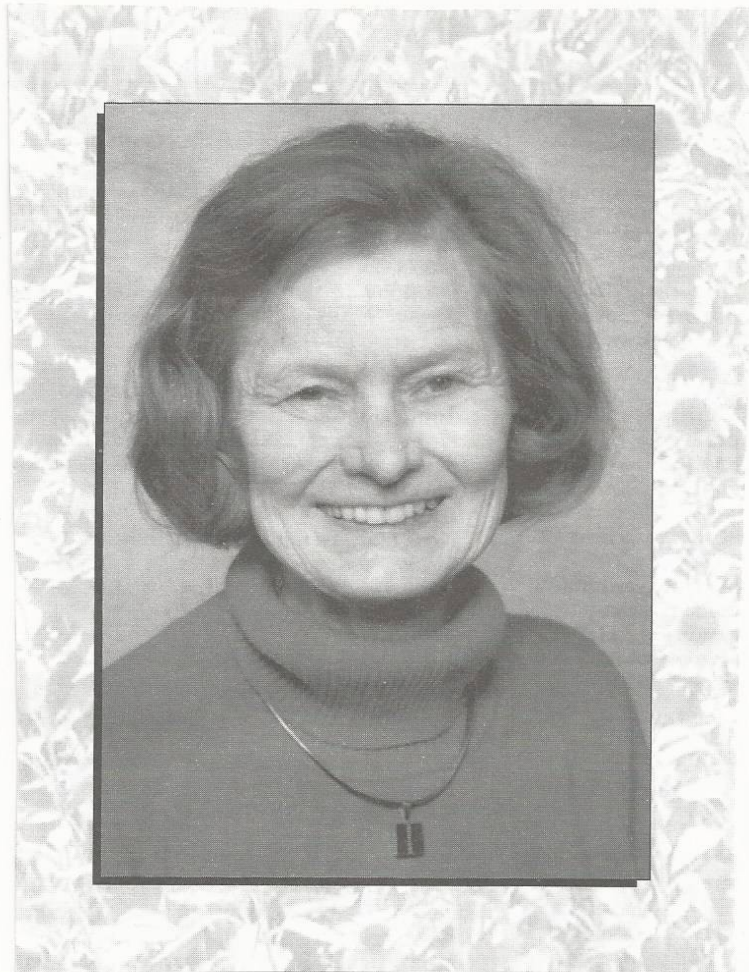


**THE FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF MICHIGAN, INC.
CENTRAL REGION**

June 2003 - June 2005

President: CONNIE SNELL (MRS. HILARY F.)
1065 Plymouth Rd. SE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506-6525

THEME: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow



HISTORIAN
Madelyn Schrotenboer
10135 96th Ave
Zeeland, Michigan 49464-9752

194 Clubs

7 Districts

7,482 members

NGC Schools: 2003-2005:

Flower Show School: Courses II-IV Marshall

Gardening Study School: Courses I-IV Ann Arbor

Landscape Design School: Courses I-IV Holland

The dates of all four schools for the next two years have been set up:

Flower Show School: Grand Rapids

Gardening Study School: Kalamazoo

Landscape Design School: Traverse City

Environmental School: Midland

2004 State Convention: Airport Hilton, Grand Rapids May 24-26, 2004

Theme: Reaching Goals

Dolores Stouwie and Carol Knoper Co-Chaired the 73rd Annual Convention. There were 217 registered. Central Region Director Barbara Mikkelsen was a guest. Speakers included Jolene DeHeer "Reaching Goals"; Rebecca Finneran "A Passion for Plants"; Jay McCaman "If Weeds Could Talk"; Walter Klimek & Barry T. Jeter "Fabulous Bouquets & Arrangements Using Flowers from your Garden"; Marge McGoff, a design program "Reaching Goals by Way of Design"; and Linda Koning "Nectar Plants for Butterflies". Workshops included Learning about the Small Standard Flower Show, Flower Show Books of Evidence, Rain Gardens, Prizewinning Containers, Photography, Frogs, Aromatherapy/ Reflexology, Dried Flower Napkin Rings, Hand Tied Bouquets and Gardening for Water Quality and an optional trip to the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park. National, Central Region, Yearbook and Youth Awards were presented.

2005 State Convention Marriott at Centerpoint, Pontiac June 2-4, 2005

Theme: Stars of the Past, Present and Future

Della Haydon and Lynda Bancroft Co-Chaired the 74th Annual Convention. Barbara Sylvester, Central Region Director was a guest. Speakers included Dan Ballnik, "Sustainable Land Management"; Howard Silver "Flowers, Fabulous Flowers"; Julia Janiak, "What's New for 2005"; Judy Cornellier "Beyond Spikes and Geraniums --Container Gardening"; Kay McGowan, "Native American Plant Use". Workshops included a Club Presidents Workshop, Rain Gardens, Roses, Basic Design and an optional trip to Cranbrook Gardens. Installation of 2005-2007 and National Awards were other highlights.

