

*Thru the Garden Gate Special*

# Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. Annual Report

## 2022 — 2023



*Official Publication of Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. a 501 © 3 non-profit organization and member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. and the Central Region National Garden Clubs, Inc.*

The MGC, Inc. Mission is to provide education, resources, and network opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, floral and landscape design, and environmental responsibility.

### MGC Elected Officer and Chair Reports

**Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.  
President’s Annual Report**

**Plant America: *Grow, Share and Connect***  
**Project: *Gardening with Nature***



Monica Taylor

#### **No One Succeeds Alone!**

The 2021-2023 administration is wrapping up their term. I would like to recognize and thank all the men and women who volunteered their time to work on the many items we have addressed during these past two years. These volunteers were dedicated to bringing member clubs new benefits and new opportunities to Grow, Share and Connect. Together we worked to succeed. Thank you!

Below you will find a summary of some of the MGC activities, *please take time to read the detailed committee reports in this Annual Report.*

#### **Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. (MGC) Stats**

- 135 Member Clubs
- 4680 Members
- 8 Districts
- MGC Board 52 current members

#### **Homegrown National Park (HNP)**

We continue to partner with the Homegrown National Park to encourage best gardening practices and promote the message of restoring biodiversity and ecosystem function by planting native plants and creating new ecological networks. As a partner with the Homegrown National Park,

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we monitor and report Michigan data for “Get on the Map” in each issue of the MGC newsletter, *Thru the Garden Gate*.

<u>Starting data on 4-6-2021</u>		<u>4-20-23</u>
Active counties	39	* data no longer tracked
Active zip codes	94	* data no longer tracked
User Count	124	682
Number of Plantings ----		1377
Planted acres	73	2,296.30
Michigan Rank	-----	14

Developed and distributed HNP bookmarks (3000) to members at various meetings throughout the year.

**Blue & Gold Star Memorials**

Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. Is honored to pay tribute to our Armed Services with having 108 Blue Star Markers and 8 Gold Star Markers.

**Black Swallowtail Butterfly Legislation**

Work continues to progress to make the Black Swallowtail Butterfly Michigan’s State Butterfly. We are committed to seeing this come to fruition and we will all celebrate when this pollinator becomes Michigan’s Official State Butterfly!

**Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary**

MGC continues the partnership with the US Forest Service in Huron Manistee National Forest to support this unique Wildflower Sanctuary.

**Schools and Education**

We are committed to offering our members educational opportunities.

Zoom Refresher held August 9 & 10, 2022

Flower Show Symposium offered September 13 & 14, in person

Environmental School Course 1 and Course 2

Michigan Flower Shows

*Nature’s Creative Edge*, held in Spring Lake, MI hosted by Tri-Cities Garden Club

*The Whole World is a Garden*, hosted by Kalamazoo Garden Council Clubs of District 3A

*Give Bees a Chance*, hosted by Portage Lake Garden Club

*Lost in a Good Book*, hosted by the 2B District Garden Clubs

**Youth Contests**

Michigan Garden Clubs participated in the Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contests, Youth Sculpture Contest and Michigan sponsored Essay Contests.

**CONTACTS**



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**Scholarships**

The Scholarship Committee and volunteer agents that work with our 15 State Universities have achieved remarkable success in awarding scholarships. Scholarship awards increased to \$1500 per award with all 15 universities participating.

**Member Meetings**

These are zoom meetings the first & third Friday of each month with vacation June-August to attend area Garden Walks. Eighteen meetings were held with over 500 in attendance. Topics covered Growing and Care of Houseplants, Winter Birds, New Approaches to Flower Shows, Artistic Crafts-Clay Creations, Schools, Growing Roses, Shade Gardening, Dahlias, Pollinators, Foods for Your Holiday Table, Terrariums, Michigan Natives, and Facebook Challenges. All programs are recorded and housed on the MGC website for later viewing by members.

**Social Media**

We continued to connect with our members through Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. Facebook page and seven Facebook groups. Facebook groups include Edibles, Growing Native Plants, Floral Design, Horticulture/Arboriculture, Photography, Container Gardening, Artistic Crafts, and Black Swallowtail Butterfly Group.

**District Activities**

Each District Director has their own Zoom account which allows them to facilitate meetings for any club in their District. The District Directors also schedule regular meetings with Presidents in their District which enhances communications. Also in attendance are other members of the District Team such as District Treasurer, MCC and MAAJ reps, District Facebook, Newsletter

volunteers and any other invited guests.

Communication and Sharing is the goal. Districts have held seven Fall District Meetings and six Spring Leadership Meetings. Lots of opportunities to meet, share and connect! Districts each participate in the Grow & Share Grants. Grant application is simple with money budgeted in each District. Interesting and worthwhile projects are funded each year.

The size and geographic area of District 3 was reviewed, and the decision supported by District 3 Club Presidents and the Board allowed us to split the District into District 3A-Allegan, Kalamazoo, and St. Joseph Counties with 16 Clubs and 342 members and District 3B-Van Buren, Berrien, and Cass Counties with 13 clubs and 466 members.

**Michigan Consultants Council (MCC) and Michigan Accredited Association of Judges (MAAJ)**

Both groups meet regularly via zoom. Each has a representative from their District to maintain communication within their Districts. Each group has a Board representative. The committee structure has worked to make these groups more involved with others in their group and both groups have achieved impressive results by adding new award initiatives, program events and improved communication.

**Awards-Yearbooks-Club of Distinction/President Reports**

Each of these areas has active voluntary participation from many clubs throughout the State. It is a great interest to read about Clubs' events and achievements. Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. is pleased to recognize the achievements of so many Clubs in Michigan!

