



Thru the Garden Gate

Vol 2, No. 3, for March, April, and May 2009
~ The official publication of Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. ~
Member of Central Region and National Garden Clubs, Inc.

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.



President's Message

Dear Garden Club Members,
Congratulations on your efforts in gaining new members — I am thrilled with our progress. I am tempted to hide the number somewhere in the newsletter, but I will just tell you, right here. So far, as of **February 3, 2009, we have 747 new members.** I call that astonishing! A good way to do this is to have an open meeting for the public. Bring in a great speaker or

designer--we have many of them to offer from MGC. In addition, be sure to have good refreshments. I have always said, "Feed them and they will come". I urge each club member to continue the good work of recruiting new members. Remember, the contest ends May 31, 2009.

Several events will take place this spring. All of our NGC/MGC schools will be up and running. Our two-day Annual Convention will be held at the Radisson Hotel in Kalamazoo. At that time, Lynn Dinvald will be installed as our next President. Plan now to attend if you have never been to a convention. Come meet new friends and reconnect with old acquaintances. You will learn so much from the speakers and workshops. Please check the calendar for all events.

The Monarch Butterfly and Rain Gardens projects are due April 1, 2009. I will be happy to view your projects and reward the winners at your spring district meeting.

When a club member joins a local garden club, she/he automatically joins the District, Michigan Garden Clubs, Central Region, and National Garden Clubs. That's five organizations that willing to assist you. The number one question I have heard is: "What does Michigan Garden Clubs do for our club?" The answer is:

- **State and National Awards.** Has your club entered any books of evidence? There are monetary awards for some awards. Your club might be a winner. The awards is available on the web site. Start thinking about awards now so on November 1 you will be ready to send books to the awards chair.
- Michigan Consultant Council Landscape Garden Walk Awards have two \$100.00 awards. No book of evidence is required for these awards.
- The Miriam Petrides award has a \$100.00 award. No book of evidence is required. Check the details in the awards section.
- National Garden Clubs provides grants for your projects.
- **Speakers.** Ask MGC for a speaker for your clubs or Districts. Some horticulture speakers are free so they count toward the hours for Master Gardener.
- **Schools, Consultants and Judges.** Open your minds and accept new ideas. Learn something each day and share that information with others. Recently I attended the Landscape Design School in Lansing. At snack time, I tried hard to open a banana. One attendee said, "You are opening the wrong end, open it from the bottom not the stem." Wow, I didn't know that Now I can pass this tip on to others. I learned something that day in addition to all the great lectures..

- Some MGC members teach basic flower arrangement classes for a small fee. Have you taken advantage of this? Then follow up with a flower show. Have it judged and enter the book of evidence.
- NGC will soon offer Gardening Study and Landscape Design courses online. However, you must be a member of a club to become a consultant.
- **Help and Information.** MGC District Directors are available to answer your questions and address your club needs. Just a call or a click away.
- MGC offers a state-of-the-art newsletter both online and by USPS.
- Web sites that will help your club are:
www.ngccentralregion.org or www.gardenclub.org and www.michigangardenclubs.org

Yes, it takes a little effort on your part to enter the award information; however, the joy of receiving an award outweighs the effort it takes to win.

I hope this answers some of your questions as to what benefits are offered by membership in your Club, your District, Michigan Garden Clubs, Central Region, and National Garden Clubs.

The snowy weather has been frightful but did you know that it is really good for our plants? Fruit trees love the cold temperatures. Do not despair, by the time you read this it will be spring.

In this issue, there is a word search for our junior gardeners. Solve it with your child, grandchild, or junior gardener!

Remember Spring is Coming!

Dolores ~ dolores.stouwie@sbcglobal.net

2061 Britton Ct. S.E. Grand Rapids, MI 49546-5509,
stouwie@sbcglobal.net

Check out this article:



Missy Zenker and her Grandfather, a WWII veteran; help commemorate a Blue Star Memorial. Details page 5.

Save the Days—June 2nd and 3rd 2009

MGC, Inc.'s 78th Annual Convention, Kalamazoo

Enjoy the radiance of West Michigan's spring as you consider the many ways of **Creating Beauty**, the theme of our 2009 MGC Annual Conference. Plan to join old friends and fellow garden enthusiasts on June 2nd and 3rd in Kalamazoo's historic downtown. Experience the elegance of our conference site, the newly renovated Radisson Plaza Hotel, meet our MGC leaders, and in the Radisson's Arcadia Ballroom, hear them talk about their initiatives. Listen to talented and well-informed speakers and attend productive and informative workshops. Walk through historic Kalamazoo or participate in a docent-guided tour of Georgia O'Keefe's paintings. Select garden-related goods, pottery, jewelry, and other quality items at the many vendors' tables.

Day One includes both business and pleasure in the pursuit of beauty, beginning with the MGC Annual Meeting, consultants and board meetings, and an awards luncheon. Included are a number of exciting and creative workshops: **Pauline Flynn**, NGC Accredited Master Judge and former MGC District Director and Craft Chairman, will teach us how to make contrived flowers from natural materials. In 'Easy Orchids,' expert **Rob Halgren** will speak on how to grow orchids and answer our questions on orchid culture. Talented and traveled photographer **Dean Pennala** will share his skills on how to capture beauty in photographing flowers, gardens and the details of nature. In 'Your Own Succulent Garden,' potter and gardener, **Cleve Hayes**, will discuss planting techniques, and tell us something about the history and botany of sedums. Each participant in his workshop will take home a dish garden in one of his hand-thrown planters. Of interest to wild life conservationists is the workshop on Wildlife Recovery Association's **Joe Rogers**, who will speak about the importance of birds of prey and their rehabilitation. Joe cares for several permanently injured birds, many of which you will meet up-close and personal. In the evening, after a reception honoring the organization's top leadership, the new MGC officers will be installed followed by an Afterglow.



Day Two emphasizes experiencing beauty of many different forms. We will have three outstanding speakers, two workshops, and two tours. The day begins with a breakfast featuring **James Bridenstine** (photo right), Executive Director of the Kalamazoo Institute of Art (KIA). In his talk 'Something is Blooming in Kalamazoo,' he will present an overview of KIA and the current exhibit of works by Georgia O'Keefe. Our featured luncheon speaker, author and distinguished garden designer, **Pam Duthie** (photo left), will speak on how to bring continuous color into our gardens. In the afternoon, **MGC Webmaster Val Dinvald** will host a workshop on using the MGC Website, and Cleve Hayes will repeat his Monday workshop. If you are having difficulty using MGC website, Val's help will be invaluable. You will also be able to attend two outstanding tours: a docent-guided tour at the KIA to see the paintings of Georgia O'Keefe and a Downtown Historic Walking tour of Kalamazoo.



The conference closes on a high note as our dinner speaker **Dorothy Hochmuth** (photo right) speaks about 'Expressing Yourself through Flowers' and demonstrates various fresh floral designs.

We look forward to seeing you!

