



August, 2018

The Howell Garden Club



IIB Club of the Month

Once there was this weedy, messy, decrepit corner of the county that temporarily housed young kids to keep them safe from domestic harm and even from themselves. A falling down fence, a bird feeder, some yew shrubs, and an outdoor barbeque grill graced the yard along with a neighbor's very mature and always loaded Black Walnut tree. This youth Connection home was the recipient of Howell Garden Club's Christmas donation one year. Upon visiting the premises, several members saw the potential for a garden project that might even involve youth cooperation. Permission was given for us to "Fluff the Gardens."

We went to work planning, pulling, raking, discarding, begging, rototilling and prettying up this forlorn wasteland. Kyle, joined the club and put a small patio in the back yard, brought a table and chairs for the front porch, and then added perennials and shrubs to our endeavor. Lowes partnered with us, and volunteers came, tore the fence down, put up a higher, more private, maintenance free white fence, built a picnic table, repaired a broken window pane, installed outdoor carpeting on the front porch and complimented US on our efforts. Hostas, Hydrangeas, shrubs,



more perennials, and eventually a butterfly/pollinator garden/ transformed the little plot into an appealing and welcoming oasis located in the middle of Swann Ct. Counselors and kids and parents could spill out to the yard and sit at the table with an umbrella for shade. The lawn, fertilized and weed treated, grew into something lovely. There was room now to sit on the front porch under a pretty floral wreath to chat, play games, or work out some problems. A container of flowers on each side of the entrance walk greets visitors and residents.

Our first "Flower House" continues as a project in progress with additions and seasonal spruce ups along with watering, weeding, and "fluffing" done by the Civic Gardens committee, without which the garden would fail and fall back into ruin. We are the keys that nurture this little oasis of beauty for kids, families, care givers, and administrators to partake of a colorful, scented garden.

Then another "club project" rose on the horizon! Blue Star Memorial had been knocking, but we weren't answering. Mary Ann Farrell finally answered the door, geared up to raise money for the plaque, surveyed the club as to its placement site, appeared before city council to petition permission, and inspired participation. An island in the middle of city hall parking lot with some junky straggly juniper bushes was given to us along with a large boulder for the plaque. A new campaign of begging, borrowing, harassing, scratching, laughing, amending, planting, giggling, and fertilizing began as we "fluffed" the island and big containers approaching the building. A community member volunteered to drill holes in the rock and hang the memorial plaque. From there we put in Russian Sage, daisies, transplanted peonies and daylillies, common iris, bearded iris, Siberian iris, sedum, milkweed, and myriad other perennials dotted with some annuals too.



In honor of Faith Maurier, Mary Wilkinson, and Lou VanCuyl, a garden table, two chairs, and a bench were placed to in view of hosta and hydrangea containers in the Blue Star garden. Three donated containers appeared along the wall by the stairs. Suddenly everyone was commenting and asking about...

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District IIB Steering Committee



Lynn Keelan, Howell Garden Club, 517-304-3329, boomerage47@yahoo.com, 2765 Earl Lake Road, Howell, MI 48843-8613 - District Director

Peggy Bryson, Meridian Garden Club, 517-614-9428, plbryso@gmail.com, 5512 Jessael, Bath, MI 48808-9791
District Treasurer, Website Administrator, Facebook Administrator, Recording Secretary

Barb Ketchum, Mason-Sycamore Creek Garden Club, 517-331-2027, baketchum15@gmail.com, 1036 W Barnes Rd., Mason, MI 48854, Member Services to Clubs, Event Coordinator

Sue Wittick, Meridian Garden Club, 517-242-8259, witticks@gmail.com, 4103 Breakwater Drive, Okemos, MI 48864-4413 - Communications, Newsletter, Graphics & Printing

Any IIB club member is welcome to attend District IIB Steering Committee meetings. The next meeting will be a "Beehive Buzz" sharing of ideas on August 18th at 8:30 am for breakfast at Coral Gables in East Lansing. Discussion topics will include leadership positions for the district, fund raising and possible purchases.

