



# The IIB Gardener

## December, 2018



*Meridian Garden Club*



*IIB Club of the Month*

The Meridian Garden Club was formed and Federated in 1970 and currently has over 80 members. We meet on the morning of the third Monday of each month, from September through May at the Meridian Township Municipal Building. During the summer months we call ourselves "Gallivanting Gardeners" as we journey to visit some of the most beautiful places locally and in other Michigan communities.



Our club is very active with a variety of committees and projects. We take care of 10 public gardens in Meridian Township. The newest, the Plant-it Pink-Garden, was dedicated in October 2017 and was awarded first place for Community Gardens by the National Garden Clubs this year.

The Back Door Gardeners work with hundreds of local school children teaching them where food really comes from and how to plant, tend and harvest fruits and vegetables. This summer the club was awarded over \$250.00 worth of gardening implements from Ames Tools through a National Garden Clubs partnership. Those tools have already been put to good use by the students. They need tools in their hands to stay more engaged. The club and its youth programs will be featured in the upcoming winter edition of the National Gardener.



<https://meridiangardenclub.weebly.com/resources.html>



## District IIB Steering Committee



**Lynn Keelan**, Howell Garden Club, 517-304-3329, [boomerage47@yahoo.com](mailto:boomerage47@yahoo.com), 2765 Earl Lake Road, Howell, MI 48843-8613 - District Director

**Peggy Bryson**, Meridian Garden Club, 517-614-9428, [plbryso@gmail.com](mailto:plbryso@gmail.com), 5512 Jessael, Bath, MI 48808-9791  
District Treasurer, Website Administrator, Recording Secretary

**Barb Ketchum**, Mason-Sycamore Creek Garden Club, 517-331-2027, [baketchum15@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:witticks@gmail.com), 4103 Breakwater Drive, Okemos, MI 48864-4413 - Communications, Newsletter, Graphics & Printing

## District IIB Steering Committee Member News



**Lynn Keelan**, District Director

We will soon say goodbye to 2018 and welcome a New Year. Many will be hoping for a better year, others will be grateful for the year they had. I hope that belonging to a garden club made your year a little more fun, active, and knowledgeable. Besides friendship, there is always more to learn, and ways to help in your community.

District IIB will hold a Flower Show primarily for youth on December 5th at the Best Western in Okemos. Come see how the kids enjoy filling mugs, making arrangements, and decorating shoe boxes and small trees. They are encouraged to enter horticulture as well. Our goal is for 100 kids to participate. The show includes 3 Botanical Arts classes for adults.

I hope the greens markets, cups of love and other club activities are successful and may interest new members. I'm sure many clubs are hosting some festive December parties for their members.

Thank you for being in a MGC garden club, part of the National Association of Garden Clubs. Our benefits are growing with liability insurance for clubs in good standing. A new two-year term for members of the Michigan Garden Clubs Board of Directors will begin in June at the state convention in Traverse City.

There is much to look forward to in 2019. Happy New Year!



**Peggy Bryson**, Treasurer, Website Administrator

This is a reminder that you can share photos of your club projects on the District website. It's also a good place to let others know about commendations and awards you've received and to announce your meetings and programs on the District event calendar. Send the photos/ information to me at [plbryso@gmail.com](mailto:plbryso@gmail.com).

**Barb Ketchum**, Events, Member Services



Barb Ketchum is feeling thankful for her new knee. We wish her a speedy recovery from her recent surgery!

We listened to how much District IIB members enjoy and look forward to our district meetings. Barb is considering options for holding a spring 2019 meeting, even without one club volunteering to host. If you would like to help in any way, please let her know. That may even help her heal faster!



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](mailto:witticks@gmail.com), 517-242-8259.



**Sue Wittick, Communications, Fund Raising, Interest Groups**

With all the holiday festivities, our interest groups are taking a break in December. I'm looking forward to workshops for IIB Photographers and IIB Crafters in January!



