

### **Lisa's Letter**

*The MGC Annual Conference was a resounding success and, as we honored Nancy Ryan for her brilliant Leadership, I felt truly honored to be selected to follow in her footsteps.*

*In my early travels through Michigan as the new MGC President, I have been warmly welcomed. I plan to attend as many club and District functions as possible over the next two years and I look forward to experiencing your club firsthand. Please invite me to your club events.*

*Our theme for this term is "Plant America – Grow, Share & Connect to a Brighter Future". To accomplish this, there will be a greater focus on Youth. Many of our Michigan Garden Clubs include Youth in their activities and events and many host activities just for Youth. I am very excited to learn of the opportunities that many of you already offer the youth of Michigan and my goal is to see every club include a youth factor in at least one of your projects.*

### **Expect continued support of these MGC Projects:**

- NGC schools will continue in Michigan
- Gardening School hosts its 2nd of 4 schools September 12-13
- Environmental School hosts course 2 of the 4 course series November 3-4
- Flower Show School just completed course 4, providing NGC with new Flower Show Judges
- Landscape Design School hosts the final course, number 4 of the series, September 22-23

• Plans are underway to offer a new series of Landscape Design School in the Spring of 2026

The MGC project, Gardening with Purpose, to assist the underfunded in our state will continue. A report form and the information for this project are under construction and should be available on the website very soon. Plant an extra row now!

Blue and Gold Star Memorials, honoring past, present and future Veterans continue to have MGC support, with 3 dedications planned for this Fall.

Grow and Share Grants for projects - gardens, Blue and Gold Star memorials, natural disaster garden repairs and Youth projects are available. Apply to your District Director.

Speaking of District Directors, welcome back 2 Directors and to meet our 6 new Directors.

MGC continues to grow. At the time of this writing, we are making plans to welcome another new club! **HAPPY SUMMER!**

*Lisa*

Lisa Robinson, MGC President 2025-2027

[lisarobinson@migardenclubs.org](mailto:lisarobinson@migardenclubs.org)

**Every day is a great day to be a gardener in Michigan  
and a member of Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc!**



### **The MGC, Inc. Mission**

is to provide leadership, education, resources, and network opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, floral and landscape design, civic, and environmental responsibility.

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#### **MGC Club News**

New MGC "Open Gate Garden Club"

## **Events Calendar**

### **July**

4 - Happy Independence Day!

12 - (6) Garden Walks, DeWitt Flower Show, see link below

12-13 - Marshall Area Garden Festival

17 - (2) Garden Walks, see link below

17- 19 - Tri Cities GC Flower Show

19 - (4) Garden Walks, see link below

Gardening with Purpose, DeWitt GC  
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### **MGC Projects**

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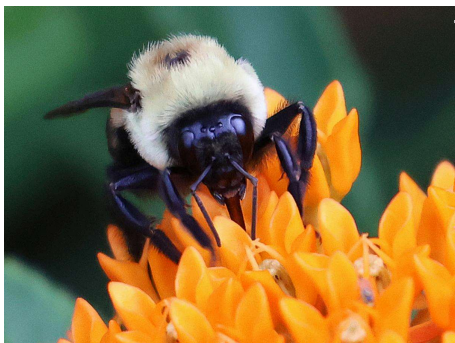
### **NGC News**

New NGC President, Donna Donnelly  
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### **Newsletter Submission Guidelines**

## **Thanks From a Bee**

*By Lynn O'Shaughnessy*



*You planted native plants for me  
And made me such a happy bee  
I'm headed for that Blazing Star  
And Culver's Root is not too far  
Then Anise Hyssop is on my list  
And Bee Balm certainly can't be missed  
Oh, wait...there's also Goldenrod  
And Cup Plant giving me the nod  
New England Aster is looking fine*

26 - Belding Gardeneers GC Flower  
Show

## **August**

1 - Thru The Garden Gate deadline  
22-23 - Mason County GC Flower Show  
28 - MGC Board of Directors ZOOM

