Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc., District IIB Newsletter





The Bardener





MARGH



Looking Glass Garden Club



The club was organized in 2009 and was incorporated in 2014. We're a small club, but we try hard to pursue our objectives through our projects and fundraisers. Most of us are located around the Looking Glass river and that plays a large part in the things we do. For example, we have an objective that reads: "To assist in protecting the plants and animals living in the Looking Glass river watershed." Another objective reads: "To plant native plants, grasses, trees and wildflowers creating landscapes, flower beds, river banks and prairies that are ecologically functional environments creating outdoor classrooms for the community."



To these ends, every year our spring fund raiser is a native plant sale. We get our plants from Wildtype Native Plant Nursery in Mason and sell them fairly cheaply. This means we don't make a lot of money but we do sell a lot of native plants.

Our ongoing projects include the decorating our four local bridges. During the summer months we hang planters on them and in the winter, we hang garlands and red bows.

Another beautification project is to plant daffodils throughout the township - or at least wherever we can. We've been doing this long enough that we no longer have to buy bulbs.



A major project we've been working on for years is the reforestation of the Looking Glass River watershed. This is a partnership between our garden club, the Friends of the Looking Glass and the Clinton County Conservation District. Other partners have included the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Lions, and the Watertown Charter Township.

After renovating the war memorial flower bed in the Wacousta Cemetery, we are planning a Blue Star Memorial Byway dedication on July 8th.

MEMORIAL BY-WAY

The IIB Gardener, March 2018

District IIB Steering Committee







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

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

Barb Ketchum, Mason-Sycamore Creek Garden Club, 517-331-2027, <u>baketchum15@gmail.com</u>, 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 held on March 1 at the Michigan Nature Association, 2310 Science Pwy, Okemos, beginning at 11:30 a.m. Discussion topics will include fund raising, interest groups, and district meetings.

District IIB Steering Committee Member News



IIB



Lynn Keelan, District Director



I am enjoying the sunshine, melting snow and longer days. Before too long we will be back in our gardens listening to bird songs.

With my hardworking Steering Committee, I have really enjoyed our local Beehive Buzzes where we meet with a small group of neighboring garden club presidents. We started in Marshall and what a beautiful old town. I look forward to going on their annual garden walk and shopping at their garden sale. Our new IIB t- shirts were modeled and well liked. We learned much from the outlying clubs, which are on the edges of our district in farm country.

We met in Howell with local club presidents and enjoyed hearing about their fund raisers, struggles with finding club leaders and suggestions for alternatives to a Spring District Meeting in the future.

A meeting in Lansing with local club presidents helped us understand how some clubs are growing and others declining. Different approaches through social media may reach more potential members. Workshop ideas were discussed.

Our fourth Beehive Buzz will occur on March 1. We feel these meetings promote interest in our district and encourage sharing among members and clubs. A summer Presidents Meeting is in the planning stages.

Many members are thinking about or already designing entries for our upcoming flower shows. Even our Spring District Meeting will have a specialty flower show of horticulture. Invitations are out for *Partners in Gardening* on April 18, 2018, our Spring District Meeting.

Our IIB Interest Groups are rapidly growing. These will be another way to share ideas and learn new skills.

March will come either as a lion or lamb, but it is always followed by April and flowers. Happy gardening days are ahead!

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 21 March the International Day of Forests (IDF) in 2012. The Day celebrates and raises awareness of the importance of all types of forests. On each International Day of Forests, countries are encouraged to undertake local, national and international efforts to organize activities involving forests and trees, such as tree planting campaigns. The theme for each International Day of Forests is chosen by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. The theme for 2018 is Forests and Sustainable Cities.

This newsletter is sent directly to District IIB members. We ask that IIB Club Presidents print copies for members who do not receive e-mail. Please let me know if you would like to be added or removed from the e-mail distribution list for this newsletter, and provide contact information for new members who have joined your clubs. ~ Sue Wittick.



