

THE GARDENER

BRINGING YOU THE LATEST BUZZ STRAIGHT FROM THE GARDEN

MICHIGAN POLLINATOR GARDEN PROJECT

Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. supports SB 167 and HB 4314 making the Black Swallowtail the State Butterfly of Michigan



Butterflies are both beautiful and important to our ecosystem. The Black Swallowtail is especially important to Michigan. It is found throughout the entire state and it is a permanent resident of Michigan. It does not leave in the winter as many butterflies do. The Black Swallowtail overwinters in Michigan as a pupa, making it a great butterfly for school groups to study. Each Black Swallowtail lives 2+ weeks, with 2-3 generations per year. Butterflies contribute to thriving ecosystems and are great pollinators. Not only are they objects of beauty in our world but they are a source of food for birds, reptiles, mammals and other insects. Butterflies are harbingers of the fragility of life on our planet. They are particularly sensitive to changes in our environment from the use of harmful pesticides and the loss natural habitat areas. The Mission of Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. is to promote environmental responsibility. We celebrate the presence and value of butterflies; particularly, our full-time resident butterfly, the Black Swallowtail.

Show your support by signing support of the petition and "bee" counted towards passing legislation naming a State Butterfly for Michigan.

Did you know? 47 of the 50 states have an official state butterfly, state insect, or both. Michigan does not. Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. hopes that Michigan will join those states that celebrate the presence and value of butterflies by passing SB 167. With your help it WILL happen!

To stay up to date, monitor the Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc., website (michigangardenclubs.org). In the Member Area you'll find the information under the "Projects" tab : Black Swallowtail.

DISTRICT IIB FALL MEETING



Anne Crimmins

district director

ANNE.DAVE@COMCAST.NET

(248) 342-7129

W e l c o m e s u m m e r !

Just a reminder to mark your calendars - the Across the Fence Post Garden Club and the Dewitt Millennium Garden Club are cohosting our District IIB Fall conference. It is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 15 at the AgroLiquid Conference Center in DeWitt Michigan. This conference, "Better Plants from the Ground Up", promises to be different and interesting. Club presidents will be contacting their club members with information for registering for this conference. Hope to see you there!

Our district will be hosting the MGC Conference in June 2020. We've not yet settled on a venue or the exact dates, but this one-day conference will be all about herbs. We are looking for Host Clubs to help with donations for the silent auction, table decorations and other tasks. Host Clubs will benefit by sharing 25% of the profit from the Conference. If your club is interested in helping, please contact Ann Schoals, our conference chair, at: bathien@frontier.com. We will not be having a Spring District IIB meeting because we will all be busy with the MGC Conference in June.

I'd like to thank the Marshall Area Garden Club for their invitation to their annual garden tour last month. Both Ronnie and I enjoyed the tour and hope to see some photos we can publish in this newsletter!

There is so much is going on in our district this summer! Let's make this newsletter for and about you. Share your club photos, activities and events! Show everyone what you've accomplished! Tell us about interesting speakers or great field trips! The deadline for submission is the 15th of the month for publication in the next month's newsletter.

If it ever stops raining, I'm going out to weed! Happy Gardening!

Anne Crimmins, Director
Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. - District IIB

Michigan Garden Club is looking for volunteers from each district to serve as judges for this years yearbook and general awards. If any of your members are interested in volunteering for this job, please send me their names. It is always a good learning experience and an opportunity to meet other club members from around the state.

YEARBOOK AND GENERAL AWARDS JUDGING
FRIDAY OCTOBER 18, 2019
10:00 am - 4:00 PM
TRINITY CHURCH
3355 DUNCKEL, LANSING MI

PLEASE ARRIVE A LITTLE BEFORE 10:00 SO WE CAN GIVE EVERYONE INSTRUCTIONS ON JUDGING.
PLEASE BRING YOUR LUNCH.
WE WILL PROVIDE SNACK AND BEVERAGES



IIB Treasurer's Report



RONNIE polad
DISTRICT TREASURER

RPOLAD@GMAIL.COM
(517) 896-4442

The finances of the District are in good shape as the new steering committee takes over. You can find monthly treasurer reports and checking account reconciliations on the District website under District News / Financial. IIB had over \$4,000 in the checking account at the end of the fiscal year (May 31) and MGC transferred the excess over \$2,000 into a reserve account for the District

The Steering Committee will be selling Pollinator Earrings, pins and plant markers at the IIB Fall District Meeting on October 15. Members can order a District IIB T-Shirt to be picked up at the District Meeting on August 15, 2019.

Included with this Newsletter is an order form that you can mail to:

Ronalee Polad, District IIB Treasurer

**5711 Lansing Road
Charlotte, MI 48813**

**Check made payable to:
District IIB**

Please have orders and checks in by September 25, 2019 to have shirt available for pickup on October 15 at the District Meeting. There will also be IIB Pollinator Pins, Earrings and Plant Markers available for purchase at the meeting.



\$10/Pair



\$10/Each



Stainless Steel Plant Markers, Large Diameter #10 Gauge Posts

Available in 8", 10", 12", 15", 17", and 20"

Custom Labels Can Be Ordered

AWARDS / GRANTS / SCHOLARSHIPS

How Awards Benefit Our Clubs?



Jolanta Piecuch

AWARDS / GRANTS / SCHOLARSHIPS

jolantapiecuch@yahoo.com

(517) 655-9869

We work in our clubs because we love what we are doing. We do not think about medals, ribbons and awards, so why would we apply for awards? I asked this question to Brighton Garden Club's Award Chairperson Diane Follis. She said that members do so much that writing up what they do and applying for an award is the nicest way of saying thank you.

Working on the application for awards brings many rewards to the club and its members, here are some of them:

1. It provides an outline for documentation of the projects and helps us keep records and build the club's historical data.
2. It gives us an opportunity to reflect on club's success, monitor progress, set up the direction to head in the future.
3. It brings more publicity, networking, and credibility to the club.