REGISTRATION
Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. 2009 Convention
Creating Beauty – June 2 – 3, 2009
Radisson Plaza Hotel and Suites (269) 343-3333
100 West Michigan Ave, Kalamazoo
Hosted by District III

Full time (Two Day) Registration, \$ 175.00 Part Time (One Day) Registration \$ 90.00

Workshops and Tours: check top three choices per day – spaces will be filled in order registration is received
 Tuesday June 2: _____ Wednesday, June 3: _____

- | | |
|---|---|
| 9:30-10:15 am ___ Contrived Flower Workshop
___ Photography Workshop
___ Orchid Workshop
2:00-3:00 pm ___ Contrived Flowers Workshop
___ Raptors Workshop
___ Orchid Workshop
3:00-3:45 am ___ Photography Workshop
___ Raptors Workshop
___ Succulent Garden Workshop* | 11:00-12:45 pm ___ Historic District Walking Tour
___ KIA Docent Guided Tour**
11:00-11:45 pm ___ MGC Website Workshop
12:00-12:45 pm ___ Succulent Garden Workshop*
2:00-3:45 pm ___ Historic District Walking Tour
___ KIA Docent Guided Tour**
2:00 – 2:45 pm ___ MGC Website Workshop
* \$15 FEE
** \$8 FEE |
|---|---|

Method of Payment : ___ Check Enclosed ___ Visa ___ Master Card

Credit Card Payment: Print name as it appears on card: _____

Credit Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ 3 digit code: _____

Signature: _____ Add \$3 credit card processing fee

Checks should be made payable to the MGC, Inc. 2009 Convention

Total Amount of Payment (check or charge, including additional fees) \$ _____

Mail this form (with payment) no later than May 8, 2009 to Nan Goldenthal, Registrar, 1006 Essex Circle, Kalamazoo, MI 49008 (269) 383-3581; Email: engold@charter.net A \$10 processing fee will be retained if you cancel by May 8, 2009. No refunds will be made thereafter.

Name: _____ Are you Delegate?: ___ Yes ___ No

(Appointed by club president or member of State Board)

Garden Club(s): _____ District: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: ___ ZIP: _____

Phone(home): _____ (cell) _____ Email _____

Special Food Needs: _____

You must make your own hotel reservations no later than May 8, 2009

Special Rates in effect June 1, 2, & 3: Single \$ 99 Double \$99

Radisson Plaza Hotel & Suites (269) 343-3333; Toll Free 1-888-201-1718

Refer to MGC, Inc. Convention when making reservations

“Open Your Heart and Your Hands” Habitat for Humanity Landscaping Project

Karen Lewis, MGC Habitat for Humanity Chairman

Let me introduce myself, Karen Lewis, an Eaton Rapids Home and Garden Club member since 1999. Recently, I was invited to serve on Michigan Garden Clubs board of directors as chairman of the Habitat for Humanity (HFH) committee.

One of the most rewarding programs of National Garden Clubs—the Habitat for Humanity Landscaping Project—has been adopted by Michigan Garden Clubs and you and your clubs are encouraged to participate in this “grass roots” effort to beautify our local residences and reach out to those in need. I am very interested in hearing about your project. Please share your HFH information with me that I may communicate it to other clubs who are beginning their first HFH projects. E-mail me at klkarma@comcast.net, or write to me at 221 State St, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827. I am excited to hear from you.

If you have not taken on a HFH project before, I encourage you to get involved by contacting your local HFH affiliate to help new HFH homeowners realize their dreams, making their new house a home to be proud of. Easy, sustainable landscaping is one step toward this vision. And it can happen if we join with others in this commendable service project.

How can you get started and help this project take root?

- Commit to the project and “dig in”
- Make HFH Landscaping Project a goal for your club
- Work with your local HFH affiliate (Contact them at www.habitatmichigan.org)
- Set attainable goals: think about providing garden tools and education for the homeowner, donate perennials or divided plants from your own garden
- Ask a District Landscape Consultant or Master Gardener for advice
- Plan a HFH fundraiser
- Seek matching funds or gifts in kind from local nurseries or foundations
- Look for local publicity
- Sharing your success will encourage others
- Remember to photograph and document your project and enter it for recognition in MGC/NGC Awards.

This meaningful and exciting NGC/MGC landscaping project will touch your lives. By working together, we will not only create natural beauty in the lives of others but also build lasting friendships along the way.

~*~

GARDENING STUDY SCHOOL – COURSE II

The Gardening Study School date is April 20 & 21, 2009 at the United Methodist Church in Midland.

Information is on the MGC web site under Schools. The registration fee is \$60.00 plus an additional \$5.00 if you are taking the exam. The subjects are:

- Understanding plant diseases & garden pests – Elly Maxwell, Entomologist
- Container Gardening – Stephanie Szostak, Horticulturist, City of Midland
- Techniques for Growing Vegetables – TBA
- How New Plants are Developed & Evaluated – TBA
- Techniques for Growing Lawns and/or Lawn Alternatives – TBA
- Weed Identification, treatment, and control – Chuck Martin, Horticulturist

Questions: Contact Co-Chairmen Bethany Goodman 989-835-3580 or
Sue Wilber 989-832-2792

~*~

World Gardening

Chris Rochman, Chairman

Our work continues with the young people in Belize, C. A. and the need continues to be great. Many thanks to the following for their donations to this project: **Petal Pushers Garden Club ~Niles Garden Club ~Beverly Hills Garden Club ~ Owosso Garden Club ~ Friendly Garden Club of Lake City ~Juniper Garden Club**

Blue Star Memorial Highways

Lorie Dyal, Chairman

Candidates, politics, red state, blue state... Thank goodness that when we get involved in the Blue Star Program, we don't have to speak a word about the aforementioned. We unite with pride in our country and provide loyal support to give tribute to our Armed Forces, past, present and in the future. When your club sponsors the Blue Star Memorial Program, you realize this is BIG! The dedication is a once in a lifetime event for the history of your garden club, so make the most of it. As you reach out to the community organizations, you'll make new friends and unite in a common cause... a good feeling that we all need at this moment in time! This summer there were SIX blue Star Dedications, bringing our total to 37:

- Lakeshore Garden Club of Lexington and Port Sanilac Garden Club
- Eden's Garden Club of Monroe
- Dewitt Millennium Garden Club
- Brighton Garden Club
- Meridian Garden Club

The Meridian Garden Club sponsored an Essay Contest in conjunction with planning their Blue Star Memorial Dedication in 2008. Open to all students (grades 6-12) in several schools, the Essay Contest rules were personally distributed to the schools with appropriate deadlines. Out of 48 entries there were three winners (all 8th Graders) who presented their winning essays at the Dedication Ceremony. Each spoke about a family member who had served during wartime. Missy Zenker told about her Grandfather who had served in WWII; he was in the audience!



Three 8th grade essay-contest winners helped commemorate the memorial marker in Okemos. Left to right: Nate Egglestone, Morgan Dahnke, both from St. Martha School; Missy Zenker, Haslett Middle School.

Legislative Update

Ann Wiseman, Chairman

Energy: The new package of energy legislation lays great emphasis on clean, renewable energy and requires utilities to add alternative energy, such as wind and solar power. The Michigan Public Service Commission held a series of public forums at seven different locations around the state designed to give consumers the latest information on utility rates and conservation measures. I attended the Midland forum where representatives from electric, gas and telephone companies were available for help, along with staffers from legislator's offices. The forum was very helpful and Commissioner Monica Martinez offered to follow up on problems that could not be solved on the spot.

Governor Granholm has been a tireless advocate for energy efficiency and alternative energy sources. She issued an Executive Order, to take effect, December 28, 2008, changing the former Department of Labor and Economic Growth into the **Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth**. Her special advisor on renewable energy, Skip Pruss, will become the Department's Director with the current Director, Keith Cooley, as CEO of Next Energy, which will work with the new department to create jobs in the energy sector. The Governor is of the opinion that consolidating the state's energy efforts to create thousands of jobs, attract new investment and diversify our economy. The Governor officially launched Cascade Engineering's SWIFT Wind Turbine system in Muskegon that can be mounted on business and house rooftops. She also championed a solar installation by the Lansing Board of Water and Light and federal grant for Mascoma Corporation, for building a cellulosic fuel plant in the UP.

She wants to continue progressive policies that encourage renewable energy development and provide training for our workers, expanding the funding available for research and development so that more jobs will be available in wind, solar and biofuels.