2004 Central Region Convention Kellogg Center MSU Lansing October 20-22, 2004

Theme: Nature's Palette

Jeanette Foster was Chairman assisted by Micki McCormick and Kathi Dominguez. NGC President June P. Wood and Central Region Director Barbara Mikkelsen were honored guests. A very successful Standard Petite Flower Show was staged under the chairmanship of Marge McGoff. Speakers included Dr. Art Cameron "Ornamental Grasses and Beyond"; Randy Heiss, "An Overview of the Fascinating World of Orchids"; Dr. Frank Telewski, "The History of Beal Garden"; John Hosek, Floral Design Program; and Dr. Norman Lownds, "MSU Children's Garden". Workshops included an Arboretum Tour on MSU Campus, Small Flower Shows, Prouding Fundamentals, European Hand Tied Floral Arrangement; and Changes in the Books of Evidence.

The following report of progress and achievement reflects the dedication, leadership and skills of the many FGCM members who actively participated in the organization's new and ongoing programs.

ARBORICULTURE: Della Haydon collected from the members the number of flowering trees that were planted for our National President June P. Wood's project.

AWARDS: Chairman Vonnerie Wood received the Books of Evidence and invited members to her home to judge them. She contacted clubs whose books needed minor revision so they could be given recognition for their work. Books of Evidence including the Flower Show Books of Evidence and the Yearbooks were sent to National. She also coordinated the judging of the Publicity Book of Evidence under Miriam Bischoff and the Tribute to a Garden Club member and saw that they were forwarded to Central Region. The awards were updated to include the changes made at NGC. A new award in 2005, The Club Award of Distinction was added so that clubs could have a goal for their programming. Points were given for participating in NGC and FGCM goals. In 2004, 17 Books of Evidence were forwarded to NGC out of the 58 submitted; in 2005, of the 66 submitted, 15 were forwarded to NGC along with 6 yearbooks and 4 flower show books

BLUE STAR MARKERS: Under the leadership of Joyce Witten, eight new markers were placed around Michigan with four more to be dedicated after June.

Mt. Pleasant: Oct. 13, 2003 at the Veteran Memorial Library

Burr Oak: May 30, 2003 by-way marker US 12

Hartland: June 9, 2004 Hartland Cemetery

Dundee: July 3, 2004 Town Triangle

South Lyon: Nov. 11, 2004 Historical McHattie Park

Clare Rest Area US 27: May 17, 2004

Taylor: May 21, 2004 Taylor Cemetery

Eaton Rapids: May 30, 2004

Adrian, South Haven, Elk Rapids and Glen Lake will be dedicated at a later date.

The Chairman also did historical research of Michigan's Blue Star Memorial markers and "searched out" the old markers and photos of them. The old and new ones were photographed and put into a book with the location and the history. The Chairman also made a picture board of the markers for presentations and display.

BOOKS: Dolores Stouwie transported books and sold them at district meetings.

CALENDAR: Dan Abbott kept the FGCM calendar and compiled a list of the four NGC Schools and their dates and meeting places so those contemplating enrolling would have the future dates of the schools.

CONSERVATION CONFERENCES:

Micki McCormick chaired the 61st Conservation Conference September 24-26, 2003 held at The Shack in Jugville. A trip to Loda Lake was one of the events as well as speakers on Native Plants, Rain Gardens, Land Conservancy and Wildlife Management. "Flower Pounding" a bookmark was a craft enjoyed by all 76 attendees.

Karen Kane chaired the 62nd Conservation Conference Oct.10-12 at the Grand Traverse Resort in Acme. Topics of speakers included Storm Water and Rain Gardens, Organic Pest Control, and Antics of Birds. A bus trip was taken to an antique apple farm, a vineyard, and the Grand Traverse Lighthouse with a speaker on the shoreline and water levels.

CONSERVATION SCHOLARSHIP: Bonnie Haller reported that 35 students received room and board scholarships for the teachers' conservation conference at Higgins Lake in 2004.

CRAFTS: Pauline Flynn worked with many clubs and gave many craft presentations including a lecture-demonstration at the 2004 NGC Convention.

DATA BASE/MEMBERSHIP: Robin Courtright ably served as Data Base and Membership. Dues were collected and sent to NGC on a timely basis. A new laptop computer enabled Robin to collect dues at the state convention. Certificates were created to honor those members submitted by their club president who had been members 25 years or more. We had many 50+ year members.

DISTRICT DIRECTORS: Our seven districts have been well served by their directors: Anastatia Stutcher, Shirley Feight; Jeanette Foster; Lynn Dinvald, Ruth Knott, Diane Nemitz and Bethany Goodman. They have held district meetings twice a year, sent newsletters to club presidents, met with their club presidents and continue to be the important link between FGCM and member clubs.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES: In her *Gate* articles, Carol Phelps reminded us of our environmental responsibilities.

