



## September, 2018

*The Brighton Garden Club*



*Club of the Month*

We continue this year with our theme "If a Flower Blooms, A Bee Will come". We've been adding more native plants and "pollinator favorites" to the gardens in the City of Brighton and our own gardens at home. Three of our members have fostered the larvae and released nearly 100 Monarch butterflies at the Kensington Park Nature Center and at their homes.

We've had a busy summer taking care of five gardens in Brighton, plus the Humane Society of Livingston County garden which is a new garden for us this year.

Our annual summer potluck picnic was held in August at member, Cindy Mann's lovely home. The weather was perfect, the food delicious and Cindy's extensive fairy gardens were delightful.

Many thanks to the District IIB Steering committee for arranging the trip to Tapper Gardens. It is an amazing place. We also had a trip scheduled courtesy of Hartland Garden Club to two gardens in Bloomfield Hills at the end of August.



Brighton Garden Club is looking forward to hosting the District IIB Meeting at Crystal Gardens in Brighton. The Avant-Garden theme promises to be very exciting. Meeting Chairperson, Kim Ray and her committees are working hard to make this a memorable event.

We're looking forward to a line-up of interesting speakers at our monthly meetings, starting with Mary Spencer's presentation, "Too Many Tomatoes" which will show us how to take advantage of our gardens' bounty.

We anticipate eliminating the use of plastic cups, plates, eating utensils, etc. at our monthly Munch & Mingle meetings. To kick this off, we are having a "coffee mug" contest. There will be three prizes awarded; (1) prettiest mug, (2) funniest/cutest mug, and (3) ugliest/weirdest mug. We hope this will be memorable and will remind each member to bring his/her own tableware to our meetings from here on in. We'll keep you posted on how that works out.

## 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

**Any IIB club member is welcome to attend District IIB Steering Committee meetings.** The next meeting of the IIB Steering Committee Meeting will be September 10, 1:00 pm, Aubree's Pizzeria and Grill, 4433 E. Grand River Ave., Howell.

## District IIB Steering Committee Member News



**Lynn Keelan**, District Director

Just like Christmas comes early to the stores, we need to have a nominee for new district director by October 1, 2018. The terms of the existing IIB Steering Committee will expire at the end of May 2019. While I have enjoyed serving as District Director, I will not be able to serve another term for personal reasons. To ensure the future of District IIB, a new district director needs to be named now for a two-year term beginning June 1, 2019.



The Steering Committee has worked very hard and it shows in what we have accomplished in less than ten months. There is great satisfaction in helping to further the goals of MGC and constituent clubs. You will find listed in this newsletter many opportunities to work with the district director and with MGC to continue the initiatives that we have started.

If you have ever considered the possibility of learning more about the MGC organization or wanted to help at the district level, we invite you to come to a Steering Committee meeting. These monthly gatherings are always included in the newsletter and highlighted on the event calendars in this newsletter and on the District [website](#). The next one will occur September 10th at Aubrey's Pizzeria in Howell, beginning at 1:00.

I would like to share with you what I have found the District Director role entails. I have been privileged to attend MGC Executive Committee and Board meetings. These are currently held in Lansing, four times a year. You will enjoy talking with the other five district directors to share ideas and learn from each other. Attending the MGC State Convention is always interesting with informative speakers, exhibits, and vendors. Our well-attended district meetings are actually similar to MGC State Conventions, and the Director and other Steering Committee members participate in the planning process for at least one district meeting a year.

Visiting the clubs in our district is lots of fun! Helping with officer installations was one of my favorite things to do with clubs last year. There is an available book of suggestions that is helpful.

As liaison between MGC and District IIB, I help keep members apprised of what is happening throughout the state and make the state board aware of what is being accomplished in this district.

Our treasurer, Peggy Bryson, will be explaining her duties as District Treasurer in this newsletter. It is necessary to have both a director and treasurer for each district and both names are on the bank account.