District IIB Steering Committee Member News



Lynn Keelan, District Director

District IIB scheduled three "Beehive Buzz" discussion sessions in three areas in our district for club presidents and those interested in leadership opportunities. We had a delightful time at Grand Oaks Herb Farm in Bancroft, and at a second session at Schuler's Restaurant in Marshall. On Saturday, August 18th we will meet at Coral Gables in East Lansing for breakfast, which will be more convenient for those unable to attend on a week day. We will share ideas about club and district activities as well as make plans for continuing IIB leadership.



Our Steering Committee is proud of its accomplishments. The IIB Gardener, our newsletter full of district events and opportunities has helped us all learn what other clubs are doing. Our website has lots of information and forms for clubs to use. Several of our IIB Interest Groups are meeting regularly. Our first ever, carpool district wide trip (open to all) to Tapper Gardens in Romeo, MI will happen on August 29th. Our treasury is growing and we are making expenditures that will assist us all.

I hope you have been able to attend a garden walk or two like I did. I attended one sponsored by the Charlevoix Area Garden Club and I also entered an Exhibition Table design in their Standard Flower Show. Several other IIB members also participated as judges and exhibitors. The Marshall Garden Club held an enjoyable walk on a hot weekend which many IIB members were able to enjoy. It was nice to visit these special gardens and be refreshed with new ideas.

The drought and heat in July made this gardening season challenging. My native plants have thrived though, and that is worthy of note. Putting the right plant in the right place always increases chances for success. Here's to each of us finding our right place! I hope new leaders will come forth to help District IIB continue to be strong with lots of opportunities for member participation.

Barb Ketchum, Member Services to Clubs, Events



Please plan to join with other members of District IIB on a field trip to the beautiful **Tapper Gardens** in Romeo. The date is August 29th and the tour is free, but donations for charities will be accepted. The tour starts at 10:30 but you must register first! We will send out a detailed email to attendees with the Tapper Garden address, car pooling directions and lunch suggestions in mid-August.



Reservations are required by August 12. RSVP to Peggy Bryson at plbryso@gmail.com with your name, phone, email and club name.

We ask that IIB Club Presidents either make copies of this newsletter for members who do not receive e-mail, or encourage them to subscribe so a copy will be sent by US mail. To subscribe, please mail a \$15 check (payable to District IIB) to Peggy Bryson. To be added or removed from the e-mail distribution list for this newsletter, please contact Sue Wittick, witticks@gmail.com, 517-242-8259.

Peggy Bryson, Treasurer



District IIB fundraising has been very successful this year. Thanks to everyone who has made a donation to the District or has purchased a t-shirt, pollinator pin, pot ornament, note cards, silent auction item, or violet/violet pot! Those purchases have funded acquisition of a laser printer, a photo display stand (for the photo exhibits that can now be part of our flower shows), a microphone and amplifier, and a plant label maker. The printer will let us help clubs save printing costs compared to commercial printers. (Contact Sue Wittick to discuss your printing needs.) The amplifier and mic and the display stand are available for clubs to borrow (contact Sue Wittick). Plant labels (these have durable stakes) are a great educational addition

to the public gardens your clubs maintain--and to our personal gardens! See Page 6 of the June, 2018 District newsletter or the District IIB website for details on ordering plant markers.

Thanks to District meeting sales and a hefty donation from ShowSpan, there remains money available for additional purchases and/or community project grants. If your club has a community project that could use some added funding, check into this. The grant application form is on the District website (click [here](#)). We are seeking input from club officers at the July and August Beehive Buzzes about their priorities for spending District funds. We've proposed the purchase of a canopy for outdoor events or a wireless projector, both of which would be available for use by clubs. We're also exploring whether to proceed with purchasing the cute pollinator earring drops Sue Wittick designed (for which we are currently taking pre-orders--click [here](#)).



Sue Wittick, Communications, Newsletter, Interest Groups

It seems like there are always great things happening in District IIB! Summer is the *best* time of year to appreciate all the time and effort put into tending community gardens. If you treat yourself to a personal tour, you will feel a swelling of pride for all we accomplish as garden club members.