I recently talked with Diane Follis and she graciously shared with us how the process of application for awards was done in the Brighton Garden Club. Diane suggests:

1. Have an Award Committee. The Chair should be the person who spearheads the process and makes final decisions.
2. Download and read all the award information. The MGC website has combined information for the NGC and MGC awards.
3. Attend a District Judging to familiarize yourself with judging process
4. Match up your projects to the available awards.
5. Collect information required to fill out application forms by asking appropriate persons, downloading photos and financial information.
6. Document in photos - a picture is worth 1,000 words, so get nice photos, and be neat.
7. Have fun! Reading all the material and Yearbook in a new, awards-focused light, gives us a better understanding of our garden club and what it does.

In some cases, the application process requires long term planning. If your club just started a new project and will not be able to finish it by the October 1 deadline, then you perhaps have to plan to apply next year. As Diane Follis mentioned, photos are important so it is good to have someone who loves to take photo and can document everything that the club does. You never know what kind of photos you might need. The most important, in my view, is having someone enthusiastic about and dedicated to applying for awards, someone who can mobilize members to work in this direction.

There are many award categories. You can find all needed information on the websites of District IIB, MGC, Central Region and NGC. Categories of Awards are as follows:

- Awards of Excellence
- Civic Achievement Awards
- Conservation and Environment
- Historic Preservation and Historic/Memorial Gardens
- Horticulture
- Horticulture Therapy and Garden Therapy
- Non-Competitive Awards
- Operation Wildflower Awards
- Promotion
- Awards (Radio, TV, Publicity Press Book, Website, Video, National Garden Week)
- Publications
- Service and Recognition Awards
- Yearbooks

Sometimes the same project is eligible for more than one award. In such cases, submitting exact duplication of the Books of Evidence or Awards Summary is not acceptable.

AWARDS / GRANTS / SCHOLARSHIPS

Garden Organizations Deadlines for Submission

National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC)

Awards year runs from January 1 to December 31, but you do not apply to them directly (with only a few noted exceptions). You apply to the State Awards Chairman, and a deadline is usually October 1.

Pat Young , *NGC Awards Chairman*

2844 Cyrene Drive, Hernando, MS 38632-9691
901-604-6735; patwyong2844@gmail.com

For the NGC Awards list go to the NGC website (gardenclub.org), choose "Awards" from the menu bar on the top, go to "Awards Application Forms" – you will find here "2019-2021 Awards Rules" and "2019-2021 Awards Application Form," including example. Youth Awards & Grants can be found on the same page by choosing from the "Related Menu Items" on the left side of the screen.

Central Region Awards

For 2020 cover projects from September 1, 2019 to August 31, 2020 with applications due to CR Awards Chairman by September 10, 2020. They will be awarded at the 2020 CR Convention in Indiana. Send Applications to CR Awards Chairman:

Diane Neterer

6382 Shady Hills Lane, Fulton, MO 65251
H: 573-310-6062

For more info and a list of awards go to the CR website (www.ngccentralregion.org), at the top menu bar hover over "Information" and choose "CR Awards Guidelines."

Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. (MGC)

All general awards are due to MGC State Awards Chair no later than October 1. When the same project is eligible for various awards do not submit exact duplication of Books of Evidence or awards summary. The text should be written to this specific award requirements.

Sue Soderberg, *Awards Chair*

4600 Acorn Drive
Traverse City, MI 49685
C: 231-257-9811 H: 231-929-1867
sue.soderberg2@gmail.com

MGC presents National, State and Regional Awards at the Annual Business Meeting. Other awards are presented at the District Meetings. For more info and a list of awards, go to the MGC website (michigangardenclubs.org), choose "Awards" from the top menu bar – here you will have all sort of information.

MGC District IIB

Marilyn J. Lee Award for Civic Beautification, which is given twice a year. Deadlines are April 1 and September 1. To download application form go to mgcdistrict2b.weebly.com (password: 2bgardeners). From the menu bar choose "Resources" and than "Forms." For more information call Lois Snover-Hanson, District IIB Flower Show Chair, 517-694-8091.

DISTRICT LEADERSHIP

IIB 2019-2021



LAURA GRAINGER

NEWSLETTER / Social Media

lggrainger@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER & SOCIAL MEDIA PUBLISHING DETAILS

One of the primary goals of the District is to have all our members receive the "IIB District Newsletter," our publication, via e-mail.

If you received the June District newsletter you noticed the layout is a very colorful publication on e-mail. Another advantage -- you will receive it via e-mail before those who get it via snail mail or copies made at your club level.

If you are not already receiving the "District IIB Newsletter" this way, please e-mail the District at DistrictIIB@gmail.com and we will make sure your address gets updated in our database for the next issue to arrive directly to you in your email inbox. Love to hear feedback on what features you would like to see in upcoming publications. We are in the process of determining the publishing schedule so it coincides with the Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. and National Garden Clubs publishing schedule to be able to bring the most relevant information to you.

In this issue you are seeing events, activities and topics that happened in July and August 2019 along with a schedule of upcoming events in the weeks and months ahead. In the months ahead we look forward to connecting with you to introduce ourselves and begin a good flow of communication. We seek to promote and publish your upcoming events weeks and months ahead. I have included the highlights of events and activities in the district we received in the form of articles with photos from your events. We want to promote your upcoming events and include articles and pictures of your clubs activities. If your club creates a yearbook, we can highlight some information about the civic beautification and projects you have.

The deadline for submissions for the next newsletter is Tuesday, October 15, 2019 for first week of November publication release. Send articles that are ready to be published to the District email MIDistrictIIB@gmail.com. **The subject line of the e-mail must read "NEWSLETTER: [Insert Article Name]. Send your article unformatted in the body of the e-mail with attached photos. You may also send in a Microsoft Word document with pictures inserted in the document, unformatted, left justified.** Formatting is tabbing, justifying, indenting, or otherwise putting it into a layout for printing. Send high res .jpg or .png pictures (with naming convention of the subject(s) in the photo, of at least 1mb, with identification.