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**Constant Contact Communications**

In the past twelve months 95 communications have been sent to membership. On average we send just under 4000 with each communication. We are above the industry average (40%) of recipients opening MGC communications. This past year, we have increased our [opening](#) rate by 3%, going from 55% to 58%. Stay informed via Constant Contact.

The MGC Newsletter, *Thru the Garden Gate* went completely digital this year and is being sent to members via Constant Contact. Current issues and prior issues can be read online at the MGC website.

**Simplify Processes**

Any large organization can become complicated and the 2021-2023 Board was continually challenged to look at our various processes and see if we could simplify. To name just a few we reviewed registration processes, financial processes, forms, size of Districts, Bylaws, Policies & Procedures and more. We asked for input from Club members, the Board and tried to improve and simplify. A committee was formed, led by Nancy Ryan, President-Elect to create a Member Resource on the MGC website. There is yet more work to be accomplished but by working together to achieve results we can make a difference.

Thanks for all you do to support the mission of Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.

**Monica Taylor, Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.  
President 2021-2023**

**2022-2023 Annual Report****District Activities and Membership**

The year saw a return to normal as the restrictions of the pandemic lifted allowing the District Directors and First Vice President to attend club meetings and many club events. MGC saw a net gain in membership for the first time in many years and three new clubs were added in District 6. The District Directors have done a wonderful job, traveling many miles, making many phone calls to re-build MGC connections with our member clubs.

**District 1 Anne Ryan District Director**

2022 was Anne Ryan's second year as District Director and went much smoother. All the dues checks were sent to the District Treasurer, which was great and the clubs who hosted conferences were very helpful.

The Fall conference was held in Livonia and we actually made a small profit because the afternoon speaker fee, \$250.00 to Cheryl Linck who did an Ikebana presentation, came out of the District Reserve account.

I conducted several Zoom meetings with my club presidents and attended monthly District Directors meetings as well as MGC Board meetings.

I also attended the MGC Annual Conference in Lansing in June and awarded Grow and Share Grants to Dearborn Heights and Ferndale Garden Clubs. There was a good response to my request to the Club Presidents to complete the President's Report and Club of Distinction Report.

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**District 2A Mary Moore District Director**

Most of the 14 clubs are meeting in person and getting back to everyday garden club business. District 2A has 330 MGC members. Congratulations to all the presidents for completing their presidents report and turning them in before the deadline. The Roster Managers of each club updated their rosters and were completed before the deadline.

Our Fall Conference was held in Adrian, MI with Adrian Garden Club hosting the meeting. Guest speakers Lee Walsh and Jon Nash of Nash Nurseries were knowledgeable and wonderful speakers. We had 85 MGC members and two Master Gardeners attend to get the two hours of education that was offered. The 2023 Fall meeting is presently being planned for Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup> with Good Thyme Garden Club in Ann Arbor.

This year The Little Garden Club of Tecumseh was the host club for the 2023 Spring conference on April 28, 2023 where 45 attended. Our Fall Conference was held in Adrian, MI with Adrian Garden Club hosting the meeting. Guest speakers Lee Walsh and Jon Nash of Nash Nurseries were knowledgeable and wonderful speakers. We had 85 MGC members and two master gardeners attend to get the two hours of education that were offered.

Zoom meetings have been held every six weeks with new information and current events for the presidents.

A Blue Star memorial was dedicated by Morenci Garden Club and a Gold Star at Saline Library by Saline Stone and Thistle Garden Club. Eden Garden Club also dedicated a Blue Star memorial.

Almost all the garden clubs in District 2A have a Facebook page where each post club events and speakers that attract new members. Facebook has been a helpful tool in gaining new members.

It has been a delight to get acquainted with the presidents and co-presidents of District 2A.

**District 2B Carol Grainger District Director**

The D2B District continues to hold monthly meetings with their Steering Committee and Presidents. A rollcall with a timely question helps the Steering Committee understand what the clubs are doing and where they may need help.

Much of the decision-making process for our District is driven by Presidents current club challenges and ideas on what Michigan Garden Club can improve on. Of course, we discuss what MGC is doing to help members and where club officers and members can find information.

The Spring Leadership Meeting was jointly hosted with District 4. There was a low attendance this year, however the group discussions were engaging and provided everyone with time to be involved.

The 3 group discussions focused on how clubs could share programs and how to do that. The other two topics were on recruiting and engaging “younger” members and how to recruit leaders from within their membership. Many new ideas were shared and hopefully taken back to their clubs and implemented.

Planning is underway for the Fall Meeting with a theme of Michigan Rocks, with a interesting topic

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from the lapidary side of things. A second topic is still being researched. This event will be held at the St. Jude's Community Center in Dewitt.

The Presidents in 2B are asked to share information about their programs, tours, events, and fundraisers with more with their fellow clubs. Sharing resources helps us get to know each other better and shares the cost of putting better programs together. Sharing fundraising information is another way to expand our customer base and bring other club members' attention to what we do.

Many of our clubs are showing interest in being in Grand Rapids in June for the MGC Annual Conference and many of our D2B Steering Committee members are involved on the state level, including the conference coordination.

We have two clubs that celebrate anniversaries this year. Mason Sycamore Creek Garden Club celebrates 25 years and Marshall Area Garden Club is celebrating its 35<sup>th</sup> year.