The next IIB newsletter has a publishing date of January 1 and I hope I'm not still working on it on New Year's Eve. You can help by sending club news by the "due date" of **December 20th**. Let me know all about your club's December events and send photos. If I'm not listing your club meetings on the calendar (last page of each issue), it's because I don't have that information. I need everyone's help to create a newsletter that covers the activities of all 16 District IIB clubs.

We still have pollinator pins and earrings to sell, and they make great gifts! I'll have a display at the Kids in Toyland Flower Show (see bottom of this page). Please stop in to see the show and pick up some wonderful stocking stuffers. We have raised money for our district by selling golf ball critters, t-shirts, pins, earrings, cards, and garden signs. Please share your ideas for what we should try next—or for what you would like the district to purchase!

Happy holidays to everyone! May your days be filled with love, laughter, and appreciation of all the good things life has to offer.



## IIB Leadership



A new IIB Steering Committee will assume leadership in our district in June, 2019. Several people have stepped up to help in some way, but more are welcome. Please consider what you might contribute, and then submit a [Volunteer Form](#). **The more volunteers we have, the stronger our district, the more we can accomplish, and the less responsibility rests on only a few people.**

**Volunteers so far are:**

- Peggy Bryson (Meridian GC) to maintain the **IIB Website**.
- Anne Crimmins (Hartland GC)
- Kathi Dominguez (DeWitt GC) will continue to provide administrative leadership for IIB Designers.
- Ronnie Dush (DeWitt GC) to lead the **IIB Youth Gardeners** Interest Group.
- Carol Grainger (Williamston RC GC)
- Linda Mogyoros (Meridian GC) will continue to lead **IIB Quilters** Interest Group.
- Lynn O'Shaughnessy (Howell GC)
- Ron Overton (Looking Glass GC), will chair our **IIB Environmental Studies School** to begin in 2021.
- Jolanta Piecuch (Williamston RC GC)
- Deb Plichta (Looking Glass GC), will serve as treasurer **for the Environmental Studies School**.
- Kathy Seidowski (DeWitt MGC), will publish the IIB **newsletter, and provide graphic design/printing support**.
- Lois Snover-Hanson (Meridian GC) will continue as chair of IIB **flower shows** and educational leader of **IIB Designers**.
- Sue Wittick (Meridian GC) to continue leadership of the **IIB Photographers** Interest Group.

**A meeting will be held in January or February, 2019 (date TBA) to plan responsibilities for the next IIB Steering Committee. If you would like to be included, please contact Sue Wittick for details. (witticks@gmail.com, 517-242-8259)**

### Sales people needed

District IIB will sell our pollinator pins and earrings from 2-6 pm at the Kids in Toyland Flower Show on December 5th. They will make perfect holiday gifts! If you can help with sales, please contact Sue Wittick, [witticks@gmail.com](mailto:witticks@gmail.com), 517-242-8259.





## IIB Crafters



**Wreaths!** Led by Marlas Greiger (Howell GC), this group made a variety of gorgeous deco mesh wreaths.

Let us know what you would like to make in January and we will figure out a way to do it!

Contact Sue Wittick to be added to the mailing list for this group. (witticks@gmail.com, 517-242-



## IIB Photographers

In November IIB Photographers discussed "Photography in Black and White" reviewing camera settings, composition, techniques, and photo editing. Members are encouraged to bring a 5" x 7" black and white photo with them to the January meeting.



The November challenge was won by Lynn Keelen for her well-edited landscape photo.



The **next** IIB The next IIB Photographer's meeting will be held on January 14th, 1:30-3:30 at the Michigan Nature Association. The topic for the meeting will be photographing still life scenes. Members are asked to bring a camera, components for small scenes, and portable lighting (if available), so we can all practice.



**Thanks** to Linda Mogyoros, IIB Photographers now has its very own banner!

thank  
YOU

## IIB Quilters

To join the IIB Quilters Interest Group, contact Linda Mogyoros, 517-712-2622, turtlehatch@att.net

**Thanks** to Peggy Bryson, IIB photographers now has a Facebook secret group! She asks that those that interested in joining send her a friend request on Facebook so that she can add them to the group. This will be a wonderful way to share our photos - and to give both positive and constructive feedback on each one.