## **September**

5 - District 4 Fall Meeting/Bus Trip  
12-13 - District 5 Fall Meeting and  
Flower Show  
12-13 - Gardening School Course #2  
18 - NGC Fall Board Meeting - ZOOM  
20 - Rockford GC Gold Star Memorial  
dedication  
22-23 Landscape Design School Course  
#4

## **SUMMERTIME IS FOR GARDEN WALKS**

*With Garden Walks All Around the  
State*

*there is sure to be one close to you!*



**[See Gardens to Visit Here](#)**

**MCC Garden Walk  
Awards Available**

*With Purple Coneflower next in line  
I really love your Joe Pye Weed  
And Mountain Mint will fill the need  
So thanks for all you've done for me  
You've made me such a happy bee.*

## **to These Participating Clubs**

***Deadline to submit the Award  
Application is October 1 2025***

Apply For A Garden Walk  
Award

## **MGC 94TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE RECAP**



**June 9 & 10, 2025**

### ***The Haworth Hotel in Holland was the place to be June 8-10, 2025.***

The MGC Annual Conference was kicked off with a cruise down Lake Macatawa on the Holland Princess. All enjoyed a sumptuous dinner and lovely views of the Holland shoreline.

Upon entering the lobby of The Haworth on Day 1 of this 2-day conference, we were met by 10 exceptional "Honor" Designs by very talented MGC members, honoring the 8 District Directors,

President, Nancy Ryan and President Elect, Lisa Robinson. The registration desk was a busy place, and by 9am, had registered 173 of the 193 Conference attendees. The morning began with buffet breakfast and the traditional MGC business segment which included the Election of Officers for 2025-2027, Celebration of Life ceremony and the Annual MGC, CR and NGC Awards presentation. A buffet lunch was enjoyed which fortified all for a myriad of afternoon activities. Attendees pre-selected from a Bus Tour to Windmill Island Gardens and Walters Gardens, A Painting Class featuring "Big Red" or an Historic Walking Tour through downtown Holland. [Read More](#)

## **Introduction to Our MGC District Directors**

***D1 Karen Block***

[kblock@migardenclubs.org](mailto:kblock@migardenclubs.org)

***I'm new to Michigan***

***D2A Debra Emmons***

[mmoore@migardenclubs.org](mailto:mmoore@migardenclubs.org)

***I am the Ann Arbor Good Thyme  
Garden Club's***



(I moved here in 2021 from North Carolina), I am not new to gardening. I come from strong pioneer farm stock, so the love of

gardening is deep in my soul. I have gardened in six states and one Canadian province. In my spare time, I also had a 30+-year career as a technical writer. I know how to organize, multi-task, and market a product or idea. I am a member of three MGC clubs: Livonia, Farmington and Creative Flower Arrangers Guild. Livonia put me right to work once I joined them. I have been membership chair and most recently vice president of the club. For the next two years, I will serve as co-president. What did I say about multi-tasking?

I am looking forward to meeting you all and am very excited to lead District 1. My team (Treasurer Rita Goss, MGC rep Virginia Froelich, MAAJ rep Kathleen Willingham, and Gardening with a Purpose rep Pat McLamore) and I are here to help your club meet and exceed its goals. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any ideas or concerns.



Facebook coming soon

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## **D2B Joan Lenhard Director**

[jlenhard@migardenclubs.org](mailto:jlenhard@migardenclubs.org)



***I joined The Garden Club of Greater Lansing***

in 2011. Throughout the years I have been involved with the

Greens Market, Garden Beautification tour, Editor for the newsletter The Twigs, assisted with the program development



• ***Current President and Canton Garden Club (former President and Vice***

President)

- Member Washtenaw Master Gardeners and Oakland Master Gardeners (8 years)
- MGC member since 1999
- Currently, Garden Coordinator for Arbor Hospice (13 gardens, 8 acres, 8 years)
- Board member of Festival of Trees (15 years)
- Coordinator with Angel Tree Ministry (5 years)

- Retired after twenty years with Northville Public Schools

My goals as District 2A director are to visit all 14 clubs, actively pursue open communication between myself, MGC, and each club through further understanding of MGC policies, procedures, and what being a member of MGC has to offer.