### **District 3**

Portage Garden Club hosted the Fall District 3 meeting with over 150 club members in attendance. The speakers were excellent and a floral design demonstration was provided by MAAJ members Lynn Dinvold and Phyliss Straw.

In December the District 3 Club Presidents met via Zoom to discuss a proposal to split the district. A presentation was made by Nancy Ryan, 1<sup>st</sup> VP to create two districts - 3A (east side of the district) and 3B (west side of the district). District 3A would have 16 clubs and District 3B would have 13 clubs.

All the Club Presidents agreed that this would be a good idea and make the job of District Director more manageable. At the January 19, 2023, MGC Board of Directors meeting a motion to split District 3 was approved. Judy Nelson's appointment as District 3A Director was approved.

### **District 3A Judy Nelson District Director**

District 3A Director Judy Nelson and District 3A Treasurer Becky Dodd coordinated the Spring Leadership Meeting for the entire district. Lawrence Garden Club hosted the meeting which was attended by over 40 club members. The club did a marvelous job and everyone left full of food and good ideas.

District 3A is currently working on building their team and their Facebook page. The plans for the 2023 Fall District Meeting are underway and will again be at the Van Buren Conference Center and include both 3A and 3B.

District 3B is still without a District Director.



Bing

**District 4 Carol McGregor**

Carol McGregor term is ending and she will be leaving her position as District Director to become the MGC 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. She has enjoyed being the District 4 Director and the experience has given her much satisfaction and joy.

She has made many new friends and developed a deep respect for the time and energy that so many people put into volunteering for our Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. organization. What fun she has had, along with lots of good food, and listening to tips that other clubs have learned from each other's experiences in gardening and being in a Garden Club.

The District Fall 2022 Meeting, hosted by Standale Garden Club included wonderful speakers and a floral design demonstration by the West Michigan Flower Arrangers Guild. Then a team design contest was held which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

District 4 Leadership were guests at the 2B Spring Leadership meeting held in Lansing in April. A great day of sharing ideas and discussion were enjoyed by all.

The incoming District 4 Director, Kathy Wolverton, has been accompanying Carol these past few weeks visiting garden clubs in Belding, Saugatuck/Douglas and Pentwater. She is looking forward to her new adventure.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our 92nd MGC Conference in June and our District 4 Fall Meeting in October. It has been a pleasure working with all clubs and members in District 4.

**District 5 Director Dorothy Sandoval**

The fiscal year 2022 began with attending the MGC Conference held in Lansing, MI on June 8 and 9th. Followed by first time in person visits to garden clubs in District 5 since Covid.

Clubs that were visited included: Boyne Valley Garden Club, Spirit of the Woods, Petoskey Area Garden Club, Lake Shore Garden Club, Mason Garden Club, By The Bay Garden Club of Suttons Bay, who dedicated a Blue Star Memorial, Seedum Garden Club, who celebrated 50 years in 2022, East Jordan Garden Club, Juniper Garden Club, and Presque Isle County Garden Club. Ten out of 22 clubs were visited in the fiscal year.

District 5 held their Fall meeting in Traverse City hosted by the Friendly Garden Club.

District 5 held their Spring Leadership meeting in Kalkaska hosted by Quality Thyme Garden Club. Club Presidents voted on what the topics for discussion would be included for this Leadership meeting.

Regular President Meetings were held every 6 weeks with on average 19 people in attendance out of 22 clubs.

Rosters were completed for all 22 clubs. President reports were turned in with 100% participation. Standing committee meetings were attended for planning Fall and Spring District Meetings, Executive Committee Meetings, Board Meetings, and District Director Meetings.

The Presidents of District 5 requested position descriptions guidelines be created and the District Director in collaboration with the 1<sup>st</sup> VP of MGC completed this request.



### **MGC's District 6 Kathy Sauber**

While District 6 is composed of 14 counties; over half of these counties do not have garden clubs. There are 18 MGC Garden Clubs in District 6 with a combined current total of 409 members.

District 6 has acquired 3 new garden clubs in the past year. They are Butterfly Kaleidoscope Gardeners, the Bay City Garden Club, and the Gladwin County Master Gardeners & Friends. District 6 hosted 2 Garden Walks in the summer of 2022, two more are scheduled for the summer of 2023.

The District 6 Fall Meeting was held in Caro on October 12, 2022. The meeting sold out with a waiting list. The theme was 'Seeing Trees' there were 2 exceptional speakers and Master Gardener education credit hour were given.

The Spring Leadership Meeting was held on April 26th in Midland. There was wonderful round table discussions concerning questions of key importance to all clubs. The general membership was invited this time. There was a leadership personality test to help nominating committees select the right position for the right club member. Finally, a floral component presentation was provided by the District 6 MAAJ Representative Bethany Goodman.

**Nancy J Ryan, MGC President Elect**



**Judy Lindemulder,**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**  
**Civic Affairs Committee**

### **Blue and Gold Star Markers** **Chair: Trish Payne**

Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. is a proud participant of National Garden Clubs, Inc.'s Blue and Gold Star Program. Details of the Program, including exceptional planning and dedication guidance from NGC, Inc., is available at our MGC website:

At the end of 2022-23 fiscal year, Michigan will have 109 Blue Star Markers and eight Gold Star Markers. The Blue Star Program dates back to 1946 while the Gold Star Program is relatively new, having started in 2015.