## *IIB Youth Gardeners*



This group held its second meeting on November 29th. The Mason Sycamore Creek Garden Club hosted the meeting and provided the presentation on their Sunflower Learning Center and Youth Garden Club. What this club has accomplished can be replicated by other clubs! Information will be posted soon on the IIB website. <https://mqcdistrict2b.weebly.com/>  
 Password: 2bgardeners

To join this interest group, contact Ronnie Dush, [ronniedush@gmail.com](mailto:ronniedush@gmail.com) or 989-307-0248.

## *IIB Designers*

The next meeting will be on February 20th, 10 am—noon at the Michigan Nature Association in Okemos when we will experience freedom of style for a Botanical Arts-Design class called “Anything Goes.”

To join this interest group, contact Kathi Dominquez, [dominguezk@comcast.net](mailto:dominguezk@comcast.net) or 517-669-5112.



*This new section is designed to answer your questions about IIB, MGC, CR, NGC, or anything related to what we do in our clubs or gardens. If we can't locate an answer to your questions, we will put it out to the membership.*

**If you have a Q, we'll find an A!**

**Q**—How much should I be fertilizing my houseplants in the winter?

**A**— Houseplants, like people, need food to perform, especially when they are actively growing. Spring and summer are necessary feeding months; however during the winter, feeding is not necessary. If you do fertilize, do it sparingly. Dilute the fertilizer by 50 percent or more.

**Q**—When will the District IIB **Environmental Studies School** begin?

**A**—Probably in the spring of 2021. There are four 2-day courses, offered in the fall and spring for two years. You can contact Ron Overton, chair, for information or to volunteer to help with the planning. [overtonron@wowway.com](mailto:overtonron@wowway.com), 517-626-7269.

**Q**—I'd like to help District IIB but I don't want to attend any more meetings. Are there some tasks I can do from home?

**A**—Much of the effort to support our district can be done from home! You might consider being **Awards Chair** to keep track of district, state, regional, and national award categories and answer questions for IIB clubs. You could keep a running record of the awards won by IIB clubs.

**A**—IIB could use a **historian** to keep track of events and accomplishments. Our records are currently minimal for district meetings, district directors, life memberships, etc.

**A**—You could help with **communication**—maintaining group mailing lists by club to send announcements, newsletters, etc.

**A**—You could help the **newsletter** publisher by gathering information and pictures to cover club events, writing articles, or editing drafts.

**A**—You could volunteer to be the district's **Grants Chair**, doing research on available funding and providing information about possibilities to clubs.

**A**—You could run a “**trading post**” for the district newsletter, sort of a clearing house for people who have an abundance of something to share or people who are looking for something in particular. (e.g. *divided iris ready to share; looking for ground cover and willing to dig*, etc.)

**Q**—Does Michigan Garden Clubs, inc. have a **membership brochure**?

**A**—Yes, and it's a lovely one that's ready for printing from the MGC website. Click [here](#).

**Q**—Is it true that NGC now supports a floral design where you can paint fresh flowers?

**A**—You bet! That new **design** is called **Exploration** and it's in the Botanical Arts portion of a flower show schedule. Some plant material must be used but there is no restriction on what can be done to the plant material in this class.



The schedule for our *Kids in Toyland* is available on the IIB website. It will be held on December 5th at the Best Western Hotel in Okemos. Please find some kids to work with, and let them get hooked on horticulture and design! Although most of the classes are for youth, there are three Botanical Arts classes for adults. The openings in all youth classes and adult Class 1 are unlimited.

Schedules for our March, 2019 *Gourmet Gardening* flower show are available on the IIB website. All the Design, Botanical Arts Crafts, and Botanical Arts Photography classes for the March 2019 District IIB Flower Show require pre-registration. Classes are limited to 4 entries in each one and the Flower Show Schedule identifies a consultant to contact for each class. Pre-registration is not needed for most horticulture classes.

