



## 2025 Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. Annual Report

June 1, 2024-May 31, 2025

Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. (MGC)  
Member National Garden Clubs, Inc and NGC Central Region

### At A Glance

**Our Mission:** *“to provide leadership and education, resources, and network opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, floral and landscape design, civic and environmental responsibility.”*

#### Our Numbers

8 Districts

134 Member Clubs

4891 Members

#### Our Programs/Projects

Blue & Gold Star Memorials

Black Swallowtail for State Butterfly

Gardening With Purpose

Homegrown National Park

Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary

#### Our Monetary Support

MGC/NGC Awards \$4200

Grow & Share Grants \$2000

NGC Schools \$10,000

Scholarships \$30,000

Charitable Donations \$8500

Gardening with Purpose 74,000

lbs.' of food to local pantries

### 2024-2025 Highlights

- Four additional clubs joined and member numbers continued to increase.
- Received NGC Award of Excellence for MGC's Gardening with Purpose project that provided over 74,000 pounds of food toward the 110,000 NGC total.
- Received six of fifteen Central Region Awards.
- First year of MGC Charitable Donations process provided \$5500 in Corporate and \$3000 in District donations to mission related non-profit organizations.
- MGC Member Services position successfully filled and taking over administrative tasks to offload from volunteers and improve member service to clubs.
- New on-line member database created to simplify roster update process and provide reports.
- JotForm, a new forms software, implemented to improve our events registration process.

- **NGC schools were held around the state continuing a long-standing tradition. MGC is one of the few state federations within NGC to do so.**



**President: Nancy J Ryan; member Indian Hills and Kent Garden Club**

The past two years have seen continuous change by building on the work of previous terms. The organization has added more new clubs and members thanks to the efforts of the District Directors and our member clubs. This makes Michigan one of the very few state federations within National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC) that is growing.

The financials are strong; MGC has benefited from the investment decisions made by the board in June 2107 to move from savings accounts and CDs to accounts managed by Morgan Stanley and Raymond James. The processes required for a 501c3 organization have been fully implemented and will continue to be improved. The future challenge is adding fundraising components to support ongoing programs. To that end MGC logo clothing featuring the new logo and individual club name was rolled out at the 2025 Annual Conference.

Using Zoom for state committee and board meetings, refreshers, educational Member Meetings, Club Meetings and District Presidents meetings has become a way of doing business and has significantly increased the involvement of club members on ad hoc committees. Examples include the website redesign team, the Club President’s Report ad hoc committee and the grassroots project Gardening With Purpose. The outcomes of each of those efforts have been outstanding. It is the future to continue to streamline and simplify yet keep everyone connected.

It is my hope that the organization will continue to grow, and that the leadership will continue to streamline and simplify while providing value for our member clubs.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy J. Ryan  
President 2023-2025

**Treasurer: Rosemary (Bunny LaDuke); member Chula Vista Garden Club**



**Corporate Revenue/Expenses**

Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc., is a Michigan incorporated nonprofit, and unlike many other Michigan nonprofits, this organization has a solid financial status. Our financial transactions are wholly managed through our CPA firm, Seber Tans, and all checks are generated through Bill.com after review by our Finance Chair, Gail Taggart. This financial process continues to be streamlined and improved with the active participation on the Finance Committee of our Seber Tans CPA, Jennifer Heinrich.

**Current MGC Assets as of May 31, 2025**

Checking: \$ 20,787.29  
Savings: \$ 2,775.11  
Morgan Stanley: \$ 419,788.03  
Raymond James: \$ 225,765.70  
Total Assets: \$669,116.13

Since June 1, 2024, total MGC assets have decreased a net of \$19,803.36.

### **Investments**

The Morgan Stanley investments began the fiscal year on June 1, 2024, with a balance of \$439,169. During the previous fiscal year the Morgan Stanley account value increased \$49,159, and this fiscal year it decreased \$19,381.

The Raymond James investment account increased \$25,201 during the previous fiscal year and increased this past fiscal year by \$13,515.

### **Quarterly Reports**

Quarterly summary treasury reports are provided to MGC Board and full monthly reports are also available on the MGC website.

