

MICHIGAN GARDEN CLUB'S HISTORIAN REPORT 2013-2015

Name of State Garden Club: Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. **Region:** Central
State Garden Club President: Deannie Picciotti **Theme:** "Working Together to Grow Together"
Michigan has 172 Clubs, 7 Districts, and 6,103 Members

Deannie's Theme was chosen because she had two goals. Our President wanted the Michigan Garden Clubs to know how the State Board operated and how the board could help them. Also, she wanted clubs working together on projects. For example: Muskegon County Garden Club worked with Pentwater Garden Club to bring Dr. Alan Steinman, and he spoke on the "Challenges and Solutions facing the Great Lakes". The meeting was also open to the public.

Schools Sponsored: Environmental School, Landscape Design School, Gardening Study School, and Flower Show School student judges competed requirements for their accreditation. There have been 24 Flower Shows and 4 are planned for spring. Two Flower Show Symposiums and two Multiple Refreshers were sponsored.

2014 State Convention: Eagle Eye Event Center, Bath, MI – June 3, 2014

Theme: "Youth Are Our Future"

This was a one day convention, a non-installation year, with a \$40 registration fee. Over 300 were in attendance and there was an unexpected profit of \$3,000. The Keynote Speaker was Jessica Wright, Education Coordinator for Michigan 4-H Gardens at the Michigan State University campus. Twenty garden clubs brought a card table display of their club's youth projects to explain and share. The day focused on ideas for clubs to use with youth, including a workshop for all attending of table decorations and a craft project of painting with flower petals.

2015 State Convention: Odawa Casino Resort, Petoskey, MI – June 3-5, 2015

Theme: "Michigan Blooms"

The featured speaker of the first banquet will be James Lutke, the noted floral designer, who created the tree toppers for the White House Christmas trees. Other speakers include Heather Keough, a wildlife biologist at Luther College, Iowa. Dr. Knudson will regale listeners with his humorous story of how he came to write not one but three books on the natural world. Seminars are planned on photography in the garden, lavender and skin care, and creating beverages beyond the ordinary from herbs. Vendors, floral designs, and educational exhibits are planned to inspire, educate, and satisfy with many delights.

Achievements:

The focus has been on "Working Together" with emphasis on Loda Lake, MGC Scholarship Program, Life Memberships, and World Gardening with the 4-H Youth Development in Belize.

MGC completed a major project that spanned three administrations. A ribbon cutting ceremony marked the completion of the Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary's new pavilion, expanded parking, new driveway, and facilities. This was a joint project with the US National Forest Service, the Fremont Community Foundation, and Michigan Garden Clubs. The establishment of the Wildflower Sanctuary in the Manistee National Forest was spearheaded by local garden clubs and their members. It has been and will be a continuing Permanent Project for Michigan Garden Clubs. In 2012 an endowment fund for long term maintenance (\$16,000) was established.

Local garden clubs have contributed, \$2,655.00 in 2013-2014 and \$1,430 from June 1, 2014 to date February 3, 2015, to World Gardening in Belize. The World Garden Chairman has prepared a power point presentation for local garden clubs to use as a program.

The MGC Scholarship program has provided thirteen \$1,00.00 scholarships each year to students at

state colleges and universities studying horticulture, floriculture, landscape design, botany, and environmental sciences, and other allied subjects. In addition MGC has given \$50,000.00 to endow a scholarship of at least \$2,000.00 to a Michigan State University student studying horticulture. This was funded by a donation to MGC by a garden club member. This scholarship provides a student, who meets the requirements, the opportunity to continue receiving this through graduate studies.

Our Blue Star Chairman has been very busy attending dedications. MGC has dedicated 9 new Blue Star Memorials with a grand total of 78 in Michigan. We were honored when the National Blue Star Chairman, came to the dedication of Owasso's Blue Star Memorial.

We have recognized 103 Members with MGC Life Memberships and 9 with NGC Life Memberships.

Activities that Gave Our State the Most Pride: We changed the format of the MGC Board of Directors Meeting to include Committee meetings prior to the Board Meeting. This has provided opportunities for committee chairs to work together to provide tools and resources to our local garden clubs. DVDs of our Permanent Projects have been developed to provide garden clubs with programs that educate, inspire, and encourage clubs and members to participate.

We've updated a MGC membership brochure that provides space for garden clubs to add their contact information. We've collected from clubs, 100 ideas and 225 programs to try; created a booklet "Best Practices" to Increase and Retain membership. Publicity has new rack cards and business cards.

MGC has developed a Power Point Leadership Seminar that can be tailored to fit the needs and time available for attendees. Each section is a separate module. We begin with: "We Are Connected" an overview of our organization showing how each of us is connected to NGC, Central Region and our State and Districts. We want every member to know the exciting and enormous benefits we have for the \$.50 NGC dues. We identify skills and knowledge of a leader. We also provide modules on Efficient & Effective Meetings, Responsibilities, and Roles of Officers. We continue to update and provide information requested by clubs. We emphasize that we do not have to "reinvent the wheel", resources are available to club leaders from NGC, CR, and MGC.

We are working with The Bentley Historical Library at the University of Michigan to update the archiving of our history. When finished Bentley will have archived our files from 1931 – 2015. Along the same line Caro Garden Club just celebrated a special accomplishment. For this special occasion they enjoyed a Lovely High Tea. Tables were set with embroidered table cloths, china tea cups, English Tea, and scones. They had completed archiving their history from 1932 till the present.

National Convention has chairs on pins and needles as they plan to put on a WOW convention in Grand Rapids on the Grand in May 2-6, 2016. So be ready for "Bloomin' on the Grand".

NGC Awards Won in 2013: First Place Awards:

NGC Award #5 -C Standard Flower Show: "Jubilee a Centennial Celebration" by Kent Garden Club

NGC Award #57 A Standard Flower Show staged in a Public Building "Natures Colors" Holland Club

NGC Award #30-B District Standard Flower show, "Follow the Yellow Brick Road" by District IV

NGC Award #12 -3 Ali Publication-Newsletter of 13-14 pages: Kent Garden Club

NGC Award #63-B Website professionally designed: Kent Garden Club

Commendations: NGC Award #44 -Ali Press Book: Holland Garden Club

NGC Award #62-Ali Landscape Design: Brighton Garden Club

Scholarships: \$4,000.00 to Emily Ann Mydlowski -Northern Michigan University

Central Region Awards: First Place Awards

NGC Award #16-A-5, Club Yearbook: 77-99 members: Kent Garden Club

NGC Award #16-A-2, Club yearbook: 20-29 members: chemical City Garden Club

NGC Award #16-B Special club Yearbook: West Michigan Flower Arrangers Guild

Scholarships: \$500.00 to Emily Ann Mydlowski – Northern Michigan University