Some of the classes are now full. What follows is a listing of the Design, Botanical Arts Crafts, and Botanical Arts Photography classes that still have openings for exhibitors.

Please consider how you might contribute to the staging and décor of this show!



**Current Class Openings in Design and Botanical Arts for Gourmet Gardening Flower Show**

Section	Class	Type	# Openings	Consultant	Phone	E-Mail
Design A– Petite	2) “Cookie Cutter”	5” Design	2	Lynn Keelan	517-304-3329	Boomerage47@yahoo.com
Design A– Petite	4) “Baker’s Choice”	8” design	3	Jenny Bond	517-676-2676	jbond@msu.edu
Design B– Tables	7) “Snack Attack	Tray for One	2	Jeanette Foster	517-231-7662	Gardenfly2003@yahoo.com
Design B– Tables	8) “Farm to Table	Functional table for three	1	Kathi Dominguez	517-927-4665	Dominguezk@comcast.net
Design B– Tables	9) “Picnic”	Alfresco functional table for 3	2	Julie Hath	468-3273	jhath tds.net
Design C – Designer’s Choice	11) “This and That”	Abstract, assemblage Design	2	Jolanta Piecuch	517-655-9869	Jolantapiecuch@yahoo.com
Design D– Mono-botanic	12) “Family Favorites”	Mono-botanical	2	Jodie Szalankawiez	897-6099	Dominguezk@comcast.net
BA- Artistic Crafts	1), “Dress for Dinner”	Necklace	1	Jolanta Piecuch	517-655-9869	Jolantapiecuch@yahoo.com
BA- Artistic Crafts	2) “Mix and Mash”	Decorated kitchen tool	1	Sue Wittick	517-242-8259	witticks@gmail.com
BA-Photography	1a) “Picture Perfect Produce”	5”x7” color still life	1	Lynn Keelan	517-304-3329	Boomerage47@yahoo.com
BA-Photography	1b) “Picture Perfect Produce”	8” x 10” color still life	1	Lynn Keelan	517-304-3329	Boomerage47@yahoo.com
BA-Photography	2a) “Measuring Precisely”	5”x7” color close-up	2	Peggy Fankhauser	469-5368	Fankhaus@gmail.com
BA-Photography	3a) “Grandma’s Kitchen Table”	5”x7” b/w or sepia	2	Sue Wittick	517-242-8259	witticks@gmail.com





### Special Thanks

Special thanks are due to Cheryl Yellen and Kathy Mikuska (Brighton Garden Club) who created the lovely floral fashions for our October IIB District Meeting in Howell. I'm still awed by the creativity expressed in those designs! ~Sue Wittick



### Meridian Garden Club Wins Award

The Meridian Garden Club was one of 14 organizations around our state who received a Community Landscape Beautification Award from the Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association. This award was given in recognition of their Plant-it-Pink Garden that was featured in the Spring 2017 issue of *The National Gardener* magazine. Each project will be featured in a four-color layout in *The Michigan Landscape* magazine's July/August 2019 issue after the award presentations in the Spring. MNLA will also display the projects on their website and Facebook page throughout the year. Click here for [Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association](#).



### Orchid Flower Show

Jenny Bond and Sue Wittick will co-chair our annual Orchid Flower Show in conjunction with the Greater Lansing Orchid Society Show and Sale in the MSU Plant and Soil Science Conservatory on February 23-24, 2019. The schedule for this show will be available soon. We also hope to have orchids to distribute to those attending the IIB Designer's workshop on February 20th, 10 am—noon at the Michigan Nature Association in Okemos.

### Dates for your Calendars

- December 1, 2018 Meridian GC Sale of floral arrangements in the Meridian Mall, Okemos, 10 am—2 pm.
- December 1, 2018 GC of Greater Lansing Greens Market, Grace United Methodist Church, 1900 Boston Blvd., Lansing, 9 am—noon.
- December 5, 2018 Kids in Toyland Flower Show, Okemos Best Western Hotel.
- January 25, 2019 IIB Steering Committee meeting, 1 pm, Michigan Nature Association, Okemos.