### **Significant MGC Expense Projects during 2024-2025 fiscal year**

- We began the fiscal year with the 2024 MGC Annual Conference held in Bay City with educational and entertaining presentations.
- We have continued to streamline our accounting with all financial transaction processing and record-keeping by our CPA at Seber Tans.
- NGC/MGC School courses in Flower Show, Environment, Landscaping and Gardening were held during this fiscal year. They are mostly break-even activities as we try to produce great educational events at the least cost for our members and the public.
- Michigan Association of Accredited Judges (MAAJ) supported the Annual Conference, held a symposium, and sponsored Jean Moran scholarships for Flower Show School courses.
- Michigan Consultants Council (MCC) supported the Annual Conference and sponsored Garden Walk awards.
- Introduced new MGC logo merchandise – pin and sign.
- MGC paid NGC dues of \$4,758 in the past physical year.
- Annual liability Insurance of \$3,919 was paid in 2024 for liability coverage for MGC Corporate and all of the MGC member clubs.
- District Events were held in all districts during the fiscal year, and District Grow & Share Grants continued to be awarded to clubs this fiscal year.
- An advertisement was developed and placed in the 2025 Wildflower Association of Michigan (WAM) Conference program, and we supported the MSU Extension Master Gardener Conference in Interlochen with both a sponsorship and an advertisement in the program.

- New this year is our Member Services Administrator position. This part-time position is being primarily paid for by our investment at Raymond James. With some new MGC logo merchandise we hope to generate additional income which will put us in a better financial situation to cover this expense.
- About \$30,000 was donated to 15 state universities this year for scholarships to students studying in related fields. This is in addition to the \$2,200+ scholarship that is generated annually from the 1993 Thelma Burleigh \$50,000 endowment donated in 2014 from MGC to the MSU Horticulture Dept.
- Both the number of MGC/NGC awards and the budget amounts awarded were increased this year from about \$4,000 to \$6,000.
- Loda Lake National Wildflower Sanctuary received significant funding from Michigan Garden Clubs with plans to create 2 new native plant beds at the entrance in June. You may not realize that this is the only wildflower sanctuary in the country that is maintained by the USDA Forest Service. We partner with them and are working together to make some major improvements in the Loda Lake grounds this summer.
- The biggest new mission activity for MGC this year was its donations to various like-minded 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations around the State of Michigan. MGC Corporate and the Districts donated to organizations suggested by members. Through that project and some other activities, MGC donated to and supported more than 17 different nonprofit organizations with almost \$10,000 in this fiscal year. That is a record of which we should be very proud.



**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and President Elect: Lisa Robinson; member Holland GC and West MI Flower Arrangers Guild**

Monthly District Director Zoom meetings have been held where plans for District events and MGC programs and projects are discussed, and reminders are updated for tasks and club communications. Each District Director holds a Zoom meeting for her club Presidents every 4-6 weeks, to hear reports from team members, share MGC and District news and each club is allowed to share upcoming events, or ask questions on policy and procedure.

Through the summer of 2024, the clubs of our 8 Districts were busy planning and hosting beautiful Garden Walks, Flower Shows, Blue/Gold Star Dedications and other events, creating attractive and informative Yearbooks and planning fun and educational projects and activities.

District 2A was the first to successfully complete club Roster updates, well before the Sept. 1 deadline! They were followed by Districts 2B and 5 who also reported that all rosters and dues were received by Sept. 1.

The new Club President Report form was completed, and reports were received by District Directors before the deadline of Oct. 1. District Directors were busy all winter evaluating them for use in recognizing accomplishments and assisting in areas needed to improve the membership experience. We heard summaries and highlights from each Director at the January District Director meeting.

Through reminders from our District Directors, our MGC chairmen received very worthy applications from clubs for Grow & Share Grants, Garden Walk Awards, Environmental

Awards of Merit, and other Garden Club Awards. Yearbook entries were received for judging at the district level first with winners going on to state judging. On Oct 31, 2024, Awards Judging Day was held, in Lansing, with representatives from every District assisting with the Judging of many Award applications.

Clubs throughout the state celebrated club Anniversaries, Blue and Gold Star Dedications, Flower Shows and other meaningful events. Our District reps for Gardening with a Purpose enthusiastically communicated reminders to their District members and through these efforts, over 74,000 lbs. of donated food was reported to the NGC Feed America Program.