Included in our counts are two, fiscal year 2022-2023 dedications:

- Touch the Earth Garden Club of Grand Blanc, Gold Star, June 14, 2022
- By-the-Bay Garden Club of Suttons Bay, Blue Star, September 21, 2022
- Seedums Garden Club of Cheboygan, Blue Star, TBD

Thus far for fiscal year 2023-2024, the following dedications are planned:

- Spirit of the Woods Garden Club of Manistee, Gold Star, June 11, 2023
- Butterfly Kaleidoscope Garden Club of
- Beaverton, Blue and Gold Star, June 17, 2023

Are you aware there are awards available from NGC and MGC to assist with your expenses in landscaping and/or securing markers? Details

can be found at the respective websites. Please note that the awards may not be labeled specifically for Blue and/or Gold Star projects.

**Marker Counts by District**

	<b>Blue Star</b>	<b>Gold Star</b>
<b>District 1</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>District 2A</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>District 2B</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>District 3A</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>District 3B</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>District 4</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>District 5</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>District 6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Lost</b>	<b>4</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>8</b>

Unfortunately, marker prices are increasing effective May 1, 2023. Here are the announced prices:

Highway Memorial Marker, Post, Ship.	\$1,995
Memorial Marker, Post, Shipping	\$1,995
By-Way Marker	\$ 665
Replacement Posts	\$ 375
Refurbish, No Post, Rd. Trip Freight	\$ 900
Cap Rpr./Refurb., No Post, R. T. Freight	\$1,000

Questions? I am here to help. I look forward to hearing from you.

**Legislative Report**

**Chair: Jennette Meyer**

I am thrilled to report that Rep. Julie Brixie has

- ◆ reintroduced the Black Swallowtail as the state butterfly. It was co-sponsored by Lauri Pohutsky (D), chair of the Natural Resources,

Environment, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation Committee. Other co-sponsors who are also Committee members include Jenn Hill (D), Noah Arbit (D), Mike McFall (D), and Veronica Paiz (D). David Martin (R) was on the committee last year and voted “yes” for the bill.

Two members of the committee are of concern as they are members of the Freedom Caucus, David Prestin and Josh Schriver. We may need to give them special attention. David Prestin is from the Upper Peninsula where there are no MGC clubs. Josh Schriver is from District 1, Macomb County. I have been working with garden clubs in District 1 to contact him and inform him of the importance of this bill to Michigan as it strongly supports the environmental needs of pollinators.

Michigan is a food basket and so dependent on these small, beautiful critters if we are to continue to be successful in feeding our citizens. Because of them we are less dependent on outside nutritional resources.

**Action Plan:**

At this time the most important action is to send emails, call, or send letters to Chair of the Natural Resources Committee, Rep. Laurie Pohutsky, as she determines when bills are placed on the committee schedule for hearing.

- ◆ Email, phone calls, and letters from clubs to their district representatives.
- ◆ I have encouraged email and phone calls as they are very effective and less costly. I was very impressed last term by the impact of phone calls, even when I left a voicemail. This process was discussed at the recent district leadership meetings.

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◆ Nancy Ryan and I met with Rep. Brixie with whom we have a close working relationship. We will continue to follow her guidance throughout this process. On that note, even though it has been suggested many times that the bill be introduced in the Senate simultaneously, every time I or another member of the MGC board asks about doing so, it is not recommended at this time by Rep. Brixie. We will continue to follow her lead.

◆ Rep. Brixie encourages the involvement of school children at the hearing.

1. Recently, the River Valley Garden Club presented information about the Black Swallowtail to sixty 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. I have provided them with brochures, wands, and coloring pages.
2. I have also encouraged that the students to send letters to the committee members and that they have a few 3<sup>rd</sup> graders provide testimony at the hearing.

My understanding is that they are considering doing so. I have sent them the addresses of the committee members and a sample letter. However, I encouraged a letter composed by the class. Since they are in the very SW corner of Michigan, a distance from Lansing, I have offered to help with ride share to the hearing if they would like to testify.

3. Also, my garden club, Western Hills, supported myself and our Vice-President as we presented the Black Swallowtail to Portage 5<sup>th</sup> grade class. The 5<sup>th</sup> graders are planning on writing a letter to Rep. Pohutsky. They were very disappointed that the hearing was cancelled as they

planned on going to testify. They are still hoping that HB4159 will be placed on the schedule before school closes so they can make it to Lansing to testify.

3. The Montessori students who testified last year plan on doing so again.
4. We are thrilled that the winner of the MGC essay, Ammon Willcot, has agreed to provide testimony, as well.

◆ I am beginning to contact other organizations that may be interested in supporting this bill to work collaboratively on its passage.

- ◆ Brochures and pins supporting the Black Swallowtail bill are once again available.
- ◆ There will be a display for the Black Swallowtail Butterfly at the state conference.

## **Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary**

### **Karen Motawi, Chair**

Since June 2022, I have submitted an article to *Thru the Garden Gate* about the sanctuary as well as listing donors.

Checks for contributions of \$2,711 have been deposited and thank you notes sent to donors, families of those remembered through memorial gifts and individuals honored through donations. The MGC Loda account balance as of the end of February is \$14,825.

The Loda Lake committee has led hikes and provided presentations for Garden Club meetings. Projects for the upcoming work season as discussed with Forest Service personnel include path improvements and additional wildflower plantings. The estimated cost is \$3,400 and should

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be paid for using the MGC Loda Fund. December 31, 2022 and there is a spendable balance of \$9,300.

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Projects for the upcoming work season as discussed with Forest Service personnel include path improvements and additional wildflower plantings. The estimated cost is \$3,400 and should be paid for using the MGC Loda Fund.

## Historical Gardens Preservation

**Chair: Pat McLamore**

As I was walking the property at Mary Thompson's farm the other day, I remembered all the work that went into putting in plants around the house. It has been about four years now since we first began this project.