### IIB Garden Club Themes for 2018-2019

**What's your theme?**

- Brighton Garden Club— *If a Flower Blooms, a Bee will Come*
- DeWitt Millennium Garden Club— *Sowing Seeds for Friendship and Blossoms*
- Garden Club of Greater Lansing— *Back to Basics*

### 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](http://www.gardenclub.org)

Username: member  
Password: pumpkin



Michigan Garden Clubs

[www.michigangardenclubs.org](http://www.michigangardenclubs.org)

Login: member  
Password: mgcgrow



#### Central Region, NGC

[www.ngccentralregion.org](http://www.ngccentralregion.org)

Login: member  
Password: 7states

#### MGC District IIB

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

Password: 2bgardeners

Your club news could be listed here!

Please send articles to Sue Wittick by the 20th of each month for the next issue.

# December Garden Club Meetings and Special Events





- A December 1 **The GC of Greater Lansing, Greens Market**, 9 am—noon, Grace United Methodist Church, 1900 Boston Blvd., Lansing.
- B December 1 **Meridian GC meeting, Sale of Floral Arrangements**, 10 am—2 pm, Meridian Mall, Okemos (JC Penney wing).
- C December 1 **Grand Ledge Historical Society, Holiday Traditions Tour of Homes, Historic Buildings, Tables, and Trees. 11 am—5 pm**
- D December 2 **Grand Ledge Historical Society, Holiday Traditions Tour of Homes, Historic Buildings, Tables, and Trees. 1-5 pm.**
- E December 3 **Looking Glass GC Holiday Potluck**. 6:30 pm, United Methodist Church, Wacousta.
- F December 4 **Mason Sycamore Creek GC, Winter Potluck and White Elephant Gift Exchange, 6 pm**, 810 S. Meridian Road, Mason.
- G December 4 **Across the Fence Post GC, Holiday Potluck**, 6:30 pm, 8955 Winegar Road, Laingsburg.
- H December 5 **District IIB, Kids in Toyland Flower Show**, 2-6 pm, Best Western Hotel, 2209 University Park Drive, Okemos.
- I December 5 **Howell GC, Christmas Potluck and Charity Donation**, 6 pm.
- J December 8 **Williamston Red Cedar GC, Cups of Love Workshop, 1 pm**, 3161 Meridian Road, Okemos.
- K December 10 **Williamston Red Cedar GC, Holiday Party**, 6 pm, Williamston Area Senior Center, 201 School St, Williamston
- L December 10 **The GC of Greater Lansing, Christmas Tea, 2-4 pm**, Grace United Methodist Church, 1900 Boston Blvd., Lansing.
- M December 12 **Hartland GC, Water as a Resource in Your Landscape, presented by Matt Demmon, Feral Flora**, 6:30 pm, Hartland Senior Center, 9525 Highland Road, Howell.
- N December 13 **Brighton GC, Dreamin' of a White Christmas Luncheon**, 11:30 am, Lakelands Golf & Country Club, 8760 Chilson Road, Brighton.
- O December 13 **DeWitt GC meeting, Traditional Holiday Potluck**, 6:30 pm, Redeemer United Methodist Church, 13980 Schavey Road, DeWitt.
- P December 17 **Meridian Garden Club Meeting and Holiday Potluck Luncheon**, Okemos Community Church, 4734 Okemos Road, Okemos.
- Q December 18 **Grand Ledge GC, Holiday Party and White Elephant Gift Exchange**, 1:00 pm, Grand Ledge Library, Grand Ledge.
- R December 25 **Christmas**
- S December 31 **New Year's Eve**



## 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	29	30	1 A, B, C
2 D	3 E	4 F, G	5 H, I	6	7	8 J
9	10 K, L	11	12 M	13 N, O	14	15
16	17 P	18 Q	19	20	21	22
23	24	25  R	26	27	28	29
30	31  S	1	2	3	4	5

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.