



MGC, Inc. Newsletter

Vol. 2, No. 2 for September-October-November 2008

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.

Visit the MGC, Inc Web Page at www.michigangardenclubs.org

President's Message



Dear Gardeners,

It was a pleasure and an honor to represent Michigan Garden Clubs at the NGC convention in Memphis Tennessee.

The highlight of the event was the awards night. Each State President was asked to receive its awards walking through a beautiful rhinestone-studded cut-out of a star. As I approached, the stage I experienced stage fright. At that point, I realized I was not the 'star,' my clubs were the stars. You all did a great job submitting your books of evidence of your community projects so that I could look like the 'star' up there on the stage. Many thanks

for giving me the privilege of receiving your awards.

I was privileged to attend the dedication of the "Garden of Dreams" Butterfly Garden located on a playground in Eaton Rapids, District IIB.

This garden received \$1000.00 from NGC, and features host plants for many species of butterflies. The children will be able to play on the structures and will receive an education as well. Congratulations!

I attended many summertime events in the past few months, garden walks, flower shows. I am so sorry that I could not honor all the invitations that were sent to me.

November 1 is the deadline for your the Books of Evidence. If you need help, check the website for the rules on putting your book together.

Please send your yearbook to Awards Chair Deannie Picciotti 2394 Sunset Bluff Dr., Holland MI 49424-2235

I receive many newsletters from our sister states. One idea that I have seen often is that members sponsor an award for a special on-going project at the local or state level. Sometimes this is for a member to be honored or as a memorial. Think about this request as to how you or your club could add a monetary award to a project. The recipient would be very grateful. Example, Habitat for Humanity, a Flower Show award, Garden tour award, or any other project you wish to have someone honored or remembered.

Our 2008 one-day convention in Ann Arbor was a great success, with 321 attending. Karen Hix, Central Region Director, was our guest and she encouraged us to continue to "Beautify Our World—Go Native".

Thanks to District IIA for the great hospitality and for all your work to make the convention an event to remember.

It will not be long before all the District meetings, Schools, Symposiums, and Conservation conference will begin. Make it a point to join in. If you have never at-

tended one of these events, you are missing a great education, fun and fellowship.

I leave you with this thought—From Nathaniel Hawthorn:

“Happiness is like a butterfly which, when pursued, is always beyond our grasp, but, if you will sit down quietly, may alight upon you.”

Sincerely,

Dolores

Support the President's Project — Help save the Monarch Butterfly by growing milkweed and leaving the wild to grow.



URGENT NOTIFICATION!
FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL COURSE
II LOCATION CHANGE
Scheduled for September 18,19 & 20:
will be held at:
HOLIDAY INN, ANN ARBOR
3600 PLYMOUTH RD,
ANN ARBOR.

The official publication of MGC, Inc. a 501 (c) 3 organization.
Dolores Stouwie, State President, 2061 Britton Ct. S.E. Grand Rapids, MI 49546-5509, stouwie@sbcglobal.net "Conserve to Preserve";
Sue Wilbur, Treasurer: cswilber@yahoo.com;
Robin Courtright, Editor: robin.courtright@gmail.com;
Carol Knoper, Calendar: 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., Barbara May, President, 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



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Anne Wiseman, Legislative Chairman



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE, June 30, 2008

There was a flurry of activity in the Legislature before they finally adjourned on Saturday afternoon, June 28.

WATER: In the last week of the session, the Democratic-controlled House and the Republican-led Senate worked together to reach agreement on bills governing state oversight of large-scale withdrawals of water.

This cleared the way for Michigan to join the Great Lakes Compact to better manage and protect the Great Lakes. Michigan joins Ontario, Quebec and the other Great Lakes States (except for Ohio and Pennsylvania, which are set to join before the end of the year).

ELECTRICITY PACKAGE: The Senate approved a comprehensive package of energy bills, partly in line with that passed in the House: A statewide energy-efficiency program that will save businesses and ratepayers millions of dollars in avoided electricity costs; A renewable energy standard requiring at least 10% of Michigan's electric power to come from renewable resources by 2015.

Michigan joins 25 other states that have such policies which give them an advantage in attracting new energy entrepreneurs and jobs; An integrated resource planning process ensuring the best, lowest cost energy options are the winners in the race to meet electricity demand.

Michigan had spent billions on importing coal from other states for coal-fired power plants which bring dangerous mercury and asthma-inducing smog. This legislation will keep money here, giving ratepayer protection and job creation, funding Michigan energy efficiency contractors, engineers and technicians and financing the construction of windmills, solar power operations and alternative fuel entrepreneurs.

LEGISLATIVE ALERT: Bills to reduce the amount of fraudulent bottle returns to merchants were introduced in the House in January and in the Senate in April, but they were both stuck in committee while the Legislature was dealing with the budget woes and the Energy Package.

Recycling containers reduces litter and saves money and energy while increasing the job market. The annual energy savings for bottles and cans for soda and beer is equivalent to 450,000 barrels of oil, enough to fuel 150,000 cars for a month. More than 1.1 billion cans and bottles were thrown away last year instead of being recycled.

The Michigan United Conservation Clubs announced a major grassroots campaign to expand the State's 32-year-old Bottle Bill to include water and other non-carbonated beverage containers.

MUCC asks Michigan citizens to contact their state senator and house representative for this Amendment.
For background information go to www.mucc.org

Governor Granholm warned the Legislature that if the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) Bills HB 5548 and HB 5549 did not pass, a major multinational wind power manufacturer could look elsewhere to build plants. By a bipartisan vote on April 17, the bills were passed in the house along with the Energy Efficiency Bill HB 5525. Cleaner, renewable energy and the cheapest form of energy, energy efficiency, won the day. Representatives who were not fully in favor of the measures abstained from voting and the bills were passed.