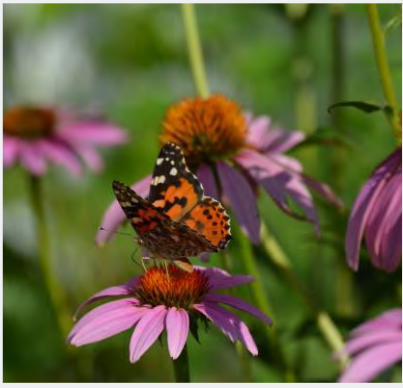
Make sure you have the **MGC/NGC Photo Release** on file for anyone in the photo whose face appears in a submitted photo. Please avoid PDF files. If the original, such as a form, is in Word, send it as is, or convert it into a jpg file. A jpg and is a picture which cannot be edited, but sizes easily. A Word file cannot be sized without scattering but can easily be edited and used as text or changed into jpg if needed. Have your articles in publish ready format with all review and edits done prior to sending.

SOCIAL MEDIA LAUNCH ON FACEBOOK



For those of you on Facebook, the new District Leadership team created a public Page 'Michigan Garden Clubs District IIB' as a place to post your events that are open to the public and to use as a gardening resource. We found that 11 of our 15 clubs are active on Facebook, so we thought we'd create one to connect us. We hope you will use both Facebook and the District IIB newsletter to promote and highlight the great gardening workings of your local club. Thank you for your submissions. Let's get our gardening network growing and blooming!

dISTRICT WEBSITE



PEGGY BRYSON

DISTRICT IIB WebMASTER

plbryson@gmail.com

Since last spring, there have been a lot of changes in club and district officers, membership numbers have fluctuated, and clubs have scheduled programs and events for the 2019-20 fiscal year. We are updating the District IIB website as follows:

Website: mgcdistrict2b.weebly.com

Password: 2bgardeners)

We would appreciate someone in your club reviewing the site's information about the club and letting us know what changes are needed to bring it up to date (member numbers, officers, meeting dates/times/locations, special events).

We'd also appreciate your sharing:

- Your club's meeting schedule and program information for the District event calendar;
- Awards your club has received;
- Photos of club projects and activities that you would like to share with other garden club members (please be sure to have photo releases);
- Your suggestions for additional content and the structure of the site.

For the resources pages, intended to help club officers plan programs and members plan outings:

- your club's program speaker names,
- topics and contact information (for the speaker resources page);
- location of meeting venues that you like;
- field trips that your club has enjoyed;
- local nurseries and garden centers.

Please send the requested information to webmaster Peggy Bryson (plbryso@gmail.com). We appreciate your help in improving the accuracy and relevance of the District website!

POSITIONS & VACANCY STATUS

**WE WELCOME SUPPORT, SKILLS, AND LEADERSHIP TO THE STEERING COMMITTEE.
FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO JOIN OUR TEAM, CONTACT ANY MEMBER OR SEND AN
E-MAIL TO MIDISTRICTIIB@GMAIL.COM**

AWARDS CHAIR - Provides information to District IIB Clubs and individuals regarding available district, state, national, regional awards often working with the MGC Awards Chair. Keeps a record of awards won by individuals and affiliated club in District IIB. *Filled by Jolanta Peituch*

COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR - Handles the incoming and outgoing District e-mail box, Facebook Messenger and liaisons with Steering Committee to provide correspondence with the membership clubs. **VACANCY**

DIRECTOR - Serves on the MGC Board of Directors, communicates with other District Directors and is the official channel of communication between MGC and District IIB and drafts agendas for Steering Committee meetings. *Filled by Anne Crimmins*

EVENTS CHAIR - Manages and leads the planning process for District IIB events. Works closely with individual clubs in hosting future IIB District meetings and events. Attends local club events and provides content for newsletter or works with individual club to obtain an article for the newsletter. **VACANCY**

2020 MGC ANNUAL CONFERENCE CHAIR - Manages and leads the planning process for the 2020 Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. event. *Filled by Ann Schoals*

FUNDRAISING CHAIR - Creates and manages fundraising efforts. **VACANCY**

SECRETARY - Records decisions made at Steering Committee Meetings. **VACANCY**

MEMBER SERVICES CHAIR - District Liaison for IIB member clubs. **VACANCY**

NEWSLETTER EDITOR - Responsible for the content needed for the newsletter managing incoming communications and following up for supporting pictures in the preferred format. *Filled by Ronalee Polad*

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER - Designs newsletter content received and organized by Newsletter Editor. *Filled by Laura Grainger*

DESIGN SERVICES & PRINTING - Manages incoming requests for printing orders for District IIB events, fundraising, and clubs and supplied with District IIB printer, paper, and supplies. **VACANCY**

SOCIAL MEDIA CHAIR - Responsible for the content delivery needed for the District Facebook Page and soon to be released Facebook Group connecting individual members, membership clubs, MGC, NGC and other affiliated and partnership organizations. **VACANCY**

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP CHAIR - Manages group communications, promotion of activities, and writing articles for submission to District IIB for newsletter publication. *Crafters & Photographers SIG filled by Sue Wittick; Designers filled by Kathi Dominguez; Youth Gardening filled by Ronnie Dush; Quilters VACANCY*

WEBSITE ADMINISTRATOR - Manages the content on the Weebly District IIB website uploading and archiving content. *Filled by Peggy Bryson*



Sue Wittick
Chair

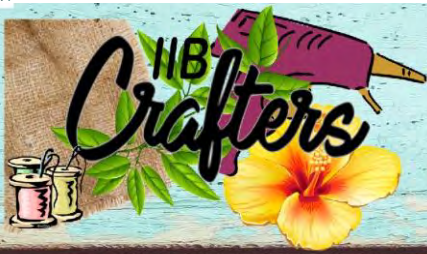
witticks@gmail.com
(517) 242-8259

Leaf casting project

IIB Crafters met on July 10th in the garage of Marlas Greiger (Howell Garden Club) for a delightful morning of leaf casting. Collectively, we made more than 40 cement leaves but most are still waiting for creative applications of paint. Many thanks to Marlas for sharing her knowledge, equipment, supplies, time, and energy with the group. She made the process seem easy and we were all thrilled with the results!