The Central Region Convention in Frankenmuth October 22-23 looks like a lot of fun. It will include a flower show featuring exhibits of Horticulture, Education, and Botanical Arts (including photography.) You can even learn how to make Bavarian strudel! This gives us a chance to sell our IIB pollinator merchandise to a new audience and the Kalamazoo Garden Council graciously offered a 3' space on their vendor table for \$10. We plan to sell our pins, earrings, and note cards! If you plan to attend the convention and are willing to take a shift as a IIB salesperson, please let me know! The registration form for the convention is [here](#).

What's Happening

Most of our 16 clubs take a breather in the summer to tend their community gardens and take some field trips. If you are looking for an educational boost, however, several clubs do continue their meetings in the summer and other events are available to you. Check the last page of this newsletter for our calendar that will tell you what's happening.

In September, most of our clubs kick off a new year of meetings and activities, many with new officers. Please send me your yearbooks (digital files are fine), and let me know what is going on so I can share it in our newsletter. What a terrific district benefit to feel welcomed by every club— we have so many events from which to choose!

Did you know that those lovely daylilies (Hemerocallis) in your garden are edible? When the IIB Steering Committee met at the Grand Oak Herb Farm with representatives from the Hartland, Brighton, and Mason Sycamore Creek clubs, we were treated to chicken salad served in daylilies! They felt like any other salad green in my mouth, not much taste but a nice crunch! Please don't try to eat the ornamental lilies, however, as they are a different genus (Lilium).



All our Steering Committee meetings are open to any IIB member. We will be meeting on August 18th at Coral Gables in East Lansing for breakfast at 8:30 am. We will be discussing future leadership in our district and so please come with your questions and suggestions!

This is an **URGENT** message for all IIB members. According to MGC procedures, we need to name a new IIB Director ASAP and then a new IIB Steering Committee to assume responsibility for running our district by June 1, 2019. Sue Wittick has been working with the MGC Nominating Committee and we thought the best plan was to find our own replacements.

The model of a district run by a Steering Committee instead of a single individual as director, seems to have worked well for IIB. With 4 people sharing the responsibilities, we have been able to accomplish more and generate new interest and enthusiasm. In fact, several other districts are planning to implement a similar model!

Although an member may assume several of these roles in any combination, they are all listed here individually for clarity. The Steering Committee could be formulated in different ways to meet the needs of the new district leaders, but the tasks deemed of central importance are labeled "SC" for Steering Committee.

1. **District Director (SC)**—serves on the MGC Board of Directors, communicates with other District Directors, and is the official channel of communication between MGC and District IIB. Wears an MGC nametag! Drafts agendas for Steering Committee meetings. A volunteer needs to be identified before October 1, 2018.
2. **Treasurer (SC)**—handles receipts, write checks, and provides monthly reports to MGC. Please note that this position is much less time-consuming than being treasurer of a garden club!
3. **Newsletter Editor (SC)**—assumes responsibility for the content of the newsletter, seeking submissions, and writing articles.
4. **Newsletter Publisher**—arranges the articles in a newsletter format for dissemination to the membership.
5. **Communications (SC)**—handles e-mail correspondence with the membership.
6. **Website Administrator (SC)**—makes news, forms, and resources readily available by maintaining a website for the district.
7. **Member Services (SC)**—leads the effort to be in regular contact with IIB clubs to determine their needs and offer support. (All SC members regularly communicate with IIB members.)
8. **Events (SC)**—takes the lead in planning district events. Works closely with clubs hosting future IIB District Meetings.
9. **Secretary (SC)**—provides a record of decisions made at Steering Committee meetings. This role could be easily shared with other responsibilities.
10. **Graphics/design/printing**—houses the district's laser printer and garden sign printer. Designs and prints materials for use by the district. May provide print services to clubs for special needs.
11. **Fundraising**—suggests possible projects to the SC and implements those approved.
12. **Leader for an Interest Group**—organizes meetings and events for a specific interest group, utilizing the resources within the group whenever possible. We are **CURRENTLY** seeking leaders for the Crafters and Youth Gardening groups. A Landscape Design group has also been suggested and will need a leader.
13. **Awards Chair**—provides information to clubs and individuals regarding available district, state, national, and regional awards, working with the MGC Awards Chair. Keeps track of awards won by clubs and individuals in Dis-



How about one volunteer from each club?