The RPS Bills require at least 10% of Michigan's electric power to come from renewable resources by 2015. Michigan now joins the other 25 states that have Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) which means the creation of thousands of jobs as utilities invest in wind, solar and other renewable energy resources. Michigan could become a leading hub for solar energy manufacturing under another bipartisan initiative that offers big tax incentives to companies that research and develop solar power (HB 5898 and HB 5899.) There are very few American companies building solar equipment and Michigan can take advantage of this untapped market and use its manufacturing base to create new economic development.

The US solar energy industry grew by approximately 45% last year according to the Solar Energy Industries Association and it will continue to grow, especially in light of newly proposed giant solar projects in the southwest. Michigan has the workforce and infrastructure to become a leading producer of solar equipment and the Renewable Portfolio Standard will help create good-paying jobs for our state, diversify the economy and protect the environment.

I was with a group at the State House the final day before the vote, and the atmosphere was highly charged, as last-minute compromises were hammered out. Most of the Representatives were on the floor while others were in conference. It took several months to get a reasonable package of bills, they are not perfect and the Senate still has work to do on them. Truly, Democracy in action.



Funding a Blue Star Memorial

Lorrie Dyal, Blue Star Chairman



Blue Star Memorial marker dedication Flag Day, June 14 at Lake Huron Roadside Park Horatio E. Earle site on Highway 25 south of Port Sanilac.

"Costs \$1200? How can we ever afford this?" asked the Anytown Garden Club's Treasurer! The Club President replied that the National Blue Star Guidelines (12 pages) stated, 'community agencies would welcome the opportunity to be included.' Four months later, after speaking to groups on behalf of Blue Star, the Anytown Club received funding from three groups, each providing 1/4th of the total cost. With this powerful support, the Blue Star program was well on its way to a successful dedication. Furthermore, Anytown Garden Club reaped the benefits of community outreach and received long term gratitude for having sponsored this program that paid special tribute to the Armed Forces.

As of June 1, 2008 prices of the two larger markers have increased by \$70 to \$1200; the smaller marker has increased by \$35 to \$395. With gas currently hovering over \$4.00 per gallon, it's easy to see that our Manufacturer's Shipping and Handling (via Truck Freight) costs have increased and this is reflected in the price.

For more information contact: Lorrie Dyal, Blue Star Chairman, 3656 Stagecoach Drive, Okemos, Mi. 49964. 517-349-5799. LedJod@ameritech.net



Higgins Lake Conservation Scholarship Fund

Kristine Soderberg, Chairman

Thank you to the following garden clubs for their generous donations to the Higgins Lake Conservation Scholarship fund:

District I

Better Homes & Garden Club, \$ 50.00
Gardeners of Northville & Novi, \$268.50
Garden Club of Dearborn, \$250.00

Village Garden Club \$150.00
Wayne Garden Club, \$200.00

Wyandotte Garden Club, \$ 50.00

District II-A

Little Garden Club of Tecumseh, \$100.00
Swan Creek Garden Club, \$100.00

Milan Garden Club, \$ 50.00

Stone & Thistle Garden Club, \$ 50.00

District II-B

Across the Fence Post Garden Club, \$100.00
DeWitt Millennium Garden Club, \$200.00

Hartland Home & Garden, \$150.00

Thornapple Garden Club, \$200.00

District III

Portage Garden Club, \$100.00
Kalamazoo Garden Club, \$252.50

Chula Vista Garden Club, \$ 40.00
Parchment Garden Club, \$ 50.00

Berrien Springs Garden Forum, \$ 50.00
Kalamazoo Garden Council, \$235.00

District IV

Lowell Showboat Garden Club \$200.00

Kent Garden Club, \$247.00

Muskegon County Garden Club, \$100.00

District V

Elk Rapids Garden Club, \$100.00

Seedums Garden Club, \$ 50.00

Dr. Maria Ferreira, of Wayne State University, will teach the SCE 5040, 'Understanding Our Environment.' The 5-day field course is offered by Wayne State University, July 20 – 25, 2008. The setting for the course is the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center, located in Michigan's beautiful north woods on the shore of Higgins Lake, near Roscommon. (www.michigan.gov/ramcenter). MGC room and board scholarship for this session will be \$268.50. As usual, the student will still have to pay \$100.00 toward their room and board, plus \$25.00 activity fee, plus the university tuition. This year MGC will award room and board scholarships to approximately 25 Wayne State students.

Thank you for all of the support you have given to the students over the past 62 years. Your donations have been an investment in the future of Michigan as you have helped those that teach children and community members about environmental issues.

Higgins Lake Conservation Scholarship Program to End

Your donations have been an investment in the future of Michigan as you have helped those that teach children and community members about environmental issues. As of the summer of 2008, the Higgins Lake scholarship program will end. The Board of Directors voted to end the program due to the fact that the original six Universities decided to opt out of the program. Only one University remained so it was decided to end the program. Please do not send any checks as of July 1, 2008. Thank you to the MGC clubs that supported this program for the last 40 years. You have made a difference in the lives of the students and they were grateful to be able to attend this wonderful program. Special thanks to Kristine Soderberg for all her work on the program, the dedication and time spent to make sure the scholarships were given to the students.

Sincerely,

Dolores Stouwie, President MGC, Inc.

COMPOSTING – IT'S SECOND NATURE

**Judy DeJaegher,
Horticulture Chairperson**

Managing organic material at your home not only decreases the amount of material that you send to the landfill, it also helps turn your organic waste into a landscape asset. Compost is one of nature's best mulches and soil amendments, and you can use it instead of commercial fertilizers. Best of all, compost is cheap. You can make it without spending a cent. It improves soil structure, texture, and aeration and increases the soil's water-holding capacity. Compost loosens clay soils and helps sandy soils retain water. Adding compost improves soil fertility and stimulates healthy root development in plants. The organic matter provides food for microorganisms which keeps the soil in a healthy balanced condition. Nitrogen, potassium, and phosphorus will be produced naturally by the feeding of microorganisms, so few if any soil amendments will need to be added.