I have tried to outline the basic duties as simply as I can and want to encourage those who may have given it a thought to volunteer. You can make a difference and feel good about this worthwhile organization of fellow gardeners, environmentalists, landscapers, and floral designers. I am happy I took the leap to assume leadership responsibilities for District IIB, growing my mind along with my gardens.

**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.**

**Peggy Bryson, Treasurer**



Do you routinely balance your checkbook? Maybe you're a past treasurer of your garden club? You may be a good candidate for District IIB treasurer! That post will be open when my term is over next May and it's a vital role for the District. *Someone* needs to keep track of monies received and expended...

It's actually a pretty simple set of responsibilities. Most of the Treasurer's activity centers around the District meeting(s): recording registration and vendor payments and writing checks to speakers and the facility. You get to work with the enthusiastic people planning events and the fun and dedicated people on the District Steering Committee (assuming the new District Director chooses to use a steering committee). And it's fun getting to know the creative and hard-working club members in our District.

I set up a couple Excel workbooks that make it easy to record revenues and expenses, track fundraising sales and donations, and create the few reports that are required. Those reports include:

- Monthly treasurer's reports
- Monthly bank statement reconciliations
- District meeting final reports
- Annual district budget
- Sales tax report to MGC

The treasurer works with the other steering committee members to estimate expenses and revenues for the district budget in advance of each fiscal year. I acknowledge donations to the District and occasionally answer questions from clubs, and that is the District Treasurer's job in a nutshell!

I've found these treasurer responsibilities occupy less of my time than being treasurer of my garden club and, when questions arise, MGC treasurer Bunny LaDuke always responds promptly.

To keep the District alive and thriving, IIB needs members to volunteer. So think about your talents and how you could contribute. If interested, be our guest at a Steering Committee meeting (*see the IIB website event calendar*) to get a feel for what we do and how we go about it. And if you have questions or want to talk about the District treasurer role, don't hesitate to call or send me an e-mail message.

**Sue Wittick, Communications, Newsletter, Fundraising, Interest Groups**

Serving on the IIB Steering Committee is so much fun! I'm really enjoying working with Lynn, Barb, and Peggy, getting more familiar with all the clubs in our district, and becoming friends with LOTS of IIB members. That said, I'll add my plea to all of you to consider what part you might play in district leadership next year. No one person has to do it all when several volunteers share the responsibilities—the more contributing the better!



Our IIB earrings are here and they look super! Unfortunately though, the company we ordered from attached unacceptable fishhook findings to the charms we ordered and they will need to be replaced. I'll schedule several work sessions in September so that we will be prepared to sell our pins and earrings at both our district meeting in Howell on October 25th and the Central Region (CR) Convention in Frankenmuth on October 22-23. Please let me know if you are able to help attach the charms to new earring findings!

I'm also looking for volunteers to help with IIB sales at the two above events. Please let me know if you are planning to attend the CR Convention. Frankenmuth in October is gorgeous!

So far, we have sold 134 garden signs and they are looking super in various gardens around our district. Consider ordering some for yourself—they help you remember what you planted where and contribute to the education of friends who visit your home as well as people who visit the community gardens our clubs maintain.

This newsletter is for all of us! Send me articles, pictures, and bits of news by the 20th of each month for inclusion in the next issue. I've been thinking about adding a Q&A section, so if you tell me your questions, I'll do my best to find an answer that we can share with everyone.

**Barb Ketchum, Events, Member Services**

The District II B field trip to Tapper Gardens in Romeo on August 29 was a great success, with 35 members from seven clubs attending. The weather cooperated and the predicted rain stayed away as Mr. Tapper personally led two tours through his gardens.