## **D3A Judy Nelson Director**

[jnelson@migardenclubs.org](mailto:jnelson@migardenclubs.org)



***About Me...***

As a teenager, I worked for some of local farmers, trimming and picking berries for the open market

- Moved to St. Joseph County where I raised my family.

and the Yearbook. The last 6 years I served as the VP elect for 2 years and 4 years as President.

I look forward to the nuances as a District Director. Looking at the broad picture, helping the district to grow, expand offerings, maintain what we have and encourage people to get involved. These challenges are similar to a club but might include broader ideas to institute. I look forward to hearing from members and growing together in our stewardship.

My interests include watercolors museums, art galleries, zoos, gardens, aquariums, gardening, travel, reading, wine gin and scotch.

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- Once the kids left home the whole yard became flowers, bushes and trees; the kids bought a small greenhouse so I could start plants typically not found commercially.

- My passion has led to raising Monarchs; last year I collected over 250 eggs! • Joined Three Rivers Club of Little Gardens; served as VP; six years as President.

- Being District 3A Director is my opportunity to meet more great leaders within our organization with a love for diversity in nature.

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## **D3B Lori Dillenbeck**

[pcullen@migardenclubs.org](mailto:pcullen@migardenclubs.org)



***I joined the  
Lawrence Garden  
Club***

- *19 years ago* and have been President for 3 terms as well as a few other positions.
- I am a passionate Hosa enthusiast with over 40 plants, in 15 varieties in my home and am always looking for new varieties.
- I live on a 75 acre farm and grow almost exclusively organic fruits and vegetables in our gardens.
- I absolutely love companion planting and enjoy watching herbs and vegetables thrive using this method.

## **D4 Joan Tolley**

[jtolley@migardenclubs.org](mailto:jtolley@migardenclubs.org)



***A Little  
About Me***

I retired after a 38 yr career with Steelcase, Inc. as a people and project leader.

***And some of my Garden Club related  
involvement past and present:***

- Kent Garden Club as 4th VP 2023-2025
- Editor of club newsletter
- Co-chair of Virgil Nishimura Westdale Memorial Park beautification project
- Chair of website improvement committee

• I am passionate about the way gardening gives us such peace and joy as growth changes the tapestry of our landscape. I know one of my husbands favorite thing for me to say is "let's unplug this here and re-plug it there". That just makes him smile all the more! Ha!

[READ MORE](#)



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• Member of Gold Star and Blue Star dedication committee

• Completed MSU Extension Master Naturalist program

I am looking forward to being inspired by the District 4 clubs as I learn about each club's unique culture, programs and community projects.

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### **D5 Dorothy Sandoval Director**

[dsandoval@migardenclubs.org](mailto:dsandoval@migardenclubs.org)



***Vegetable gardening is what I love!***

***My dad always said: "if you can't eat it don't grow it".***

- I am finishing my 2nd term as District Director and into my 3rd and final term.
- There are 24 clubs in district 5 and my goal each year is to visit 5 or 6 a season until I have been to all 24 clubs.
- I am a retired Hospital Chaplain/Director. I love working in the ministry at the hospital, at hospice, as well as nursing homes.
- I was widowed 9 years ago and relocated with my three Persians to Charlevoix from Bella Vista, AR.

### **D6 Deborah Glasstetter**

[dglasstetter@migardenclubs.org](mailto:dglasstetter@migardenclubs.org)



***Gardening is in my DNA.***

My grandparents owned a landscaping and nursery business. My mom worked in the greenhouse where I played and learned to walk. College took me in the direction of business management but upon retiring from corporate America, I was back to gardening! The MSU-E Master Gardener Program gave me the opportunity to learn science-based gardening practices. I joined Touch the Earth Garden Club in Grand Blanc finding a group of people that loves to share their gardening talents in our community. It turns out garden clubs also need people willing to share their computer and business skills. I volunteered for Vice President, Program Chair, Co-President and I am currently President. When we hosted the 2023 MGC District 6 Fall meeting at Eastern Michigan Food Bank, we found our theme "Gardening with Purpose" was a perfect match to partner with National Garden Club Initiative Plant America Feed America. I have enjoyed the opportunity to chair our MGC committee,

• I love living in Charlevoix with the one remaining kitty, Cassie who turns 16 in June.