Contact Sue if you would like to join the IIB Crafters Interest Group or have a craft to share.



11B Crafters Kumihimo Workshop

September 26, 1:30 - 3:30
Michigan Nature Association
2310 Science Parkway, Okemos



Led by Sue Wittick
witticks@gmail.com

Kumihimo is a centuries-old Japanese technique for braiding silk strands..

- For a \$6 fee for materials, you will make a beautiful Kumihimo braided necklace from silk cords with colors of your choice.
- All materials will be supplied.
- If you have a pendant to add, bring it along. A pendant is not necessary, however.
- You will take home your own kumihimo disk that you can use over and over to make a variety of other braids.

**Kumihimo is easy, fun and relaxing.
Join us for another crafting adventure and
take home a lovely necklace!**

Contact Sue Wittick to register, witticks@gmail.com, or 517-242-8259.
The workshop date will be selected based on the availability
of those who would like to participate.



PHOTOGRAPHERS



Sue Wittick

Chair

witticks@gmail.com

(517) 242-8259

The IIB Photographers traveled to Howell for a photo field trip to Lynn O'Shaughnessy's home on June 24th. After a delightful morning of strolling through garden paths while snapping pictures left and right, we decided to have another photo challenge. The members who attended could submit only one photo, but the entire membership could select a winning entry. By popular vote, Sue Wittick's photo was chosen for first place. There was a tie for second place with Peggy Fukuda and Lynn Keelan receiving that distinction. The third place designation went to Mary Lemons. All the entries were lovely but only these top choices are shown here. Photography concepts that were evaluated were composition, focus, exposure, perspective, clear subject, leading lines, rule of thirds, HDR, editing techniques.

To join the IIB Photographer's Interest Group, please contact Sue Wittick, witticks@gmail.com, 517-242-8259.



1st Place: Sue Wittick



2nd Place Tie: Peggy Fukuda



2nd Place Tie: Lynn Keenan



3rd Place: Mary Lemons



PHOTOGRAPHERS



Sue Wittick
Chair

witticks@gmail.com
(517) 242-8259

IIB PHOTOGRAPHERS

IIB Photographers took their cameras and cell phones to the MSU Children's and Horticultural Gardens on July 22nd. We were met by Zach Huang, MSU Professor of Entomology, who gave us tips on photographing bees. The group chatted about the experience over lunch at MSU's Brody Cafeteria, the largest non-military cafeteria in the world. It was a delightful morning of flowers, bees, and all the food we could eat! The next meeting for IIB Photographers will be on August 26th, 1:30-3:30 at Michigan Nature Association, 2310 Science Parkway, Okemos. We will be discussing reflective photography as well as finalizing plans for the photography portion of the IIB flower show in March 2020. After the meeting we will take a short walk to the Okemos Library where Julie Turner (Meridian GC) and Wayne Pope (our April 2019 presenter) have their work on display.



Photo Courtesy of Zach Huang



Photo Courtesy of Sue Wittick



Photo Courtesy of Sue Wittick

Contact Sue if you would like to join the IIB Photographers Interest Group, All experience levels are welcome. Hands-on photography field trips and education provided.



YOUTH ACTIVITIES



RONNIE DUSH

Chair

ronniedush@gmail.com

(989) 307-0248

IIB Youth Gardeners' Special Interest Group, met on Tuesday, August 27th at the Dewitt Public Library. A presentation was given to the group of the Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. website highlighting what our members clubs in Michigan are doing concerning Youth Gardening Activities. A tour of the MGC website located the new section dedicated to Youth Gardening activities in Michigan with links to resources you can use.

To see this new section you will need to log into the "members" side of the MGC website. Select the header "Youth Activities. You will notice in the first area a link to the presentation given at the state Convention this past June. there are also some resource connections.

The second part of this labeled "Youth Projects" is where all the activities that clubs are doing with youth is located. As clubs send me the information (with approved pictures) I will be putting them on this website. Note, this is still being developed so sometimes things are not in correct locations and I'm working with the webmaster to make corrections.

There was a lot of discussions about what was shown and they all said it is a great improvement and opportunity for clubs to share ideas with all of MGC clubs and members.

Interestingly, while I was setting up Internet connections with Library staff and explaining to them what this meeting was about, they told me about what the library has just started. They have an area where garden seed packets are made available to kids that include instructions on planting. Currently they have vegetables and herb seeds. They also have a small aquarium where the have butterflies hatching. They have released several so far and only have one in now.

Contact Ronnie if you would like to join the IIB Youth Gardeners Interest Group,

HOWELL GARDEN CLUB

The Howell Garden Club installed two new gardens at the EMS Building in Livingston County this summer. The project started last Fall when committee members Lynn O'Shaughnessy, Marsha DeGroot, Robbie Decker and Kathy Mikuska designed the garden and began planning the installation. The plants were donated by garden club members or from local nurseries: Leppek, Speciality Growers and Christians or bought with a grant from Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. Club members and community volunteers worked hard to install the gardens and plants.



The EMS Building in Livingston County



The Purple coneflowers and blackeyed susan's brighten the native/pollinator garden.