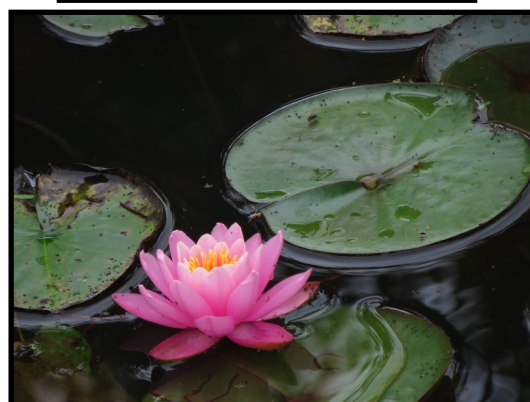
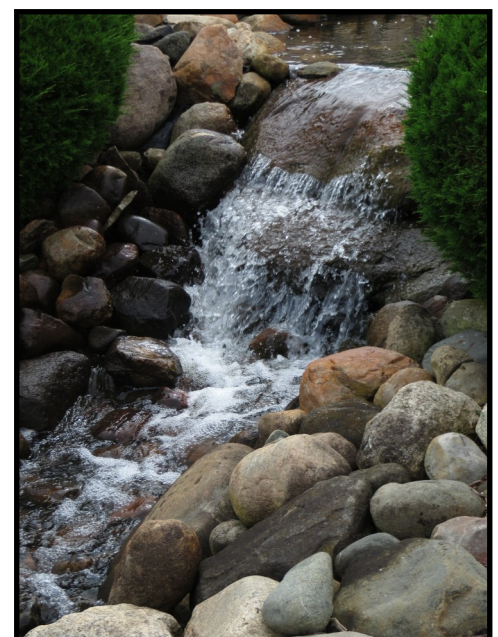


We started by climbing the stairs of his "garden shed" to a roof-top patio with expansive views over his 3.5 acre garden. He started gardening in 2000, doing all the work himself. He continued to expand the garden every year, adding hedges, pools, waterfalls, a meandering bamboo fence, a Japanese style zen garden and a Monet-inspired bridge. He takes inspiration from many places, with one pool inspired by the Washington Monument. He also has many nature oriented sculptures by artist Jason Napier, including Bald Eagles on their nest, life sized swans taking off from the formal pool, and a unique garden bench formed by 2 giant pheasants. While he has help now, he is still actively gardening at age 75. He has

plans to open the gardens to tours by school children next year.

After the tour, many of us took time to stop for lunch in Romeo and explore some of their unique shops. My group also made a couple of stops at farm markets on the way home. Did you know that the Romeo area is known for growing peaches? They have celebrated with a festival since 1931. This year's festival is August 30-September 3.

I really enjoyed sharing this experience with everyone, meeting fellow IIB members and connecting with old friends. If you know of other private gardens to suggest as field trip ideas in the future, please let me know!



## District IIB Needs to Name a New District Director this month!



In order to stay in compliance with MGC bylaws, our district needs to identify a member willing to serve as IIB **District Director** (DD) before the end of September! This position will be a member of a Steering Committee who will share the duties of serving the district. Our DD would also be a member of the Michigan Garden Clubs Board of Directors—a great opportunity to learn about the activities of our “parent” organization! **This position begins June 1, 2019.**

In the August IIB newsletter, a list of volunteer positions was presented for your consideration. One volunteer has come forward to help:

- **Ron Overton** (Looking Glass Garden Club) has agreed to serve as the Chair of an NGC **Environmental Studies School** in our district to begin in 2020. Thanks, Ron!

The following positions are still available (and one person could cover more than one position):

- **District Director**—the critical position to hold our district together!
- Treasurer
- Newsletter Editor
- Newsletter Publisher
- Communications
- Website Administrator
- Member Services
- Events
- Secretary
- Graphics/Printing
- Fundraising
- Interest Group Leader
- Outreach Coordinator
- Facebook Administrator
- Treasurer for Environmental School
- Historian



Please help keep our district together to continue the work accomplished this year by our current IIB Steering Committee! Can we find a volunteer from each club? For additional information, please contact Sue Wittick, 517-242-8259 or [witticks@gmail.com](mailto:witticks@gmail.com).