Here are a few suggestions for starting a historical garden:

- Plan, research, and develop. It's easier to adjust if needed rather than not knowing which direction to take. Source your resources. Getting other people in the community involved keeps interests going.
- One critical point: set up continuous upkeep of the garden. It's one of the hardest things to do to get ongoing attention to a garden. We convinced the city to water plants during the growing season. We're still working on finding those who would be willing to continue maintenance. Some municipalities have a complete setup for ongoing maintenance.

- Take small portions at a time. Your plan may have grandiose ideas but unless you have the labor and funds to go at it all at once, it can become a strenuous task.
- Visit other historical gardens and ask what they do for their location. There are great ideas to learn about and, possibly, incorporate into your project.
- Have fun with it! That's what can keep it going and make all the efforts and results worthwhile.

Plants are starting to give that striking look. Since last year interest in the plant display on the property has increased. The City of Southfield has gradually become involved in the upkeep of plantings with a willingness to help around the farm starting with creating educational gardens

Preliminary plans for these gardens include: producing vegetables once grown by Mary Thompson and indigenous peoples. It has taken time, effort, patience, and hard work to accomplish what we have.



**Denise Clegg,**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President**

**Education and Schools Committee**

## Michigan Association of Accredited Judges

**Representative: Mary Jo McElroy**

**MAAJ** is a group of ~35 members – National Garden Clubs (NGC) Accredited and Student Judges -- aptly named **Michigan Association of Accredited Judges**. They are the dedicated people who encourage,

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support, educate, and evaluate NGC flower shows across the state. Its purpose is to ensure that floral design, competitive horticulture, and botanical arts are woven into educational, leadership, and informational events throughout Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.

The MGC Judge's Credentials Chair reports there are 31 NGC Flower Show Judges in *Good Standing* in Michigan and 6 student judges in various stages of becoming an Accredited Judge.

- Accredited: 6
- Accredited Life: 4
- Accredited Master: 21
- Student: 6

Annual accomplishments of this team included:

- ◆ Staging invitational floral designs at the American Peony Society's June 2022 convention;
- ◆ Updating and disseminating ten-minute educational briefs about floral design topics;
- ◆ Presenting information and topics related to
- ◆ Flower shows in District meetings across the state; Providing a continuing education event (aka Symposium) in September 2022;
- ◆ Presenting flower show content at two Morning Member Meetings via zoom;
- ◆ Supporting and participating in seven flower shows;
- ◆ Collaborating with Flower Show School Chair and local Chairs to plan for four courses to be held in Ann Arbor in 2023, 2024, and 2025;
- ◆ Clarifying use of Jean Moran Award to be awarded to highest scorer at upcoming Flower Show Schools and
- ◆ Creating an MAAJ promotional brochure available for printing on demand.

## Michigan Consultants Council

### Nancy Stark: Chair

During the 2021-2023, the Michigan Consultants Council (MCC) leadership structure was reorganized. No longer are there officers but a Council with representatives from each MGC, Inc. District, the Chair, and Third Vice President. The MCC page on the MGC website was revised; while the Mission of MCC remains the same the council responsibilities were updated along with the expectations of Consultants.

The Council Representatives were provided a list of the Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design School Provisional Consultants and Consultants in their district so they could connect with their district group. The representatives have also updated the District Speakers and Outings lists which are available on the Member side of the MGC Website and they now attend the President's meetings to provide updates as a member of the District Director's team.

The MCC Garden Walk Award amount was increased in 2022 and the Helpful Hints for Planning a Garden Walk was expanded to help clubs who might want to organize a garden walk.

MCC has also taken over the sponsorship of the Environmental Award of Merit formerly listed under General Awards. Similar to the Garden Walk, the Environmental Award criteria has been developed and will appear on the website and will be available to clubs after June 2023.

The Council Representatives will continue to reach out to their districts to promote the Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design Schools and activities. These events will provide all Consultants the opportunity to attend

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educational programs and schools sponsored by MCC to continue their educational opportunities and maintain National credential status.



### Flower Show School

Chair: Carol Sue Brodbeck

The Flower Show School (FSS) Committee has been established under the leadership of Co-Chairs Rita Crawley and Debra Emmons. Some of you may think that this school is for only those who want to become a Flower Show Judge, but it is more than that.

Attendees will learn elements and principles of design which can be used even in designing their gardens or arranging flowers or creating various containers (planters, dish gardens, terrariums, fairy gardens, centerpieces) and even botanical arts and crafts

Many of us love to show our favorite flower or plant to our neighbor, family, and friends and in FSS, we learn how to “pose” and assemble these so they can be seen at their very best—and especially in a Flower Show (FS) where many people will see them and may be inspired because of your entry to start gardening or getting a plant just like yours.

FSS, a series of four courses, will be held at Zion Lutheran Church in Ann Arbor with Course 1 scheduled for October 5, 6 and 7; Course 2, April 4, 5 and 6, 2024 ; Course 3, October 10, 11 and 12, 2024; and Course 4, April 3, 4 and 5, 2025.

The first day of class is spent on horticulture-- learning about a specific group of plants and also some FS procedures which helps to simplify and encourage people to enter where many will see their beauties. The second day is spent on design. The third, a half day, is an optional written exam covering the instructors’ outlines and information covered in class.

We have two incredible internationally-known instructors scheduled for this series: Pam Braun from Tennessee for horticulture and FS procedures and Lynn Fronk from Georgia for design.

