

# Thru The Garden Gate



The official publication of Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.  
Member of Central Region and National Garden Clubs, Inc.  
[www.michigangardenclubs.org](http://www.michigangardenclubs.org)



## A HOP, SKIP & A JUMP INTO A CHILDREN'S GARDEN TOUR:

By Gabriele Blackledge, Kent Garden Club, 1<sup>st</sup> VP and Garden Tour Chair

*Why a child-themed garden tour?*

**I**t's fun – what's more entertaining than creating themes and crafts? **I**t's unique – the media and the public become aware of your club in a positive way. **I**t's inspirational – watching children and families enjoy the gardens is a lasting memory.

1) PLAN YOUR TOUR COMMITTEE (S): Kent Garden Club's Planning Committee consisted of three members whose responsibilities were divided as such: Planning and Implementation, Advertising and Sponsorships, and Creative Activities and Volunteer Coordination. Subcommittees consisted of: Refreshments, Crafts, and Sponsor Solicitation.

2) PLAN YOUR THEME (S): KGC chose four themes, knowing some would appeal to girls and some to boys:

- a. "Fairy Tale Tea Party" featured herbs and edible plants
- b. "Bugs, Slugs 'n Thugs" featured garden pests and invasive plants
- c. "Busy Bees, Birds & Butterflies" featured beneficial insects and animals
- d. "Eat Your Veggies!" featured raised vegetable beds and composting.

Our highest attendance was the Fairy Tale Tea Party, which appealed to little girls, their mothers, and grandmothers.

Themes are only limited by your imagination! Other possibilities might include books, movies, games, flower families, seasons. But be cautious of copyright issues.



3) PLAN YOUR DATE (S): KGC chose a tour consisting of one day a week for four consecutive weeks, with a plan to make the tours independent of each other since the themes were not related. The committee decided upon Fridays, so as not to interfere with weekend family time. Each ticket was only for that day's event, although we listed the upcoming dates. We opted not to do more than one tour per day in consideration of a child's attention span. The timing was also beneficial for club members who planned to be out of town on summer weekends. Your dates may be conditional upon other activities in your community.

*Continued on page 8*

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**O**ur 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.

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

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1504 Ave A., Webster Groves, MO 63119-  
5220, email: [tolewg@yahoo.com](mailto:tolewg@yahoo.com)

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Theme: "The Future is Now"



## A note from Lynn

### (Seasons) Greetings readers!

**D**o you agree that nature's color palette this fall was outstanding? By the time you read this note, our gardens will have been put to rest and another Michigan winter will have arrived. Just by looking at the MGC's calendar of events, it tells us our garden clubs are participating in their annual holiday greens sales, workshops and home tours which bring the spirit of the holidays to all.

My travels have taken me to all seven districts this Fall, I wanted to thank each District Director and garden club members for contributing to a project that is obviously close to all of us. The Memorial Garden at the Center for Families of the Fallen is a project of the

Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs and endorsed by National Garden Clubs, Inc. The Memorial is located at the Dover Air Force Base. Your response and contributions have been heartwarming. Additional information can be found on page 6 of this newsletter.

Unlike our gardens the MGC Board of Directors is never at rest. Sherry Kalina and Loraine Reese have stepped forward to be our Co-Chairmen of our MGC State Convention in Midland, June 9-11 at The "H" Hotel formerly known as Ashman Court Hotel. Save this date and plan to attend.

Michigan Garden Clubs is proud to announce the Central Region Convention will be held in Michigan at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids on October 2-4, 2011. Florence Smith was elected as our Central Region Director and Sharon Yantis, Central Region Alternate. When you see them please offer your congratulations.

Did you know? The Central Region is comprised of seven states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri and Wisconsin. A Regional Director and an Alternate Director are elected by the governing body of the state on a rotation basis from these seven states for a two-year term coinciding with the National President's term.

In conjunction with our Central Region Convention, a Tri-Refresher is being planned for Environmental Studies, Gardening Study and Landscape Design Consultants. If you wish to refresh in any of the above mentioned schools, this Tri-Refresher is for you! Details regarding these events will be coming soon.

While attending the National Fall Board Meeting in Great Falls, Montana, a number of items were brought to our attention for future planning. The subject of simplifying the NGC Flower Show Handbook, the cost involved with printing the "Vision of Beauty" calendars and the methods each state uses for maintaining NGC/MGC School Consultants records. It was also reported that there are more than 2200 Blue Star Memorial Markers throughout the United States with 51 being dedicated in Michigan.

This President was proud to accept Award #5 Celebrating Central Region Talents in "Vision of Beauty" 2011 Calendar published by NGC, Inc. Designers featured are as follows: Jane Covington, Jan Dolan, Pauline Flynn, Della Haden, Jean Moran and Sally Oulette. Please accept our thanks for sharing your creative talents as designers and for representing MGC.

Enjoy this issue of our state publication. We have outstanding contributors who have outdone themselves. Read from cover to cover and for more information visit our web site at [www.michigangardenclubs.org](http://www.michigangardenclubs.org)

Our wish for each member is that the holidays are comforting and reassuring with strong ties to cherished traditions. Always remember to forget the troubles that pass your way; but never forget the blessings that come each day.