# How will YOU help?

### *Flower Show News*



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

IIB Designers met on July 18th to plan two flower shows.

“Kids in Toyland” is the title of our show for December 5th in Okemos at the Best Western Hotel (formerly Holiday Inn Express), near the I-96/Okemos Road intersection. Most of the classes in that show will be for preschool through high school youth.

Our District Show in March will be called “Gourmet Gardening” and features a cooking theme. The schedules for both shows will be distributed at the IIB District Meeting on October 25th where consultants will be looking for volunteers to create the designs.

A display of IIB photography will be featured at our fall district meeting as well. It will follow the requirements specified in the NGC Handbook for Flower Shows and will be judged, with ribbons awarded. The schedule for that show has been sent to club presidents and is posted on the IIB website. Consultants are busy filling the classes with the names of members who wish to enter their work.



## *IIB Photographers*

The IIB Photographers Interest Group met on August 22nd. Presentations by Jerry Bayer and Sue Wittick addressed the topics of close-up photography and landscape photography. The photography schedule for the October 25th IIB District Meeting was finalized. It has since been posted on the IIB website and sent to all club presidents for distribution. Any IIB club member or member of IIB Photographers may enter a photograph. Please see the schedule for submission requirements.

The classes for the show include plant portraits, close-up photos, landscape photos, and artistic photos with editing and digital manipulation encouraged.

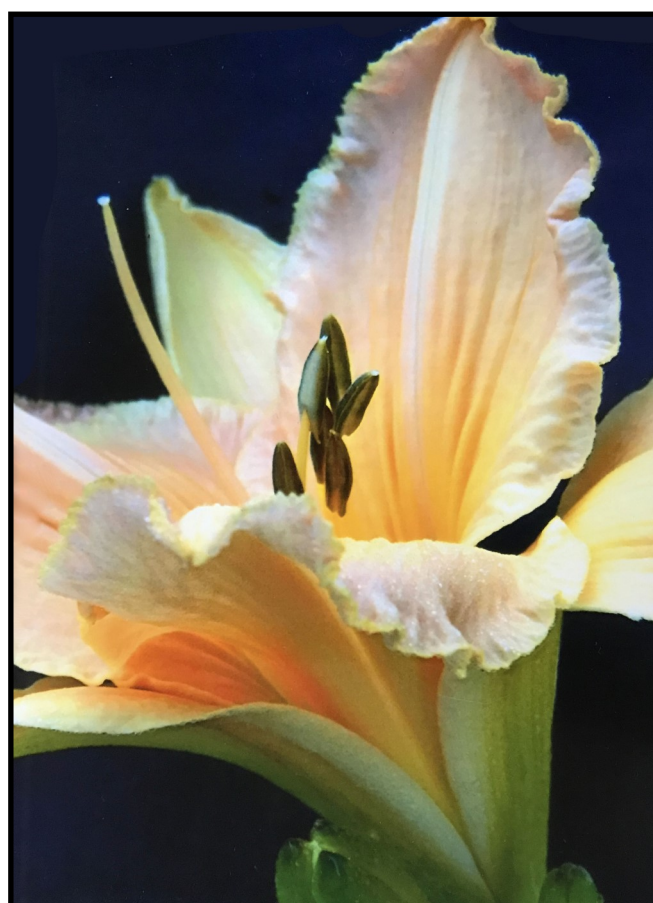
The next meeting will be on September 11th, 1:30-3:30 at the Michigan Nature Association, 2310 Science Parkway, Suite 100, Okemos. We will be experimenting with basic digital photo editing techniques.

Everyone is welcome!

### **"Best of the Bunch" selected by popular vote**



*Close-up photo of a garden "critter" taken by Jolanta Piecuch, Williamston RC GC, with an I-Phone 6.*



*Floral "portrait" taken by Marlas Greiger, Howell GC, with a Nikon Cool Pix L120 camera.*



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!**

## Nature, fashion and art combine at District IIB Meeting



It looks like a dress a fairy might wear: A satiny bodice gives way to a skirt made of delicate flower petals. It's whimsical and imaginative and lovely. And it's only one example of the dozens of inspiring and fascinating things you'll see and hear at the next District IIB meeting.