FLORAL DESIGN: This was a new project this year. Mary Pulick arranged for a 2-day floral design workshop to be held in each district. Over 100 participated. The classes were taught by Flower Show Judges and financially supported by the Michigan Association of Accredited Judges Council.

FLOWER SHOWS: Many individual clubs had flower shows and District I and District IIB had district shows in connection with their area's Home & Garden Show. District I's shows were entitled "Broadway" 2004 and "Games People Play" 2005. District IIB's were titled "Nature's Patchwork" 2004 and "Thru Our Garden Gate" 2005. For the first time in many years, FGCM will sponsor a state flower show, "Michigan, My Michigan" in July at the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park in Grand Rapids.

FLOWER SHOW CREDENTIALS: Eileen Abbott has dutifully kept accurate account of our judges. As of March 21, 2005 we have 31 Accredited Judges, 14 Accredited Life Judges and 51 Accredited Master Judges for a total of 96 judges.

FLOWER SHOW SYMPOSIA: Joann Ott arranged for a symposium June 2003 in Grand Rapids at the Prince Center of Calvin College. 82 attended full time and 3 part time The September 2004 Symposium was held at the Holiday Inn in Traverse City with 65 attending.

FOUNDATION OF THE FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF MICHIGAN: The Foundation was originally set up to channel funds for educational purposes as it was a 501(c) (3) entity and

FGCM was not. In the late 1970's when FGCM became a 501(c)(3), there was no need for a separate corporation, but it continued. Among our governance issues, we hope to merge the two and have a Scholarship Fund to avoid the duplication of efforts and personnel. In 2004, 18 \$1,000 scholarships were given to students at our state universities majoring in botanical and environmental fields. Scholars are selected by their department head.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION: Jane Raley coordinated the NGC/Principal grants. Eight applications were submitted and three received monies.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SYMPOSIUM: A Neighborhood Walk was held in Lansing July 14, 2003 and Landscape Council Symposium Chairman and Landscape Design Council President Rachel McComb reported that 37 members attended the combined Landscape Design/Gardening Study Symposium July 26-27, 2004 in East Lansing.

LEGISLATION: Anne Wiseman, Chairman has informed the members on legislative issues through her articles in *Thru the Garden Gate*.

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS: Marie Smith processed 54 FGCM Life Memberships and 2 NGC Life Memberships during 2003.

LODA LAKE/VISITING GARDENS: Time has taken its toll on Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary and many repairs to the boardwalk and signage need to be made. Chairman Deannie Picciotti raised money for these to be accomplished. An updated Visiting Gardens booklet is being prepared.

MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF ACCREDITED JUDGES: Under the leadership of Sharon Yantis, MAAJ met Oct 15, 2003 in Port Huron and June 8, 2004 at Flower Show School, Course III in Marshall. MAAJ offered financial support for the Design Study Courses. A State Flower Show will be held July 15-17, 2005 at the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park.

THE NATIONAL GARDENER PROMOTION: Dan Abbott has promoted the NGC quarterly at District Meetings and via articles in *Thru the Garden Gate*. 3 clubs were 100% clubs.

THRU THE GARDEN GATE: This state publication was reduced from six to four issues per year for budgetary reasons. It continues to promote NGC and FGCM goals and objectives.

NGC SCHOLARSHIPS: Lorrie Dyal mailed out applications and information to college administrators. In 2004, our NGC scholarship applicant received NGC's \$3500 scholarship. She spoke briefly at the State Convention and expressed her thanks. In 2005 one applicant was selected for NGC and the next two were sent to Central Region for \$500 scholarships.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Sharon Yantis chaired this committee after the resignation of our immediate past president. The slate was difficult to fill, especially for officers as many who serve on the board have served many years in the same capacity and do not wish to take on a new responsibility. It is hoped that a proposed change in the bylaws limiting terms of chairmanships will bring new board members for consideration.

WAYS & MEANS: The sister team of Edie Ho and Karen Jencks completed its eighth year of

traveling the state.

WEBMASTER: Linda Talacki kept the web site up to date. The web site was changed to www.michiangardenclubs.org for easier reference.

WILDFLOWER ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN: FGCM continues to do the necessary work to receive the NGC Grant for WAM's Annual Conference. The conference is well-attended by professionals as well as FGCM members.

WORLD GARDENING: At this president's suggestion, Chris Rochman, World Gardening Chairman suggested that NGC might be interested in supporting Michigan's project in Belize. They were. Chris has spoken to many clubs of her travels to Belize showing pictures of the students and the conditions in which they live and garden. The money is used for scholarships as well as gardening tools and seeds.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES: Margaret Kovacs has enlarged the youth participation of the state.