Enjoy our winter wonderland.  
Lynn Dinvald, President

## “MARK YOUR HOLIDAY CALENDAR”

### “ALL THE TRIMMINGS” Holland Garden Club Holiday Event

December 2, 2010 12 pm — 5 pm

First Reformed Church, 630 State Street,  
Holland, Michigan

No Admission For information call (616) 399-0652.

Sparkling trees and holiday greens trimming mantles and entryways will be the centerpieces of the Holland Garden Club's Holiday Event on Thursday, December 2, at First Reformed Church, 630 State Street from 12 pm to 5 pm. A Christmas Gift and Design Shop and an outdoor Greens Market are included in the day's fare.

Swags and fresh green centerpieces are a few of the Christmas treasures that may be purchased in The Design Shop. Participants are invited to bring their own containers to The Design Shop to be filled. A Gardener's Gift Shop will offer books, gloves, clippers and more. The Greens Market will include greens, wreaths and roping for sale.

In addition to a festive sampling of Christmas decorating ideas, two beautifully decorated Christmas trees will be auctioned, delivered to the winner's homes and set up by garden club members.

*Proceeds from this event will benefit Holland Garden Club projects in the Holland community.*



**“SANTAS FROM AROUND THE WORLD”**  
Holiday Greens & Gifts Sale—Kalamazoo Garden Council, Inc.  
Location: Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds  
2900 Lake St., Kalamazoo, MI

- ◆ Fri. Dec. 3, 9:00 am – 7:00 pm (5:00pm, Wreath and Swag Workshop. Cost \$20.00)
- ◆ Sat. Dec. 4, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm (A workshop for Children, 10:00am to 2:00pm. Cost \$3.00 per child)

*A nonprofit organization composed of 12 Garden Clubs*

## 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

## “CLUBS ON THE GROW”

### Michiana Landscape Study Club (District III)

Michiana Landscape Study Group was founded in 1991 with 11 members. Study Group implying the major purpose was to study. Ten years later members chose to change Group to Club. Membership includes Southern Michigan and Northern Indiana. Landscape Design School is encouraged, but not mandatory. Currently there are 26 members.

Members and guest speakers share their expertise on nomenclature, iris, day lilies, wild flowers, vegetable gardening, rain gardening, etc. Meetings are held at members' homes or at the Niles Chamber of Commerce of which they are members. Or we go on guided tours of nature centers, both wholesale and retail nurseries, county parks, garden tours, there are endless places to explore. This year the club had the privilege of having State President Lynn Dinvald, District III Director Carol Beckius and Loda Lake Chairman Karen Motawi as honored guests. Karen gave a program on our President's Project, Loda Lake. The program has members planning a trip there next spring.

An annual in-club plant auction is the only fund raiser. A learning experience in itself as members give helpful hints on how to grow their offerings. The club supports Dollars for Scholars and World Gardening and this year Loda Lake.

### Blue Water Garden Club (District VI)

This is the Club's 30th year in existence and 29th year of being Federated. We will be spending the year celebrating our history and planning our future. Part of our celebration will include a party for friends and members of BWGC. Each member will be honored with a gift recognizing their involvement in the Club's success.

## World Gardening

*Chis Rochman, Chairman*

The new school year has started in Belize, C.A. and our high school scholarship recipients are enrolled and are most grateful.

A BIG thank you to the following clubs for their donation to our work:

- ◆ Across The Fence Post Garden Club
- ◆ Sweetwater Evening Garden Club
- ◆ Yard & Garden Club of Flint
- ◆ Evening Bloomers Gardening Club
- ◆ InterCity Council of MBG in Lansing Area
- ◆ Juniper Garden Club
- ◆ The Little Garden Club of Midland
- ◆ The Petal Pushers Garden Club



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## Scholarship & Donations

*Nancy McGilliard, Scholarships*

### Scholarships

Thank you to Michigan Garden Clubs who donated to Scholarships this quarter.

September 30, 2010

#### ◆ DONATIONS \$2525

North Farmington GC  
Caro GC  
Across The Fence Post GC  
DeWitt Millennium GC  
The Village GC  
Tri Cities GC  
Garden Club of Pentwater  
Blue Water GC  
Intercity GC Council of Lansing area  
Sturgis GC

#### ◆ MEMORIALS \$150

Louise Lancaster from Farmington GC  
Albert Britts from Farmington GC  
William Lowrey from Grosse Ile GC  
Jeanne Maxwell from Grosse Ile GC

MGC Scholarship program depends on club's and individual's contributions to sustain our support of students. Please send your donations to Nancy McGilliard 2339 Sapphire Lane East Lansing, MI 48823

### Donations to Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary

#### We're closer, but we could come even closer with your help!

When I visit Loda Lake, it reminds me of the wisdom and the foresight of those garden club members in 1937 that worked to set aside this property so that future generations, as Lyndon Johnson once wrote "can see the world as God made it." Their goal is to raise \$20,000 and we still have a ways to go. Please consider donating any amount, large or small, to this worthwhile project. Make checks payable to Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc., c/o Lynn Dinvald, 6802 Springbrook Lane, Kalamazoo, MI 49004-9665.