This is the other half. Many of the plants on this side may look smaller now, but once established, will be taller and give some height to this end as well. We moved the 'Welcome' flag to this end for better visibility. The Native/Pollinator Garden is completed with the exception of putting up our "Native Pollinator Garden" sign.

HOWELL GARDEN CLUB



If anyone is out this way,
we would love to have you stop by and visit
our garden and our Children's Garden at EMS!





THE SUNFLOWER HOUSE LEARNING CENTER

as Submitted to Capital Area Master Gardeners August 2019 Newsletter

Youth Garden Club

- No Cost to Participate
- Meets Year-Round
- Seed-to-Table Gardening
- Conservation Methods
- Environmental Awareness
- Civic Beautification
- Community Network



Growing Sunflowers from the Ground up

By Laura Grainger

Member, Mason Sycamore Creek Garden Club

Member, District IIB Steering Committee

Member, Capital Area Master Gardeners

When you think of gardening in August in Michigan, it's uncommon not to include the sunflower. No other flower says Americana than the sunflower. It's a million smiling faces as you pass by a field of them. They are bright and cheery, and as warm and inviting as the sweet summer sun.

With brilliant yellow petals, also known as "rays," sunflowers have an unmistakable sun-like appearance that has made them a crowd favorite, especially in the summer months.

Sunflowers come in a number of varieties—ranging from small to very large, from having yellow petals to red. Sunflowers vary in height from miniature size of two feet to the mammoth variety they can grow to be ten feet tall. However, there is more to sunflowers than meets the eye. While they are stunningly beautiful, they also are rich in history and meaning.

Sunflowers originated in the Americas in 1,000 B.C., and were then cultivated as a valuable food source for centuries. With the European exploration of the New World, the flower's popularity spread, as the rest of the world began to appreciate its beauty and sustenance.

Seeds of Knowledge

Artists throughout history loved the sunflower's unique splendor—those of the Impressionist era were especially fixated on the flower like the famous paintings you have seen by Vincent van Gogh. The use of sunflower images as religious symbols has also been documented in some native societies. Wild sunflowers are often photographed with their tall stalks and bright petals stretched towards the sun. This interesting behavior, known as phototropism, inspired a motif that has appeared in many ancient works.

Today, sunflowers remain a highly recognized flower, admired for its sunny charm and delightful disposition. These beauties are also still sourced for their seeds, as well as oils used for cooking and skin emollients. For a flower that reflects so many of the sun's positive characteristics, it isn't surprising that people enjoy basking in the sunflower's warming glow so much.

In April 2018, the Sunflower Youth Garden Club & Sunflower House Learning Center program was born through support by the Mason Sycamore Creek Garden Club (MSCGC). It is a free community-based program for up to thirty children in 2nd through 5th grades. The mission of the program is to cultivate healthy children, families and community through educational programs, the profound act of connecting youth and families with gardening and conservation issues.



The Sunflower House Learning Center was created in partnership with the Mason Historical Society and established on the grounds of The 1854 Historic Pink School House in Mason, Michigan. The goal of the program was outreach to youth population in our community at an age appropriate level for encouraging hands-on activities in the areas of gardening, environmental awareness, and everyday application.

By offering and encouraging families to learn and share their experiences together we believe participants in this program will learn about planting the right plants in the right place, the role of pollinators, and the conservation of soil and water. The program provides education on harvesting, preparing for the next growing season by saving seeds for spring planting, and bulb storage during the non-growing season. Learning historical information, participating in community events, providing hands-on activity sessions with garden tools in the soil and decorating with natural garden elements is also a feature of the program.



This program demonstrates "Seed-to-Table" gardening, native tree planting, seeds saving processes, education on pollinator's role in food growth and interaction in our food chain, soil conservation, composting, "Lasagna Gardening" by Michigan State University Extension and soil and watershed conservation by Ingham Conservation District (ICD) where we received a grant for four rain barrels to demonstrate rain catchment to water youth garden areas

We obtained National Garden Club Incentive to teach youth about "Rainbow Gardening" and registered with National Garden Club's "Million Youth Pollinator Garden" Program.

In 2018, an application to have this youth project approved for Master Gardner re-certification hours was granted. In 2019 we expanded the number of raised garden beds to seven. The sunflower planting bed was also raised with bench seating for the children. This growing season the program is growing a variety of tomatoes, onions, radishes, lettuces, peppers, potatoes, peas, mini pumpkins, squash, and herbs. To label our plantings we were granted plant stake signage by Capital Area Master Gardeners. The sign gives the botanical name, the common name, months it blooms, and color to identify.



Major funding for this project was made possible through building and selling songbird nesting boxes based on a design from the Department of Natural Resources website and the Audubon Society and Bluebird Society. Additionally, the raised garden beds were made possible through a grant offered by the Capital Area Master Gardeners and Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. District IIB.

This program would not be possible if it had not been for the support of the Sunflower Youth Garden Club team members, the support of the Mason Sycamore Creek Garden Club, local business and support from organizations like Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc., District IIB, Michigan State University-Extension and the Capital Area Master Gardeners.

The seeds of knowledge have been planted in this program for the foundation to grow and bloom into something beautiful with lifelong benefit and impact. This program is the model that can easily be replicated and demonstrates the power of joining forces with garden organizations and the support of a community.



MERIDIAN GARDEN CLUB

Sunshine and Shadows of the Garden Flower Show

Submitted by Sue Wittick

Meridian Garden Club members created a flower show in early June that featured hosta and iris. The event was staged at an iris farm where we enjoyed a tour, the show, a potluck lunch, and a lovely day together. Our show uniquely included designs floating on the pond and a display of quilts that were hand-made by Linda Mogyoros. Special thanks are due to Lois Snover-Hanson for her creative ideas and for chairing the show!