Plan now to attend the meeting, hosted by Brighton Garden Club, on Thursday, October 25 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Crystal Gardens Banquet Center, located at 5768 E. Grand River in Howell. Check-in begins at 8:15 a.m. The theme is "Avant Garden: Blending Nature, Art and Fashion."

Besides dresses made entirely of flowers and other botanicals, you'll see moss-and flower-covered shoes and purses, jewelry made entirely of succulent 'jewels' and headpieces made from leaves and flowers.

You'll hear interesting and entertaining speakers. Professional botanical photographer Laurie Tennent will talk about her breathtakingly beautiful art. Dow Gardens senior horticulturalist Charles Martin, whose humor and charm make him a crowd favorite, will talk about the history, classification and care of roses.

In addition, attendees may shop from a variety of garden- and nature-themed vendors who will be selling their wares during breaks.

The cost is \$30 per person and includes lunch. To register, each club should send attendee name(s) and a check made payable to *MGC District 2B* to Peggy Fukuda at 7745 Hammel Rd., Brighton, MI 48116. Questions? Call her at 916-835-6708. Registration materials must be received by October 11.



### 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 the IIB [website](#) or contact Peggy Bryson, 517-614-9428, [plbryso@gmail.com](mailto:plbryso@gmail.com).



## Central Region Convention, October 22-23, **Willkommen to Frankenmuth**

The Central Region (CR) Convention will be held in the historic Bavarian Inn Lodge. The early-bird registration deadline is 9-21-18; after that a \$20 late fee will apply so get your reservations in soon! Come for the speakers, the vendors, the Octoberfest atmosphere, a flower show, and to meet garden club members from 7 states!

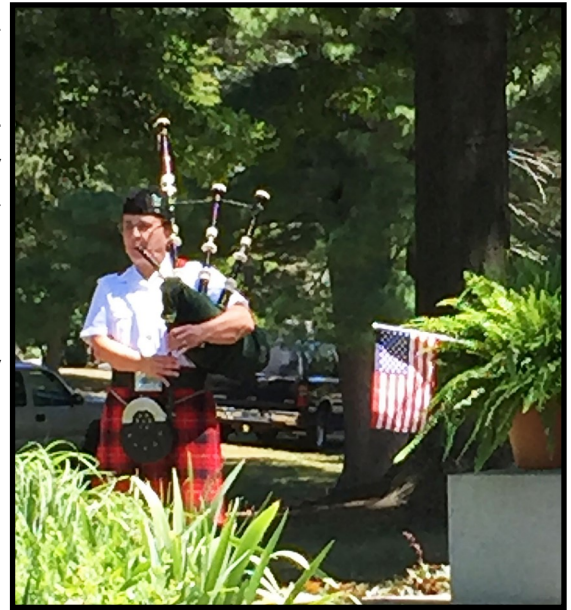
Click [here](#) for the schedule of events, [here](#) for the flower show schedule, and [here](#) for the speaker bios. A bus tour to Dow Gardens has been added with information [here](#). For lodging information phone the [Bavarian Inn](#) at 989-652-7200 and ask for Michigan Garden Club, Group # 12L7QB. Group rates are good through September 21. Click [here](#) for additional information about Frankenmuth. Every day there is like Christmas!

Please contact [Sue Wittick](#) if you are planning to attend and willing to help with the sale of IIB pins and earrings!