We have received many wonderful contributions that will benefit the Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary and we have the following MGC garden clubs to thank for their generous donations:

Livonia Garden Club	Grow and Show Garden Club
District III, by Carol Beckius	Holland Garden Club
Seed and Sod Garden Club	Fremont Garden Club
Burr Oak Garden Club	Across the Fence Post Garden Club
Garden Club of Pentwater	Dewitt Millennium Garden Club
Edwina Surdyk-Mitz Trust	Eaton Rapids Home & Garden Club
Mason County Garden Club	Westwood Garden Club
District IV, by Deannie Picciotti	Petal Pushers Garden Club
Kent Garden Club	Tri Cities Garden Club
Big Rapids Garden Club	
Inter City Council of MGC (Lansing Area Garden Clubs)	

Through their generosity our new total is \$2,659.41 for club donations as of October 28, 2010. This does not include MGC Spirit Ware merchandise sales. The final total will be reported at the end of my term.

Thanks to all clubs who have contributed to MGC, Inc. President's Project in support of Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary and their wish to provide an educational pavilion. Your gift will be remembered for years to come by MGC, Inc. and Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary visitors.

With my thanks,  
Lynn Dinvald, President  
Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.

*Donations continued on page 6*

## livingcolor fundraiser

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Campaign registration ends March 11, 2011. In addition to plants and flowers, we supply custom selling kits for your Garden Club.

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register your Garden  
Club.

## YOU ARE INVITED!

Remember to attend the 2011 Raker Trial Gardens, open July 13 - August 26. And the 2011 Mum Trials, open September 19-23.

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[www.livingcolorfundraiser.com](http://www.livingcolorfundraiser.com)

**517.542.4536**

## Supporting the Families of our Armed Forces

At the NGC Convention in Atlanta, GA, the President of the Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs, touched the hearts of many of us who attended.

Delaware is home to the nation's only state side military mortuary located at Dover Air Force Base. Every single military casualty, no matter what the rank, branch of service, or manner of death - is transported to Dover and prepared for burial.

There is a building on the base named the "Center for the Families of the Fallen" and is being used by the families who come to Dover to receive the bodies of their loved ones. The Delaware Federation is planning to design and plant a memorial garden as a project for the center. Delaware consists of 28 clubs, 900 individual members. The project is estimated to cost \$125,000 and is endorsed by the National Garden Clubs, Inc.

We've all been touched deeply by the loss of a loved one or a friend's loved one who gave their lives for the freedoms we enjoy today.

If your garden club would like to make a donation **please make a check payable to the Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. and mail to:**

**Lynn Dinvald, President, MGC, Inc.  
6802 Springbrook Lane  
Kalamazoo, MI 49004-9665**

In the memo line on your check, place "**Dover AFB/Delaware.**"

As we have traveled throughout Michigan to the fall district meetings, each District Director expressed a willingness to share in this project and a basket was passed among those attending.

Thank you to all the District Director's, District Garden Clubs and in individuals who have donated to the Memorial Garden for the Fallen. As of November 1, 2010 a total of \$5,293.25 has been contributed in support the "*Memorial Garden for the Fallen.*"

### Donors:

District I, Members & Virginia Froehlich	Belinda Laughlin
District IIA, Members & Margaret Jahnke	Carol Erickson
District IIB, Members & Kathi Dominquez	Carol Sue Brodbeck
District III, Members & Carol Beckius	Sally J. Jaynes
District IV, Members & Deannie Picciotti	Kathy Landeck
District V, Members & Sandy Bodenbender	Laura A Foess-Wood
District VI, Members & Pat Wilber	Pamela Dewey
Grosse Ile Garden Club	Katherine (Kit) Gunn
Neighborhood Garden Club	Becki Jaeger
DeWitt Millennium Garden Club	Harriet Wild
Portage Lake Garden Club	Niki Ann Haddix
Dundee Diggers Garden Club in memory of Gerry Missler	Mary Jean Leugers
Great Lakes Gardeners	Bev Johnson
Livonia Garden Club	Kathryn Koryba
Grosse Pointe Garden Club	Maryanna Foster
Farmington Garden Club	Suzanne Dudley
Hill and Dale Garden Club	Lillian Van Houten
Chula Vista Garden Club	Bette Henderson
Green Thumb Garden Club	Sharon Yantis
Garden Club of Pentwater	Lakeshore Garden Club of Lexington
Evening Bloomers Garden Club	Gardeners of Northville/Novi
Bulb and Blossom Garden Club	Canadian Lakes Garden Club

With each contribution you will receive a letter of appreciation from me as your state president for your kind donation to this heartwarming project to honor our Armed Forces and the families who have given the ultimate sacrifice - their loved ones.

One check will be sent to the Delaware Federated Garden Clubs from MGC, Inc. by May 15, 2011 with a list of the Districts and Garden Clubs who have made donations.

With my heartfelt thanks,  
Lynn Dinvald, President, MGC, Inc.

## Landscaping for Environmental Diversity



As you consider modification of your landscape for restoration or improvement, why not consider adding natural features that will improve your environment through diversification. A more diverse habitat encourages a greater range of animal life which helps to restore the balance of nature which originally existed in Michigan in the past.