Invasive Species: We are all familiar with the millions of dollars of damage caused by zebra mussels and round gobies. But an even bigger threat looms on the horizon – the voracious Asian carp, which can grow up to a hundred pounds and four feet in length and would decimate the Great Lakes fish supply by wolfing the food our native fish need to survive. The Alliance for the Great Lakes has released a study calling for changing the pathways linking the Mississippi River watershed and the Great Lakes to keep out these predators.

Electrical barriers are already in place across the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal south of Chicago to keep Asian carp out of Lake Michigan. The study urges more be done, such as erecting concrete walls and constructing more shipping locks.

In 2008 Congress approved the Water Resources Development Act, authorizing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to study the ecological separation of the watersheds but no funding was put in place. The Alliance for the Great Lakes wants the Corps and the EPA to come up with long-term solution to keep the Great Lakes separate from the Mississippi River watershed.

These solutions will be expensive, but we now realize that many problems could have been avoided, and money saved, if there had been a concentrated effort twenty years ago to keep invasive species like the zebra mussels and the round gobies out of the Great Lakes. Let's find a way to prevent the Asian carp causing even greater devastation in the future.

Rain Gardening

Judy DeJaegher, Horticulture Chair

There are numerous ways to reduce water pollution, but rain gardens may be the most beautiful. You don't need to be an engineer to plant a rain garden, but you do need to understand storm water management principles. The ultimate goal of storm water management is to maintain the health of streams, lakes, and aquatic life and provide opportunities for human uses of water. To achieve this, storm water management strives to maintain the natural water cycle, prevent an increased risk of flooding, prevent undesirable stream erosion, and protect water quality. A rain garden is a bowl or basin in your yard that captures rainwater from your driveway, sidewalks, or roof. It allows the soil to soak in instead of polluting local watersheds as storm water runoff. As an added bonus, they are an attractive, low-maintenance addition to your yard.

Springtime is the perfect time to determine if you have the potential to have a rain garden. Observe the storm water runoff on your property. Does water infiltrate the ground after a rain or does it pool up? Rain gardens should be located where they intercept storm water flow. The most obvious spot for a rain garden is an area where water pools after rains. Pooling or ponding, however, may indicate that the water table is too high or, more commonly, that the soil has a low infiltration rate. To test for adequate drainage, dig a hole 6-8" deep and fill it with water. The water should drain completely within 12 hours; if it doesn't, the spot is not suitable for a rain garden unless you do some extra work to prepare the soil. Rain gardens need to trap storm water temporarily, but should not become a wet pond that breeds mosquitoes. You can use rainwater from the roof by placing a rain garden near downspouts. If necessary, a grassed swale could be created to guide the downspout water to the rain garden. Gardens should be 20 feet away from any buildings, including your neighbor's home. They should never be located directly over a septic system or over underground utility lines.

There are many factors to consider in determining the size of the rain garden including the size of the drainage area, soil texture, slope, and the overall design goal. Watch the drainage pattern during a storm or carefully examine the contours of your yard to determine where the water will come from. The area of your rain garden should be proportional to the area it drains. For sandy soils, the rain garden size should equal about 10-20% of the total drainage area. For clay soils, make your rain garden equal to 50-60% of the total drainage area. Loamy soils are somewhere in between these two extremes. These proportions can be reduced for deeper rain gardens (those which are more than 5" deep) or those that are more than 30 feet from the primary sources of drainage.

A good planting mix for the garden bed would be: sand (25-35%), compost (50% or more) and native soil (15-25%). Stabilize the top of the garden with mulch 2 to 3 inches deep. The mulch acts as a sponge to capture heavy metals, oils, and grease. Bacteria breaks down the pollutants as the mulch decays and it also reduces weeds and maintenance. Select a natural mulch such as aged shredded hardwood bark that will gradually decompose, adding compost (humus) to the soil.

In most rain gardens, plants are inundated with water periodically and left dry at other times. Choose hardy plants that grow in either saturated soils or organic soils. Native wildflowers and shrubs are ideal or some non-aggressive native grasses may be useful. Use plants native to Michigan whenever possible. Native plants are adapted to local climate and site conditions and they offer many advantages for water quality and biodiversity. When selected for site conditions, native plants create small ecosystems, attracting birds, butterflies, and beneficial insects. More importantly, the roots of some native wildflowers and shrubs help decompose storm water pollutants. Plant your garden with a wide variety of plant species to replicate a "natural" look. For more information on rain gardens, I found the following websites most helpful: www.raingardens.org, thegardenfaerie.com/FriendsSp06 and www.tinkerscreekwatershed.org/documents/RGManual

The Michigan Association of Accredited Judges Meeting

Will be meeting on Tuesday, June 23, 2009 at the McGuire's Resort in Cadillac. Guests are most welcome to attend this educational day. Penny Decker from Florida will present an exciting design program. A most interesting and talented designer, Penny give the latest tips of floral design. Michigan Garden Clubs President Dolores Stouwie will present a program on roses. A Master flower show judge, she has had years of experience growing roses in Grand Rapids. The cost for the day is \$20 (guests are \$25) and includes continental breakfast, lunch and two programs. Registration is being accepted by June Peterson, 420 Crestview Place, Cadillac, MI 49601-2205. For more information contact Mary Pulick, MAAJ President at 734-665-4703 or mpgardenclub@aol.com.

New Accredited Judges

Nancy Harriman, 1175 Briarwood Ct., Muskegan, MI, 49441; **Marilyn Lee**, 3926 E. Sunwind Dr., Okemos, MI 48864; **Lynn Miller**, 427 Adaway S.E., Ada, MI 49301; **Bobbie Quick**, 2442 Dick St., Niles, MI 49120
Congratulations, ladies, on your achievement!

TRI-REFRESHER SYMPOSIUM

For Environmental, Garden & Landscape Consultants with some shared events with Environmental School Course 4 May 11 & 12, 2009 -- Matthaei Botanical Gardens
MGC Organizers: Bonnie Ion, Pam Dewey and Marilyn Hartley-Kik

All are invited to attend the Second MGC TRI-REFRESHER SYMPOSIUM in Ann Arbor. While the complete program has not been worked out, those who want to refresh their Landscape, Gardening or Environmental credentials should plan to attend. Exact symposium location, lodging suggestions, schedule, and acknowledgment of check received will be mailed (or emailed -- provide your email) upon receipt of registration form with payment. (Registration deadline May 1)

Clarification: Refreshing consultants can refresh for any of the three areas individually by attending May 11-12. If you are a Master Consultant in two areas, you can refresh for BOTH at the Tri-Refresher. If you are an Environmental Consultant, you can refresh at EITHER the Tri-Refresher May 11-12 OR at the Environmental School IV May 12-13 but you have to attend ALL classes in one or the other, no mix and match such as attending 5/11 and 5/13. These are National Garden Club rules, not MGC rules. (BI)

District IIA, Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. and The National Garden Clubs, Inc.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL - COURSE IV

May 12 and 13, 2009 Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd., Ann Arbor, Michigan
School Chairman: Bonnie Ion. Questions? Email bion@umich.edu or 734-769-2015

Topics "Water and Related Issues"

- Ecology of Water
- Plants: Aquatic Plants
- Wetlands
- Environmental Science: Sustainability
- Wildlife—Aquatic Animals
- Youth Programs in Environmental Education
- Earth Stewardship – Effective Citizenship
- Nature Discovery Field Trip -- Huron River Watershed Discovery

Reading Assignment -- The National Gardener

Living in the Environment by G. Tyler Miller, Jr. ;(Upon registration, students will be sent specific reading assignment pages.) The above materials are available from National Garden Clubs Member Services 800-550-6007. If you would like to buy a used edition and save money (highly recommended), contact Bonnie Ion at bion@umich.edu or call 734-769-2015 and leave a message.