continued on next page

Volunteers Needed for District Leadership! (continued)



14. Outreach Coordinator—works to develop new garden clubs within our district. Follows up on leads from Steering Committee members. This person could recruit a committee. Note: The IIB brochure now available on the website may prove useful for this function. Position currently **VACANT**.
15. Facebook Administrator—possible future social media connection if enough interest is demonstrated.
16. Chair for Environmental Studies School—reserved for District IIB beginning in 2020. A possible site and speakers have been identified. This chair would work with the MGC 3rd Vice-President in charge of Schools. Position currently **VACANT**.
17. Treasurer for above Environmental Studies School—would work closely with the chair. Position currently **VACANT**.
18. Historian—keeps a record of awards, officers, and accomplishments for the district. Position currently **VACANT**.

Our current Steering Committee members will all “retire” at the end of May, 2019!

Please  To help 

IIB Photographers Interest Group

This group is preparing for photo competition at the October 25th district meeting in Howell. This display will be a “trial run” following the rules from the *NGC Handbook for Flower Shows*. A second photography exhibit will be included in the District IIB Gourmet Gardening Flower Show in March at the MSU Pavilion. Black-matted 5x7” and 8x10” photos will be included on a large display that was purchased by the district. Schedules for both exhibits can be found on the District IIB website.

In preparation for these exhibits, IIB Photographers (IIB-P) are studying the types of photographs required by the various classes in the show. In June, the focus was on ways to avoid motion blur and each member was challenged to bring in one “best picture” where any method discussed had been used. The winner of that challenge was Lynn Keelan, for her photo of cattails swaying in the breeze.

In July, our educational focus was on floral portraits and photographing small critters in the garden, so the challenge is to bring one “best picture” for each of those topics to the August 22nd meeting.

A photography field trip has been planned to the garden of IIB-P member, Marlas Greiger, on Monday, August 6th, 10 am. Participants are invited to lunch together at a nearby restaurant around noon. This lovely garden was featured recently on the LACASA Garden Walk. See <https://lacasacenter.org/> The address is 3835 Cedar Lake Rd, Howell. Please let Sue Wittick know if you are planning to attend so she can share that information with the group for carpooling purposes. Thanks, Marlas!

The educational focus of our August 22nd meeting will be “Close-up Photography” and “Capturing Morning Light in Landscape Photos.” Please let Sue Wittick know if you plan to attend. All IIB members are welcome!



Lois Snover-Hanson, Meridian Garden Club, District IIB Flower Show Chair, 517-694-809



IIB Designers met on July 18th. We drafted a schedule for our March 2019 Flower Show at the MSU Pavilion. It will be called "Gourmet Gardening" and all the classes were given titles related to food. The schedules will be available at our October 25th District Meeting where consultants will be recruiting members willing to fill the design and Botanical Arts classes. Since this flower show will also include photography, that section of the schedule has already been posted on the IIB website. Check it out!

We also drafted a schedule for the December 5, 2018 Flower Show to be held at the Best Western in Okemos (formerly the Comfort Inn). That show will focus on exhibits entered by youth, preschool through high school, but a few Botanical Arts classes were added for adults. The title of the show is "Kids in Toyland."

IIB Photographers are staging a photography exhibit at our fall District meeting, also following all the rules from the Handbook for Flower Shows. The theme for the meeting is "Avant-Garde Fashion" and the photography schedule has also been posted on our district website.

Jean Kaufman, who owns an iris farm on Cornell Road in Meridian Township, has invited us to present a flower show and potluck in her yard next June. This will be a lovely setting and, hopefully, will feature irises!

IIB Crafters

Sue Wittick, Interim Leader, IIB Crafters

What fun we had on July 9th making baubles for our gardens from ping-pong balls and beads!

Our next project (date to be announced) will be adding jewelry findings to the little bee charms purchased as a IIB fund raising project. We will be making them into earrings and bracelet charms to sell at the Central Region Convention in Frankenmuth October 23-23 and at our District Meeting in Howell on October 25th.

Our plan is for anyone in the group to offer to lead a crafting session for the members, so all ideas are welcome! Please contact Sue Wittick with your ideas. Does anyone know how to make fabric floral pins to wear on a jacket or have a nice sample to share?