Barb Ketchum, Member Services to Clubs, Events

The Spring District II B meeting on April 18 is right around the corner. Registration is open now. All club presidents should have received the invitation letter. If you didn't, please let me know right away! We have so much to share about ideas for building a strong district, great silent auction items, both new and familiar vendors, and terrific speakers. We hope to see you there!



Peggy Bryson, Treasurer

A projected District IIB budget for fiscal 2018-2019 has been submitted. While the MGC form focuses



on District meetings, the District IIB budget includes some other activities and fundraisers. We're planning to hold a Presidents meeting this summer and are contemplating conducting four workshops over the course of the next year (topic suggestions are welcome!). We also are hoping to see sales of District IIB logo tees and possibly a pin to contribute a bit to the treasury. You can find the District budget on the District website under District News/Financial Reports. Or just click HERE and scroll down to the "Budget" section.

Sue Wittick, Communications, Newsletter

How exciting to be part of District IIB at this time! We are receiving a lot of support for our efforts from members all over the district and it's all very much appreciated.



District IIB t-shirts are selling in six cheerful colors. Members are encouraged to wear them to the Spring District Meeting on April 18th. Tees bearing club's logos would also be fun to wear then. Let's show our colors!

Our Interest Groups are generating **INTEREST!** We now have five from which to choose (see page five). You receive information about the group's activities by signing up. Then you can participate in whatever you choose. There are no dues or requirements for joining.

We have more fund raising plans percolating. IIB Crafters will help make bee and lady bug plant stakes for selling at the district meeting. IIB Photographers will be asked for flower "portraits" to print on note cards.

If you are not reading the **District Newsletter**, you are missing lots of good stuff! I'd like to include more articles about what is going on in clubs though, so fill my mailbox!

Please visit the District IIB website (https://mgcdistrict2b.weebly.com/
Password 2bgardeners) where LOTS of information has been posted including:

- Order forms for IIB tee-shirts
- IIB <u>newsletters</u>
- Minutes of IIB Steering Committee <u>meetings</u>
- Information about the <u>clubs</u> in our district
- Information about the DMGC <u>spring speaker</u>
- Flower Show <u>schedules</u>

- MGC <u>new member forms</u>
- A <u>Site Map</u> to help you find things on the website.
- Places for club <u>field trips</u>
- A district meeting <u>handbook</u> with lots of resources
- <u>Application</u> form for the Marilyn Lee Civic Beautification award

NGC Schools (http://michigangardenclubs.org/ Education

Environmental Studies School, Course IV, April 17 & 18, Holland, MI Landscape Design School, Course IV, April 24 & 25, Kalamazoo, MI

The <u>Butterfly House</u> at MSU will be open March 15—April 30. This is a wonderful place to take your kids and grandkids! Hours are Mon-Fri 2pm-4pm; Sat & Sun 10 am-5 pm.



Lois Snover-Hanson, Meridian Garden Club, District IIB Flower Show Chair, 517-694-8091

The "Orchids on the Move" Flower Show was held the last weekend in February in the MSU Horticulture Conservatory. Congratulations to everyone who contributed those lovely designs!

Our 2018 Standard Flower Show "We Love Michigan" will be held at the Michigan State Pavilion March 15-18. Michigan posters or paraphernalia that could be used for staging should be brought on Wednesday afternoon, March 14th, between noon and 6:30 pm. Horticulture can be entered on Wednesday from 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm and on Thursday from 8:30 am to 10:30 am.



We plan to give the Marilyn J. Lee award at both the Spring and Fall 2018 District IIB meetings. The application forms were sent to club presidents and are posted on the District IIB website. This club award is for civic beautification projects.

The Spring 2018 District Meeting, April 18th, will feature a Horticulture Specialty Flower Show "Bee Ready for Spring." April 18th will be a wonderful time to feature daffodils, tulips, and other cut spring flowers from those bulbs you planted last fall (or years ago). Bottles for your cut specimens will be available near the registration desk.