Participants: Meridian GC: Carole Armstrong, Mary Ballard, Kris BeLonge, Peggy Bryson, Diane Flatley, Sheila Flynn, Lois Snover-Hanson, MaryLou Hatfield, Colleen Hyslop, Marty LeJeune, Sue Lohman, Linda Mogyoros, Sue Nieland, JoAnn Peterson, Jolanta Piecuch, Melody Potter, Emma Reardon, JoEllyn Roe, Lorrie Schartow, Nirmala Shah, Martha Shortledge-White, Katie Steinacker, Georgia Styka, Jodie Szalankiecz, Jo-anne Tuttle, Mary Weathers, Sue Wittick

Guests: Jenny Bond (GC Greater Lansing), Barbara Coey, Kathi Dominguez (DeWitt Millennium GC), Lynda Foster (Williamston RC GC)

Blue ribbons for Horticulture were won by: Peggy Bryson, Barbara Coey, Kathi Dominguez (DeWitt Millennium GC), Lynda Foster (Williamston Red Cedar GC), MaryLou Hatfield, Colleen Hyslop, Marty LeJeune, Linda Mogyoros, JoAnn Peterson, Jolanta Piecuch, Melody Potter, Emma Reardon, Jodie Szalankiecz, Lorrie Schartow, Lois Snover-Hanson, Katie Steinacker, Sue Wittick

Blue ribbons for Design were won by: Mary Ballard, Jolanta Piecuch, Jodie Szalankiecz

Award of Merit for Horticulture: Lois Snover-Hanson

Best in Show for Design: Jolanta Piecuch

Judges: Jenny Bond (GC Greater Lansing), Kathi Dominguez (DeWitt Millennium GC), Lynda Foster (Williamston Red Cedar GC)



Best in Show for Design

Jolanta Piecuch
Williamston RC GC
Meridian GC

THE GARDEN CLUB OF GREATER LANSING

Dedication of the Scott Sunken Garden - July 10, 2019

Many members of the Greater Lansing attended the dedication of the rebuilt Scott Sunken Garden. The Italian style sunken garden is a visually beautiful reminder of Lansing's history. It was created by the prominent Lansing businessman and philanthropist, Richard H. Scott, as a showplace for beautiful plants in the early 1900s. It was restored in the 1980s by the Garden Club of Greater Lansing, and since its restoration, the Sunken Garden had been maintained by the Garden Club. In 2017 the City of Lansing approved the construction of a Board of Water and Light substation on the site of the garden. The garden has been rebuilt between Cooley Gardens and the new substation. It was dedicated on July 10, 2019 along with the new BWL substation. The garden was rebuilt exactly as it was at the old location with many of the same plants. The plants we stored in the Cooley Gardens through the construction period. The last photo is of the old garden.



WILLIAMSTON RED CEDAR GARDEN CLUB



A Native Flower Walk along the Red Cedar River

Bill Schnieder of WildType, Inc.

Dave Reikosky, The Monarch Watch Project

Submitted by Carol Grainger

President, Williamston Red Cedar Garden Club



On Monday, July 22nd, the Williamston Red Cedar Garden Club provided a tour of Williamston city's conservation project along the banks of the Red Cedar River. Bill Scheider, of WildType, Inc., Mason, Michigan, led a casual walk along the river front in McCormick Park. The native wildflowers and prairie plants, which WildType, Inc. has managed at this location for many years, were identified and explained during the tour.

As Bill explained, not all plants along the river were put there by WildType, Inc. Some came up on their own after the initial burn and planting. These plants are "welcomed" species and native to the area, they were left alone and are managed along with the plantings that were placed there. The goals were to reduce the goose population that was making a mess of the river banks, reduce erosion, and to conserve on the expense of mowing. The project accomplished all three while giving the river banks a beautiful natural seasonal appeal. People come to walk along the river just to look at the flowers that bloom – wild and natural.

Bill provided an interesting walking educational tour with a splash of humor. Over 50 participants were invited to ask questions and make comments. Bill started WildType in 1996 and his vision has grown into a full-time operation of wild types on 10 acres in Mason. His idea was to produce native plants with genetic diversity to produce self-sustaining populations to conserve the species. This dedication to diversity and native species preservation helps to protect Michigan's natural landscape. Bill's presentation was attended by another advocate for natural preservation and a monarch program champion, Dave Reicosky. Dave has been instrumental in moving the Milkweed Project for the Monarch Butterfly and was the lead in the Monarch Habitat Improvement Planting in Hartwick Park. He acquired a grant from Monarch Watch for free flats of milkweed, a plant needed for Monarch caterpillar survival. This project involves the participation of 100 Bennett Woods Elementary third-grade students, teachers and parent volunteers.

It is the passion that these two men have for establishing native pollinator plants that will increase awareness and efforts to provide self-sustaining environments for our pollinating birds and insects. For more information, visit WildType, Inc. at www.WildTypePlants.com, Mid-Michigan Milkweed Seed Bank at www.mynaturecenter.org/org/monarchhouse To learn how to collect and grow milkweeds to help Monarchs and other pollinators, you can also find great information on the MSU Extension website.



WILLIAMSTON RED CEDAR GARDEN CLUB



National Nite Out

Submitted By Carol Grainger
President, Williamston Red Cedar Garden Club



National Night Out is an annual community-building event that Williamston promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. This was Williamston's 10th annual National Night Out. This important program helps strengthen police and community partnership and heighten criminal and drug prevention awareness. It also sends a message to criminals that we have neighborhoods organized and fighting back by giving law enforcement, citizens, businesses and neighborhoods a chance to come together for an evening of fun.

This huge event held annually in McCormick Park is to get people to socially connected with each other and learn what organizations and resources are available in our area. With the positive influence of the civic service providers, hundreds of people flock to the park for the hours of 3-9:00 PM. The event was totally free and food was provided for a picnic supper. Many activities for old and young alike are provided by area businesses and organizations. Donations were made by area organizations, businesses and citizens to help in the cost of hosting the event. Additionally, the event was made possible by the many volunteers from different organizations and the Williamston High School honor students.

