



Michigan Garden Clubs - History 2009-2011

Name of State Garden Club: Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. **Founded:** 1931 **Region:** Central
State Garden Club President 2009-2011: Lynn L. Dinvald (Mrs. Valfrid Dinvald)
Theme: "Growing More than Gardens" **Project:** Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary
Number of Garden Clubs: 190 **Number of Districts:** 7 **Number of Members:** 7111
NGC President: Renee Blaschke **Central Region Director:** Joan Hood

NGC Schools Sponsored:

Environmental Studies: One, continuing through 2011
Flower Show School: One, completed September 2009; another to begin August 2011
Gardening Study School: One completed April 2010; another to begin September 2011
Landscape Design School: One completed May 2010; another to begin September 2011
Flower Show Symposium: Two, September 2009, June 2010; one scheduled for August 2011
Tri-Refresher: One, May 2009; one scheduled for October 2011



Lynn L. Dinvald, MGC President 2009-2011

2009 State Convention: Kalamazoo, MI, June 2-3, Theme: "Creating Beauty" Installation year. Norma Stancati and Phyllis Straw Co-Chaired the 78th Annual Convention "Creating Beauty" held at the Radisson Plaza Hotel and Suites in Kalamazoo, presiding was our current MGC President, Dolores Stouwie. Central Region Director, Joan Hood was our guest.

A walking tour through historic Kalamazoo was offered and a docent-guided tour of Georgia O'Keefe's paintings at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts.

Workshops were provided by Pauline Flynn, NGC Accredited Master Judge,

former MGC District Director, and Arts & Craft Chairman, on how to make contrived flowers from natural materials. 'Easy Orchids' expert Rob Halgren, spoke

on how to grow orchids. Photographer Dean Pennala shared his skills on how to capture beauty in photographing flowers, gardens and the details of nature. Potter and gardener, Cleve Hayes, discussed planting techniques, and tell us the history and botany of sedums. Wildlife Recovery Association's Joe Rogers, spoke about the importance of birds of prey and their rehabilitation. In the evening, after the reception honoring the organization's leadership, the new MGC officers were installed by Sharon Yantis and Lyn Butus, former MGC State Presidents, followed by an Afterglow reception. James Bridenstine, Executive Director of the Kalamazoo Institute of Art, 'Something is Blooming in Kalamazoo,' provided an overview of the exhibit of works by Georgia O'Keefe. Our featured luncheon speaker, author and distinguished garden designer, Pam Duthie, spoke on how to bring continuous color into our gardens. Other speakers included: MGC Webmaster Valfrid Dinvald hosted a workshop on using the MGC Website, and Cleve Hayes will repeat his Monday workshop. The conference closes on a high note with our dinner speaker Dorothy Hochmuth, local floral designer, who shared many outstanding designs.

2009 State Convention: Kalamazoo, MI, June 2, Theme: "Creating Beauty ..." Installation year

2010 State Convention: Battle Creek, MI, May 25, Theme: "Seeds of Tomorrow" **Keynote:** Paul Tukey

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

2011 Central Region: October 3-4, Grand Rapids. Theme: "Autumn Tapestry"

2011 Tri- Refresher: October 2, Grand Rapids incorporated with the Central Region's Meeting

2011 State Convention: Midland, MI June 9, Theme: "Growing Gardens, Creating Communities" Installation Year

With a city housing one of the awarding winning children and public gardens in the state, many speakers associated with Dow Gardens have offered their expertise, thus reducing mileage cost.

Achievements:

I especially want to thank my Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. Board Members for being an amazing team. I am deeply appreciative of all the help I received from many Board and club members throughout this great state and organization.

This President's Project supported the Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary, the only state wildflower preserve associated with the US Forest Service in the Nation, in their efforts to construct a pavilion for the sanctuary through the sale of Michigan Garden Clubs logo (Spirit Wear) merchandise and donations. Our efforts were achieved and our goal reached more than \$20,000 raised for this project. The sale of Spirit Wear merchandise having the MGC logo served two purposes: 1) a means of promoting Michigan Garden Clubs name throughout the state; and 2) a means of establishing a common goal in which every member could participate to provide a pavilion at the wildflower sanctuary for outdoor classes to be held. I'm pleased to say that the enthusiasm for this project continued into the next presidency, Nancy Stark's term, and grew to establish a Loda Lake Fund at the Freemont Area Community Foundation to continue this legacy.

Because Michigan has many established members not able to dig in the dirt, another goal was to request members to read garden related books to the children in their communities and then donate those books to their local library; More than 575 garden related books were donated. This was a project that benefitted two generations and another organization – our public libraries and schools in Michigan.

Our "new" Website has been operational since December of 2007. It has grown enormously thanks to our new website and web master, Valfrid Dinvald. We can all access valuable information in many content areas. There are areas exclusively for members and others for the public to view more about MGC. There are links to other Garden Clubs in Michigan, National Garden Clubs and Central Region plus related gardening sites. The public areas were designed to give the visitor an idea of what the organization is about, so they can explore their interests further through one of our member clubs. The member only areas were designed to provide club leadership information that is helpful to all MGC clubs. The site continued to change as new material was presented that is of interest to members or the general public. It is a vehicle for up-to-date communication for our membership and potential new members. Michigan Garden Clubs' Board is grateful to Edna Rosenfield for her generous gift through her Trust Fund. It was decided to utilize the gift for the benefit of many and especially to those interested in joining a garden club. Our investment in the Website is intended to honor Edna for her generosity.