Understanding how to make and use compost is important as the problem of waste disposal climbs toward a crisis level. Landfills are brimming and new sites are not likely to be found. For this reason there is an interest in conserving landfill space and in developing alternative methods of dealing with waste. Don't throw away materials when you can use them to improve your lawn and garden.

We need to learn how to creatively deal with our yard waste, as one by one, cities are refusing to haul off our leaves and grass clippings. About one third of the space in landfills is taken up with organic waste from our yards and kitchens, just the type of material that can be used in compost. With a small investment in time, you can contribute to the solution to a community problem, while at the same time enriching the soil and improving the health of the plants on your property.

Tips for composting:

- Don't throw away your kitchen scraps -- add them to the compost pile. Kitchen scraps are typically high in nitrogen, which helps heat up the compost pile and speed up the composting process. Egg shells, coffee grounds, fruit and vegetable peels and scraps are all outstanding materials to add.
- If you're composting with a compost pile, 3 feet by 3 feet is all the bigger you want to get; heat build-up works best with this size of a pile.
- Keep your compost aerated! If you are composting with a tumbling composter, turn it whenever you add new materials. If you are composting in a pile, or in a static (non-tumbling) compost bin, mix up the contents so that the pile gets oxygen and can break down effectively. A compost aerating tool is useful for doing this.
- Don't let the compost dry out or get too wet. A compost pile needs moisture to keep the composting process active. But too much moisture cause a foul smell.
- Too much of any one material will slow down the composting process. If you have all leaves, all grass clippings or an overload of any other single type of material, it can throw off the balance of the pile. The greater the variety of things in the pile, the better the chances are of obtaining a well

balanced compost. In general, it's good to keep a mix of green and brown material. A simple guide is to mix two parts vegetable matter (grass, leaves, straw) with one part animal matter (manure).

A good read on this subject is *Let It Rot* by Stu Campbell. He theorizes that composting is based on the "principle of return". It is our small part of giving back to land what we have taken from it.

Michigan Protected Plants

Burr Oak Garden Club posts this list in their yearbook and had the good fortune of having Dr. David Michener, Curator of the UM Matthaei Botanical Gardens edit the list.

Wild flowers Protected by Michigan State Law:

All club mosses— *Lycopodium* sp.

All Gentians — *Gentiana* sp.

All native orchis: *Arethusa* sp., *Calopogon* sp., *Calyspo* sp., *Cleister* sp., *Cypripedium* sp., *Habenaria* sp., *Isotria* sp., *Lisera* sp., *Orchis* sp., *Pogonia* sp., and *Triphora* sp.

All native Trilliums— *Trillium* sp.

Bird's Foot Violtte— *Viola pedata*

Climbing Bittersweet— *Celastrus scandens*

False Indigo— *Baptisia leucophaea*

Flowering Dogwood— *Cornus florida*

North American Lotus— *Nelumbo lutea*

Pipssewa, Prince's Pine— *Chimaphila umbellata*

Purple Turtlehead— *Chelone obliqua*

Sweet William— *Phlox maculata*

Trailing Arbutus— *Epigaea repens*

Wild Hyacinth— *Camasssia scilloides*

Wildflowers protected by request of MGC, Inc.:

Adder's Tongue, Trout Lily— *Erythronium americanum*

Bloodroot— *Sanguinaria canadensis*

Cardinal Flower— *Lobelia cardinalis*

Cowslip— *Caltha palustris*

Indian Pipe— *Monotropa uniflora*

Jack-in-the-Pulpit— *Arisaema* sp.

Pitcher Plant— *Sarracenia purpurea* f. *heterophylla*

Spring Beauty— *Claytonia virginica*

Wild Columbine— *Aquilegia canadensis*

Wild Iris— *Iris* sp.

Wild Lilies— *Lilium* sp.

Note: *Hermerocallis fulva* (Ditch Lily, Tiger Lily) is not native and is not a lily and on another note, Purple Loosestrife, *Lythrum salicaria*, should never be grown.

~*~

To see photos of these plants visit : <http://cadillacgardenclub.org/protectedplants.html> and click on the links for each plant.



Meet Your District Director



Kathi Dominguez

District IIB Director

It is with great pleasure that I serve as District IIB Director. Former Directors have commented, "This is the best job ever" and so far, I agree.

My love of gardening began by following my mother around in her gardens. Each planting year she would say, "This year we're going to plant, sweet peas and zinnias" ...and she would go on and on and my brother and I would moan and groan and say, "Will she ever be finished?" Now I know the answer. As it turns out, I am passionate about gardening, gardeners and gardens and never grow tired of learning.

After retiring from the State of Michigan in 2002, I joined the DeWitt Millennium Garden Club, serving as co-president in 2003, 2004 and 2005. As a new club it was an ideal opportunity to learn how to put together fund raisers, work on city projects, and apply for awards. One community project of which we are so proud is the ever evolving, "Healing Garden." This area, which began as a dumping ground for concrete is now a restful, reflective spot for all who visit. In 2005, my club honored me with the very special award of a State Life Membership.

Working with the local government, DDA and the community groups inspired me to join together with merchants to establish and manage for three years, the Farmer's Market in downtown DeWitt. This energetic and worthy project was a great hands-on learning experience and it's still going strong.

Since then I've served on the MGC State Board, as Civic Beautification Chair, Corresponding Secretary, and as a member of the Finance Committee. Working with the State Board broadened my understanding of MGC and how we align with the Central Region and National Garden Clubs. After attending Environmental School, I agreed to take on the Operation Wildflower/Native Plant position with the Central Region.

When not focused on gardening, you'll find me reading, sewing, traveling, and spending time with family and friends. I have a very understanding husband, Tom, one Siamese cat and three delightful college-age sons, who come and go.