The first of 8 District Fall Meetings was held 9/9/2024. Fall meetings were well attended and included fascinating speakers, great food and interaction among members. This Officer attended all 8 of these and found each to be unique, fun, festive and educational. I also attended, and judged, Tri-Cities Flower Show, Kalamazoo Council Flower Show and the District 5 Horticulture Show in conjunction with their Fall Meeting in Mackinaw City. It was my honor to attend and participate in the Morenci Garden Club 70th Anniversary event in District 2A, Garden Walks in Holland and Ludington, the Blue Star Marker dedication in District 3B, the Central Region Convention in Illinois, MGC Award Judging Day in Lansing, a portion of Flower Show School Course 3 in Ann Arbor and a portion of Gardening School in Sawyer.

Since June 2024, District 2A acquired two new clubs, welcome to MGC club #502 Buds and Buddies from Jackson County and Bedford Flower and Garden Club from near Monroe County. In November 2024 we voted to welcome 3 additional clubs to MGC, 2 in District 5 and 1 in District 6. With these new clubs, MGC is proud to represent 135 clubs with an overall 4818 members at the time of the November Board of Directors meeting.

In District 4, Kent Garden Club hosted their first (in a long, long while) MGC Youth Sculpture Contest in November following guidelines so graciously shared by our D6 Director, Kathy Sauber.

Planning for the 2025 MGC Annual Conference began in April of 2024. District 4 will be hosting our 94th MGC Annual State Conference "A Shore Way to Connect" at the beautiful Haworth Hotel on the Hope College Campus, in Holland, June 9-10, 2025. By August 2024, each District supplied recommendations to the MGC Nominating Committee, and representatives to serve on the MGC Nominating Committee to prepare a slate of officers for the 2025-2027 term. This slate was announced at the November Board of Directors meeting.

Spring District meetings will be held in 3 of our Districts and Fall District Meetings are in planning stages for all 8 Districts in 2025.

After the slate of Officers was announced for 2025-2027, plans and communications have begun for a strong administration with continued programs and exciting plans for the future of MGC.

After the January meeting of the District Directors at which Club President Reports were summarized and each Director presented highlights and statistics of their District clubs. Speaker and Tour recommendations for each District are being shared with the MCC reps to update the website listings.

This officer has continued to plan and host monthly meetings of the District Directors, participate in meetings of District Presidents and participate in and document the work

of the following Committees: Bylaws and P & P's, Blue and Gold Star Memorial, 2025 and 2026 MGC Conferences, Advisory Council, Charitable Donations, Gardening with Purpose, Finance and Awards.

Unfortunately, we are losing 1 club in District 2A, Sunshine Arrangers Guild, leaving MGC with 134 clubs after the April 10, 2025 Board of Directors meeting. MGC has gained many new club members in this fiscal year and now has a membership of just over 4900.

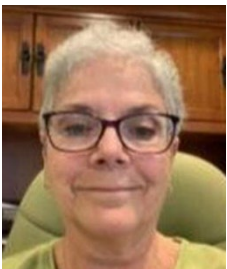
Please see the reports of each District Director for more detailed District information.



**DISTRICT 1: (27 Clubs) Anne Ryan, District Director; member Jr League Gardeners**

2024 was my fourth year as district director and I am very happy to have added three new clubs to my district. The fall conference was held at the Detroit Yacht Club on Belle Isle, September 26, 2024, with 154 people attending. It was a nice day and people enjoyed touring the Odolf gardens after the conference. I conducted Zoom meetings with my presidents every six weeks and attended district director and board meetings. I wrote four articles for the Garden gate and will attend the annual meeting in Holland Michigan. I gave grow and share grants to Royal Oak and Pleasant Ridge Garden Club, in addition, I organized judges from my district to judge year books. I have been working with the incoming district one Director, helping her become comfortable with her new position. I also read and collated the president reports that came in. I attended the Dearborn Garden Club Christmas fundraiser in December. In addition, I spent quite a bit of time finding clubs to take care of five abandoned blue star markers.

**DISTRICT 2A: (14 Clubs) Mary Moore, District Director; member Hillsdale GC**



**DISTRICT 2B: (12 Clubs) Ann Schoals, District Director; member The GC of Greater Lansing**

BRIGHTON-Carol Brodbeck gave a talk in November on a Holiday table. In January, a talk by Earl Wolf on the migration of the Monarch. DEWITT-Cups of cheer were made in December and distributed. In January a talk on bulbs for summer bloom. GARDEN CLUB OF GREATER LANSING-Held their annual Greens Market, in January discussion on MGC schools and MGC websites. Grand Ledge- Hanging of the Greens at their local library. Talk given by Eaton County Conservation. Marshall- Holiday Arrangement Workshop, cups n' mugs to assisted living facilities. January, learning about ecosystems. Meridian-In November Lois Snover Hansen gave a talk on the history of swags and how to make one. In January Henry Campo talked about "Deer in the Garden".