Our yard in Farmington Hills has been a natural setting for more than thirty years. A broad range of natural plantings has

encouraged a greater abundance of wildlife which has enriched our lives. We seldom use pesticides preferring to use other methods of pest control such as water sprays, insect predators and the encouragement of other wildlife that help to maintain the balance of nature.

Our property is certified as an Urban Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation because we provide the four basic needs of wildlife: habitat for cover, a place to raise young, plants that provide food, and a source of water throughout the year. This can be accomplished in most yards with just a few changes.

Of particular interest is what happens in an environment when grass is not a dominant feature.

We have little grass, with most walking surfaces in ground covers, wood chips, stone, and wildflowers. Almost every bit of ground is covered with plants that have come and selected an area that is suited to their needs in our semi-wooded property. Plants that are in abundance are easily removed. Surprisingly few “weeds” make their way onto our property.

Throughout the growing season, many wildflowers and other native plants germinate in our yard, particularly in our stone driveway and we trade them for plants that we do not have on the property. These include ground covers and many native wildflowers.



A number of interesting plant species are found including Michigan spice bush and milkweed the host plants of two species of butterflies. Sassafras, once used in making root beer, mole plant, the Scarlet Pimpernel, and many varieties of nut trees including hickory, beech, and black walnut inhabit the property. These are appreciated by the seven species and sub-species of squirrels found here.

The property is part of a glacial moraine and we feature a fine specimen of glacial coral from an ancient seabed. Native Americans once roamed these woods as there have been springs and artesian wells in the sub-division. ,

During the years we have identified over 100 species of birds, as well as ground hogs, fox, rabbit, coyote, deer, snakes, toads, salamanders, hawks and owls. Other residents claim they have seen bobcats as well. It is exciting thinking of the wildlife possibilities in our city.

All in all, our habitat has been a refuge from the high intensity life we lead. A new look at your landscaping may be in order as you contemplate and plan for the coming growing season.

*David Sharpe is a retired teacher, master gardener, and founder of Finlandia Gardens in Farmington Hills, Michigan.*

## MSU Trial Gardens Plan a Visit In 2011

*Judy DeJaeger, Horticulture Chair*

One of my favorite garden visits is the Michigan State University Horticulture Gardens. And the trial gardens are always a part of your tour. If you've been there before or not, you can always count on an uplifting experience with happy flowers all around.



Michigan State University was first selected as a site for the All America Selections trials in 1978. Funding support comes mostly from plant breeding companies, Western Michigan Greenhouse Growers and garden-sponsored events. In 2010, there were 405 entries including seed-propagated flowering or foliage plants, plants from cuttings and tissue culture, vegetables and Michigan native plants. The purpose of the trial gardens is to grow and evaluate new (and sometimes old) species and cultivars of a wide range of plants under our mid-Michigan climatic conditions.

Staff and students evaluate performance of each plant in the trials on vigor, uniformity and ornamental value – flowers and/or foliage, depending on the plant. Susceptibility to diseases and insects and tolerance to changes in climatic conditions are noted. A summary of this evaluation information are published as a booklet for the participating companies and posted on the web for professionals and the general gardening public. In the past, the primary focus of the trial gardens was annual and tender perennial plants grown for a single season. Recently, vegetables, herbaceous perennials and even native plants have been included. These new additions were included to expand to an even larger gardening audience.

Go right now and put a reminder on your calendars to make a date to visit these gardens with some neighbors or friends or family. For a fee of \$3 per adult, it can be a guided tour for a group. Here's the website for all the information:



<http://trialgardens.hrt.msu.edu/>

## National Garden Club



Adrienne Langan

Help Membership Bloom!  
Contest Update

National Garden Clubs, Inc., continues its Membership Contest with a fabulous new award and a new deadline: June 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011.

Disappointed that your state did not win the honor of naming that beautiful new Daylily? Well, you have a chance to claim victory by participating in this new contest where the state with the greatest number of new clubs will have the honor of naming a magnificent new variety of African violet.

This African violet, grown by Lyndon-Lyon Greenhouses, Inc., is a semi-miniature variety with single/semi double pansy shaped blooms of white with a distinct wavy green edge and light purple highlights randomly scattered about the flower face. Wavy medium green foliage enhances the striking blooms.

HELP MEMBERSHIP BLOOM by creating new clubs in your state, and proudly compete to have this beautiful African violet bear your state's name!



Congratulations to North Dakota winner of the 2009-2010 Membership Contest whose members chose NORTH DAKOTA SUNRISE as the name of this spectacular new daylily cultivar! Instructions for ordering this beautiful Daylily will be sent to all states, and order forms will be available at Fall Board.

## Hop, Skip & A Jump *cont. from page 1*

4) **PLAN YOUR HOST GARDEN (S):** Since the tours were themed toward children, the gardens were not required to be in perfect condition. Your club may find it easier to solicit host gardens for this type of event. Unlike a traditional garden tour which emphasizes garden design and botanical nomenclature, this tour was meant to teach families that gardening can be combined with interactive activities to make it fun and interesting; not intimidating and laborious.



5) **PLAN YOUR ACTIVITIES:** At each location we offered a story-book reader and two crafts that were themed to the location. Refreshments of lemonade & cookies were offered and docents guided families through the gardens and answered questions.