When you volunteer, you never know where it's going to take you. Garden club has introduced me to many awesome gardeners who have a passion for beautifying and protecting our planet and an intense desire to learn more about how things grow. What could be better!

Sandy Bodenbender

District V Director

My husband, Doug, and I built our log home and moved to Alden in 2003 after living in Holland, Michigan for thirty years. It was while living in Holland that I really became interested in gardening. We have a daughter, son-in-law and two wonderful grandsons

I designed and my husband helped landscaped all our gardens at our home in Alden while enlisting the help of a local landscaper to do the heavy stone work, planting of the ornamental trees and hydro seeding our lawn.

I joined the Juniper Garden Club in the Fall of 2003 and have held the 1st Vice President position as well as serving as club President for 2 and half years. I just finished my first year as District V Director. I have chaired our annual Spring Fashion Show and Luncheon and the Kalkaska Area Interfaith Resources Festival of Trees in November. Our home was on our Garden Walk in 2006 and I have served on many other committees within our club. I received a Master Gardner certificate in 2004 and have renewed each year since. I am also involved in the Alden Volunteers, past chair of the Social Committee and a member of the Garden Committee – Alden Depot Gardens. I just finished designing the gardens in front of our Church and am working with a committee to get the stones, plants, soil and mulch all donated and will have the projected completed by mid-July.

We have a pool in our lower level of our home and I teach Water Aerobics 5 days a week to neighbors and friends in need of pool therapy. I taught Water Aerobics 5 years while we were in Holland. While we lived in Holland I had a dance studio for 10 years and also taught Klompen Dancing at Holland High School for 15 years and was active in the Community Theatre.

Other interest include spending as much time as possible with our grandsons (ages 2 and 5) and hosting social dinners, annual Halloween Costume Party and Christmas Party for our friends and neighbors.

Sorry, no photo available.



"Clubs on the Grow"

Grosse Ile Garden Club District I

The Grosse Ile Garden Club was organized in 1927 and became affiliated with the Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan (now Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.) in 1935.

During the gardening season, the Club purchases, plants and maintains flowers, shrubs and bushes at three public locations in the community, and members also beautify a garden bed at the local VFW Hall.

The Club holds an annual Christmas charity auction. In 2007, more than \$5000 was donated to three local charities. The Club's flower shows, held in odd-numbered years, help to educate the members and the public on the art of floral design and horticultural display. A very popular event for the Grosse Ile Garden Club is its major fundraiser, a Home and Garden Tour, held in even-numbered years (this year's will be September 6).

The Grosse Ile Garden Club invites all to attend District I's Fall Meeting, "A Harvest Happening", which it will host October 7. Club members have been hard at work this summer making centerpieces you are going to have to see to believe!

Edelweiss Garden Club of Gaylord District V

The Edelweiss Garden Club of Gaylord is named to reflect the Swiss Alpine theme of our city. Founded in 1984, we will be celebrating our 25th anniversary next year with 62 Active and 5 Honorary Members (9 new Members to date this year.)

Our plantings support the European charm of our downtown and extend well beyond. The newly built Gaylord Regional Airport Terminal was a blank slate in May, designed and landscaped in one month's time for the Air Show with 2,000 in attendance in June. We maintain the Old 27 North Round-a-bout at the University Center, a welcome sign to the east and south, the Loon Rest Area on northbound I-75. Our smallest garden, with signage 'In Honor of Our Troops,' at the Courthouse Corner, consists of two military stars in yellow marigolds surrounded in red, white, and blue flowers.

We continue in our second year of renewal of the Sportsplex Energy Outlet, a playground and picnic area encompassed by a quarter mile walking and exercise track. Awarded \$5,000, out of 9,000 entries by Aveeno Skin Care Products from the Real Simple magazine contest, this restoration brought us two first place Michigan Garden Club State Awards for a medium sized Club, the *Civic Beautification* and the *Elsie Cook Award for Landscape Design*.

The festive holiday season kicks off with a pre-ordered Greens Sale and Christmas Luncheon. Large gift bags are given to 75 low income Seniors. Educational opportunities complete the winter meetings at a local restaurant with speakers this year on medicinal herbs and dyes, sustainable gardening, bee keeping and new plant selections available at an area greenhouse.

Spring brings a Membership Luncheon with the invitation to the public for prospective Members, two Scholarships presented to High School Grads (\$750 each), the Library Showcase for National Garden Week, the Annual Garden Walk ('Lakes and Ponds') and a summer favorite, 12 scheduled 'View My Gardens,' weekly visitations to members homes with lawn chair and brown bag lunch in tow. Gardens are toured, plant information exchanged along with socialization while having lunch at the host's home. In addition, a Spring/Fall Plant Exchange is held for the community, gardens are established for each Habitat for Humanity Home in Otsego County and we are planning the 2009 Spring District V Meeting, entitled 'Gateway to Gardening.' With Swiss hospitality and Alpine theme, Janet Macunovich of the Practical Gardening Institute will speak on 'Transplanting a Picture Perfect Garden' and 'Myths and Legends from the Garden' at the Otsego Club and Resort Convention Center, Tuesday, May 5th, 2009.

Marilyn McIntosh, Edelweiss Garden Club, President

Town and Country Garden Club of Dowagiac District III

The Town & Country Garden Club of Dowagiac was organized in 1952 by a group of women who were in a social sorority and had a common interest in gardening. They were federated in 1953 and historical information is sparse until the early 1980's. The object of the club has always been to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening and, over the years, the 25-30 members have shown a commitment to the beautification of Dowagiac.

Activities over the past few years include planting nineteen flowerpots spring and fall in the central business district, caring for gardens at a senior citizen residence and the local community theatre, a community beautification award to home owners, and the installation of a Blue Star Historical marker at Riverside Cemetery.