Mission

To educate people about the environment and to teach how to protect and conserve our home, planet Earth.

The Course Fee is \$70 plus \$5 for taking the exam or refreshing. A detailed map to Matthaei Botanical Gardens will be sent with student outlines after registration. No refunds after 5/8/09. A current National Gardener Label is required from each student taking the exam or person refreshing.

REGISTRATION FOR TRI-REFRESHER

Ann Arbor, MI on May 11-12, 2009

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____ E mail _____

Garden Club/Organization _____

For Tri-Refresher Credit, Student MUST attend two days in order to Refresh Credentials.

\$35 Monday 5/11: _____

\$35 Tuesday 5/12: _____

\$5 Refresher fee: _____

(Must pay to receive refresher credit.) Total: _____

\$75 for 2 days & Refresh Credit

Paper clip current **National Gardener label** to registration.

Checks payable to: MGC Environmental School. Mail check, label & registration form to: Bonnie Ion, 1456 Kensington Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48104-6214

* If you want to know the program before sending in your registration, please email Bonnie Ion at bion@umich.edu. You will receive the latest information as it becomes available.

Registration DEADLINE May 4, 2009

Please Print

Name: _____

Garden Club: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Street _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Full Course Registration: May 12 & 13, 2009

Includes study outlines, two continental ...70.00 \$ _____

Taking Exam? Yes No (Circle) Refreshing? Yes No

(Circle)Fee \$5.00 \$ _____

Part Time Registration:

Tuesday, May 12 \$40.00 \$ _____

Wednesday, May 13\$40.00 \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

Make checks to **MGC Environmental School** and send to Bonnie Ion, Registrar, 1456 Kensington Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48104-6214 734-769-2015 bion@umich.edu

(No refunds after May 1, 2009, thanks!)

Possible Accommodations

Holiday Inn: 3600 Plymouth Rd, Ann Arbor, 734-769-9800

Hampton Inn: 2300 Green Road, Ann Arbor 734-996-4444

Microtel Inn & Suites: 3610 Plymouth Rd., AA 734-997-9100

Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc., & District IIB host the
LANDSCAPE DESIGN STUDY PROGRAM – Series XVIII - Course II
 April 29-30, & May 1, 2009

**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, Dolores Stouwie ? MGC – 3rd VP of Schools, Rachel McComb ? State Landscape Design School Chair, Jolaine Snyder ? 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.

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

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

*Class will be held in Room 110 of the Radiology Bldg.
 184 Service Road, East Lansing, MI 48824-1376*

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

8:15-8:45	Registration/Continental Breakfast
8:45-9:00	Introductions/Announcements
9:00-10:00	Landscape Design Process – Ch. 3 – <i>Banfield</i>
10:00-10:15	Break
10:15-11:15	Structures in the Landscape – Ch. 11 – <i>Banfield</i>
11:15-11:30	Break
11:30-12:30	Site, Design and Landform – Ch. 4 – <i>TBA</i>
12:30-1:30	Lunch
1:30-2:30	Development of Landscape Design In Early America – Ch. - <i>Ion</i>
2:30-2:45	Break
2:45-3:45	Preservation of Historic Sites & Structures – Ch. 35 – <i>Ion</i>
3:45-4:00	Review

Thursday, April 30, 2009

8:15-8:45	Registration/Continental Breakfast
8:45-9:00	Introductions/Announcements
9:00-10:00	Landscapes as a Learning Experience – Ch. 19 – <i>Schutzki</i>
10:00-10:15	Break
10:15-11:15	Plants in the Landscape – Ch. 5 – <i>Schutzki</i>
11:15-11:30	Break
11:30-12:30	Plant Selection – Ch. 13 – <i>Schutzki</i>
12:30-1:30	Lunch
1:30-2:30	Community Landscape Management – Ch. 34 – <i>TBA</i>
2:30-2:45	Break
2:45-3:45	Landscape study: The Radiology Garden
3:45-4:00	Review
4:00 – 6:00	TEST (Option #1)

Friday, May 1, 2009

8:30 – 10:00 **TEST (Option #2)**

Course II - Instructors

*Tim Banfield, Landscape Design & Construction
 Bonnie Ion, Landscape Architect
 Dr. Robert Schutzki, MSU, Dept of Horticulture*

REGISTRATION

**Landscape Design School – Series XVIII – Course II
 Registration Deadline April 15, 2009**

Name _____
 Street _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Email _____
 Garden Club or Organization: _____

I prefer vegetarian lunches - circle Y or N

For New Students:

Single Day - \$40.00 Exam Fee \$5.00

Wednesday April 29 th (lunch included)...	@\$40.00	_____
Thursday April 30 th (lunch included)...	@\$40.00	_____
April 30 th or May 1 st	Exam Fee.....@\$ 5.00	_____
Total Enclosed.....		\$_____

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

Wednesday April 29 th (lunch included)...	@\$37.50	_____
Thursday April 30 th (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 cancel 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 or, winemana@comcast.net

Fair Trade – Shopping for the Great Good

Karen Jencks, Environmental Issues

Shipping can be a morally compromising experience. Each product on the shelf brings up critical questions: What were the working conditions where it was made? Who benefits from it? Where does the money go? How was the product grown? Shoppers who have felt the dilemma now have a choice.

Thanks to the worldwide fair trade movement, shoppers can set aside worries about child labor, environmentally damaging processes and unsafe work conditions. Fair trade standards developed by international organizations share the goal of creating sustainable trading partnerships. For consumers, fair trade makes it possible to find products that support this goal. The organization helps foster sustainable development by offering better trading conditions to farmers, artisans, and other small producers. As the movement grows in awareness and acceptance, fair trade products are becoming more common. How can consumers identify fair trade products? There are two ways: the product carries the black and white Fair Trade Certified label or the company producing the product is identified as a member of the Fair Trade Federation (FTF).

To be certified, a product must meet certain environmental, labor and developmental standards set by the Fair Trade Labeling Organizations International (FTO), the governing body for fair trade. TransFairUSA, a nonprofit organization, certifies products in the United States. Stores and cafes throughout the country now carry coffee, tea, cocoa, sugar, vanilla, rice, fruit, and flowers certified as fair trade items. TransFair USA works on accountability among importers, manufacturers, and distributors. TransFairUSA traces products from inception to completion to insure compliance with international fair trade criteria. Products that meet their criteria are allowed to carry the Fair Trade Certified label.

Products carrying the Fair Trade label provide fair wages and good employment opportunities to economically disadvantaged artisans and farmers worldwide. Fair Trade items include a wide variety of categories, including food, clothing, furniture, house wares, jewelry, toys, wine and much more. These items are even found at Costco and Dunkin' Donuts.

The next time you see the Fair Trade label, consider purchasing the item. You will be supporting a better life for family farmers through improved access to education, healthcare, and credit. And because Fair Trade encourages sustainable farming practices their products promote a healthy planet. For more information check the web side: FairTradeFederation.org.

~*~

A Song For All Seasons

Anastatia Stutcher, Bird & Butterfly Chairman

Just what are the birds singing about as they flit through our gardens? In the spring, for instance, the cardinals are awake and singing before the sun breaks through the horizon. Not long afterwards the sparrows begin their squabbling as the dawn explodes to the sound of robins, chickadees and, if you're lucky, a wren. Now that the catbirds and red-winged blackbirds have moved into the city, their distinct songs are added to the chorus.