On April 24, the IIB Designers will host a "Spring Fling" Flower Show, at the DeWitt Fire Department. This show will feature the designs that were new in the 2017 Edition of Handbook for Flower Shows, Armature, Assemblage, and Cascade.

Schedules for all these flower shows can be found on the District IIB website.

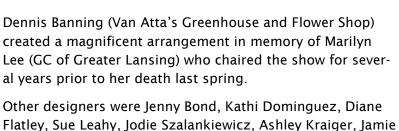
The District IIB "Orchids on the Move" Flower Show was held February 24-25 at the MSU Plant and Soil Science Conservatory, in conjunction with the Greater Lansing Orchid Society Show and Sale. Twenty-three floral designers entered the show which was well-received by everyone who attended. Jenny Bond (GC of Greater Lansing) and Sue Wittick (Meridian GC) co-chaired the show. Lois Snover Hanson (Meridian GC), Marie Smith (Meridian GC), and Lynda Foster (Williamston Red Cedar GC) served as judges. Winners of the top awards were Britt Simmons, owner of Where the Wild Things Bloom, in the professional class and Jolanta Piecuch (Williamston Red Cedar GC) in the novice class.



Jolanta's necklace was created entirely from natural materials.



Marilyn Lee memorial design created by Dennis Banning.

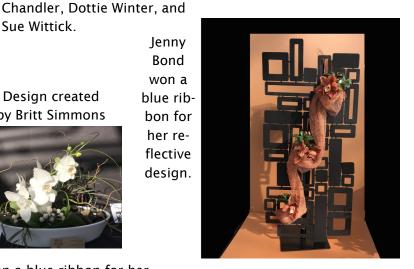


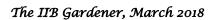
Design created by Britt Simmons

Sue Wittick.



Kathi Dominguez won a blue ribbon for her Reaching for the Moon" design.







What's the Buzz About? IIB Interest Groups!

In addition to IIB Designers, we now have IIB Quilters, IIB Photographers, IIB Youth Gardening, and IIB Crafters! Each group will be able to plan their own schedules, activities and interactions. Those who would like to be included on the mailing list for any of these groups can contact the chair (or interim chair) below. There are no requirements for participation and no cost (except perhaps for materials for a specific project). You can participate as much or little as you desire—but without signing up, you won't know what's happening!

IIB Designers—Led by Lois Snover-Hanson (Meridian Garden Club), this group practices making different types of floral designs, shares techniques and materials, and plans flower shows for the district. They meet 4 times a year. To join the mailing list, contact Kathi Dominguez, dominguezk@comcast.net, 517-669-5112.

IIB Quilters—Led by Linda Mogyoros (Meridian Garden Club), this group shares their interest in quilting. Their current project is to create a new District IIB banner featuring the logos from all our clubs. They are also considering making quilted IIB coasters to help with district fund raising efforts. To join the mailing list, contact Linda Mogyoros, Turtlehatch@att.net,517-712-2622.

IIB Photographers—With interim leadership provided by Sue Wittick (Meridian Garden Club), this group shares an interest in photography. The only requirement is to have access to some type of camera. A first group project is create a photo display following Flower Show guidelines for the fall IIB District Meeting. Educational events may include learning the features of various types of cameras, adjusting your camera, techniques to take specific types of pictures, and displaying finished work. To help with district fund raising efforts, they may share photos for printing on note cards or framed pieces. To join the mailing list, contact Sue Wittick, witticks gmail.com, 517-242-8259.

IIB Youth Gardening—Led by Simar Pawar (Meridian Garden Club), this group shares an interest in working with young people. Topics of conversation might include how to get children involved in gardening, working with a youth garden club, helping kids create floral designs for the December flower show, Smokey Bear Woodsy Owl competitions, growing and harvesting vegetables, and working with schools. To join the mailing list, contact Simar Pawar, simarkaur@hotmail.com, 517-290-6974.