The club encourages visitors to the monthly evening meetings held at the First United Methodist Church when there is a featured speaker. During the summer months the club is "on the road" taking field trips to local gardens, nurseries, botanical gardens, etc. Topics for this summer include a speaker on rain gardens onsite at a local parking lot retention area and a visit to Fernwood Botanical Gardens in Berrien Springs featuring a Power Point presentation on the history of the once world famous gardens at the historic Niles train depot.

Fund raising centers around a fall fresh wreath and green sale in conjunction with Dowagiac's 'Home for Christmas' weekend in mid November. Thanks to a daily Dowagiac newspaper, we are 'that garden club' who is very visible around our 'grand old city.' AND, we have a great time together sharing gardening interests, secrets, passions, to make life more full and beautiful.

Submitted: Jody Crandall, T&C Garden Club Pres.

CONSERVATION CONFERENCE

Chippewa Nature Center, Midland, Michigan, September 6, 2008, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Registration deadline: Sept. 1; Cancellation deadline: Sept. 1, 2008

Fee: \$50/person, includes continental breakfast, lunch, and break snacks

The theme of this year's conference is Stewardship. The following programs will be part of the conference.

Landscaping for Wildlife Using Native Plants by Janea Little

What types of plants and other features are useful for attracting a variety of wildlife? Which trees and flowers are the best food sources for animals? And is there any way to attract only certain species, without bringing in animals you don't want? This session will also include a walk to investigate areas around the Nature Center where some of Janea's principles are applied.

Giving Sustainability a New Home in Mid-Michigan: Green Components of Chippewa Nature Center's Expanded Visitor Center by Dennis Pilaske

As Chippewa Nature Center prepares to expand we are looking to be a place where we will generate new program offerings related to sustainable design, environmental stewardship and alternative energy as a result of a LEED certified building designed to function as a teaching tool.

Our expanded Visitor Center will itself be a model for sustainability and will function as an area where we'll demonstrate more sustainable technologies. Through this we hope to inspire others in the region and beyond to be more sustainable in their actions. As an added bonus we'll save on our energy costs. Dennis Pilaske, co-chair of Visitor Center Expansion Committee will review "green" highlights of the planned expansion.

Wetlands Creation & Mitigation – Phil Stephens

CNC Senior Naturalist Phil Stephens will share the story of CNC's Wetlands Area and its creation in 1991 as a result of mitigation with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and a development company that wanted to build a shopping mall on the north side of Midland. In the end three basins totaling 40 acres were excavated here. Soil and muck were hauled from the mall construction site, and many new plants are transplanted, speeding development of the marshes. Now, over 15 years later, the wetlands continue to serve as an excellent area for birding, hiking and other nature activities.

Voyageur Canoe trip – (Available for 20 participants at a time)

Join us for an exciting adventure as we paddle a section of the Chippewa River in 29-foot Voyageur Canoes. The canoes are fiberglass reproductions of the birch bark canoes used by voyageurs to haul loads of trade goods and valuable animal pelts in the 18th and 19th centuries. During the trip we'll explore the unique natural and cultural resources of the area and share stories of the past all while having a truly unique outdoor experience. If weather or water conditions are not favorable this trip will be canceled.

Milkweed Haven – Judy Packard

A weed! Pull it! Kill it! No, no, stop! Save that milkweed. It's amazing all the life found on a milkweed plant, not to mention that it is the main food source of the monarch butterfly caterpillar. Judy Packard, CNC Educator, will help you investigate this common plant. She'll also lead you on a search for all stages of the monarch...egg, larva, chrysalis, and adult. You'll be amazed when you see all the other creatures that find refuge on this common plant.

Schedule Saturday, September 6, 2008

9:00 a.m. Registration, Continental Breakfast, Welcome by Bethany Goodman, Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. Conservation Conference Chairman

9:30 a.m. 'Giving Sustainability a New Home in Mid-Michigan: Green Components of Chippewa Nature Center's Expanded Visitor Center' – Dennis Pilaske

10:30 a.m. 'Milkweed Haven and Monarch Butterflies' given by Judy Packard

11:30 a.m. Catered lunch

12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m. 'Landscaping for Wildlife Using Native Plants' given by Janea Little

12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m. Voyageur Canoe Trip – CNC staff (for first 20 registrants)

1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. 'Landscaping for Wildlife Using Native Plants' given by Janea Little

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Voyageur Canoe Trip – CNC staff (for second 20 registrants)

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. 'Wetland's Creation and Mitigation' given by Phil Stephens

4:30 p.m. Wrap-up and farewells

CONSERVATION CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

September 6, 2008 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Garden club: _____

Registration fee

(includes continental breakfast, lunch, and break snacks) . . . **\$50**

Make check payable to:

Michigan Garden Clubs, Conservation Conference

Mail to: Bethany Goodman, Chairman, 4159 E. Hubbard Rd, Midland, MI 48642

Telephone: 989-835-3580 Email: BGoodman@aol.com

* NOTE No registration refunds after Sept. 1 2008

NGC, Inc. Sponsors Membership Drive

State with most new members will have a new Canna cultivar named after state

NGC's 209,000 international members, 6,300 local clubs, 50 state clubs and a National Capital Area club, make NGC the largest volunteer organization of its type in the world. This status means that garden club members have a powerful voice that can be heard coast-to-coast to achieve NGC's rewarding and relevant mission: to promote the love of gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental responsibility.

To help local and state garden clubs cultivate new members, NGC is sponsoring a friendly competition with a unique prize: The state with the greatest percentage increase in membership between June 1, 2008 and May 31, 2009 will be honored by having a new canna cultivar named after it. The cultivar, which can be grown in all states, reaches 3½ feet in height and has red/red-orange flowers and purple/black foliage. The grower will make the cultivar available nationwide.

'In our efforts to grow our membership, we want to get across the message that today's garden clubs creatively and effectively address current issues, such as climate change, highway beautification and a wide range of environmental concerns,' says Barbara D. May, president, National Garden Clubs, Inc. 'Local and state projects and national partnerships with such organizations as the U.S. Forest Service and Habitat for Humanity International give garden club members everywhere an opportunity to make a difference while engaging in activities they love.'