*Looking Glass Garden Club's Blue Star Memorial Dedication  
Submitted by Deb Plichta*



It was a lovely Sunday afternoon on July 8<sup>th</sup> when the Looking Glass Garden Club, in conjunction with Watertown Charter Township held its Blue Star Memorial Marker dedication at the "Broken Heart Memorial Bed" at the Wacousta Cemetery. Solemn notes filled the air as LGGC member played Battles Over/Green Hills of Tyrol on her bagpipes. Wacousta Boy Scout Troop 70 presented colors and LGGC member Rev. Debra Plichta gave the invocation. Club President, Lisa Emerson welcomed guests and provided a historical background for the Blue Star Program. Remarks were made by John Maahs, Watertown Charter Township Supervisor, Senator Rick Jones and Judy Lindemulder, MGC Blue Star Chair. After the dedication, members and guests were treated to refreshments served by Wacousta Girl Scout Troop 30464. A Power Point slide presentation showed the making of the "Broken Heart Memorial Bed" to include before and after pictures.



The LGGC Blue Star Memorial Committee decided on making a flower garden in the shape of a heart. The garden shaped like a heart was chosen to represent their love for the community and for those who have/are serving in the US Military. A permeable rubber pathway was put down in a zig zag pattern, verging from side to side, represents a broken heart and the sacrifices made by those who have served. Two granite benches were placed along each side of the handicapped accessible pathway.

Many of the perennials were chosen for their colors and many plants are native to Michigan. The committee desired to have always something blooming in the garden. The garden includes different focal spots including a rock garden, butterfly garden, a lighted flag pole, a memorial rock denoted by Mr. Matz and a US Department of Defense War Monument. The Blue



Star Memorial Marker was mounted on a wood stand and placed in the upper left lobe of the heart shaped landscaping, representing the placement of the human heart. Showing the committee's thoughtfulness and sensitivity in the landscaping design.

Those Veterans in attendance included: WWII Veteran Harold Matz; Vietnam Veterans & LGGC Charter Members Ronald Overton, Dale Westrick and Dub Devers; and Doug Emerson, Vietnam War Veteran & father of LGGC President. Also, in special attendance were representatives from the Blue Star Mothers local chapter.



Blue Star Mothers

Representatives from LGGC's District IJB sister clubs, The Grand Ledge Garden Club and The DeWitt Millennium Garden Club were in attendance lending their support to the ceremony. This Blue Star Memorial Marker is the 15<sup>th</sup> in our district and is number 95 in the State of Michigan.



Veterans



## Dates for your Calendars



September 18	<b>World Water Monitoring Day</b> , <a href="https://www.nationalgeographic.org/thisday/sep18/world-water-monitoring-day/">https://www.nationalgeographic.org/thisday/sep18/world-water-monitoring-day/</a>
September 26	<b>World Environmental Health Day</b> , <a href="https://www.ifeh.org/wehd/">https://www.ifeh.org/wehd/</a>
October 22-23	<b>NGC Central Region Convention</b> , Frankenmuth, Michigan. <a href="#">Register</a> before September 21 to avoid a late fee.
October 25, 2018	<b>Fall District IIB Meeting</b> , Brighton Garden Club hosting, Registrations due before October

## News from around our District

**Howell Garden Club**, Marsha DeGroot, President

One of my favorite words is *Stewardship*. It embodies the responsible planning and management of resources. It can be applied to the environment, nature, economics, health, property, family, and oneself. What you do makes a difference and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make. Ordinary people can do the extraordinary. We choose the areas we want to spend our time and energy.

The HGC has a history of giving to the community through our various projects. I am excited to be a part of new endeavors and helping our club grow. Find out what you can do to enrich your life and the lives of others around you. We come together to learn, share, and belong.

I will leave this message with another great word *fellowship*. In the coming year my hope is for all of us to be good stewards in all we say and do through fellowship. Never forget what a simple smile can do. As Pierre found out in Maurice Sendak's book with his name as the title, all you need to do is CARE.

## Help Needed!

Help assemble IIB charms to earring findings and jump rings. Contact Sue Wittick if you are able to assist!