IIB Crafters—With interim leadership provided by Sue Wittick (Meridian Garden Club), this group shares an interest in all things crafty. A first project is to create garden stakes from golf balls to sell at the spring IIB meeting—just in time for poking into the soil! We anticipate a lot of sharing of ideas between clubs, perhaps with workshops led by different members. To join the mailing list, contact Sue Wittick, witticks@gmail.com, 517-242-8259.

If you have another idea for an interest group you would like to see in the district, please contact any steering committee member to share your thoughts!

News from Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. (MGC)

Club Delegates for The MGC Annual Meeting



It may seem like a long way off, but our state convention is just around the corner, and it's time to start planning. As attendees, we all tend to get wrapped up in the learning opportunities, presentations, tours, seeing gardening friends from around the state, and yes, the shopping. But there is another very important component to our yearly convention and that is the Annual Meeting. This is when the primary business of MGC is conducted: learn how our finances stack up; find out which clubs earned awards; vote on by-law changes; and, in odd years, elect new officers. To conduct that business, we must have a quorum of members in attendance. To maintain fair representation, each club has a certain number of delegates available to them, depending on the size of the club: Less than 50 members - 2 delegates; 51 to 100 members—3 delegates; 101+ members -1 delegate for each additional 10 members. In addition, former MGC, Inc. Presidents and members of the current Board of Directors are also delegates. It is ultimately the club president's duty to name the delegates, but they also need each member's help.



If you're thinking about going to the convention this June, let your club president know. Club presidents, make sure to send the delegates list on time. We are striving to make the credentials process run smoother this year! Finally, if you attend the convention as a delegate, be sure to attend the annual meeting, and don't forget to share what you have learned with your club.

Environmental Studies School Planned for District IIB





Our district is on the schedule to offer a National Garden Club Environmental Studies School beginning in 2021.

The mission of the Environmental Studies Schools is to teach environmental literacy and to cherish, protect and conserve the living earth. The courses teach participants environmental literacy, appreciation of the natural world, action for sustainable development and appreciation for the interrelation of all natural things. Particular emphasis is presently placed on land conservation, water conservation and air quality.

This school will be presented in four two-day long sessions over a two year period. We will need someone from our district to serve as Chair and another person to serve as Registrar. Contact Sue Wittick to volunteer.

In Memorandum



Barb Benner, IIB District Director 2011-2014, died on February 18, 2018. A memorial service for both Barb and her mother, Mary Jane Drenthe, will be held May 12th at Girrbach Funeral Home in Hastings (corner of Green and Broadway). Visitation will begin at 10:00 with the service to follow at noon. A dinner for those attending will follow the service.

Memorial Contributions can be made to the scholarship funds for Thornapple Garden Club, GFWC Woman's Club, and Arts Counsil.

Barb Benner Click <u>here</u> for a map showing the location of the funeral home.











Black Swallowtail Project for Clubs

Jean Goetz, MGC Second Vice-President (Civic Affairs) suggests that clubs consider making a Black Swallowtail/pollinator poster to use for educational outreach. Do you have a talented scrap booker, photographer, artist, or crafter available to create one? The poster could be displayed at club events, the library, a book store, township/city hall, a school classroom or display case, at a civic group's event.



Handouts to accompany your poster are already created! Just ask! MGC has a Black Swallowtail handout, butterfly pins, "fans" and a coloring page for children, and the latest, for spring shoppers, a bookmark Shopping List for host and nectar plants for butterflies.

Wouldn't it be fun to display these posters at a future DIIB meeting?

Please stop by our butterfly booth #3003 at the Lansing Home and Garden Show, March 15-18, MSU Pavilion.

The Michigan Garden Clubs Newsletter, Thru the Garden Gate, can be accessed on the MGC website. Click here for the Spring 2018 issue.