Gardening with Purpose. I have met so many wonderful people in MGC! I am learning about all of the exciting things happening in District 6. I look forward to meeting our great clubs!



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## *MGC Club News*

### *Welcome to MGC*

# Open Gate Garden Club

Fenton, MI

Come enjoy our Annual Garden Tour on July 20th.

[Get tickets and Info here](#)



### **About Us**

We are a group of home gardeners who enjoy learning new methods and ideas, sharing our knowledge and gardens with each other, and meeting like minds.

Dues and fundraisers have allowed the Club to support Fenton projects such as tree replacement after the 2008 tornado and the 175th anniversary clock in front of City Hall. Over the years over \$30,000 in donations have been made to 40 member-nominated area projects.

## **"Gardening With Purpose"**

Dewitt Millennial Garden Club



On April 22, 2025, members of the **DeWitt Millennial Garden Club** partnered with the **Greater Lansing Food Bank's Garden Project** to provide a presentation at the Bath Public Library. This presentation gave overall "how to" guidance for community members interested in Vegetable Gardening. It covered not only traditional plot planting but also raised bed and container gardening, opening a door for people who do not have access to the space needed to plant a garden. The Librarian provided information about Bath Community Garden Plots available to community members at minimal cost. The GL Food Bank Garden Program offers extensive help with Free seeds, literature and a Tool lending program. With this presentation the hope is to encourage new and current gardeners, give tools to be successful and connect people to food sources to grow, feed and share within their communities.

[Read More](#)



## *Wyandotte Garden Club*

**Membership-** We currently have 50 people on our membership roster though we have begun collecting dues and I'm sure that number may fluctuate. Though I am thrilled that many people have completed one of our membership applications! We have only been recruiting new members since February!

**Monthly Meetings-** We have been hosting our monthly meetings for membership at the Downriver Council for the Arts. We have developed a partnership with them and they're allowing us to use their space free of charge. We are volunteering to maintain their front landscaping and pots throughout the season. [READ MORE](#)

## *Member News*

### Life Achievement Award

What better way to honor a club member or other individual for outstanding service to a club, district or state organization than with a Life Achievement



Award.

The \$105 cost of a LAA includes a pin, a certificate and a congratulatory letter and supplements the Scholarships investment fund. MGC currently budgets annually to offer scholarships to all 15 public universities for studies in gardening, horticulture, landscaping and environment-related fields. For more info contact [vafroehlich@comcast.net](mailto:vafroehlich@comcast.net)

## **Congratulations to these recent recipients of Life Achievement Awards:**

Lynn Belco, Chula Vista Garden Club

Kathleen Bishop, DeWitt Millennium Garden Club

Terri Bungee, Garden Club of Dearborn

Kay Cozzi, Grosse Ile Garden Club

Lois Duivan, Boyne Valley Garden Club

[Read All Recipients Here](#)

*MGC Projects*

**Gold Star Marker Dedication**



*The Rockford Garden Club*  
**Gold Star Memorial Marker  
Dedication**

Saturday, September 20, 2025

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Garden Club Park (by Dam)

Reception to follow at the  
Rotary Pavillion

R.S.V.P. to [mary.blakeslee@gmail.com](mailto:mary.blakeslee@gmail.com)

by September 5, 2025

In case of rain, the ceremony will be at 1:00 pm Rotary Pavilion



## ***MGC Awards \$1500 in Scholarships to These Amazing Students***

The accomplishments and goals of each student made them so deserving of these awards. Gardeners can feel confident in the future of gardening world. Generous garden clubs across Michigan contributed more than \$10,000 to the MGC Scholarship project. MGC provided the remainder of the \$30,000+ needed to fund the awards. The Scholarship Committee is in hopes additional clubs will consider MGC Scholarship donations in their budgets. These students are key to a healthy, robust environment.