District IIB Items for Sale

IIB Pins—\$5.00

IIB Earrings—\$8.00

Plant Markers—\$2.18 each for 15" size

Note cards featuring bees in flowers—\$5 for set of five cards, 5 different pictures

IIB T-Shirts—\$15 for most sizes



To order, scroll down on the Home page on our website or contact Peggy Bryson, 517-614-9428. plbryso@gmail.com



Dates for your Calendars



- October 22-23** NGC Central Region Convention, Frankenmuth, Michigan. [Register](#) before September 21 to avoid a late fee.
- October 25, 2018** Fall District IIB Meeting, Brighton Garden Club hosting, Registrations due before October 11th
- December 5, 2018** Kids in Toyland Flower Show, Okemos Best Western Hotel

Nature, art and fashion will come together for District IIB in October



- **Chuck Martin**, Whiting Forest Grounds Manager, Dow Gardens, Midland, will present **"Check out the Classes, Culture and Covering of Roses"**
- **Laurie Tennent**, Artist and Photographer of Birmingham, MI, will share her botanical art **"Intimate Portraits"**

Peggy Fukuda, Registrar, Brighton Garden Club, 7745 Hammel Road, Brighton, MI 48116, 916-835-6708,



IIB Volunteers Needed

To help assemble IIB charms to earring findings and jump rings. Contact Sue Wittick if you are willing to help!



A New MGC Position

A part-time, paid, MGC position may be available soon! " We are going to be discussing potential lease of office pod space at the Michigan Non-Profit Association (MNA) building on Marshall Street in Lansing. They do not have storage space there, but we may lease a second office pod to get more space there for office files. We will be advertising for a part-time person (2-3 days/week) to be an administrator for MGC. It would need to be someone who is not an MGC member. Garden Clubs of Illinois hired a retired school teacher who has been their administrator for ten years. The person would work alone in a large building but in an open pod alongside other people in open pods who work for other nonprofits. The area is kind of private even though it is open and in a big open building, and there are two adjacent work table spaces. If you know of anyone you think might be interested, let me know." — Bunny LaDuke, Rhladuke@aol.com, 269-685-1731.



Websites and Passwords (You can cut this out and place it in your club yearbook for easy access.)

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

www.gardenclub.org

Username: *member*

Password: *pumpkin*



Michigan Garden Clubs

www.michigangardenclubs.org

Login: *member*

Password: *mgcgrow*



Central Region, NGC

www.ngccentralregion.org

Login: *member*

Password: *7states*

MGC District IIB

<https://mgcdistrict2b.weebly.com/>

password *2bgardeners*



Grand Ledge Garden Club

Grand Ledge has their historic garden at the Grand Ledge Area Historical Society Museum. The Museum Herb Garden is tended by the Grand Ledge Garden Club. This charming little garden hosts 40 herbs containing nutritional, medicinal, and ornamental qualities. The 2018 Museum exhibit is called, "Wedding Bells," a lovely exhibit featuring wedding gowns, local businesses supporting the wedding industry, and traditions.—Cindy Langenberg, Museum Curator and club president.



Howell Garden Club

As of July 25, 2018 new officers are: Marsha DeGroot, President; Lillian VanHouten, 1st VP; Marlas Greiger, Treasurer; and Mary Lou Dell, Recording Secretary.



Howell Garden Club

Marsha DeGroot presented a scholarship to Future Farmer of America (FFA) student Andrew Goodman who is pictured here with the FFA instructor, Mike Martindale, and Marsha.



Howell Garden Club, continued from page 1

... all the activity with the Memorial Garden. Appreciative compliments flowed as we worked this newly beautified area. The city came on board and realized how the transformation was being received. In turn they got busy with cleaning, pruning, removing debris, mulching, and offering help with our efforts. Huntington Bank realized our "Flower House" project was seen as their project too, and contributed money, cookies, water, and supportive words about the beauty we had created. More delighted and delightful comments came from city hall visitors.

Ah yes! We transformed a nondescript, barren area into a tribute to veterans who gave their lives for America's freedom. We planted native plants which morphed into a pollinator garden when we added Hyssop Anise, dill, Zinnias, Liatris, and Coreopsis.