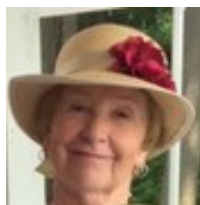
Pam, serves on the Boards of the Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs and Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. and a member of numerous plant societies. She specializes in exhibiting collections and displays of numerous different plant groups and has won many top exhibitor awards for her horticulture. She also enjoys floral design and been a speaker, leader of workshops or exhibitor at all levels from district to internationally.

Lynn has taught in 42 States, Mexico, Guatemala, Columbia, Ecuador, Uruguay, Guantanamo Bay, and Cuba. She has judged major flower shows in USA, such as the Philadelphia Flower Show, Newport Flower Show and Rhode Island State Flower Show. She was former President of the Garden Club of Ohio; the winner of the Mildred Heter Buckingham Award for outstanding service

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for the Garden Club of Ohio and has several designs featured in *Designing by Types*. She authored *Merry Christmas from My House to Yours*, a small booklet on *Using Natural Materials for Holiday Designs*.

You may register on-line through the Michigan Garden Clubs website. Hope to see you at FSS. Encourage your friends and family to register, too—they do not need to be members of MGC to do so.



**Nancy Smith, 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President**  
**Gardening & Conservation  
Committee**

### **Environmental Issues**

**Chair: Rita Crawley**

Posts to MGC Facebook main page and support pages are made as topics relate to the Michigan Environment. Topics include issues related to Air, Water, Land, Floral and Animals within in Michigan. I primarily concentrate on subjects that I know would be of interest to our MGC members.

I write an article for the Garden Gate newsletter quarterly editions. Topics concentrate on the theme provided by our MGC newsletter editor, in turn as they relate to the environment.

I have found the subject material in news articles both in written form and on Social Media. I receive notifications from EGLE, MiWaters, WWF, National Parks, Michigan State Parks, DNR and the National Forestry Division.

News articles and media postings were reviewed for information as they may relate to our club policies and objectives.

I posted on the various MGC, Inc. Facebook Group

Pages to communicate to members about environmental concerns or events throughout the state of Michigan.

I wrote articles for our newsletter on issues regarding our environment as they follow the newsletter theme. I have completed requests from our state President regarding special reports for “Homegrown National Park” and Earth Day, etc.

As the advisor for our newly re-aligned Michigan Consultants Council and as the District Representative for 2A for the newly re-aligned Michigan Association of Accredited Judges, I kept in mind issues concerning the environment that fell within my responsibilities.

### **Horticulture/Arboriculture Resource**

**Pam Cater, Horticulturist**

- July 2022: submitted Fall article for the *Garden Gate*
- October 2022: submitted winter article for *Garden Gate*
- January 2022 submitted spring article for *Garden Gate*
- Attended all Zoom MGC board meetings during 2022-23
- Answered/researched any horticultural questions by members
- Helped maintain/manage MGC Horticulture/Arboriculture Facebook page



## Technology Committee

Interim Chair: Charley Bohland

Newsletter Editor and Publisher  
Carol Lauffer

Four newsletters were published this year as well as 1 Annual Report. Newsletters were themed to encourage participation by contributors. The newsletters contained varied articles and some regular features including a calendar, district news, Homegrown National Parks data, and a President's report.

To add some spice to the newsletter photos of various things related to articles were used, many from free-use sites online.

Three newsletters were sent via Constant Contact and also printed and mailed. The Spring issue was only sent via Constant Contact due to a directive from the Board.

This was due to the cost-prohibitive postage as the number of issues mailed fell out of the nonprofit mailing classification. Future issues will only be sent via Constant Contact.

Roster Processing Manager  
Janet Hickman

Current Club Rosters are sent out to all clubs in May each year with a request to pay dues for the upcoming MGC fiscal year.

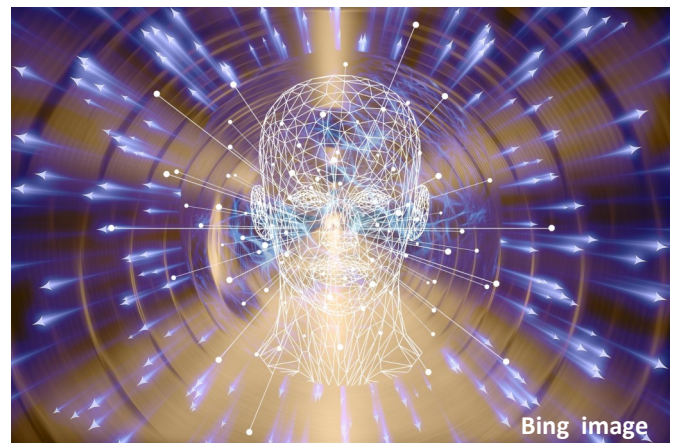
Rosters are all currently kept as Excel Workbooks and we ask that clubs update their rosters whenever changes occur, including change of officers.

Contact information from the rosters is used to create our email lists for Constant Contact, our

communication software. Each club should appoint a club Roster Manager, who is comfortable making updates to excel workbooks. Based on roster updates received from clubs, our Constant Contact lists are updated every month, usually around the 20<sup>th</sup>.

This year, several improvements were made to the roster process including: embedding the instructions into the workbook; offering options for club roster managers to receive a link to their roster so they can update their roster on-line; separating the dues portion of the workbook from the Club Information Form.

This gives club treasures a simple form they can use as an invoice for purposes of their record keeping. In addition to updating Constant Contact, roster reports are provided throughout the year in order to pay our dues to National Garden Clubs, Inc.; to obtain liability insurance, and to give to District Directors, so they have accurate information for contacting the clubs in their respective districts.