6) **PLAN YOUR TOUR VOLUNTEERS:** Due to the extensive nature of the event, this was an all member participation tour. Club members volunteered or were assigned to a Prep Team, a Tour Team, a Refreshment Team or all of the above! Days were broken up into shifts.

7) **SOLICIT YOUR SPONSORS:** Consider businesses that derive income from children: clothing stores, fast-food and family-style restaurants, bicycle shops, bookstores, and other theme-related stores (i.e. bird-watching), along with traditional garden shops, nurseries and landscapers. KGC offered differing levels of sponsorship with some printed on the ticket and featured on the web site.

8) **SOLICIT YOUR MEDIA:** Assign one person to be the contact person for your club. She/he should start contacting print and electronic media up to three months prior to the event. We found with the unique nature of the tour, and since it would appeal to children, that media resources were more open to cover it. Keep media informed and offer to walk them through one of the gardens ahead of time. "A picture is worth a thousand words."

9) **PLAN FOR THE WEATHER:** Consider accommodations for heat, wind, sun and rain for both your visitors and your volunteers.

10) **PLAN YOUR 'AFTERGLO' PARTY:** You will have earned it!



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### Stormy Weather! Don't know why there's no sun up in the sky!

No matter what kind of weather we have in Michigan the Blue Stars will be dedicated to honor and pay tribute to our Armed Forces. The community will be involved and the ceremony will be long remembered, with the Blue Star standing to remind us for many years to come.

Those organizing the Blue Star Ceremonies have had to face specific weather challenges: heavy rains, flooding and even winds of 72MPH! Some of these happened at four out of the seven Blue Stars in 2010. But we Michigan Garden Club members are a tough, resourceful group! We are organized, accepting of unforeseen conditions and flexible. Besides, we all LOVE the rain! My motto is to prepare for the best, but have a backup plan to make it all happen. Sometimes the backup plan lends itself to the good memory of the occasion!



Sturgis Garden Club

We want to maximize our MGC Resources at these Blue Star Ceremonies, so I ask you to PULLPLEASE check with the Blue Star Calendar (that's me) before you schedule your event. We want to avoid double scheduling.

Contact me for further information;

Lorrie Dyal, Mi. Blue Star Chairman 1205 Heirloom View  
Okemos, MI 48864  
Cell: 517-282-3671 e-mail: [JDyal8@gmail.com](mailto:JDyal8@gmail.com)

### Ma-Me-Ne-Sewong Garden Club

Inspired by Ma-Me-Ne-Sewong's centenarian member Peg Simmons, a Blue Star By-way Marker was dedicated September 11, 2010 in Traverse City at the Grand Traverse Pavilions.

Home to over fifty veterans, the Pavilions was chosen so that these veterans will have a memorial to visit right on their own grounds. Presentations were made by Michigan Garden Clubs President Lynn Dinvald, District V Director Sandy Bodenbender and Ma-Me-Ne-Sewong President Jo Marie Marks. Originally planned to be held outdoors the unveiling of the monument and gardens was delayed to a later date due to a downpour that continued all day. Instead the dedication was held indoors with more



than 100 people in attendance. Local Boy Scouts presented the flag followed by an Invocation by The Rev. Edwin Thome. Larry Winger sang God Bless America and the program started and ended with the Sweet Adeline's Sashay Quartet. Mark Griner, Sr. Vice Commander of the American Legion addressed the veterans and Patti DeAgostino, Development and Marketing Director of the Grand Traverse Pavilions accepted the National Blue Star Memorial plaque on behalf of the Pavilions. Taps was performed by Korean veteran Al Ockert. Refreshments were served by the Pavilions personnel in the adjoining dining areas. The memorial and the gardens surrounding it will be maintained by the members of Ma-Me-Ne-Sewong Garden Club of Long Lake Township, Traverse City.



## Winter Comes to the Gardens

Suddenly we realize winter is coming.

Leaves plummet to the ground.

Frost coats the apartment roofs

And geese begin their migration,

Stopping by for a last feeding.

Holiday displays remind us of winter solstice

And the feelings of love and loss

So prominent at this time of year.

A gardener takes a break for a time

Until the lengthening days of the new year

Bring anticipation of a new spring

Just around the corner.

*by David Sharpe*



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### LIGHTSCAPING YOUR HOME - A BRIGHT IDEA

Is it time for you to update the "lightscape" of your home - it is as easy as changing a light bulb. Lighting is approximately 20 percent of the average household's energy bill and replacing standard lighting sources for more environmentally friendly options can cut the electric bill dramatically.

When it comes to lighting in the home, many still gravitate toward the standard incandescent bulb. However, incandescents are a major culprit for high home-energy bills which is why, in an effort to go green in the United States, the Federal Government enacted the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA), which will, in effect, phase out traditional incandescent bulbs in favor of more efficient lighting products in the near future. Consumers will no longer be able to purchase the traditional incandescent in a few years.

While consumers want to be more environmentally conscious when it come to lighting, there's a hesitation to let go of the popular features of the incandescent bulb, such as its recognizable shape, light quality, ability to dim and affordable price.