Williamston-Cups of love to shut-ins and others in need. January the story of Williamston, by Mitch Lutzke. Williamston GC is 100 years old!



**DISTRICT 3A (14 Clubs): Judy Nelson, District Director; member Three Rivers Club of Little Gardens**

District 3A continues to be a growing and inquisitive part of our larger affiliation group at Michigan Garden Club (MGC).

We're especially concerned about our unpredictable weather—swing from scorching 90-degree days to chilly 30s— in the spring followed by record heat and drought. Consequently, continued changes played havoc with our gardens and local ecosystems. We looked to speakers to help us understand and explain why and the steps we can take to make necessary changes to achieve our desired goals.

Our bus trip to the stunning University of Michigan Peony Gardens d excursion has been made possible through the support of the Kalamazoo Garden Club hosting. Despite the rain, it was a great trip. Our clubs continued to hold annual plant sales to provide beneficial native plants to our area as well as fund raisers.

Notably District 3A's outstanding performance in the Homegrown National Parks garden registration. Their incredible participation represented a remarkable 119% increase, contributing significantly to the overall 316% addition across all districts—a truly exceptional accomplishment securing a well-deserved second-place finish.

Three Rivers Club of Little Gardens expanded community outreach. Their collaborative efforts with TRAM, an after-school program promoting a sense of environmental responsibility within the next generation. This is a wonderful experience and will continue next year.

District 3A hosted its fall district meeting in Three Rivers, Michigan on September 25<sup>th</sup> on the topic of microplastics and their impact on our body and brains. Tami Renkoski, a member of the Michigan Microplastics Coalition followed up a few weeks later at Plainwell Chulla Vista with a more detailed talk on what we can do.

Nancy Shiraha member of the Burke View Garden club received an award for lifetime achievement.

We extend our deepest gratitude for MGC and so many members volunteers sharing their skills of kindness in partnership to make our organization a positive experience. Our continued operation has a positive impact individually, environmentally, and across the wider community. Sincerely District 3A



**DISTRICT 3B: (11 Clubs) Peg Cullen, District Director; member River Valley Garden Club**

District 3B had a successful year, the big event was hosting a fall meeting at the St Joe River Yacht Club. The speaker gave a talk and a hands on demo on flower arranging. The district chose not to have a spring meeting, but is planning a fall meeting at St Mary's Church in Niles. It will be a co-hosted event.

River Valley Garden Club hosted session 1 of Gardening School at Harbert Church in Sawyer. It was a sold out event, a great success.

District 3B is happy to congratulate Shoreline Garden Club on their 30 year anniversary this year! That is quite an achievement! Here is to many more happy and productive years.

River Valley Garden Club will be hosting the second session of Gardening School on September 12-13, 2025, in Sawyer. They are hoping session two will be as successfully attended as session one, which was filled to capacity.

South Haven Garden Club will again be hosting their Garden Walk, always a delightful experience and Lawrence Garden Club will have their Flower Show this summer. So much going on!



**DISTRICT 4: (14 Clubs) Kathy Wolverton, District Director; member Kent Garden Club**

Ten of our District clubs were represented at our 93<sup>rd</sup> MGC State Conference in June in Bay City last June. Many were pleased to receive their club's award certificates.

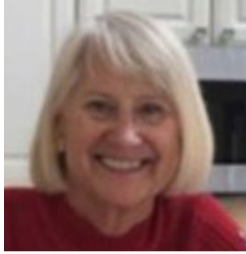
District 4 has 14 clubs comprised of 576 members. During the summer 6 clubs hosted plant sales, 3 held Flower Shows including a Hort show at a local Farmers Market which was a huge success. 5 clubs hosted Garden Tours, 2 clubs participated in Community Arts Festivals, and Lowell Showboat GC held a Blue Star Rededication in conjunction with a Gold Star Dedication. Rockford GC continued their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration with monthly community programs, Garden Tours, and various other activities.

