of Great lakes by threefold.
- ◆ S. 937 The Sewage Overflow and Right to Know Act - Communities have to be notified within 24 hours of an overflow discharge into local waterways to prevent illness from untreated sewage.

Look for information on new legislation about electric utilities on the website.