There are many new products on the market that save you energy, look like a traditional bulb, is dimmable and provides instant-on, bright white light. Many can be used in track and recessed fixtures, as well as functional lighting. You can find many of these new bulbs in your local hardware or big box store. Every year the supply and quality improves.

Making the switch to energy-efficient lighting is only the first step in "greening" the lighting in your home. You also can help save and conserve by teaching your family simple energy-saving habits, such as:

- ◆ Turning off all lighting when leaving a room, especially during the day.
- ◆ Utilizing task lighting versus turning on all overhead lighting when only focused lighting is needed, such a reading in bed.
- ◆ Installing timers on outdoor lighting, so lights are on only when needed.

*It is easier than you think to turn energy savings into a bright idea!*



#### SPIRIT WEAR MERCHANDISE



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

The link: [www.michigangardenclubs.org](http://www.michigangardenclubs.org) will take you to the MGC, Inc. Store where you can purchase MGC, Inc. Logo Merchandise. We have gone out of our way to insure that these are quality items. Samples available for viewing and purchase at the District Meetings.

## MGC Study School Schedule for 2011-2013

### Environmental School

Currently running in Sturgis, MI  
Course III, May 3-4, 2011  
Course IV, October 11-12, 2011

### Flower Show School

Scheduled in Okemos, MI  
Course I, August 9-11, 2011  
Course II, April 24-26, 2012  
Course III, September 18-20, 2012  
Course IV, May 14-16, 2013

### Gardening Study School

Check website for NGC for info

### Landscape Design School

Scheduled in District V 2011

## Your District Directors

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As in most of the state the area around Loda Lake was purchased from the Indians by the US government. A settler by the name of William Utley first claimed the land from the State of Michigan in 1853. The land was bought and sold several times by timber speculators until it came into the hands of the West Michigan Lumber Company in 1880. After the timber was cut land speculators came along and through various transactions the area around the lake came into the hands of a wealthy Chicago stockbroker named Frederick Hanson.

Mr. Hanson liked to hunt but otherwise felt that the land was worthless. When he expressed this opinion to a Chicago acquaintance, Thomas Hunt, Mr. Hunt claimed that any land could be farmed if one used the proper scientific farming methods. At the time Hunt was working for the Steger Piano Company in Steger, Illinois. However, he was apparently becoming bored with his situation and had made a trip up to Alberta, Canada, to check out the possibility of homesteading there.

He and Mr. Hanson struck a deal and Bass Lake Farm was created. Mr. Hanson agreed to finance the creation of the farm, including the building of a house, barns and several utility buildings. In 1910 Hunt moved his wife and two young sons to Newaygo County, boarding with a nearby family until the house could be built. He had to first remove the stumps from the fields. This was an arduous task involving a team of oxen and a windlass. Hunt grew navy beans which put nitrogen back into the soil, corn, millet, alfalfa and oats. He also established peach and apple orchards and kept a flock of sheep.

Hunt had the first ice cream maker in the area and had installed “new-fangled” lightning rods on the barn. A number of years later the barn was moved to a neighbor’s farm. The neighbor left off the lightning rods and shortly thereafter the barn was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. Under Hunt’s careful management, the farm was profitable in an area where most of the neighboring farmers lived hand to mouth.

Mrs. Hunt suffered a great deal from allergies and the family moved on in 1916. After that a series of tenants managed the farm but none were as successful and the land was declared unfit for agriculture and sold to the US Forest Service in 1937.



The foundations of the farm buildings still remain and are marked with signs. If you visit the sanctuary, also look in the farm field area for the large signboard created by Deb Ditlow, daughter-in-law of one of the last residents of the farm house, highlighting the history of the area.

# TRAVEL BY TRAIN TO SIX FLORAL ATTRACTIONS.

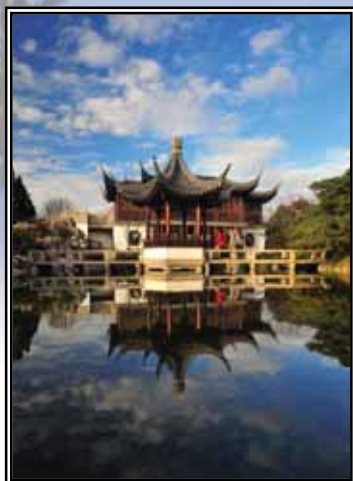
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to  
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**A** Garden can be large, small, narrow, fit into a small space. By careful use of space, regardless of size, a garden can be special.

If challenged with a long narrow space, there are ways to give it an attractive appearance. Use trailing, narrow or climbing plants, use a flagstone walk to slow down visitors coming to your door. A wall hung water fountain will give those coming to your home a feeling of relaxation.

Space for only a small garden can be a real challenge. By the careful placement of outdoor furniture, and pots of summer flowers, the result conveys a welcome feeling. Bright yellow daylilies, narrow trees and vertical vines will help to create a feeling of space.

A Garden for Cutting is a real joy. Suggestions for planting include- Daylilies, Delphinium, Coreopsis, Dahlia, Larkspur, Snapdragon, Stock and Statice. Interesting trees and shrubs to include in the cutting garden - White Pine, Dogwood, Holly, Boxwood.