MGC was fortunate to have a professional and highly qualified member, Ester Lamb, establish a database for Michigan Garden Clubs membership records and then proceed to create a Yahoo Newsletter Group so our members, if they desire, could receive the state publication, *Thru the Garden Gate* via email. A Database Committee was established to assist with the many facets of this project. Tables / Queries were created to provide, with a click of the mouse, various types of information related to the database. Security for this information was high on our priority list and this has been address by the Database Manager.

With the assistance of our MGC Board members, our official MGC Handbook and Bylaws were revisited, updated, and printed. These were huge projects and thanks to our chairmen, Marge McGoff and Florence Smith (both former MGC State Presidents) we were able to complete and issue the handbook and Bylaws in 2010. Deannie Picciotti played a significant role as scribe for these projects.

MGC has presented more than 56 Life Memberships and three National Garden Club Life Memberships since June 2009. Over 94% of Michigan garden clubs participated and promoted civic beautification within their communities and have incorporated more than 64,217 daffodils in support of "Golden Days" and this president's "Yellow Ribbons of Color" projects.

Collections were taken at the District Meetings for the "Memorial Garden for the Fallen" at Dover Air Force Base. Many of our garden clubs and individuals gave donations, which totaled more than \$7,000 by Michigan Garden Club members. Our

members truly opened their hearts and pocketbooks for this heartwarming project sponsored by the Delaware Federated Garden Clubs. We can do wonderful things as a dedicated group of unified members.

Our "Retention and Recruitment" membership campaign, spearheaded by Nancy Stark First Vice President, provided many new members and six new garden clubs from 2009-2011. Three districts, one garden council affiliated with 12 MGC garden clubs, and many individual clubs throughout the state, held flower shows during this president's term. Youth garden clubs in Michigan are learning about beautification, conservation and have plant school gardens. Community gardens continue to grow in popularity with many MGC clubs sponsoring programs and support for project in their areas.

New Garden Clubs: By-The-Bay Garden Club of Sutton's Bay #483, The Looking Glass Garden Club #484, Evening Blossoms Garden Club #485, Belleville Garden Club #486 and Mid-Michigan Flowers Arrangers' Guild #487, and Finlandia Garden Club #484.

Disbanded: Holland Horticulture Garden Club Dist IV, All Seasons Garden Club Dist IV, Farmington Hills Arrangers Guild #408, Flat Rock Garden Club #61

MGC is committed and donated funds to World Association of Flower Arrangers (WAFA). Four Michigan Flower Show Master Judges were on hand for the opening of WAFA in Boston, MA, June 15-19, 2011. Jean Moran and Pauline Flynn exhibited in the competitive classes while Marge McGoff and Nancy Passfield serve on judging panels for the flower show.

The seven Districts' of Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. placed their 50th Blue Star Memorial marker at Fort Custer National Cemetery, May 24, 2010 and were honored to have Renee Blaschke, NGC President, participate in our dedication. This was the first Blue Star Memorial Marker to be placed in a National Cemetery. Lorrie Dyal was the Blue Star Chairman for Michigan who enthusiastically promoted this project. Michigan has a total of 59 Blue Star Memorials and during 2009-2011 the following garden clubs dedicated memorials:

Pinckney Garden Club	5/16/2009
Carnegie Garden Club, Paw Paw	5/16/2009
Dearborn Garden Club	6/25/2009
Perry Garden Club & Across the Fence Post Garden Club	9/12/2009
South Haven Garden Club (new numbered #36 in Directory) Plus a Found Blue Star Marker, reconditioned and adopted by the South Haven Garden Club now resides side by side.	9/19/2009
Muskegon Garden Club (new memorial)	8/2/2009
Old memorial was lost then found and completely refinished and rededicated	11/11/2009
Niles Garden Club	11/10/2009
Pleasant Ridge Garden Club	5/8/2010
Spirit of the Woods Garden Club, Manistee	5/15/2010
Sturgis Garden Club	6/11/2010
Grand Ledge Garden Club	9/11/2010
The Landscapers Garden Club, Kalamazoo	6/14/2010
Fort Custer National Cemetery, Battle Creek	5/24/2010
Ma Me Ne Sewong Garden Club, Traverse City	9/11/2010
White Pigeon Garden Club	5/14/2011
Wyandotte Garden Club	5/21/2011
White Cloud Garden Club	5/25/2011

The MGC Board of Directors provided many articles for our MGC state publication, "Thru the Garden Gate" edited by Gayle Nigg, which kept our members informed and provided encouragement for those unable to attend various functions. New to this Executive Board, was an Advertising Manager, Anina Bachrach, who secured advertising to defray the cost of our state publication, "Thru the Garden Gate." 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 ... this

mission was achieved by our dedicated board and club member's. My gratitude also goes to my husband, Valfrid Dinvald MGC Web Master, for his continued support throughout my two-year term in office as MGC State President. See the MGC State Board of Directors Roster list below for members serving during 2009-2011.