Bird songs in the spring are mostly territorial warding off other birds of the same species. The exception here, as I see it, are the sparrows who seem to be inviting every other sparrow to `live with them in great bunches in each others space. However, birds also go to great lengths to attract a mate at this time by fluffing themselves up and singing persistently.

During the summer birds have a protective song. They inform their partners and other species with loud harsh notes. This song can indicate a marauder or a rival bird that can be a threat. The entire bird community responds to these alarms and either rally to the cause or fly away to shelter. There are specific calls for danger on the ground, perhaps a cat, as opposed to danger overhead from a hawk or a crow. How about the persistent twitter of the young cardinals and starlings as they relentlessly clamor after their parents demanding to be fed even though they look as if they outweigh the adult birds at this point?

In the autumn migrant birds have a distinct song sequence meant to gather their species into small flocks to prepare for their up-coming trip. Seed and insect supplies in the garden are critical at this time of the year.

The birds left in our gardens in winter have songs to sing and tales to tell. They announce the start and the end of every day and sing about food and water sources. Birds also forecast the weather by letting other birds, and us, know when to load up on food and when to take shelter from an approaching storm.

We can learn a great deal by tuning into the songs that birds sing. We simply need to listen carefully. Sometimes birds sing just because they can and because they like the sound. Similarly we should enjoy their songs just because we can and because we like the sound.

Flight of the Butterfly

Anastasia Stutcher, Bird & Butterfly Chairman

My name is Mariposa. I am a very fine-looking, brilliant orange and black butterfly. I hatched into a caterpillar from a tiny egg on a milkweed plant growing on the shores of the St Clair River one sunny day in late summer. My caterpillar stage lasted a long week and I soon sported a plump black, yellow and white striped body. My next stage of life was the Chrysalis (a protective pod-like structure), where pure Magic happened. After about 2 weeks, I burst out as a colorful and beautiful Monarch butterfly. I warmed myself in the sunshine while my delicate wings dried and slowly opened.

As the weather cooled on the shores of the St Claire River, I began to turn to my genetic homing system and I thought about traveling south. I spotted other Monarchs with the same idea and we began spiraling downward and swooping back up in ever increasing numbers- always moving south.

Together we followed the shoreline of the St Claire River, along the edge of Lake St Claire, the Detroit River and on to the banks of the Ohio River to the Mississippi River which leads us to Texas and the Gulf of Mexico. We prefer the shorelines of rivers, lakes, peninsulas, and gulfs because we try to avoid crossing over open water. The gusting winds can create problems.

Ever growing numbers of butterflies flutter and swoop towards the cool forests of southern Mexico where we run into as many as 50 million friends and relatives in the same immediate area. By now it is November and we plan to hang around until late March when some of us will reverse our route and end up back on the sunny shores of the St Claire River. Look forward to our return in early summer and take care to preserve the milkweed and dill plants because we depend on them.

Scholarship Donations from October 1, 2008-December 17, 2008

Total Donations \$985 : Pleasant Ridge GC; Chemical City GC; District VI to honor host of Fall District meeting; Chemical City GC; Michiana Landscape Study Club; Pinckney GC; Military Hills GC; District III to honor Grow & Show GC hosts of Fall District meeting; Marrey & Will Picciotti to honor Deannie and Gene Picciotti; LakeShores GC Benzie & Leelanau Counties; Wayne GC
Memorials \$50: Muskegon County GC in memory of Marjorie Hitchcock; Tri Cities GC in memory of Jane Denning

MGC SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 2008-09

Central Michigan: Erin Skutniki; Biology & Natural Resources, 2275 Ottawa Beach Rd Holland MI 49424

Eastern Michigan: Nathaniel Voigtman. Biology, 1636 Bishop Rd. Saline MI 48176; Adman Syed, Biology; 1378 Regent Park Ct. Ann Arbor MI 48108

Ferris State University: Courtney Johnson, Ornamental Horticulture; 10294 Munro Lake Dr. Levering MI 49755

Grand Valley State: Emily Hohman, Biology; 121 Manzana Ct. 3A Grand Rapids MI 49543

Michigan State University:

Lindsey Hankwitz, Landscape Architecture;

Stacey Leonard, Landscape Architecture;

(MGC Scholarships, continued)

Crystal Walton Horticulture, 2571 Northwind Dr. Apt.3, East Lansing, MI 48823

James Moylan, Horticulture – Thelma Burley Scholarship; 348 Oakhill Apt. 8, East Lansing, MI 48823

Michigan Tech:

Kayla Griffith Biological Sciences, 5643 Greenock Rd., Lothian, MD 20711;

Kassidy Yatso, Applied Ecology & Environmental Science, 468 McDougal Circle, Oconto Falls, WI 54154

University of Michigan:

Rachel Chadderdon, Behavior & Education Masters candidate; 15671 Loveland, Livonia, MI 48154;

Allison Krueger, Landscape Architecture, 817 Main St. Apt. D2, Ann Arbor, MI 48104;

Linda Rivera-Martin, Natural Resources & Environment PhD, 440 Church St., Ann Arbor, MI 48109;

Christian Runge, Landscape Architecture, 617 Liberty St., Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Western Michigan University:

Julie Anna Feikens, Biological Sciences, 4502 Wimbledon Way, Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Allene Smith, Botany -- Hazel Wirick Scholarship, 14201 Burchette Rd, Plainwell, MI 49080

Flower Show School Course III

May 7, 8 & 9, 2009

Holiday Inn-North Campus, Ann Arbor

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Thursday, May 7, 2009

7:45-8:00	Registration
8:00-8:15	Welcome/Announcements
8:15-9:00	Flower Show Procedure
9:00-10:15	Horticulture
10:15-10:30	Break
10:30-12:00	Horticulture
12:00-12:45	Lunch
12:45-2:45	Horticulture/Point Score
2:45-3:00	Break
3:00-5:00	Point Score

Friday, May 8, 2009

7:45-8:00	Registration
8:00-8:15	Welcome/Announcements
8:15-9:15	Flower Show Procedure
9:15-10:30	Break
10:30-12:00	Design
12:00-12:45	Lunch
12:45-2:45	Design/Point Score
2:45-3:00	Break
3:00-5:00	Point Score Exam

Saturday, May 9, 2009

8:30 - Noon Written Exam

EXAM: 10 QUESTIONS IN HORTICULTURE, DESIGN AND FLOWER SHOW PROCEDURE. THE 10TH QUESTION ON EACH TEST IS FROM INFORMATION IN THE HANDBOOK FOR FLOWER SHOWS AND FROM THE REQUIRED READING.

Instructors:

Horticulture and Flower Show Procedure: Karen Booker; Topics: Pelegoniums, Cacti & Succulents

Design: Jean Moran; Topic: American Creative

Hotel Accommodations:

Holiday Inn-North Campus, Ann Arbor, 3600 Plymouth Rd, Ann Arbor, 48105; phone 1-734-769-9800

Microtel, 3610 Plymouth Rd., Ann Arbor, 48105; phone: 1-734-997-9100

Red Roof Inn, 3621 Plymouth Rd., Ann Arbor, 48105 (across the street) 1-734-996-5800

Ask for an MGC special rate.

REGISTRATION

Flower Show School Course III
Registration Deadline April 8, 2009

Name _____
Street _____
City _____ State: _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____
Garden Club or Organization: _____ District: _____

School Costs: Circle Your Choice:

Full Time
Full Course W/ Exam \$95.00
Full Course W/O exam \$90.00
Part Time
1 Day Horticulture w/Exam \$55.00
1 Day Design w/Exam \$55.00
No exam either day \$50.00
Total Amount Enclosed.....\$_____

Make Checks payable to: MGC District I Flower Show School

No Refunds after April 22, 2009. A \$10 check processing fee will be charged for refunds prior to deadline.