It's easy to donate to the scholarship program. Just go to the MGC web page, click the Scholarship tab in the top banner and select the donation form. All the information your club needs to make a donation is on the form. Think about donating to honor or memorialize a club member. MGC Scholarships are a wonderful way to support students.

### **2024-2025 MGC Scholarship Winners**

Central Michigan University Victoria Huber  
Eastern Michigan University Ali Abdulzahra Alasadi  
Grand Valley State University Emma Thompson  
Lake Superior State University Kylah Buikema

[READ MORE NAMES HERE](#)

## ***MGC Grow and Share Small Grant Program - Natural Disasters***



**The Michigan Grow and Share Small Grant Program** has recently introduced a new category for gardens that have been damaged by natural disasters. This category aims to support repairs and help clubs recover from such events. If your club has experienced damage due to a natural disaster, you can apply for funding to assist with the necessary repairs.

***The Plant America Michigan Grow and Share Small Grant Program***, awarded a total of seventeen different grants during 2024 totaling \$2,975.00. Grant applications included establishing Monarch Waystations, Children's educational programs for Monarch Butterfly host and nectar plants, renovation/refurbishing or expanding existing community gardens with native plants and shrubs. Grant funding also assisted with flower shows, and the installation or revision of Blue Star By-Way Markers and Gold Star By-Way Markers. **Five grant applications have already been approved for 2025.** Clubs can request \$200.00 for project ideas and up to \$600 for Blue Star and Gold Star projects.

## Apply For Youth Project Funding

For more information on how to apply, please visit the MGC Grow and Share Grant Program under Member Resources. If you have any questions, feel free to email Pat Kelly, the MGC Grow and Share Grants Administrator, mail to: [pkelly@migardenclubs.org](mailto:pkelly@migardenclubs.org).

[Read Article Here](#)



[Learn more about Gardening with Purpose here!](#)

**Thank you to our Donors!**

[Read Here](#)



[Learn about Loda Lake here!](#)

**Blue and Gold Star Memorial Program!** [Learn More](#)



***Plant Native to support wildlife habitat!***

[Learn more](#)



[Read Spring Article](#)

## Central Region News



**Central Region Garden Clubs, Inc.**

Photography contest,  
Path of Success,  
Help it Grow

[Click for entry form here](#)

# NGC News



## Welcome NGC's New President, Donna Donnelly!

National Garden Clubs, Inc. provides education, resources, and national networking opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, floral design and civic and environmental responsibility.



## MGCs Gardening with Purpose

was awarded the NGC Award of Excellence with a \$500 award at the NGC Convention in May



## MICHIGAN WINNER OF NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS ESSAY CONTEST

**Caro Garden Club** proudly announces a local winner in the National Garden Club's High School Essay Contest, Alexandria (Alexa) Goff.

Each year the Caro Garden Club sponsors the Hazel J. Spaulding High School Essay Contest open to all local high school students. This year's topic was "Is recycling plastics the answer to our disposal problem?". Writers were encouraged to address the topic in a creative manner.

Alexa, our local first place senior entitled her essay "Dear Recycling, I Hate to Break it to You". Alexa's essay caught the judges' attention by including a twist, writing a letter to 'Recycling' encouraging it to partner up with Reduce and Reuse to do better. [READ MORE](#)



# MGC Schools

***Keep an eye out for the upcoming Schools:***

**Gardening School - September 12-13**

**Landscape Design School - September 22-23**

**Environmental School - November 3-4**

**[Click here for more info](#)**



## **Article Submission Guidelines**

We look forward to receiving your submissions and can't wait to hear from many of you again!

**Please [View our suggestions here](#)**

Keep your news "short and snappy" for our readers enjoyment. Try to limit the word count to no more than 400. Hey, we know it may be difficult; however your efforts will cut down on our editing out something you feel is important.

***Thank you! Newsletter Editorial Team - Nola Hogge, Terry Such, and Lisa Robinson***



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