Our Fall Conference "Pumpkin Palooza" hosted by Muskegon County GC was well attended (129) with 12 of 14 clubs represented. All enjoyed the speaker (Bees) Floral Designer, vendors, delicious lunch and beautiful Fall décor. The auction of the floral designs was quite spirited and fun.

Most clubs have grown in membership with one club adding 18 new members. One of our unique clubs, West Michigan Flower Arrangers Guild continues to learn through demonstration and inspiration at their monthly meetings.

District 4 awarded 4 grants this year and sponsored a 4-part community education series in conjunction with the Lowell Library.

Our quarterly newsletter is well received, sent to all members via Constant Contact,



and is a good, quick resource for NGC/MGC/Club's current news/projects. One important avenue of communication has been our monthly Club Presidents' meetings held via ZOOM. Our District MGC Team has been loyal in attending these meetings.

We supported NGC's Pathway to Success project as well as one of our club's sponsorships of a Youth Sculpture Contest. One of our District's entries is on the way to NGC Judging. About half of our clubs' work with youth in one way or another.

We will close our year and my term by hosting our 94<sup>th</sup> MGC State Conference in Holland, MI, June 9-10.

I am very proud of our D4 Clubs who continue to be a force within their individual communities.



**DISTRICT 5: (22 Clubs) Dorothy Sandoval, District Director; member Charlevoix Evening GC**

On September 12, in Mackinaw City there were 150 club members in attendance at the Fall District Meeting and NGC Horticulture Specialty Flower Show. There were 21 out of 22 club presidents who were honored for their service. There were also 21 out of 22 clubs represented with one new club that was joining from Lewiston. Meeting was hosted by: • Seedums Garden Club • Presque Isle Garden Club • Stepping Stones Garden Club.

District 5 had two new clubs join in November. Lewiston Garden Club and Alpena Garden Club. Both are mid-size clubs and we are happy to have them join us.

**Charlevoix Area Garden Club Biennial Luncheon-Held on July 10 at Castle Farms, Charlevoix, MI.** Neal Sanders was the keynote speaker coming all the way from Boston. He has written several books filled with humor that will entertain and amuse you.

**Edelweiss Garden Club** has developed a new website [www.edelweissgardenclub.org](http://www.edelweissgardenclub.org)

**Petoskey celebrated their 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1934-2024**

**Spirit of the Woods Garden Club, Inc.**

Received a grant that will be used to encourage/educate the gardeners of Manistee County to plant extra vegetables and/or herbs. The excess will provide nutritious options to the hungry in their county through the food pantries. Key to the success of this program is communication to educate gardeners in their community to participate. About 20 of their members have vegetable gardens and will participate by donating their extra produce. Depending on the success they will continue this program next year.

**DISTRICT 6: (18 Clubs) Kathy Sauber, District Director; member Caro GC**

**Our Numbers**

19 Clubs  
450 Members

**Our District Activities**

Youth Summer Programs  
Senior Garden Programs  
4 Garden Walks  
3 Earth Day Events  
1 Flower Show  
3 English Tea's  
2 Spring Leadership Meetings  
3 Fall District Meetings

**Our Monetary Support**

Grow & Share Grants:  
\$1,000 Budgeted each year  
Purchased an NGC Path to  
Success Brick  
New MGC Logo Sign

Bus tour open to all MGC Members to: Philadelphia Flower Show, Hershey Gardens and Conservatory, Longwood Gardens & Conservatory & Franklin Park Conservatory

**2<sup>nd</sup> VP Civic Affairs: Trish Payne Blue & Gold Star Memorials Chair and Jeanette Meyer Legislative Chair**



**Blue & Gold Star Memorials: Trish Payne Chair, member Touch The Earth GC**

During the 6/1/2024-5/31/25 MGC year, the first ever audit of our Blue & Gold Star Memorials concluded. The condition of 110 Blue Star and 11 Gold Star Memorials was recorded along with the ownership or oversight of all except four lost and three donated markers.

The posting of all Memorials (less two of four lost markers) to the MGC Website also concluded. All postings now include dedication details in a standard format and pins of their physical location (less four lost markers).

The objective of the audit was to ensure we were respectfully paying tribute to the US Armed Forces and their families. MGC is profoundly proud to report that our audit results were very positive. As with all undertakings of this nature, lessons were learned during the audit journey. Believing that these lessons could improve our loving care of Memorials going forward, the MGC Board approved nine, new, and the first ever Policies and Procedures for Maintaining Blue and Gold Star Memorials on April 10, 2025.