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 (Jubs

Central Region, NGC www.ngccentralregion.org Login: member

Password: 7states

MGC District IIB https://mqcdistrict2b.weebly.com/ password 2bgardeners

www.michigangardenclubs.org

Login: 2bmember Password: membermac



District IIB Club March Meeting Dates and Program Topics



6—Mason Sycamore Creek Diane Brown, MSU Extension Horticulture Agent "All you need to know about Soil for Successful Gardening" 6:30 p.m. at Mason Historical Museum, 200 E. Oak St, Mason

8—Brighton GC Sue Grubba, Creating Night Lighting 10:30 a.m., Brighton Community Center, 555 Brighton Street, Brighton

8—Dewitt Millennium GC Anne Crimmins "Here Today, Gone Tomorrow: Spring Ephemerals" 6:30 p.m., Redeemer United Methodist Church, 13980 Schavey Road, DeWitt

8—Eaton Rapids GC *Meeting for lunch*, 1:00 p.m. If anyone would like to join us please call or text Brenda @ (517) 740-8862.

12—GC of Greater Lansing Fungal Wonders: Adventures in Mycophiles" Nicole Mathiasz, a mushroom expert will share slides, specimens and discussion to expand our knowledge of mushrooms and their uses. 9:30 a.m., Grace United Methodist Church, 1900 Boston Boulevard, Lansing

12—Williamston Red Cedar GC "*Pruning Our Yard's Trees, Shrubs and Bushes*" *Diane Brown-Rytlewski MSU Extension Service* 6:30 pm, Williamston Depot Museum, Williamston

13—Across the Fence Post GC, 6:30 p.m.

14—Hartland H&GC "Establishing Polinator Habitats with Schools" Crystal Castle, 6:45 pm. Hartland Senior Center, 9525 E. Highland Road, Hartland

15 — Green Thumb GC (Daytime Group) Review of 2017 Financials & 1018 Programs

20—Marshall Area GC Water Features to Fit Your Budget and Space, Chris Ostrander 7:00 p.m., Marshall United Methodist Church, 721 US 27 North

22—Green Thumb GC (Evening Group) Review of 2017 Financials & 1018 Programs

19—Meridian Garden Club Prevention, Identification, and Treatment of Pests and Diseases Brian Gayheart, Cottage Gardens

9:00, Meridian Township Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos

27—Grand Ledge GC Monarch and other Butterflies, Marilee Goldsberry 1:00 pm, Grand Ledge City Hall

28—Howell GC "Health Benefits of the Hive" Donna Craft, Bunker Hill Bee Farm 6:30 p.m., Howell Auditorium, Livingston County Public Safety Complex—EMS, 1911 Tooley Road, Howell



The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) proclaimed 3 March as UN World Wildlife Day to celebrate and raise awareness of the world's wild animals and plants, particularly endangered species.

News from around our District

Williamston Red Cedar Garden Club, Cathie Ware, President



We will be conducting a club sponsored small standard flower show on May 14. The purpose of the show is to introduce our members to not only putting on a flower show but entering both floral designs and horticulture. Since we added fifteen new members in the past year, we realized many of our members were not familiar with shows or entries. So, we designed and presented two workshops in conjunction

with our regular monthly meetings – Basics of Floral Design in January and Preparing Your Plant for a Horticulture Show in February. The show will be open to entries from other clubs after the District IIB meeting is held on April 18. Watch your District IIB April newsletter for detailed information.





DeWitt Millennium Garden Club

On March 6, 6-8:30 p.m., our club is sponsoring a Spring Speaker for community outreach. Jolanta Piecuch, (Williamston Red Cedar Garden Club) will speak on "The Garden of Kyoto, A Personal Experience," at Redeemer United Methodist Church, 13980 Schavey Road, DeWitt. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Your club news could be listed here! Please send articles to Sue Wittick by March 20 for the April 2018 issue.

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. Please send submissions for the newsletter to Sue Wittick.

Events around the District

March 1—April 30, Fred & Dorothy Fichter Butterflies are Blooming, Meijer Gardens, Grand Rapids. This temporary, annual exhibition features thousands of tropical butterflies from Central and South America, Africa and Asia freely flying in the Tropical Conservatory. From March 1 through April 30, experience butterflies close up and watch them emerge from their chrysalises right before your eyes. Click here for more information.