MAIL TO: Angie Wilkie, Registrar, 32241 Barkley Street, Livonia, MI 48154-3513

Phone: 734-427-5343 email: wilkie1210@TDS.net

Reading List – Course III

Books can be obtained from NGC. You will also need a subscription label from *The National Gardener*. Call 1-800-550-6007.

The National Gardener

Handbook for Flower Shows, 2007 Revised Ed. Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14

Creative Floral Designs – Step by Step, Hawkins & Row, Chptrs. 2, 4, 6, & 9

Essence of Creativity..A legacy, Thomas, Chptrs. 2, 4, 5, 7 & 8

Table Settings For All Seasons, Wood & Smith, Chptr. 7 & pages showing design types.

Hortulana, Revised, Heber. Those paragraphs pertaining to members of the Plant Groups studies in this course.

The Houseplant Expert, Hessayon

Tree and Shrub Expert, Hessayon

The New Flower Expert, Hessayon

North Farmington Garden Club "Club on the Grow"

The North Farmington Garden Club of Farmington Hills, meets at noon on the second Tuesday of each month (except January and July) at the Main Branch of the Farmington Library. Our 37 members (including 3 new members since September) learn, share and work together.

Our club formed 32 years ago from a wait-list of Hill and Dale Garden Club. The members quickly became involved in the community. For 18 years they planned, planted and maintained the Garden of the Five Senses at the Farmington YMCA. They sponsored and operated an annual craft sale for 24 years, and still maintain gardens they designed and planted at O.E. Dunckel Middle School. We are proud of our accomplishments and the many State Certificates and City Beautification awards given this club.

Our activities include learning new design techniques, plant exchanges where we "sell" the virtues of the plant we brought, potluck luncheons, member garden walks, and our yearly Christmas luncheon where we exchange gifts and play games. We try to go on a field trip each year as well to explore other gardens or habitats. As our members age and become less agile, we have been challenged to garden smarter and greener. We are meeting the challenge pretty well.

Fund raising has been another challenge as the economy changes. We have recently sold summer and spring bulbs, which provided a cushion for a few years.

Our philanthropic endeavors never seem to suffer as we try to support many local and state gardens, as well as the indoor plants at the library, and donate money for new children's and adult garden books too.

We are pleased that our new members are enthusiastic about gardening and know that our club will continue to be successful. We welcome all who share a love of plants.

Daffodils

By William Wordsworth

**I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.**

Club on the Grow Eden's Garden Club

Eden's Garden Club of Monroe, MI was established by founding in 1987. The first meeting was held at Lois Vorrath's home. Current president Betty Wilhelm's term will end in June of 2009 when Charlie Boland takes over.

Eden's Garden Club joined the MGC in April 1988. The club applied for a non-profit status to raise money through Garden Tours. \$500 from tour receipts was donated to the Lotus Fountain Project in Lorranger Square in downtown Monroe. Each year garden tour receipts are donated to organizations in Monroe. The NGC, Inc. awarded Eden's Garden Club the Membership Extension Certificate. They awarded us with a "Branched Out" certificate for increased membership in 1993.

Throughout the years, we have maintained the Historic Sawyer Homestead gardens. The Homestead has been the recipient of the garden tour proceeds twice. Besides our Garden Tours, we have enjoyed horticultural education speakers, flower design programs, picnics, an annual Christmas Potluck-gift exchange, field trips to various historic gardens, a pool party in the summers, shopping trips to lily farms, hosta gardens, stone dealers, potters, and an orchid dealer. We even held a toga party to celebrate the completion of a pergola (complete with a life-sized statue of Pan, the flute player) in the garden of Lois Vorrath. The search for the statue was one of our field trips. A good time is always had by all.

A favorite activity was the purchase and installation of the Blue Star Memorial Marker, placed in the Veterans Park between the Korean and WW2 Monuments. We had a wonderful ceremony attended by many dignitaries including Margaret Jahnke, District IIA Director, who gave the history of the Blue Star Memorial; Others attendees were a State Senator Monroe's Mayor, and State Representatives. Rev. Larry Loree gave the Benediction. Sheriff's helicopter pilot, Jim Heisler, did a fly-over, VFW Post 1138 give a 21 gun salute. members Rick Day performed at the keyboard, Bernie Falor sang, and Jo Diaz, a retired Master Commander of the US Navy, spoke. It was a thrilling experience followed by lemonade and cookies in the pavilion.

Saugatuck-Douglas Garden Club Celebrates 80th Anniversary

The Saugatuck-Douglas Garden Club celebrated their 80th Birthday at the Kirby House in Douglas on November 17, 2008 with a tour of the historical home and a lunch prepared by Chef Ray Riker. Innkeeper, Jim Gowran, made the birthday cake.

The Garden Club was founded in 1928 as the Columbine Garden Club, renamed the Douglas Garden Club in 1947, and became the Saugatuck-Douglas Garden Club in 2001.

With approximately 70 members, the club's goals are to fund a scholarship for an area high school student(s) who study horticulture or related subjects in college. A May held plant sale funds this project. In addition, the club: plants and maintains all the flowers at the entrances to Douglas and downtown Saugatuck. In the spring, the Junior Gardeners help with the planting of the flowerpots in Saugatuck. They recognize local commercial and residential gardens and window boxes for an award in June, July, and August.

Other projects include: Support Junior Gardeners' projects through the Saugatuck-Douglas Middle School; support Community Pride Day; promote Ways and Means Projects; Promote planting of trees; educate members through workshops with horticulture themes; each year, award a member for her own outstanding garden; and work with Christian Neighbors to help an area family have a more meaningful Christmas. Happy Birthday Garden Club!! Submitted by Jane Dreyer

GARDENER'S EXTRAVAGANZA

On June 6, 10am to 5pm the **Dansville Back Yard Buds Garden Club** is holding a Gardener's Extravaganza to kick off "National Garden Week" in Marshall, MI. Mark your calendar for a fun filled day of shopping, speakers, demonstrations, and make-it-take-its at this quaint, historical place. (Car Show same time/place.) Turkeyville offers a wonderful restaurant, bakery and ice cream parlor, plus information for visitors to find or start a MGC club. Please visit www.turkeyville.com for details. To become a vendor, call Patti at 269-781-4293. For seven paid speaker/ demonstrator positions or event details, call ASAP to Jan at 517-623-6204; sewcrafty911@aol.com
All Michigan Clubs are encouraged to send fliers of their events or resource information (on anything regarding pest control, healing and water gardens to recycling, nature habitats, plants and herb recipes) **to place on a table**. The club urges everyone to find ways to increase MGC, Inc. memberships by the end of MAY 09. Go to: www.gardenclub.org/Files/Ideas_to_Increase_Membership.pdf for the "National Membership Drive Competition. Make sure Michigan wins!
<http://www.gardenclub.org/news/MembershipContest.aspx>

Meridian Garden Club Plant Sale

Our club hosts their 9th. Annual Plant Sale, 9 to 2 PM. We fill a pavilion with an assortment of perennials, herbs, and specialty plants. A Michigan grower brings in wildflower plants. Plants are reasonably priced. The sale will be held at the Farmer's Market Pavilion behind the Meridian Township Buildings on Marsh Road, North of the Meridian Mall, Okemos, Michigan.

Club on the Grow Westwood Garden Club

The first charter meeting for this club was held at the home of Mrs. Lloy Haw on February 28, 1958. Some very special ladies from the west side of Kalamazoo then assembled monthly to share their love of gardening, conservation, horticulture and--socializing! An election of officers was conducted using paper ballots. Lloy wrote a letter of application indicating that the garden ladies would like to join the Kalamazoo Garden Council as the Westwood Garden Club and that was the beginning!