National Garden Clubs Inc. is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1929. It offers extensive educational programs and resources to promote gardening and environmental responsibility. NGC is headquartered in St. Louis, adjacent to the world-famous Missouri Botanical Garden. For more information on NGC programs and membership, visit www.gardenclub.org.

World Gardening

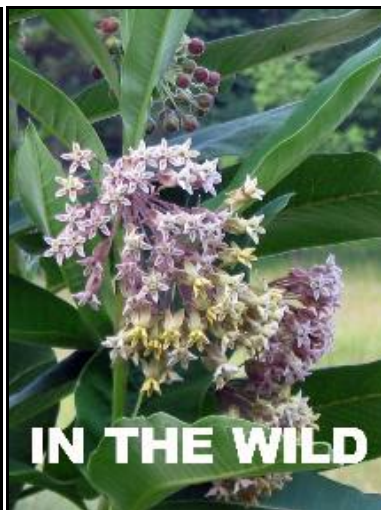
Chris Rochman, chairman

Hurricane Arthur has devastated north and south Belize. Destruction of homes and crops with flooding has been awful. Most of these people don't have much to begin with so our help is more important than ever. Please send donations to Chris Rochman, 4806 Holly Way, Ann Arbor, Mi. 48103-9448. Make checks out to the MGC, put World Gardening in lower left hand corner. Many thanks to the following who have made donations since the last Newsletter: Kalamazoo Garden Club, Yard & Garden Club of Flint, Chemical City Garden Club, Niles Garden Club, Garden Club of Dearborn, Kent Garden Club, Anne Wiseman, Garden Club of Greater Lansing, Evening Bloomers Garden Club of Mt. Pleasant, Swan Creek Garden Club, Spirit of the Woods Garden Club, Seed and Sod Garden Club, Nancy Goulette, Garden City Garden Club, Loch Alpine Garden Club, Garden City Garden Club, Stone & Thistle Garden Club, Friendly Garden Club of Traverse City and Kent Garden Club honorariums for Judy Nykamp, Rose Alber, Deannie Piccotti.



LARVAE

Monarch Mania
Help the Monarch Butterfly survive!
 What the larvae look like. What they eat in the wild. What they eat in your garden. Grow milkweed! (Asclepias)



IN THE WILD



IN THE GARDEN

District Fall Meetings

District I

'A Harvest Happening,' is scheduled for Tuesday, October 7, 2008, at Crystal Gardens Banquet Center, 16703 Fort Street, Southgate, Michigan, hosted by the Grosse Ile Garden Club.

The day will begin with coffee at 9:30 a.m., followed by a business meeting at 10:00 a.m.; club presidents or representatives will gather for a short President's meeting prior to the business meeting (details will be included in the Call Letters). Attendees will have opportunities throughout the day to 'shop' the MGC Marketplace, along with other vendors offering garden-related accessories. Members of the Grosse Ile Garden Club have been hard at work this summer making table centerpieces that will be the 'talk of the town!'

Cheryl M. English, certified Advanced Master Gardener, will be our morning speaker. Though educated as an Art Historian, Cheryl's career has evolved into that of a gardener, potter (her company is *Black Cat Pottery*), and public speaker, and her topic will be '*Autumn Jewels: The Science Behind the Scenery.*'

Continuing with the "Harvest Happening" theme, our afternoon program will be a demonstration by Christopher and Joseph, of Christopher and Company Special Event Productions, who will show us how to create beautiful harvest table scapes, using many readily-available accessories and plant materials we may already have in our homes and gardens. Among other credentials, Christopher and Company are responsible for many of the holiday decorations featured each year at the Henry Ford Estate – Fair Lane, a National Historic Landmark in Dearborn, Michigan.

Cost for the event is \$22, which includes a luncheon of soup, Maurice salad, rolls and butter, and dessert pastries. The deadline for reservations is September 30; Registrar is Virginia Froehlich, 8537 Voigt Avenue, Grosse Ile, MI 48138-1057, (734) 675-2944.

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 *Grosse Ile Garden Club*.

District IIB

Come and visit Hastings on the Thornapple River when the Thornapple Garden Club hosts the District IIB Fall Meeting, '*Button Down Your Garden,*' Wednesday, October 22, 2008.

The meeting will be held at the Ever After Banquet Conference Center located at 1230 N. Michigan Avenue in Hastings. Registration, shopping and continental breakfast will begin at 9:00 a.m. followed by the business meeting at

10:00 a.m. The morning speaker is Melanie Good, Stewardship Coordinator for the Land Conservancy of West Michigan, who will speak on a popular subject, 'Introducing Native Plants to the Garden and Alternatives to Invasive Plants.' After lunch we will have the pleasure of listening to C. J. Brander, MSU Advanced Master Gardener of Kent County, on the topic of 'Fragrances in the Garden.'

Cost for the day is \$20.00 per person. Reservations and one check per club are to be sent to Registrar, Karen Culver, 969 East M43 Highway, Hastings, Michigan, 49058. Her phone number is 269-948-3091. If seasonal garden club meetings begin in September or October, please take note that the registration deadline is Wednesday, October 1.

District IV

The fall district meeting will be in Muskegon with the Muskegon Garden Club as the host club. The place will be the Congregational Church downtown. Theme for the day is '*Mum's the Word.*' Contact person is: Registrar: Debra Sechen, 1349 Wealthy Ave, Muskegon MI 49441-5146; phone 231-798-1472 or email dsechen@hotmail.com.

Deadline for reservations is October 6, 2008. Registration and continental breakfast at 8:30 -9:30. All clubs Pres. meeting will be held at 8:40 for 1/2 hour and the business meeting will begin at 9:30.