March 4-5 Growing in a Post-Wild World, WildFlower Association of Michigan, Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center, MSU, E Lansing. wildflowermich.org

March 6 Capital Area Master Gardeners, monthly meeting, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm, MSU Plant and Soil Science Bldg., Room A149. Glenda Weiss, 4H Coordinator will present the Junior Master Gardener Program, what it is and how we can become involved.

March 24, Spring Make and Take, MSU Horticulture Gardens, 12:30 - 5:00 pm, MSU Horticulture Gardens, 1066 Bogue St, East Lansing, https://www.canr.msu.edu/hrt/our_gardens/

March 24, Stone Coop Farm, 9 - 11 am, Stone Coop Farm, 9615 Musch Rd, Brighton

Want to know how many plants you can grow in your garden, how much light it needs, and the best kind of soil? We will help you figure out all those details. This class will provide you with spacing and light requirements for different crops, and when they should be planted. We will work through a simple raised bed planting guideline, and how many plants you can grow in this space. We will also review which crops grow best by directly sowing seeds outside, and which work best with seedlings.

March 13 Butterflies in the Garden, MSU Horticulture Department, Volunteer Training 9-10, Docent Training 10-12. Contact Bethany Troy troybeth@msu.edu 517-353-0330

March 20th through Late-April, Butterflies in the Indoor 4-H Children's Garden. Public Hours: Mon-Fri from 2pm-4pm; Sat & Sun from 10am-4pm; Closed Easter. https://www.canr.msu.edu/hrt/our_gardens/









Dates for your Calendars



A March 1 IIB Steering Committee meets at Michigan Nature Association, 2310 Science Pkwy #100, Okemos, 11:30 a.m. Discussion topics will include fund raising, interest groups, and district meetings. Any IIB member is welcome.

B March 1 Bee Hive Buzz 2:30—4:30, Cracker Barrel, 2285 Woodlake Dr, Okemos. IIB Steering Committee meets with representatives from the Grand Ledge, Looking Glass, Mason Sycamore Creek, Meridian, Webberville, and Williamston Red Cedar clubs for coffee and conversation.

C March 6 "The Gardens of Kyoto—a personal experience," 7:00—8:30 pm, Redeemer Methodist Church, 13970 Schavey Road, DeWitt. This is a community outreach event sponsored by the DeWitt Millennium Garden Club. Tickets are \$5.00.

- D March 14 Set up for We Love Michigan Flower Show, noon- 5:00 pm
- E March 14 Entries accepted for We Love Michigan Flower Show, 3:30-6:30 pm
- F March 15 Entries accepted for We Love Michigan Flower Show, 8:30-10:30 am
- **G** March 15-18 We Love Michigan, District IIB Flower Show, MSU Pavilion, show open 3:00-9:00 pm Thursday; 12:00 pm to 9:00 pm Friday; 10:00 am-9:00 pm Saturday; 10:00 am-5:00 pm Sunday.
- H March 18 Exhibits to be removed from We Love Michigan Flower Show beginning at 5:00 pm.



April 18 - Spring IIB District Meeting, Eagle Eye Conference Center, Bath, "Bee Ready for Spring" Horticulture Specialty Flower Show

April 18 - Hartland GC annual tea, 7 pm, Hartland Senior Center. "Attracting Native Jewels—Ruby Throated Hummingbirds," Roseann Kovalcik. They serve a three course tea for \$20/person. Call 248-684-1116 for reservations.

April 25 - IIB Designers Spring Fling Flower Show, DeWitt Fire Department, 10:00 am—noon

May 21 - May 24 - National Garden Clubs Convention, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

June 5-6 - Michigan Garden Clubs Convention, Kalamazoo

October 22-23 - NGC Central Region Convention, Frankenmuth, Michigan

October 25 - Fall District IIB Meeting, Brighton Garden Club hosting

March 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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4	5	© 6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	D E 14	F G 15	G 16	G 17
G H) 18	19	SPRING 20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31