In those days, the meetings were held at club members' homes. Dues were \$1.00 a year! Committees were formed to accomplish the goals of the club, such as: Bird Study, Horticulture, Conservation, Community Projects, Auctions, Awards, Historian, Nominating, Policy, Publicity, Membership, Budget, Reservations, and the yearly Greens Sale. The latter was Kalamazoo Garden Council's mainstay for fund-raising. All garden club members of the Council helped in the arranging of greens during that '*glorious, wild, frantic season*'.

The club brought together many talented gals whose forte was flower arranging and held yearly flower shows. A large dried flower & field plant sale took place yearly to raise monies for the club. Meetings have been a mix of informative fieldtrips, and social hours to network and take care of business. Throughout the years, Westwood has fulfilled many projects for the city of Kalamazoo: Contributing to Land Grants, petitioning to get cans recycled, plant sales, helping fund awards and scholarships, community garden projects such as planting fruit trees for the DeLano Homestead and planting Crimson King Maples at the Oshtemo Branch Library.

Although the goals and purpose for these meetings have changed somewhat, the basic concept is to promote greater interest, exchange experiences that benefit all members, accomplish community improvement projects and support National and International Garden Club projects. The many donated hours of the Westwood GC continue to make this world a better place. **Congratulations on 50 great years!**

"And so time passes and places change

The seasons come and go

We are here for such a short time

Westwood gals should know

Everything that we can make better

We will strive to do our best

To make each meeting meaningful

And this is our great quest!"

District I Spring 2009 Meeting

“*Showers and Flowers*,” is Tuesday, April 28, 2009, at the Italian American Banquet Center, 39200 Five Mile Road, Livonia, Michigan, hosted by the Livonia Garden Club. With coffee at 9:30 a.m., and business meeting at 10:00 a.m., attendees have opportunities to “shop” the MGC Marketplace and other vendors. Margaret Converse, certified Master Gardener and a member of the Michigan Botanical Club, will present “Wildflowers of Michigan.” A design program is planned for the afternoon. Cost is \$22, which includes a New York-style deli buffet of minestrone soup, relish tray, roast beef, turkey and Polish ham, assorted cheeses, coleslaw, potato salad, Italian pasta salad, fresh bread, and New York cheesecake. The deadline for reservations is April 13; Registrar is Diane Bergendahl, 7841 Oak Knoll Drive, Northville, MI 48168-9476, (248) 486-9676 or rb@rc.net. Club Presidents will be receiving a detailed Call Letter, with a registration form and a map, and are asked to send one registration check per club, made payable to the “*Livonia Garden Club*.”

District IIB Spring Meeting

What better way to celebrate our green earth than “**A Gathering on the Green**” on Earth Day, April 22? The Eaton Rapids Home Garden Club along with The Bulb and Blossom Garden Club and the Mason Sycamore Creek Garden Club invite members and guests to Chisholm Hills Golf Club, 2395 Washington Rd, Lansing. Registration and continental breakfast begin at 9:00. Shop at earth-friendly vendors. The business meeting starts at 10:00. Amy Butler from the Michigan DEQ, presents “**Greening Our Gardens**,” in the morning. Designers led by Lois Snover-Hansen demonstrate creative floral designs in the afternoon’s “**Trash to Treasure**.” The cost is \$20.00. Deadline for registration is in March. Registrar: Jeanette Foster, 4178 Pinch Hwy, Potterville, 48876, ph. (517)645-2208, e-mail: gardenfly2003@yahoo.com. Please join our ‘green’ Earth Day celebration!

District IV Spring Meeting

This will be a fun day of shopping, eating, learning, and fellowship with garden club members! The Holland Garden Club hosts the April 16th, 2009 District IV meeting at the First Reformed Church 630 State Street, Holland. Cost for the day is \$22.00. The day starts at 8:45am with coffee and goodies. MGC Market Place and the Holland Club will have items for sale. Business meeting follows. State awards will be presented to clubs. The morning program is on Horticulture. The afternoon program is a small flower show “**A Chorus of Spring**” presented by the West Michigan Flowers Arrangers Guild. To registrar contact Jean Olney or Sue Vliet 798 North Shore Dr. Holland Mi 49424. Deadline for registration is April 10, 2009. *Come Join Us*.

District V Spring Meeting

The Edleweiss Garden Club of Gaylord hosts the District V Spring Meeting on Tuesday, May 5, at the beautiful Otsego Club and Resort in Gaylord starting with registration at 9 am. Our speaker for both sessions will be Janet Macunovich, a professional gardener, teacher, and author. “**Myths & Legends from the Garden**” is the morning program and “**Transplanting the Picture Perfect Garden**” is in the afternoon. A question and answer time is held after each program. The day begins with registration, shopping, and a light continental breakfast. Interesting vendors will be available with the garden in mind, including Janet’s gardening books. The club will have a ways and means with some special items. Cost for the day is \$29. You do not want to miss this event. Information will be coming to each Club President in District V

Find the Word

Find the following words in the square below:
GARDENS, MONARCH, BUTTERFLY, FLOWERS,
BEES, RAIN, SNOW, ICE, BUG, TREE, BIRDS, SUN,
SNAKES

B	E	E	S	H	I	B	U	G	F
I	U	E	R	S	C	M	D	A	L
R	B	T	R	E	E	Q	E	R	O
D	K	B	T	W	Y	H	I	D	W
S	Z	C	W	E	C	T	S	E	E
S	N	O	W	R	R	A	G	N	R
U	X	P	A	S	A	F	O	S	S
N	V	N	G	H	I	K	L	Z	A
S	O	W	L	M	N	O	N	Y	B
M	D	S	N	A	K	E	S	D	P

District VI Spring Meeting

Celebrate May Day with “**The Earth Laughs in Flowers!**” The Lakeshore Garden Club of Lexington welcomes spring May 1st at St. Denis Parish Hall, 7200 Denissen, Lexington. Morning coffee, continental breakfast, and shopping open at 9:00; meeting at 10:00. Morning speaker, Sue Lombardi, describes the benefits of composting. At lunch, Master Gardener Merry Marten tells how to garden in raised beds. The afternoon speaker, Dennie Quinn, speaks on bees, pollination, and bee colony collapse disease. Several bed and breakfast homes in area have special rates for members the night before; check: www.lexingtonmichigan.org for information. Registration info.comes in March. Contact Nancy Stark, 989-835-2394 , nstark1801@aol.com or Rachael Hoffman, Rachjon@aol.com.

Calendar of Events

Send Your Club's event list to Carol Knoper at knopercl@altelco.net

March 5-8: "A Tropical Paradise" District IV Flower Show. West. Mich. Home and Garden Show, DeVos Place 303 Monroe Ave. Grand Rapids contact Lynn Miller 616-676-2274

March 21: SCC MGA 2009 Workshop: "Exceptional Plants for Your Garden," by author, Dan Hinkley. Download info and register <http://msue.stclaircounty.org> or contact barbhaman@comcast.net.

April 1 & 2: Finance State Board

April 16: District IV Spring Meeting. First Reformed Church 630 State St, Holland. 8:45 am. \$22. Details page 14.

April 20 & 21: Gardening Study School Course II; First United Methodist Church, Midland, MI. BGGoodman@aol.com Details page 4

April 22: Dist. IIB Spring Meeting See details page 14.

April 25: Dist. IIA Presidents Meeting

April 28: Dist. I Spring Meeting, hosted by the Livonia Garden Club at the Italian American Banquet Center in Livonia. Contact Virginia Froehlich, 734-675-2944 or vafroehlich@comcast.net

April 29-30, May 1: Landscape Design School. Course II, Details page 8.