We all were given keys to hold, symbols of opening and sharing our gardening talents to create and maintain our "Flower Houses for the benefit of the community. We will continue our willingness to help, contribute our talents, donate our time, and share our plants. We are a group of many, and many hands make light work. Raise your hand! Make a call! Offer your key to take responsibility to keep our garden club vibrant. Enjoy our "Flower Houses" by making time to visit, sit and enjoy, or tend to them. —Susan Frazier, Howell Garden Club member

Chicago Botanic Garden Bus Trip

The Club of Little Gardens in Three Rivers is sponsoring a bus trip to the [Chicago Botanic Garden](#). You can board the bus in Kalamazoo at the I-94 at Oakland Drive *Park & Ride* at 6:30 am. Your \$100 registration fee pays for the bus, breakfast, lunch, and bus parking. Admission to the garden is free. Dinner is on your own in the cafeteria or grill at the garden. The bus leaves Chicago at 6:45 pm and returns to Kalamazoo at 10 pm.



Reservations will be finalized August 15th and are accepted on a first-come-first-served, basis. The [registration form](#) has been posted on the IIB website. For more information, contact Norah Rodgers (269-251-6598) or Mary Stalter (269-244-1245.) This sounds like a delightful day with District III garden friends!

Your club news could be listed here!

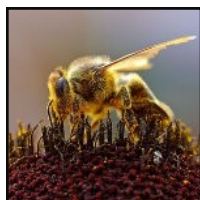
August Garden Club Meetings and Special Events



- A—August 1 **Howell Garden Club, Summer's End Club Member Garden Walk**
- B—August 4 **MSU Garden Day, 8:00am to 4:15pm, 1st floor, Plant & Soil Sciences Building, \$86 for non-members**
Click [here](#).
- C—August 6 **IIB Photographers Field trip to Marlas Greiger's garden, 10 am, 3835 Cedar Lake Rd, Howell**
- D—August 7 **National Night Out, a national community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships.** Click [here](#) for more.
- E—August 12 **RSVP due for Tapper Gardens IIB field trip on August 29th.** RSVP to Peggy Bryson at plbryso@gmail.com with your name, phone, email and club name.
- F—August 14 **Meridian Garden Club, garden visits in Haslett.**
- G—August 15 **Webberville Garden Club, Field Trip to Gee Farms, Stockbridge**
- H—August 16 **Green Thumb Garden Club, Invasive Plants, Southern MI Invasive Species Team, Branch County Conservation Office, First Congregational Church, 410 N. Broadway, 1:00 pm.**
- I—August 18 **Beehive Buzz with Steering Committee, Coral Gables, 2838 E Grand River Ave, East Lansing, 8:30 am**
- J—August 22 **IIB Photographers meeting, Michigan Nature Association, 2310 Science Parkway, Suite 100, Okemos**
- K—August 23 **Green Thumb Garden Club, Snack & Chat about Membership Growth, Outside Café at Broadway Bar & Grill, Broadway Street, Union City, 6:00 pm**
- L—August 29 **IIB Field Trip to Tapper Gardens, Romeo, RSVP by August 12th to Peggy Bryson at plbryso@gmail.com with your name, phone, email and club name.**

Pick an August Holiday to Celebrate!

- August **Celery, Fennel & Cactus Month**
- August **[National Water Quality Month](#)**
- August 5-11 **[National Farmers Market Week](#)**
- August 22 **[National Honey Bee Day](#)**
- August 26-31 **[World Water Week](#)**



IIB IIB 2018 AUGUST IIB IIB

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 A	2	3	4 B
5	6 C	7 D	8	9	10	11
12 E	13	14 F	15 G	16 H	17	18 I
19	20	21	22 J	23 K	24	25
26	27	28	29 L	30	31	

The District IIB Steering Committee publishes this newsletter monthly to feature MGC news, district events and the projects and activities of IIB clubs. Each month we plan to report on one club in greater depth to foster a deeper appreciation of what makes us unique and of the love of gardening that connects us.

The deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month with the newsletter coming out around the 1st. It will be sent as an e-mail attachment.

Please send all submissions for the newsletter to Sue Wittick.