A Family Garden that meets the needs of a family is a real challenge. Many different interests can be met by careful planning, A small herb garden for Mom, a large play area for children, a flower or vegetable garden for the entire family to enjoy.

Regardless of size, a small garden can be enjoyed by everyone.



**NEW MEMBER IN YOUR CLUB?**

*Ester Lamb, MGC Database Manager*

To add a new member, this information is needed:

- NAME
- MAILING ADDRESS
- CITY
- STATE
- ZIP+4 (9 digit zip code)
- EMAIL ADDRESS
- PHONE NUMBER
- YEAR (what year did member join your club)
- MAIL PREFERENCE (see below for codes)

**MAIL** (Method by which the newsletter is to be delivered to the member; select one of the following: **M**=US Mail, **N**=None, **S**=Spouse, Significant other, or Second in household no mail, **E**=Email group membership, **D**=self-serve Download from website)

Send this information, with a check for dues to the MGC Treasurer, Pam Dewey. The Treasurer will forward the information to me, Ester Lamb, MGC Database Manager.

**Roster Requests:** If your club would like a copy of your roster for this year, please have an officer send an email with request to [mgc.database@yahoo.com](mailto:mgc.database@yahoo.com). Be sure to include your name, your office, your club name and number. Updated rosters will be sent out after the first of November.

**Membership Mailing Memo:** Someone in your club not getting a newsletter? If your club sent in roster information without specifying a mailing preference, all those with email addresses were set to email delivery. If no email address was available, members with 9 digit zip codes were set to US Mail delivery. If your club sent in a member's information without the Zip+4 code and there was no email address or there was a request for the newsletter by US Mail, the mailing can not start until after all roster processing is done for this year and the Database Manager has time to look up the missing zip codes. (In order to include as many new members as possible, these zipcodes cannot be looked up in the process of entering rosters.) If members want to change their newsletter delivery preferences, please inform your club officers.

Thank you for your patience.

## Calendar items: December 2010 thru May 2011

Also check MGC, Inc. web site for updates

### December 2, 2010

Holland - Greens Market  
Holland Garden Club is hosting an event called "All the Trimmings" Dec. 2, 2010 from 12 pm-5 pm, First Reformed Church, 630 State Street, Holland. There will be an auction: "For the Birds" is a tree for outside designed by Rose Albers and her team and "Fire & Ice" is a tree designed by Lynne Frey and Anne DuMez (both tree's will be taken down, delivered to the winners home and put back up), a door swag designed by Judy Nykamp and a topiary designed by Judy Nykamp all auctioned for lucky winners. We have ready-made designs; a Greens Market with wreathes, roping, swags and bundles of greens.

### December 3, 2010

Kalamazoo Garden Council Holiday Greens and Gifts Sale. Kalamazoo Expo Center & Fairground, Room E, 2900 Lake St., Kalamazoo. Friday, Dec. 3, 9 am -7 pm, Saturday, Dec. 4, 9 am -5 pm. Fresh wreathes, roping, centerpieces, gifts, custom designs, workshops and more. Free admission.  
Contact: Mary VanTassel 269-375-1708

### December 4, 2010

Cadillac - Holiday Home Tour. Saturday, December 4, 2010, 11:00 am to 4:00 pm  
\$10.00 advance tickets, \$15.00 day of tour.  
Contact 231-510-9047 for ticket purchase.

### December 4, 2010

Four Flags Garden Club of Niles - 19th Annual Hometown Christmas Event-4:30-6 pm, Niles Historic Depot, 600 Dey Street (off North Fifth Street). Holiday decorations, visit with Santa, homemade goodies, entertainment and official lighting of the Depot outside lights at 6 pm.  
Contact—Karen 269-684-2022

### December 4, 2010

Garden Club of Greater Lansing's Annual Holiday Greens Market. Delta Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Freshly made wreathes (12" & 16"—36" available by special order) and swags, western greens and fresh cedar garland, centerpieces and other fresh arrangements, boxwood trees and kissing balls. Supplies for handmade decorations and bows made to order. Pre-orders and custom orders due by November 15. Contact Joanne 323-0264 or Nancy 333-3313.

### December 4, 2010

Livonia Garden Club's Annual Fresh Greens Workshop, Saturday, December 4, 9:30 am-noon. Livonia Senior Center (Five Mile and Farmington Road) in Livonia. Cost is \$24.00 to make a traditional centerpiece using fresh greens and candles. Registration is due by Nov. 1. To register, send check for \$24 to Diane Bergendahl, 7841 Oak Knoll Drive, Northville, MI 48168. No refund after Nov.1 as supplies will be purchased at that time.

### December 5, 2010

"Deck the Homes with Quilts" Tour. 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Advance Tickets—\$8/ day of the tour—\$10. Thorndale Garden Club is co-sponsor of this event with the GFWC-Hastings Women's Club. The proceeds benefit the scholarships from each club.

### April 6 & 7, 2011

State Finance/Board 2011 Spring Meeting-Lansing

April 6, 1:00 pm, Finance Meeting  
April 7, 9:00 am, Executive Committee Meeting  
April 7, 10:00 am, State Board Meeting,  
*Coffee served at 9:30 am*

Location: Plymouth Congregational Church, Lansing.