Speakers will be Angie from Wasserman's Floral, who will do two or three floral arrangements using some new techniques. Charles Gould is the from Ottawa County MSU Extension, Agriculture, Natural Resources, Nutrient Management Educator, and will talk on fertilizers and their use. There will be a panel discussing fertilizers, soil testing, etc.

Carol LaPres-Beyer from the Muskegon Club will give a brief summary of her involvement in bringing the bluebirds back to Muskegon County. Kyle Fiebig is Agriculture Teacher and FFA advisor at Montague High School. His program has been ranked as one of the top ten programs in the State of Michigan for community and student development projects. Kyle's teaching methods consist of high energy, laughter, and excitement for agriculture and Natural Resources. He also has students that work in the school greenhouse where some of the vegetables are used for the school lunch program. Hope to see many there at this exciting meeting. Jeanne Poll, District IV Director

MGC, Inc. Signs

Pam Dewey, MGC Signs Chairman

We only have a limited number of signs left in the inventory at this point. Please connect to the MGC web site for the form.

Club News

BURR OAK GARDEN CLUB PLANTS A FIFTH GARDEN

MAY 7, 2008. The Burr Oak Garden Club planted annuals in a fifth garden in the Burr Oak downtown. This garden is a strip that is located in the middle of Third street and consists of 1100 square feet. The club currently maintains four other gardens in the village. The Village has approved funding to help support the Garden Club's civic garden projects intended to improve the environment and beautify the village.



CARO GARDEN CLUB HONORS CLUB MEMBER

Lucille Noble, an active member of the Caro Garden Club, celebrated her 100th birthday on July 23, 2008. She has been a member of this club for 35 years, serving as their president in 1982 and becoming a life

member in 1991. Lucille is a petite bundle of energy and determination. She has been instrumental in the Marigold Street Project from 1983 – 1993, the Memorial Garden established in 1992, and the Noble Boulder Park established in 2003. A celebration was held in her honor in July at her home. Please send congratulations to Lucille in care of Caro Garden Club, P. O. Box 531, Caro, MI 48723-0531.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN STUDY PROGRAM - Course I

September 8-10, 2008

Holiday Inn Express - Okemos

Deadline to Register is **August 29, 2008**

\$85.00 course fee & exam fee

To enroll contact Registrar:

Anne Wineman

2139 Arbor Meadows Drive, DeWitt, MI 38820-8834

517-669-3152

wisemana@comcast.net

For questions contact:

Bev Johnson - Chairperson

at 517-339-9769 or email bjamg05@sbcglobal.net

Join us and learn from these great instructors:

Tim Banfield, Ann Hancock, Ralph Heiden, Bonnie Ion, Peter Motz, Dr. Robert Schutzki, and Martha Wyatt

Congratulations to New MGC Life Members

District I

Sharon Creutz, Grosse Ile Garden Club

Lisa Steinkopf, Hill & Dale GC

Angie Wilkie, Livonia Garden Club

District IIA

Rose Adams, Saline Stone & Thistle Garden Club

Jeannie Bauer-Bosworth, Webberville Garden Club

District IIB

Cindy Brown, Williamston Red Cedar Garden Club

Ann Evans, Webberviller Garden Club

Marion Heator, Green Thumb Garden Club

Anne Hester, River Ridge Garden Club

Dorla Horkey, Green Thumb Garden Club

Barbara Olmsted, Green Thumb Garden Club

Louise Omar, Williamston Red Cedar Garden Club

Penny Thompson, DeWitt Millennium Garden Club

District III

Marcia Blackman, Colon Garden Club

Carrie Butler, Carnegie Garden Club

Audrey Hartman, Meek's Mill GC

Pauline Heldt, Lawrence Garden Club

Vivian M. Hutchins, Lawrence Garden Club

Elva Nugent, Niles Garden Club

Marie J. Kizer Mann, Club of Litte Gardens

Pat Pawlak, Gardenettes Garden Club

Frances Sage, Western Hill Garden Club

Debbie Taylor, Meek's Mill Garden Club

Barbara Tokarski, Club of Little Gardens

Jacquelyn Warrick, Berrien Springs Garden Forum

District IV

Mary Block, Kent Garden Club

Evelyn Cooper, Lowell Showboat Garden Club

Anne DuMez, Holland Garden Club

Norman Dykewicz, Standale Garden Club

Bette A. Harper, Big Rapids Garden Club

Nancy Harriman, Muskegon County Garden Club

Patricia Hooper, Tri-Cities Gardern Club

Lois Kayes, Holland Garden Club

Agnes Rought, Garden Club of Pentwater

District V

Dalores Burau, Edelweiss Garden Club

Audry Etienne, Charlevoix Area Garden Club

Barbara MacArthur, Charlevoix Area Garden club

Margaret Reilly, Elk Rapids Garden Club

Suzanne Stock, Edelweiss Garden Club

Nidra Wagar, Elk Rapids Garden Club

Patricia Jagon, Port Sanilac Garden Club

District VI

Jo Anne Thompson, Mt Pleasant Fed. Garden Club

Calendar of Events

Carol Knoper, Chairman

September 3 & 4, State Board Finance & Board Meeting

September 6 Conservation Conference, Midland. Contact Bethany Goodman or our web site. www.michigangardenclubs.org

September 6 Grosse Ile Garden Club Home & Garden Tour

10:00 - 4:00 Tickets \$15.00 available at VFW Hall, Macomb St., Grosse Ile, day of tour. Information call Virginia 734-676-7628

September 6 Scottville Farmers Market on US-10 in parking lot of West Shore Bank. All plants are from members gardens and acclimated to our zone. Contact: Suzanne at setownse@aol.com

September 8 -10 Landscape Design School – Course I Okemos

September 11. District V Fall Meeting Little River Casino, Manistee. **“Wings & Things”** Fee \$29.00. Hosted by Spirit of the Woods and Portage Garden Clubs, Information call Carol Krull 231-723-3296.

September 15. MGC annual dues become delinquent if not paid. If your club needs to pay on a later date, call or email Database for an extension.