During this 12-month period, four clubs expressed their appreciation to our Armed Forces and their families with the following dedications:

- The Midland Council, comprised of Chemical City, Evergreen, Midland, The Little Garden Clubs and Great Lake Gardeners, dedicated Michigan's first Gold Star Memorial on June 2, 2024
- Lowell Showboat Garden Club dedicated a Gold Star Memorial By-Way and rededicated their Blue Star Memorial By-Way on July 27, 2024
- River Valley Garden Club dedicated a Blue Star Memorial By-Way on October 12, 2024
- Eden's Garden Club dedicated a Gold Star Memorial By-Way on April 15, 2025

**Annual legislative report 2024-2025, Jeanette Meyer Legislative Chair, member Western Hills GC**



**Black Swallowtail Bill:** The legislative path was very rocky due to competing bills which would name the Monarch or the Blue Karner the state butterflies. Rather than deal with the competitive bills, the Speaker assigned the Black Swallowtail Bill to the Government Operations Committee where the bill sits. Consideration was given to lobby for the BST bill to be reassigned to another committee. There was even

consideration of hiring a lobbying firm to assist us in this endeavor. David Drain and I contacted like-minded organizations to assist in support of the BST bill, as well. However, Rep. Julie Brixie's staff recommended that we let the bill sit until the next legislative session at which time she will reintroduce the bill. We are currently in a wait and see position.

**Neonicotinoids** are of great environmental concern. Nancy Ryan and I met via Zoom with the Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC) to discuss this topic. The NRDC discussed this concern at the Members Monday on April 14, 2025. I provided educational material regarding neonicotinoids to the Board of Directors. MGC BOD showed support of limiting neonicotinoid use by signing a letter of support asking the Michigan legislature to limit the use of neonicotinoids at their August meeting.



**3<sup>rd</sup> VP Schools and Education: Denise Clegg; member Western Hills GC**

Being the Third Vice-President was an honor and a challenge. There is such a strong interest now in education that all four National Garden Club (NGC) schools were scheduled in the last year of my term. With four enthusiastic chairs, Beth Markowski Environmental School, Carol Brodbeck Flower Show School, Michele Armstrong Gardening School, and Deb

Plichta Landscape Design School, Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. (MGC) is now known for its dedication to high-quality programs.

I have worked diligently to take our programs to the next level and beyond by changing the way that we handle the business side of these programs. It has made the programs much easier to produce. Working with the President, Nancy Ryan, the treasurer, Rosemary LaDuke, and the Webmaster, Charley Bohland, we have:

- Posted all documents to the online document system;  
Made the budgeting process for schools formula-based; Made all program payments centrally approved;
- Changed the registration process to online, including payment;
- Developed a standard model for brochures which is detailed and in larger print; Assured that all consultants are contacted regarding lapsing credential status; Communication with all consultants is contacted on a regular basis by a district Michigan Consultants Council (MCC) representative; and
- All Flower Show Judges are contacted on a regular basis so that they are aware of opportunities for judging and changes to NGC Flower show standards through regular contact with a district Michigan Association of Accredited Judges (MAAJ) representative.

All of these changes have made it easier for clubs to produce the quality educational programs that are outlined by NGC. It is my hope that more districts around the state will want to participate in the schools. Without the clubs acting as local sponsors, we would not be having such success. Many thanks go to those mentioned above, plus MCC chair, Nancy Stark, MAAJ chair, Mary Jo McElroy, and creative arts chair, Liz Bohland, for their work. Without these dedicated people, none of the above would have happened.



**4<sup>th</sup> VP Gardening & Education: Nancy Smith; member Taylor GC**

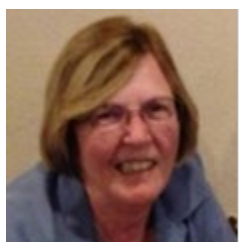
I have had the pleasure of serving on the MGC Executive Board as 4<sup>th</sup> VP for the past four years. During that time, I attended all State Conferences, some District 2B Spring & Fall Conferences, all District 1 Spring & Fall Conferences and quarterly Executive Board Zoom meetings.

As an agent for Wayne State University I participated annually in the process of contacting

the WSU staff as they selected a deserving student to receive a scholarship from MGC.