This MGC President attended each District and Presidents Meetings, Club Anniversaries, Flower Shows, MGC Schools, Garden Walks, and special events. As State President it was a pleasure to represent Michigan Garden Clubs at the 80th NGC Annual Fall Board Meeting, 9/30-10/03, 2009, St. Louis, Missouri; the 81 NGC Annual Convention, 9/22-25/2010 Great Falls, Montana; and the 82nd NGC Annual Convention, 5/27-30, 2011, Washington, DC.

Writing the "History" of this President's term is difficult because this two-year term move so quickly. My deepest thanks for all you said, "yes" to each request for help. I've been blessed to work with all of the MGC Members throughout this great state of Michigan. For archived MGC newsletters and meeting minutes, visit the MGC website: michigangardenclubs.org (member-side).

Michigan Garden Clubs State Board of Directors Serving from 2009-2011

MGC State Board Position	Name
State President	Lynn L. Dinvald
First Vice President	Nancy Stark
District Activities & Membership	
Second Vice President	Jeanne Poll
Civic Affairs	
Third Vice President	Sherry Sanelli
Education and Schools	
Fourth Vice President	Jeanette Foster
Gardening and Conservation	
Recording Secretary	Virginia Konczalski
Corresponding Secretary	Karen Gentile
Treasurer	Sue Wilber and Pamela Dewey
District I Director	Virginia Froehlich
District IIA Director	Margaret Jahnke
District IIB Director	Kathleen Dominguez
District III Director	Carol Beckius
District IV Director	Deannie Picciotti
District V Director	Sandy Bodenbender
District VI Director	Patricia Wilber
2011 MGC Convention Co-Chair	Sherry Kalina
2011 MGC Convention Co-Chair	Loraine Reese
Advisory Council President	Dolores Stouwie
Arboriculture	Jacquelyn Warwick
Artistic Crafts	Mary Van Tassel
Awards	Bobbie Quick
Birds & Butterflies	Joan Blincoe
Blue Star Chairman	Lorraine Dyal
MGC Webpage Calendar	Lynn L. Dinvald
Civic Beautification	Betty Assmann
Database/Membership	Ester Lamb
Michigan Consultants Council	Mary Pulick, President
Environmental Issues	Karen Jencks
Environmental Schools	Marie Fisher
Finance Chairman	Marge McGoff
Flower Show School	Lois Snover-Hanson
Floral Design Courses	Marie Smith & Phyllis Straw

Michigan Garden Clubs State Board of Directors Serving from 2009-2011

MGC State Board Position	Name
Flower Show Advice & Awards	Nancy Johnson
Flower Show Judges Credentials	Mary Pulick
Flower Show Symposium	Sharon Yantis
Gardening Study Schools	Jerre Beattie-Ihrcke
Garden Therapy	Susan Kropschot
Historian	Judith Carr
Historic Preservation	Carol McGregor
Horticulture	Judy DeJaegher
Hospitality	Anastasia Stutcher
Landscape Design School	Terry Harding
Legislation	Anne Wiseman
Life Membership MGC/NGC	Anne Wineman
Loda Lake/Visiting Gardens	Karen Motawi
MAAJ-MI Judges Association	Kathryn Clary
MGC Advertising Manager	Anina Barhrach
MGC Logo Merchandise/Sales on Website	Wendie Stephenson
MGC Membership Promotion	Nancy Stark
MGC Name Badges	Carol Brock
MGC Newsletter Editor	Gayle Nigg
MGC Newsletter Proof Reader	Norma Stancati
MGC President's Project	Jolaine Snyder
MGC Signs	Maggie Jones
MGC Web Master	Valfrid Dinvald
MGC Web Page Banners	Joseph Yantis
NGC Award of Excellence	Lynn Miller
NGC Scholarship	Virginia Froehlich
National Gardner Promotion	Barbara Donahue
Nominations Chairman	Dolores Stouwie
Parliamentarian	Robin Courtright
Photography	Judy Nykamp
Printing	Rachel "Bunny" McComb
Policy/Procedures: Job Descriptions	Florence Smith
Rules/Bylaws	Marge McGoff
Scholarships	Nancy McGilliard
Strategic Planning	Sharon Yantis
Wildflowers	Carol Phelps
World Gardening	Chris Rochman
Youth Activities	Debra Zilka
Advisory Council Members 2009-2011	
Florence Smith, Connie Snell, Sharon Yantis, Jean Moran, Miriam Harcek, Marge McGoff, Lyn Butus, Nancy Passfield, Erie Heermann, Caroline Gray, Miriam Petrides, Vera Sullivan Inactive: Mary Lou Fox; Out of State: Nancy Goulette	
A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. One does not set out to be a leader, but becomes one by the quality of their actions and the integrity of their intent. In the end, leaders are much like eagles, they don't flock, you find them one at a time.	