Bing image

## Awards Committee

**Chair: Sue Soderberg**

For the 2022 Award year we received 34 MGC General Award Applications, 32 NGC Award Applications, and 8 Consultant Council Applications.

Twenty-five clubs, representing all districts, submitted awards for 2022. These awards along with yearbooks were judged by members from all Districts in October 2022.

MGC Clubs were also awarded 10 Certificates of Appreciation and 3 Certificates of Accommodations from NGC.

Checks for 1<sup>st</sup> Place MGC awards were sent out in April 2023 and Award Certificates were presented at the June 2023 State Conference.

## Scholarship

**Chair: Karin Maupin**

The 2022-2023 Scholarship year was very successful! Under the direction of Karin Maupin, Scholarship Committee Chair, the program was expanded to include club and individual named scholarships along with the MGC scholarships provided. Five named scholarships are now in place.

MGC awarded \$23,500 in scholarship monies to students attending Michigan public universities. In addition, Colton John Bragg received an NGC Scholarship of \$3800, a Central Region Scholarship of \$500 along with the MGC Scholarship of \$1500.

The changes in the NGC Scholarship program also brought good news to Michigan. The NGC Scholarship winner from Illinois is a Michigan resident attending school in Illinois.

There are changes being made to the scholarship programs at the universities and the Scholarship Committee is currently working on modifying the MGC scholarship process to take full advantage of those changes.

The MGC school agents play a very important role in working with the universities to ensure that the necessary information is provided to interested students in the fields of study supporting the MGC mission.

Club donations to the Scholarship program are also vital to our success. With the cost of attending college continuing to increase, MGC has increased the scholarship amount awarded from \$1000 to \$1500 so club support is essential.

In addition, the program implemented in 2017 to sustain scholarships by investing MGC scholarship funds has provided significant returns and monies to the program.

We look forward to another successful 2023-2024 MGC Scholarship year!

**It is with great pleasure to announce that Colton John Bragg has received the NGC Scholarship of \$3800, the Central Region Scholarship of \$500 and the MGC Scholarship of \$1500.**

## Yearbook Contest

**Chair: Mary Krzeczowski**

Fifty four yearbooks were submitted for judging in October of 2022.

They were judged in four categories, flower arrangers, small, medium and large clubs. Each district winner in size was judged for MGC recognition as 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The medium and large club state winners were judged and the winner *Meridian Garden Club* was sent along with the small club winner *Three Rivers Garden Club* to the Central Region to be judged there. The Central Region only has two classifications for judging yearbooks, small and large.

District 5 submitted the most books with 11, while districts 3 and 4 each had 10 clubs submitting books.

## Youth Contests

### Youth High School Essay Contest

**Co-chair: Kathy Sauber**

The timeline was changed this year due to NGC dropping the contest. The local club submission form was due March 29<sup>th</sup>. With the State winner being announced on April 25, 2023. This decision was made to make the contest more favorable to educators.

**1st Place in the State: Ammond Willmott**

 [Special Guests in the Garden - By Ammon Willmott 4.pdf](#)

**1st Place District winners:**

District 1: Ammond Willmott

District 2A: Hannah Baker

Sponsoring Garden Club: Hillsdale Garden Club

District 5: Alivia Farr

Sponsoring Garden Club: Elk Rapids Garden Club

District 6: Arryelle Wiesen

Sponsoring Garden Club: Caro Garden Club

## Youth Sculpture Awards

**Co-chair: Kathleen Sauber**

There were 11 entries in 2023 with 1<sup>st</sup> place winners in grades 4, 5, and 6 in District 6 and one 4<sup>th</sup> grade 1<sup>st</sup> place winner in District 5.

Each of these students received a \$25 gift card for 1<sup>st</sup> in the District for their age level and each received a \$50 gift card for 1<sup>st</sup> in the State for their grade level.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Place District Winners:

4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Trace Stumbrie, District 5

4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Ian Burns, District 6

5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Noah Shields, District 6

6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Jaylah Fisher, District 6

### 1st in State:

4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Ian Burns, District 6

5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Noah Shields, District 6

6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Jaylah Fisher, District 6



**Youth Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl  
Poster Contest**

**Co-chair: Martha Rohr**

**1st grade**

1st place—Lilly Johnson  
Williamston Red Cedar GC, D-2B

2nd place—Claire Reed  
Caro Garden Club, D-6

3rd place—Andyn Mirretti  
Mason County GC, 5

**2nd grade**

1st place—Willow Fox  
Williamston Red Cedar GC, D-2B

2nd place—Ella Kosnick  
Seedum Garden Club, D-5

3rd place—Finley Ackerman  
Caro Garden Club, D-6

**3rd grade**

1st place—Vivian Foote  
Williamston Red Cedar GC, D-2B

2nd place—Nicholas Van Camp  
Garden Club of Dearborn, D-2A

3rd place—John Paul Lipa  
Mason County GC, D-5

**4th grade**

1st place—Raelyn Coole  
Williamston Red Cedar GC, D-2B

2nd place—Clark Leciejewski  
Garden Club of Dearborn, D-2A

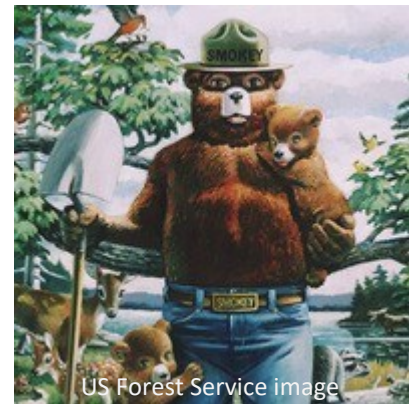
3rd place—Mackenzie Glotzhober  
Charlevoix Area GC, D-5