September 16 Grosse Pointe Area Garden Clubs, Benefit for Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory, Belle Isle “A Sign of Things to Come”, cocktail party to fund botanical signage, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Conservatory. Admission \$35, with optional voluntary contribution to the Belle Isle Botanical Society. Coordinated by The Garden Club of Michigan. Nancy Smith, (313) 823-1819, RSmith@earthlink.net or Bethine Whitney (313) 881-4611, bethine2@aol.com.

September 18-20. Flower Show School, Course II, in Dist. I. Contact Della Haydon, 734-427-9410

NOTE: Location change. Course II will be held at **HOLIDAY INN, Ann Arbor, 3600 Plymouth Rd., Ann Arbor.**
**** Location Change****

September 22-23. Gardening Study School Course I, Midland First United Methodist Church, for information call 989-2394 or 989-834-3580

September 24. Michigan Association of Accredited Judges Meeting “Flower Arranging as an Art Form” & “The Hydrangea High” 9:30-3:00 Holiday Inn Midland. \$20.00, Guests welcome (\$25.00) Send registration to Alice Mesaros, 1301 Ashly Ct., Midland, MI 48640; 989-631-4903 alicemesaros@yahoo.com

September 30 District IIA Meeting Ann Arbor, **“Autumn Splendor”** will be hosted by The Sunshine Arrangers Guild at the Ann Arbor Country Club, 4699 E. Loch Alpine Dr., (NW of Ann Arbor in Loch Alpine Subdivision—734-426-4693) at 9:00AM. \$22 cost in the form of a club check can be sent to Sunshine Arrangers Guild, Kit Gunn, 4584 Boxwood, Ann Arbor, 48108 734-994-9455. Deadline 9/24. Questions: Margaret Jahnke, Dist IIA Director at 724-996-0148

October 1-5. NGC Board Meeting Providence RI

October 7. District I Meeting hosted by Grosse Ile Garden Club at Crystal Gardens Banquet Center in Southgate Virginia Froehlich 734-675-2944 vafroehlich@comcast.net

October 7 & 14 Dist. IIA Beginner Flower Arranging Lessons at the Saline Dist. Library 555 North Maple Road, Saline 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM/ The cost of \$35 includes both days’ instruction, a step by step manual, and all supplies to make four fresh flower designs. Bring a brown bag lunch. Checks can be sent to Mary Pulick, 1745 Stonebridge Dr. South, Ann Arbor, MI 48108 734-665-4703 mvgardenclub@aol.com

October 9. District III Fall Meeting . Calvary Bible Church, Kalamazoo. “Pumpkins & Pansies”, hosted by Grow & Show GC. Information Beth Shirley, 269-349-9575. See June-July issue or www.michigangardenclubs.org.

October 14. District VI Fall Meeting, host Chemical City Garden Club **“Homes for Birds & Blooms.”** Contact Ann McGeehan-Woodward, annemcgeehan_woodard@hotmail.com or Nancy Stark at nstark1801@aol.com Midland Holiday Inn Conference Center; Registration Fee is \$20.00

October 15-16. Environmental School Ann Arbor

October 20. District IV Fall Meeting hosted by Muskegon Garden Club

October 22. District IIB Fall Meeting

October 25-29. Central Region Meeting, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. MGC Pres. will let those interested know if the location is changed due to the flooding in Iowa. www.ngccentralregion.org

December 6. Cadillac Garden Club Holiday Home Tour 11:00-4:00 Discount ticket price for purchase before day of event. Call 231-779-0559 or 231-510-9047

May 1-09 Dist VI Spring Meeting, Lexington N. Stark1801@aol.com

June 2 & 3, 2009 MGC, Inc. Convention, Kalamazoo, MI. Radisson Hotel.

Please add to your judges list: District III, Lynn Dinvald, 6802 Springbrook Ln., Kalamazoo, MI 49004-9665 (269) 343-3827 (Congratulations, Lynn!)

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



State President’s Project—
Help the Monarch survive!



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 Send all newsletter submissions to this address.

MGC, Inc. is a 501 (c) 3 organization. Please visit the MGC, Inc Web Page at www.michigangardenclubs.org

ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL – COURSE III

October 15 and 16, 2008
Matthaei Botanical Gardens,
1800 N. Dixboro Rd., Ann Arbor

TOPICS FOR COURSE III

“Air and Related Issues”

- Ecology of the Air
- Plants: The Rain Forest
- Environmental Ethics
- Environ. Science: Pollution
- Wildlife: Endangered Plants and Wildlife
- Initiating School Programs
- Earth Stewardship
- . . .Material Sources and Citizen Education
- . . . Programs
- Nature Discovery Field Trip

READING ASSIGNMENT

The National Gardener

Living in the Environment by G. Tyler Miller, Jr.

(Upon registration, students will be sent specific reading assignment pages.)

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.

The Mission of Environmental School is 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 10/8/08.

Michigan School Chairman: Bonnie Ion. Questions? Email bion@umich.edu or 734-769-2015

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., Ann Arbor 734-997-9100

ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL COURSE REGISTRATION

DEADLINE Oct. 8, 2008

Please Print

NAME: _____

GARDEN CLUB: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

STREET: _____

CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

FULL COURSE REGISTRATION:

Oct. 15 & 16, 2008 \$70.00 \$ _____

Includes study outlines, two continental breakfasts and two lunches

Taking Exam? Yes No Refreshing? Yes NoFee \$5.00 \$ _____

PART TIME REGISTRATION:

Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2008 \$40.00 \$ _____

Thursday, Oct. 16, 2008 \$40.00 \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Make checks to **MGC Environmental School** and send to Mary Pulick, Registrar
 1745 Stonebridge Drive S., Ann Arbor, MI 48108-8515 734-665-4703 mpgardenclub@aol.com
 (No refunds after October 8, 2008, thanks!)