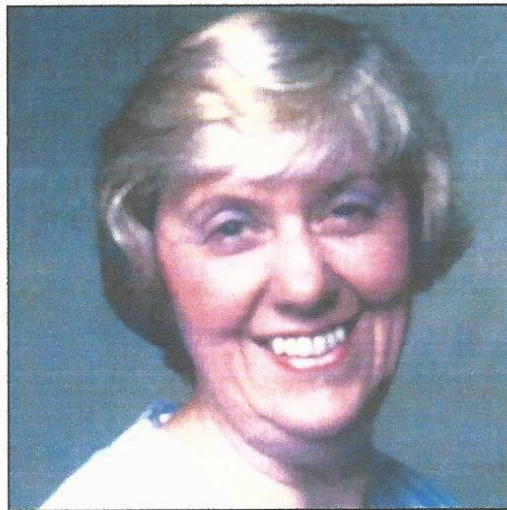


Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.

June 2007-2009

President : Dolores Stouwie
2061 Britton Ct. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546-5509
Member of Kent Garden Club
West Michigan Flower Arrangers Guild

Theme: Conserve to Preserve
Project: Rain Gardens and Monarch Butterflies



Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.
Dolores J. Stouwie, President

Central Region

Theme: "Conserve to Preserve"

190 Clubs

Seven Districts

7175 Members

NGC Sponsored Schools: All of the schools are in progress 2009. The flower show school started in 2008 and will complete in September 2009. We also have had two tri-refreshers 2008 and 2009
Flower shows in 2008 were 11, 2009 14.

2008 State Convention:

Ann Arbor, MI

May 19, 2008

Theme: "Walk on the Wild side"

Speaker: Chris Lehr, Manchester, MI spoke on "Going Wild in the Garden"

Afternoon program: The seven flower arranger's guilds presented a Design Program.

2009 State Convention

Kalamazoo, MI

June 2 & 3, 2009

Theme: "Creating Beauty"

Speaker: Rob Halgren "The World of Orchids, Jim Brodenstein, speaker on: "Georgia O'Keefe",
Dorothy Hockenmuth will present the Design Program. Several workshops are also planned.

Achievements: This President project involved Rain Gardens to preserve our environment and to keep storm water from entering the creeks and streams. There was an award for the clubs that installed rain gardens. We now have over 100 new rain gardens. Each of these gardens boasts "Native Plants" We encouraged clubs to preserve the Monarch Butterfly by planting the milkweed *Asclepias syrica*. An additional project evolved early in 2008 as LEED certified buildings were either remodeled or built. Grand Rapid now leads the nation in LEED certified buildings. (Leadership, Energy, Environmental Designs). We have tried to encourage our clubs to use organic materials in their gardens and to use chemicals very sparingly.

I was very difficult getting into the schools to plant school gardens. One club in Midland succeeded. A courtyard was planted with native plants by the middle school students.

Michigan Garden Clubs continue to give at least \$20,000 in scholarships to area Colleges and Universities. We support Penny Pines, Habitat for Humanity, greening of the Gulf, and now have 3 Junior Garden Club's. Many of our clubs hold flower shows, garden walks and also engage in civic beautification projects.

The Blue Star Memorial ceremonies were the high light of this President. One ceremony featured all youth. An essay contest was held among middle school students. They had to interview a person that had served in a war. Out of 48 essays, three were chosen to read them at the ceremony. From start to finish, the youth conducted the ceremony. What a great way to involve our future garden club members.

NGC Awards: Besides all the flower show awards, awards were given for Rain Gardens, civic projects, wildflower conferences and district meetings, School garden, and more.

Central Region: Youth Awards, Flower Show Schedule, Horticulture section of a schedule and the most entries in the Vision or Beauty Calendar.