**2018 MASTER GARDENER COLLEGE | Harvesting Excitement**  
**September 14-15, 2018**  
**Wayne County Community College District, Belleville, Michigan**

In order to expand the reach of the [2018 Master Gardener College](#), we are opening the event to gardening enthusiasts, beyond just those who are recertified Extension Master Gardeners. Join us for this annual event to learn more about horticulture, all while Harvesting Excitement! Please visit the [Master Gardener College website](#) for all the details regarding the event, registration rates, or to sign up!

## 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)

**MGC District IIB**  
<https://mgcdistrict2b.weebly.com/>

password **2bgardeners**



Login: *member*  
Password: *7states*

*Your club news could be listed here!*

*Please send articles to Sue Wittick by September 20 for the October 2018 issue.*

## August Garden Club Meetings and Special Events



- A—September 5 Webberville GC meeting. 3305 E. Grand River Road, Williamston, Planning for Fireman Field Day, 6 pm
- B—September 10 IIB Steering Committee Meeting, 1:00 pm, Aubrees Pizzeria and Grill, 4433 E. Grand River Ave., Howell. Everyone is welcome!
- C—September 10 Williamston Red Cedar GC Welcome Back Dinner. 6 pm, Williamston Area Senior Center, 201 School St, Williamston. Light supper provided. Members may contribute a dessert.
- D—September 10 Looking Glass GC meeting. Deb Plichta presenting *Blue Star Dedication*. 6:30 pm, United Methodist Church, Wacousta.
- E—September 11 IIB-Photographers workshop on photo editing. Michigan Nature Association, 2310 Science Parkway, Suite 100, Okemos, 1:30-3:30.
- F—September 12 Hartland Home and GC meeting. Gretchen Voyle, Retired Consumer Horticulture Educator, *Gypsy Moths—Education, Assessment & Control*, 6:30 pm, Hartland Senior Center, 9525 Highland Road, Howell
- G—September 13 DeWitt Millennium GC meeting and *Making Floral Centerpieces*, “Meet Your Garden Club,” 6:30 pm Redeemer United Methodist Church, 13980 Schavey Road, DeWitt. Bring 20 flowers or stems from your garden and a dish to pass.
- H—September 15 Green Thumb GC, *Field Trip to Slayton Arboretum*, Hillsdale College. Carpooling from Union City 11:00 am.
- I—September 17 Meridian Garden Club Meeting, *Field Trip To Nash Nursery*. Carpool from Meridian Mall, leaving at 8:30 am
- J—September 18 Across the Fence Post GC *Making Garden Stepping Stones*, 6:30 pm, 12374 Pine Ridge Drive, Perry.
- K—September 18 Howell Garden Club outing to *Heather Lane Pottery*, Ada, MI. Carpooling leaves at 10 am.
- L—September 20 Green Thumb GC (morning group) meeting, *Sunflower Vase Arrangements*, presented by Cindy Shattuck. First Congregational Church, Union City, 1:00 pm. Bring a vase and clippers.
- M—September 23 Williamston Red Cedar GC workshop. *Making an Earthloom*, presented by Cindy Brown. 1pm, 3161 Meridian Road, Okemos.
- N—September 25 Grand Ledge GC meeting, *Welcome Back Tea and Members’ Gardens Photo Show*. 1:00 pm, Grand Ledge Library, 1931 Room.
- O—September 26 Howell GC meeting, “Getting Back Together.” *CPR Techniques and How to be Prepared for an Emergency*, will be presented by Jennifer Kramer, Livingston County Health Department.
- P—September 27 Green Thumb GC (evening group), *Sunflower Vase Arrangements*, presented by Cindy Shattuck. New Leaf Florist, Broadway St., Union City, 6:30 pm. Bring a vase and clippers.

<b>September 2018</b>						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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2	3 	4	5 A	6	7	8
9	10 B,C,D	11 E	12 F	13 G	14	15 H
16	17 I	18 J, K	19	20 L	21	22
23 M	24	25 N	26 O	27 P	28	29
30						

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.