This year's event proved to be an enormous success with more representation from service groups, churches, business, military groups, schools and governments. Give-away items were offered by many of these representatives, as well as the opportunity to engage in organized activities. The volleyball court was full and the auto show competition was a highlight with more entries than ever before. Vernon Cobb's horse drawn wagon rides went non-stop for the six hours.

The Williamston Red Cedar Garden Club provided an opportunity for people to come by and talk with garden experts, obtain information for MSU Smart Gardening garden care, mulching, tree trimming and more and to take seed packets for their favorite garden plants. This year, we were able to connect with some new volunteers and member prospects. This event proves to be a priceless opportunity to reach out and recruit people to get involved.





DISTRICT IIB GARDEN CLUBS ARE HOSTING

**"POLLINATOR GARDEN THYME IN MICHIGAN"
2020 ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE**

ALL MEMBER CLUBS PARTICIPATION IS NEEDED
TO HELP THE DISTRICT MAKE THIS A SUCCESSFUL EVENT

DISTRICT IIB WILL BE POSTING EVENT UPDATES AND VOLUNTEER AREAS NEEDED
IN FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

CURRENTLY SEEKING IIB MEMBER CLUB(S) TO

**CREATE 25 TABLE ARRANGEMENTS
FOR BREAKFAST & LUNCH**

PARTNER WITH ANOTHER CLUB, MAKE ONE ARRANGEMENT OR MAKE
MINOR CHANGES TO BE USED FOR BOTH MEALS

THE THEME IS HERBS AND POLLINATORS

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN DONATING
YOUR TIME & TALENT TO HELP MAKE THE EVENT A SUCCESS

CONTACT ANN SCHOALS

(517) 281-1101

BATHIEN@FRONTIER.COM

**PARTICIPATING CLUBS WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A
PERCENTAGE OF SALES PROFIT FROM THE EVENT**



DISTRICT IIB FALL MEETING

DISTRICT IIB FALL MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2019
8:00 AM – 3:30 PM



*BETTER PLANTS
FROM THE GROUND UP!*

- WHERE:** AgroLiquid Conference Center
1130 S. DeWitt Rd., St. Johns, MI (Easy access from US 127)
- WHEN:** Registration, Light Breakfast and Coffee 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM
Vendors and Silent Auction 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM
Program 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
- Cost:** \$25 – Includes Coffee, light breakfast and lunch
- Morning:** Announcements, IIB Business meeting and Morning Fun – a Jeopardy-style game show testing your knowledge of soil and cultivation through a mixture of game show type questions and challenges. Let the games begin!
- Afternoon:** **Secrets of the Soil** Speaker Jon Dahl, Senior Specialist and Manager of the MSU Soil and Plant Nutrient Lab will speak to us about building better plants. Jon brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to help ground us in our horticultural endeavors.

REGISTRATION DETAILS:

Registration forms and registration information will be sent to the Club Presidents.

Registration opens – August 1, 2019, Closing Deadline is September 27, 2019

Space is limited to the first 150 people signing up.

Cancellations received after October 4 will not be refunded per MGC, INC. Policy

Registration questions?

Judy Koos, Registrar auntholly@aunthollyskitchen.com 517-669-5433

Terri Tomak, Co-Chair, terrird@gmail.com 517-669-8662

Kristine Soderberg, Kristine@becka.us 517-331-0717



Fall District IIB Silent Auction Donation

It is with great excitement, as we approach the Fall District IIB meeting, we invite you to participate in this special event by donating to the silent auction.

Whether as a club or individual we hope you can let your imagination run wild and create the most tempting auction item.

We are suggesting you keep the value less than \$70.00. This allows more members to be able to participate in the bidding.

Please fill out the information below for the donation and bring the item and the form with you to the District IIB meeting. If you could please send a duplicate of the form below to me prior to the meeting, we will have a better idea of how many auction items we have. We will also need a detailed description of your action item (items) to attach to the outside of your item. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Deadline for auction donation is September 20, 2019.

Thank you,

Peggy Brown, Auction Chair
DeWitt Millennium Garden Club
iqueen2@aol.com
517-290-3691

Name: _____

Club Name: _____

Item Description: _____

Retail value: \$ _____

MILKWEED POD COLLECTION INITIATIVE



REGIONAL MILKWEED POD COLLECTION

AUGUST-OCTOBER 2019

This fall, we need your help to collect milkweed pods from Ingham, Clinton, Eaton, Ionia, and Shiawassee counties for our Mid-Michigan Milkweed Seed Bank. The pods you collect will be dried and emptied of seeds that will be available for local, state, and national conservation projects.

How to collect pods:

Remove brown, dry pod from plant. Seeds inside should be dark brown or black. Place pod in paper bag. Keep pods from different milkweed species in separate bags. Attach donation slip.

Where to bring your pods:

Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E Mount Hope Avenue, Lansing, MI 48910

Local Collection Drop-Off: Sleepy Hollow State Park Office, 7835 Price Rd, Laingsburg, MI 48848

For more information:

Visit mynaturecenter.org/monarchhouse or call us at 517.483.4224



Regional Milkweed Pod Collection Donation Slip

Name: _____ Email/Phone: _____

Date Collected: _____ Location Collected: _____

Species: _____

DISTRICT IIB EVENT LISTING

DISTRICT IIB MEMBER CLUB MONTHLY MEETINGS

Looking Glass Garden Club	1st Monday
Webberville Garden Club	1st Wednesday
The Garden Club of Greater Lansing	2nd Monday
Williamston Red Cedar Garden Club	2nd Monday
Across the Fence Post Garden Club	2nd Tuesday
Mason Sycamore Creek Garden Club	2nd Tuesday
Hartland Home & Garden Club	2nd Wednesday
Dewitt Millennium Garden Club	2nd Thursday
Brighton Garden Club	2nd Thursday
Meridian Garden Club	3rd Monday
Marshall Home & Garden Club	3rd Tuesday
Howell Garden Club	3rd Wednesday
Grand Ledge Garden Club	4th Tuesday

DISTRICT IIB STEERING COMMITTEE MONTHLY MEETINGS

Meets every 3rd Wednesday at 1:00 PM, Michigan Nature Association, Okemos, MI

MICHIGAN GARDEN CLUBS, INC. 2020 CONFERENCE STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Meets Monthly

Contact Ann Schoals to help create a wonderful event hosted by District IIB!