May 1: Dist. VI Spring Meeting 9:00 – 3:00 at the St Denis Parrish Hall, Lexington. \$20. Details Page 14.

May 5: Dist. V Spring Meeting Otsego Club and Resort, Gaylord. Details Page 14.

May 7, 8 & 9: Flower Show School. Course III. Livonia. Details page 11.

May 11 & 12: Tri-Refresher Symposium. Matthaei Botanical Gardens, Ann Arbor. See details page 7.

May 12 & 13: Environmental School. Matthaei Botanical Gardens, Ann Arbor. See details page 7

May 13- 19: National Convention Houston, TX.

May 15: Meridian Garden Club's 9th. Annual Plant Sale, from 9am—2pm. Farmer's Mrkt Pavilion, Okemos. See details page 13.

May 16: "It's Planting Time " Flower sale by Saugatuck-Douglas G.C. American Legion Hall, Mason St., Saugatuck. Contact Janet 269-857-1620.

May 17: Mason County Club annual perennial plant exchange. 12:30-2:00, Leveaux Park, Ludington. Contact Diane 231-843-8112

June 2 & 3: MGC, Inc. State Convention. Kalamazoo. Details page 2 & 3.

June 6th: Dansville Back Yard Buds Garden Club kick off "National Garden Week Kick-Off." Details page 13.

June 23: MAAJ Meeting McGuire's Resort in Cadillac. Guests welcome. Registration: June Peterson, 420 Crestview Place, Cadillac, 49601-2205. Detail pg. 6.

June 27-28: Grosse Point Garden Walk. 10-4 \$12 pre-tour, \$15 tour day. Contact Dolores Berger 313-881-9483

June 27: Grand Haven Garden Walk Tri-Cities Garden Club, "Walk on Wheels" 10-4, \$8. Contact Harriet Nise 616-846-1207

June 27: Carnegie Garden Club's Second Annual "Splendor in the Garden" Tour, Paw Paw, MI, 10 – 4, rain or shine. \$8.00 pre sale, \$10 tour day; Six gardens, two lakefront. Contact Gail Karr, 269-657-6733

July 9: "Gardens with a Water View" Garden Walk. The Juniper Garden Club. Six Gardens. 10 – 5. Local restaurant lunch specials. \$6.00 advn.; \$8.00 on 9th. Contact Lori Ordway, 8974 Alden Meadows, Alden 49612; 231-331-4018; lordway@charter.net

July 11: South Lyon Garden Walk 10am-4pm \$10-purchase at McHattie Park, Pontiac Trl, south of 10 Mile. Info 248-437-8291-Chris.

<http://fsgc.homestead.com/gardenwalk.html>
July 11-12: "Welcome to My Garden." Garden Walk. Marshall Area G.C. 10am--4pm rain or shine. \$8 pre-tour, \$2 children, \$10 tour day. Contact 269-781-5434 www.marshallmi.org/events.taf#July

July 16: The Friendly Garden Club of Traverse City's 27th Annual Garden Walk, Noon - 8:00pm--rain or shine. \$6 pre-sale or \$8 day of walk. For information contact Nancy (231) 269-3452 or Janet (231) 946-8003

July 25 & 26: Garden Tour. The Landscapers Garden Club of Kalamazoo, Saturday, 9-4 & Sunday 1-4pm in Kalamazoo. Contact: Lynn Dinvald 269-343-3827

July 19: "A Bouquet of Gardens." Garden Walk. Mason County Garden Club Ludington, 1am--5pm, rain or shine. \$7 presale, \$10 tour day. Contact Deb 231-757-3605

August 27: "On Broadway" Flower Show. Mason County Garden Club. 1am --4 pm. United Methodist Church, 5810 Bryant Rd. Ludington. Contact Diane 231-843-8112

September 2 & 3: State Finance and State Board Meeting, Lansing

September 12: Annual Perennial Plant Sale. Mason County Garden Club 9am—12noon. Scottville Framer's Mrkt, Scottville. Contact Diane 231-843-8112

September 15 & 16: Flower Show Symposium. McCamly Plaza Hotel

September 17 18, 19: Flower Show School, Course IV. Dist.I. Contact: Della Haydon: 734-427-9410

September 25: District V Meeting

September 21 & 22: Gardening Study School Course III

September 25: District V Meeting

September 29 & 30, Oct 1: Landscape Design School Course III

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Dolores Stouwie, State President "Conserve to Preserve";
Treasurer: Sue Wilbur: cswilber@yahoo.com
Editor: Robin Courtright: robin.courtright@gmail.com;
Calendar: Carol Knoper: knopercl@altelco.net

Deadlines:

Jun/July/Aug: April 1;
Sep/Oct/Nov: July 1;
Dec/Jan/Feb: October 1;
Mar/Apr/May: January 1

Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

President: Barbara May, 22 Cutting Cross Way, Wayland MA, 01778-3844 "Nurture the Earth—Plant Natives."

Central Region Director: Karen Hix, 382 Keystone Dr., Valparaiso, IN, 46385-8829; email: hixkchix@aol.com



Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc
2061 Britton Ct SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

MGC Welcomes New Clubs

Dansville Backyard Buds Garden Club organized in 1997, and joined MGC in 2007. Some members attended landscape school, and look forward to more fun at flower shows, District Meetings, schools, and logging onto the web site. The club holds an annual plant exchange and tours member's garden. The members are just Petal Pushing, Grateful Dead Headers with Flower Power and We Can Dig It!" – District IIB.

Inland Lakes Garden Club of Delton, District IIB. Formed 77 years ago. Tracy Park took became president and challenged members to revive a dying club. They rejoined MGC. The 24 members include men and women who hold an annual flower show with a bake sale and ways and means fundraiser. They took on the community library garden as a project. Delton High School asked the club to furnish flowers for their spring project. Hard work has revived this garden club. – District IIB.

Mason Sycamore Creek Garden Club, District IIB, Formed in September, the new club found its first community beautification project planting flowers in exchange for a meeting place at the Cobblestone Events Center in the Mason Antique District. The club elected officers in December and joined M.G.C, Inc. Members are excited about the 2009. Their focus is on their community and the beautification of Mason. – District IIB.

Alpena Garden Club will celebrate its 45th Anniversary this May. We currently have 40 members. Our newest venture is a revamping of a butterfly garden for the City of Alpena. In addition to this garden we plant and care for five others throughout the city. – District V.

Morning Glories Garden Club Morning Glory's Garden Club federated in 2008. Our 11 members reside in the Luther-Tustin area. We meet at member's homes or the program for the day's site. The club plans to remain small and informal. Our Morning Glory ladies enjoy gathering to stimulate our creative juices, learn wonderful things from each other and enjoy special speakers. It is the objective of the club to develop special friendships and learn good garden practices. We enjoy taking field trips, doing hands on activities and visiting Michigan's array of gardening attractions. – District V.

Newsletter Delivery

MGC, Inc. encourages members with web access to download the MGC Newsletter at <http://michigangardenclubs.org> or elect to have the newsletter emailed directly to you. The Newsletter is available as a Word.doc or a PDF format on the web. It is emailed as a PDF file. If your computer does not have Adobe Reader for PDF files, you can download a free version at: <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html> Help us reduce printing and postage costs. Help conserve trees and save landfill space – get your news electronically!

Home Gardens of Merit Award

If your club is sponsoring a garden walk or knows of an exceptional home garden, consider giving recognition to the homeowner. The Michigan Home Gardens of Merit is now shown on line at <http://homegardensofmerit.org>. There is a \$10 donation to the Combined Consultants Council. For information go to: <http://homegardensofmerit.org/info.html>