### April 9, 2011

District IIA 2011 Spring Meeting, details to follow.

### April 14, 2011

District I 2011 Spring Meeting, meeting location & details to follow.

### April 27, 2011

District IV 2011 Spring Meeting, Host: Tri-cities Garden Club, details to follow.

### May 3, 2011

Environmental School - Course III, May 3-4, to be held at the Amigo Centre, 26455 Banker Street Rd. Sturgis. Sponsored by District III and the Colon Garden Club. Registrar: Pat Hjertos, 269-496-4815.

### May 10, 2011

District V 2011 Spring Meeting  
Kettunen Center, 14901 4H Drive, Tustin, MI 49688-9470 hosted by: Cadillac Garden Club with the help of Morning Glory's Garden Club. Cost: \$27 includes morning coffee and rolls, Lunch, Speakers, and Vendors. Additional cost : \$10 for the Floral Design Workshop limited to first 45 members to sign up.  
Registrar: Joyce Kramer (231) 775-0506

### May 12, 2011

District III 2011 Spring Meeting, "Topiar-ies in the Garden," hosted by Western Hills Garden Club at Zion Lutheran Church, 2122 Bronson Blvd, Kalamazoo. The day starts at 9:00 am with a continental breakfast provided by Chris Sitkins and the Church Ladies Catering Service, who will also provide lunch. The morning speaker will be author Tom Springer. His book "Looking for Hickories" focuses on the trees of Michigan through beautifully written essays. Tom lives near Three Rivers and is a Project Manager for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.  
Topiar-ies—Mike Ouding of River Street Flowerland, well known in the area for creating unique topiar-ies, will entertain us in the afternoon with demonstrations on the techniques used in creating these formed plantings.  
For information contact Chair Karen Gentile, 269-664-6555, e-mail: [saturnus@mei.net](mailto:saturnus@mei.net) or Carol Beckius, 269-372-6950, e-mail: [cbeckius@chartermi.net](mailto:cbeckius@chartermi.net).

### May 14, 2011

Ann Arbor - Flower Show. Saturday, May 14, 2011, at the Pittsfield Branch, Ann Arbor District Library, 2359 Oak Valley Dr, Ann Arbor, MI. Sponsored by the Ann Arbor Garden Club with Nancy Hart as our President. Open to the Public noon to 5:30 pm.

### May 17, 2011

District IIB 2011 Spring Meeting. "A Capital Spring!" The Garden Club of Greater Lansing hosts the Spring 2011 District IIB Meeting, to be held at the Country Club of Lansing, 2200 Moores River, Tuesday, May 17, 2011. AM Speaker: Arthur C. Cameron, Director of MSU Horticulture Gardens. PM Speaker: GCGL member Donna Draft will talk about honey bee production. Contact Barbara Lowes at 517-333-4390 or Bunny Mc Comb at 517-886-6226.

### May 21, 2011

Flower Show - District IIA-IIB.  
More details to follow.

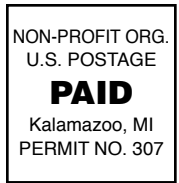
### May 27, 2011

2011 NGC Convention in Washington, D.C., May 27-29 (Installation year)  
For more information visit the NGC website.





Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.  
Gayle Nigg - Editor  
970 Carrie Ave  
Plainwell MI 49080-9517



## Legislative Update

*Anne Wiseman, Legislative Chairman*

**F**ounded nearly a century ago the Michigan park system is among the nation's oldest and most extensive. Because of the downturn in the economy more people are making use of them for recreation instead of taking more expensive vacations. The park system has been crumbling for years, especially as the situation got worse in 2004 when the Michigan parks were cut from the general fund budget.

Since then they have relied mostly on entrance and camping fees which have provided just enough for basic operations, "creating a backlog of repairs and improvements with a combined price tag of about \$340 million" according to Ron Olson, chief of parks and recreation.

Earlier in the year the Legislature agreed to a bill which takes effect in October instituting a new system of funding. Michigan residents will have the option of paying \$10 for a "recreational passport" in addition to their vehicle registration fee. Good for a year, the passport will grant access to all 98 state parks and recreation areas, plus boat launches. Presently, park visitors are charged \$6 per day or \$24 for an annual pass. Officials are hoping that motorists will chip in a little extra cash to support Michigan's beautiful state parks when renewing their car and truck licenses.

Starting in 2012, the passport rates will increase annually at the rate of inflation. People who don't buy a passport when renewing a vehicle license can get one at the park gates but doing so will eventually cost more than getting a passport during license renewal. The passport would not be available for out-of-state visitors who would still be assessed \$29 a year or \$8 a day.

Erin McDonough, Executive Director of Michigan United Conservation Clubs says that MUCC firmly supports the program and hopes the public will also stand up for Michigan parks.

### **Transit Turnout—**

Michigan Environmental Council and the Michigan Association of Railroad passengers will sponsor 16 "Michigan by Rail" forums that will run through late this year with thousands of Michigan citizens providing testament to the intense interest Michiganders have in a rail system that can connect them conveniently to places where they want to live, work and play. (My husband is a member of the Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers).