NGC Awards 2004:

NGC/Principal Financial Group Historic Garden Project *Certificate of Appreciation*
Belding Gardeneers; Carnegie Garden Club; Charlevoix Area Garden Club; East Jordan Garden Club; Friendly Garden Club of Lake City; Marshall Area Garden Club; Meeks Mill Garden Club; Rose & Thistle Garden Club;
Youth Horticulture Education #8: Spirit of the Woods Garden Club
Horticultural Therapy #19: Holland Garden Club
Publicity Press Book #44 - Large Club : Holland Garden Club
Historic Gardens Award: Charlevoix Area Garden Club
Landscape Design Program #61 - Large Club: Holland Garden Club
Flower Show #30:District I

Central Region Awards 2004:

Central Region Life Members: FGCM 2nd Place
Victorian Tea: Caro Garden Club
Garden Walk: Garden Club of Dearborn
CR Certificate of Special Recognition: June Knostman
Park Beautification: Parchment Garden Club
Pathways to Publicity: Lorene Whitehouse, Morenci Garden Club
Vision of Beauty Calendar Entries: FGCM

SUMMARY OF 2003-2005 STATE GARDEN CLUB ADMINISTRATION

FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF MICHIGAN, INC.

CENTRAL REGION

PRESIDENT: CONNIE SNELL (Mrs. Hilary F.)

THEME: YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW

194 CLUBS

7 DISTRICTS

7,482 MEMBERS

NGC SCHOOLS: 3 Flower Show; 4 Gardening Study; 4 Landscape Design; 2 Conservation Conferences; 2 Flower Show Symposia; 7 Floral Design Workshops; 2 Landscape/Gardening Symposia; 2 District Flower Shows; 1 State Flower Show; Many Club Flower Shows; Wildflower Conference

2004 STATE CONVENTION: Airport Hilton, Grand Rapids May 24-26, 2004

Theme: "Reaching Goals" Central Region Director attended. *Outstanding Programs:* Rebecca Finneran, Horticulture; Marge McGoff, Designer; Jolene DeHeer, motivational speaker

2005 STATE CONVENTION: Marriott at Centerpoint, Pontiac June 2-4, 2005

Theme: "Stars of the Past, Present and Future" Central Region Director attended. *Outstanding Programs:* "Sustainable Land Management" Dan Ballnik; Kay McGowan "Native American Plant Use"

2004 CENTRAL REGION CONVENTION: Kellogg Center MSU, Lansing Oct. 20-22, 2004

Theme: "Nature's Palette" NGC President & CR Director attended. Included a Standard Petite Flower Show. Many outstanding programs and a tour of Lewis Arboretum.

GOALS AND PROJECTS: 1. My goal was to make clubs think about what they do and how what they do fits in with the goals and objectives of NGC and FGCM. All clubs are into civic beautification, but they often see that as their only project and it is often that for which they are known in their community. In trying to broaden their horizons, a Club of Distinction form was created with points given for participation by clubs and members in such things as attending state and district meetings; attending schools; school "graduates"; planting flowering trees, sponsoring new club, adding new members etc. Clubs can easily see where they can add to their programs/projects. 2. Involving youth was another goal and the project was planting sunflowers with a child. Everyone loved the sunflowers! 3. This was a term of governance issues - a major one of merging the Foundation of the FGCM with FGCM to be named the Scholarship Fund to reflect its purpose, a change first proposed in 1978. Other changes in the bylaws included term limits on committee members and eliminated our "Director-at-Large". We are trying to streamline our organization. We have a lot of excellent workers, but need more leaders. We are using technology for our call letters, board minutes and some club and district newsletters.

ACTIVITIES GIVING STATE GREAT PRIDE: Our scholarship program is of great pride. From memorials, honorariums and club and individual donations, FGCM is able to give 18 - \$1,000 scholarships per year to students attending a Michigan college or university in the fields related to horticulture, botany, landscape and the environment. We also raise about \$4,000 a year to provide room and board for teachers attending a college-credit conservation school. Our applicant received NGC's \$3500 scholarship. We also take great pride in our youth program and our Blue Star Memorials. During 2003-5, 8 new markers were placed and four more will be placed after June 1.

2004 NGC AWARDS: 3 Clubs of 8 received NGC/Principal Financial Group grants; Youth Horticulture #8; Horticultural Therapy #19- 1st place, large club; Publicity Press Book #44-large club; Historic Garden Award; Landscape Design Program #61, large club; Flower Show #30.

2004 CENTRAL REGION AWARDS: CR Life Memberships -2nd place; Pathway to Our Gardens #3; Pathways to Publicity #4; Pathways to Vision of Beauty 2004; Pathway to Unique Club Program #7; Park Beautification; Certificate of Special Recognition for a Member.