**5th grade**

1st place—Kalli Southwell  
Williamston Red Cedar GC, D-2B

2nd place—Evie Bennett  
Charlevoix Area GC, D-5

3rd place—Sarah Reisterer  
Mason County GC, D-5



**Meeting/Member Services  
Committee**

**MGC Corresponding Secretary Report  
Kathy Wolverton**

As Corresponding Secretary I maintain and keep current the Executive Committee and Board of Directors E-mail roster and send necessary meeting agendas and notices as directed by the President.

I maintain a sufficient supply of club stationary items and give/send to those who request.

This office acknowledges those present or past Board members who experience illness and death within their immediate family with a greeting card and note as directed by the President.

If memorial money is to be given I check with the Treasurer to follow up to ensure this has been accomplished.

### **MGC Group Tax Exempt Program (GTEP)** **Rose Houk**

The 2022-2023 renewal and new club application process is now complete.

Bylaw changes were reviewed as well as the documents required for filing with both IRS and the State of Michigan.

Assisted clubs in preparing paperwork.

Announced via email and MGC newsletter any changes to the program.

To date, our *Grow and Share Grants* program has delivered 57 awards totaling \$11,696 supporting the start-up or expansion of a wide variety of member club's programs.

The Investment sub-committee has worked on a regular basis with our advisors at Morgan Stanley and Raymond James to monitor our assets, especially during this volatile period in the financial markets.

The Scholarships committee has strengthened both the Scholarship program and our relationships with Michigan's public universities. We are extremely proud of this effort.

GTEP aids 28 clubs to collect and report information needed for required government filings.

Our General Liability Insurance carrier now has a new group of underwriters reviewing details of group events, which may incur more than our previous \$25 charge for certificates provided to interested landlords. We're watching this closely to minimize any increases.

It's been a busy year.

## **Finance Committee**

### **Chair: Gail Taggart**

In addition to the development of the 2023-24 MGC Budget and reviewing budgets final reports of School and District events, the Finance Committee has wrestled with a variety of topics. Most have been resolved and others remain to be worked through.

Our bookkeeping and accounting processes have involved a difficult and time-consuming set of tasks for our Treasurer and Financial Assistant.

Work continues to develop methods to define, refine, and streamline these processes and move as much as is reasonable to our accounting firm, Seber Tans. New steps in that direction are scheduled to be provided at the start of the new term in June 2023.

Grants, Investments, Scholarships, and GTEP are tracked and reviewed regularly enabling us to provide oversight on behalf of our member clubs and our Board of Directors.

### **Treasurer Report**

#### **Barbara Lobdell**

- Collected, tracked and processed deposits and expenses for MGC Events, Schools, Committees, and Officers.
- Issued Monthly Treasurer Reports showing MGC finances.
- Coordinated the filing of various IRS and State of Michigan taxes, reports and licenses.
- Continued to streamline MGC accounting and reporting processes.

## Nominating Committee

### Chair: Janet Hickman

The Nominating Committee held 3 meetings by zoom, to develop and prioritize lists of potential candidates for Officer positions. Nominating Committee members were encouraged to attend Spring leadership meetings in 2022 as another means of developing ideas for candidates. Suggestions were also solicited from Board Members.

The Committee Chair contacted each potential candidate. Except for District 3, which is being split into 2 districts, the slate of officers for the 2023-2025 administration was presented at the November 2022 Board Meeting.

At the April 2023 Board Meeting, the District 3A Director was approved and the Board approved the entire Slate of Officers (with District 3B to be determined) for presentation to the membership for election at the 2023 Conference.

The chair thanks Nominating Committee members for their assistance this past term: Florence Smith and Stacey Stutcher, District 1; Kris Kosal and Charley Bohland, District 2A; Jenny Bond and Jean Goetz, District 2B; Carol Beckius and Bunny La Duke, District 3; Judy Lindemulder and Maggie Jones, District 4; Sue Soderberg and Terry Harding, District 5; Nancy Stark and Bethany Goodman, District 6; as well as numerous Board Members for their helpful suggestions.

The current Slate of Officers for the 2023-3025 term are:

First Vice-President, Lisa Robinson,  
District 4, Holland Garden Club;

Second Vice-President, Carol McGregor,  
District 4, Lowell Showboat Garden Club;

Third Vice-President, Denise Clegg,  
District 3, Western Hills Garden Club;

Fourth Vice-President, Nancy Smith,  
District 1, Taylor Garden Club;

Treasurer, Rosemary LaDuke,  
District 3, Chula Vista Garden Club;

Recording Secretary, Sue Hendrix,  
District 6, Touch the Earth Garden Club;

District I Director, Anne Ryan,  
Junior League Gardeners;

District 2A Director, Mary Moore,  
Hillsdale Garden Club;

District 2B Director, Carol Grainger,  
Williamston Red Cedar Garden Club;

District 3A Director, Judy Nelson,  
Three Rivers Club of Little Gardens;

District 3B Director, Open at this time;

District 4 Director, Kathy Wolverton,  
Kent Garden Club;

District 5 Director, Dorothy Sandoval,  
Charlevoix Garden Club;

District 6 Director, Kathy Sauber,  
Caro Garden Club.