MGC launched a new Charitable Donations Committee this year. Carol McGregor, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP and I worked putting together a list of eighteen organizations who submitted requests. The organizations were vetted, donation amounts were determined, then letters were created and sent to each recipient. Many thank you letters were received from grateful organizations as they received their checks.

Standing committee members, Kris Greve and Ellen Herring worked to create a bookmark to promote recycling. The bookmarks were printed and distributed at several fall conferences. Susan Bailey monitors Homegrown National Park website and keeps track of individuals in Michigan who register their pollinator gardens. A new PowerPoint presentation about Homegrown National Park is on the MGC website under the Projects / Homegrown National Park along with the HNP bookmarks. Susan has given her presentation to local groups. Standing Committee members have written articles on water pollution, recycling, and Homegrown National Parks for the Garden Gate.



**Finance Committee Gail Taggart Chair; member Muskegon GC**

The Finance Committee focuses on the business aspects of the MGC corporation; development of the next fiscal year's budget, reviewing budgets and final reports of School and District events, and monitoring MGC's assets. The Committee works alongside the Grants Administrator, and the GTEP, Loda Lake, and Scholarship Chairs. We have also brought our Seber Tans representative into our meetings in order to provide a better understanding of and working relationship with our accounting processes and to develop accounting best practices.

Treasurer's Reports, Grants, Investments, Scholarships, and GTEP are tracked and reviewed regularly, enabling us to provide oversight on behalf of our Board of Directors and our member clubs. This year we focused on updating and clarifying a number of the organization's Policies and Procedures, and some of this work continues.



**GTEP (Group Tax Exemption Program) Chair Rose Houk; member DeWitt Millenium GC**

The 2024-2025 reporting and renewal process is now complete. All renewal forms have been submitted. Two new clubs, Lawrence Garden Club and Ann Arbor Good Thyme Club have completed the process to join in the year 2024-2025. A letter of approval has been sent to the clubs.

For those on the Board who are new, MGC is the Central Organization for a tax-exempt group of member garden clubs, who are subordinates under the Central or Parent Organization. As the Parent Organization, MGC, Inc., GTEP must report annually to IRS with current information about each subordinate included in MGC, Inc.'s group. MGC is charged with reviewing actions of each subordinate to determine that they continue to meet the IRS rules and regulations regarding charitable organizations.

As of 2025, MGC, Inc., currently has thirty clubs in its GTE Program. All clubs approved in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2022 have renewed this year. An IRS report has been filed concerning all the current clubs and identifying the two new clubs.

The annual report from MGC to IRS is due 90 days before the end of MGC, Inc.'s fiscal year which makes the due date March 1<sup>st</sup> or thereabouts. My goal is to file the report by February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 for the fiscal year June 1st, 2023 to May 31st 2024. All twenty-eight clubs will be included in the report to IRS.

As of June 1, 2025, the list of clubs in GTEP are:

**2016**

- Big Rapids Garden Club
- Boyne Valley Garden Club, Inc.
- Caro Garden Club, Inc. Eden's Garden Club, Inc. Ferndale Garden Club.
- Looking Glass Garden Club, Incorporated. Meeks Mill Garden Club, Inc.
- Mount Pleasant Garden Club, Inc.
- Pleasant Ridge Garden Club, Inc
- Portage Lake Garden Club, Inc. Port Sanilac Garden Club, Inc. South Haven Garden Club Sweetwater Garden Club, Inc. Wayne Garden Club
- Williamston Red Cedar Garden Club, Inc.

**2017**

- Berrien Springs Garden Club, Inc.
- Grand Ledge Garden Club, Inc. Marshall Area Garden Club, Inc. Rockford Garden Club, Inc.
- Spirit of the Woods Garden Club, Inc.
- Three Rivers Club of Little Gardens, Inc.

**2018**

- Livonia Garden Club, Inc. Lakeshore Garden Club, Inc. Ma-Me-Ne-Sewong Garden Club, Inc.
- River Valley Garden Club, Inc.

**2019**

- Dirt Daubers Garden Club, Incorporated

**2020**

- Brighton Michigan Garden Club, Inc.

**2022**

Quality Thyme Garden Club, Inc.

**2025**

Ann Arbor Good Thyme Garden Club, Inc.

Lawrence Garden Club, Inc.