Pre-Conference, Conference, and Post--Conference support is needed.

(517) 281-1101 OR BATHIEN@FRONTIER.COM

Send us your event dates, project news, and photo highlights - we'd love to feature them in an upcoming newsletters! "Like" and "Share" your public events on Facebook!!

DISTRICT IIB SPECIALTY INTEREST GROUPS

IIB Crafters

Meets 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

Michigan Nature Association, Science Parkway, Okemos, MI.

IIB Designers

Meets 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

Michigan Nature Association, Science Parkway, Okemos, MI.

October 23, 2019 - Low Profile Design

February 19, 2020 - Duo Design; orchids pick up

April 22, 2020 – A design to interpret a piece of art

July 15, 2020 – Creative Line Design (Planning for the next year MSU Flower Show)

October 21, 2020 – Parallel Design

IIB Photographers Monthly Meeting

Meets every 4th Monday, 1:30 PM

Michigan Nature Association, Science Parkway, Okemos, MI.

September 23, 2019

October 28, 2019

November 25, 2019

December 23, 2019

January 27, 2020

February 24, 2020

March 23, 2020

April 27, 2020

May 25, 2020

IIB Youth Gardeners

Quarterly Meetings, Location Varies

August 27, 2019, 6:30 PM, Dewitt Public Library, Fiesta LaCharra Dinner at 5:30 PM

DISTRICT EVENT LISTING

DISTRICT IIB SEASONAL EVENTS

December 7, 2019

Garden Club of Greater Lansing

Public Greens Market Hand made wreaths, swags, boxwood trees and fresh greens arrangements.

9:00 AM to Noon

Grace United Methodist Church, 1900 Boston Blvd, Lansing, MI 48910



86th ANNUAL HOLIDAY GREENS MARKET



UPCOMING CONFERENCES / CONVENTIONS / SHOWS

October 7-8, 2019

87th Central Region Garden Clubs Inc., Convention

"Come See How Missouri Blooms"

Sheraton Westport Lakeside Chalet, St. Louis, MO

October 15, 2019

District IIB Fall Meeting

"Better Plants from the Grounds Up"

AgroLiquid, 1130 S. DeWitt Rd., St. Johns, MI

February 22-23, 2020

Greater Lansing Orchid Society Orchid Show & Sale

Michigan State University, Plant and Soil Science Conservatory

East Lansing, MI

March 12-15, 2020

District IIB Standard Flower Show

(Combined with the Lansing Home & Garden Show)

"Lost in a Good Book"

MSU Pavillion, East Lansing, MI

May 12-16, 2020

91st National Garden Club Convention "Perfect Vision 2020"

Potawatomi Hotel and Casino, 1611 West Canal Street, Milwaukee, WI

June 2020

Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. Annual Conference

June 12-13, 2020

Master Gardner College / Michigan State University-Extension

Kellogg Center, East Lansing, MI

Join your fellow Extension Master Gardener Volunteers, trainees and gardening enthusiasts as they converge upon Michigan State University's campus for the 2020 Master Gardener College. Questions Regarding Master Gardener College?

Contact Betsy Braid at (517) 884-7081, braidbet@msu.edu.

DISTRICT RESOURCES



NATIONAL

WWW.GARDENCLUB.ORG

Username: member

Password: conserve



MICHIGAN

www.michigangardenclubs.org

Username: member

Password: mgcgrow



REGION

www.NGCCENTRALREGION.ORG

Password: 7states



RESOURCE & contact information

<https://mgcdistrict2b.weebly.com>

Password: 2bgardeners



Michigan Garden Clubs District IIB

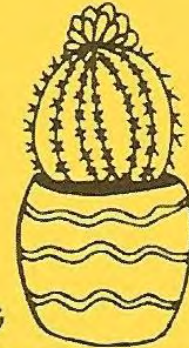
We've created a Facebook Page (for the Public) launched in June 2019
A Facebook Group (exclusive for District IIB Members) available November 2019 once club rosters are verified by the State. We noticed 11 of our 15 member clubs have a page or group. You're invited to "Like" or "Share" your Public event dates, project news, gardening articles and event photo highlights to the Facebook Page!

The Next District IIB Newsletter will release November 2019.
Items and articles need to be received to MidistrictIIB@gmail.com no later than October 15, 2019 to be included. We want to hear from you!

AREA EVENTS OF INTEREST

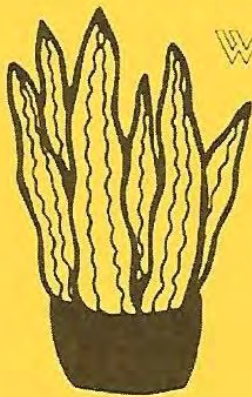
Fourth Annual

HOUSEPLANT & SUCCULENT SALE



WHAT: PLANT SALE FUNDRAISER FEATURING SUCCULENTS, AIR PLANTS, AND OTHER HOUSEPLANTS

WHEN: NOVEMBER 2nd, 2019, 8AM-4PM



WHERE: MSU HORTICULTURE GARDENS
1066 BOGUE STREET
PLANT & SOIL SCIENCES BLDG
EAST LANSING, MI, 48824

