

Víckie Vandenbelt

WIIB Member of the Month

Vickie says, "I joined the Mason Sycamore Creek Garden Club because I liked what they were doing around Mason and I felt it was important. I have not been able to contribute a great deal of physical labor to their projects. But, I



felt the least I could do would be to support them financially by paying dues."

Vickie started gardening around the age of six. "My mom had large

flower beds and a vegetable garden plot on a double city lot. I was always in the gardens helping her and playing in the dirt. So, she gave me a 6 foot by 2 foot plot at one end of the vegetable garden to plant some flowers. I started with rows of moss roses, marigolds, zinnias and snapdragons - and I've been playing in the dirt ever since."

Vickie retired at the age of 56 so that she could become a "professional volunteer" as she put it. "The first thing I did was start getting my neglected flower beds back in shape." She currently has four main flower beds and a 30x60foot vegetable garden plot. "I

don't do planned or formatted gardens. I plant things I like and watch them grow." In recent years, she has been planting a lot more native perennials and plants that are favored by hummingbirds, butterflies and bees -

including adding Dutch White Clover into the lawn.

Vickie is involved with several community organizations. Her husband is a general aviation pilot, so they are both active with the Experimental Aviation Association Chapter 55 at Mason Jewett Airport. She also helps as a volunteer at the Mason Area Chamber of Commerce and is an active member of the Friends of the Leslie Library. Vickie said she has been organizing monthly gatherings for her graduating class for several years now, and this year took on additional responsibilities for the East Jackson High School Alumni Group. She stated "When I get overwhelmed with too many commitments - I just step back, stay home and play in the dirt".

To sum things up, Vickie shared her favorite poem:

A Gardener's Poem:

The kiss of the sun for pardon, The song of the birds for mirth. One's nearer God's heart in a garden Than any place else on earth.

- Dorothy Frances Gurney





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

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

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

Sue Wittick, Meridian Garden Club, 517-242-8259, <u>witticks@gmail.com</u>, 4103 Breakwater Drive, Okemos, 48864-4413 - Communications, Newsletter, Graphics & Printing, Interest Groups

Any IIB club member is welcome to attend District IIB Steering Committee meetings. The next IIB Steering Committee Meeting will be March 18, 12:30 pm, Michigan Nature Association, 2310 Science Parkway, Okemos. Any IIB member is welcome to attend!

District IIB Steering Committee Member News

Lynn Keelan, District Director

Welcome March! I must confess I played hooky from Michigan for the whole month of February. My husband's youngest daughter, her husband, a seven year old granddaughter, and her four year old brother were the focus of our North Carolina trip. It sure didn't hurt to savor blooming trees, daffodils, pansies and forsythia instead of snow. We saw a hillside planted with cherry trees in memory of Davidson Garden Club members, and the trees were all in bloom! Returning to our home always feels good though, and our cat missed us.

I hope many of you were able to see the Orchid Show at MSU. I'm sure it was lovely and a mood brightener. Thanks to the many IIB members that helped make the show a success.

I must get busy with my entries for the IIB Spring Flower Show, *Gourmet Gardening*. This is the first our theme has included food. Please visit the fabulous Lansing Home and Garden Show too - you won't be disappointed. Besides our talented members displaying horticulture, floral design, and photography, the vendors and landscape companies display some wonderful exhibits. Thank you to the many members and spouses that stage this event and the committee members that always come through to make it fun.

In April, I will attend the quarterly MGC Board Meeting and, hopefully, our new District Director will be in place. With the other members of our Steering Committee, I look forward to mentoring our new leaders. We anticipate a smooth transition, with harmony and new friendships.

Barb Ketchum, Events, Member Services

Spring is coming and I am looking forward to seeing you at the IIB *Swing Into Spring* Event on April 18th! Your club president has registration information. Join your friends from IIB to hear Dan Ingram from Bordine's Nursery in Brighton tell us all about the latest and greatest in plants for 2019. After lunch, Lois Snover-Hansen will lead us in designing a floral make and take, while teaching us the tricks of the floral designer's trade!



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

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Peggy Bryson (continued)

Peggy Bryson, Treasurer, Website Administrator



The District has funded its first Grow and Share grant! Congratulations to the Mason Sycamore Creek Garden Club on being awarded a grant for improvement of its youth gardening program facilities. There are still funds available this fiscal year, and \$600 is budgeted for grants in fiscal 2019-20. Forms and instructions for applying for the grants can be found in the Resources section of mgcdistrict2b.weebly.com.

Don't forget to check the District website periodically for announcements, upcoming meetings and events, and information on interest groups, flower shows, fundraising and a host of other

useful items. For example, if you are planning to show your IIB spirit at Swing Into Spring, the fun district event on April 18, and you don't already have a IIB tee, you can find ordering information on the site's home page (near the bottom of the page). You can always find current and back issues of the District newsletter in the District News section. Planning a field trip? There are lists of nurseries and public gardens to spark interest in the Resources section. If you know of a resource or event that should be featured on the District website, please send the information to me at <u>plbryso@gmail.com</u>.

Sue Wittick, Communications, Fund Raising, Interest Groups

I love flower shows! It was such fun to co-chair the "Symphony of Orchids" Flower Show with Jenny Bond. Bouquets of thanks are due to everyone who entered and helped in any way to make it a success. Now I get to turn my attention to the "Gourmet Gardening" Flower Show. With a name like that, it's bound to be unique and well-attended. Even if you haven't entered the show before, dust off a houseplant or two from your kitchen counter and fill out some entry cards. You will be glad you did, and so will everyone else!



I'm excited that a new IIB leadership team will be meeting this month to talk about organization of their Steering Committee for 2019-2020. It's a talented group of volunteers and our district should be in great shape. Thanks to each of them for stepping forward!

This issue of *The IIB Gardener* is filled with references to spring, which is really coming on March 20th, despite some setbacks in the weather. It's time to pore through those gardening catalogs and pick our plants for your personal and community gardens. After you have decided, consider purchasing some garden signs from District IIB. They are attractive, rust-proof, educational, and you can use them over and over. It's a win-win for you, the public, and District IIB! Ordering information can be found on the IIB website.

Our Interest Groups are alive and well. The photography, crafting, and youth gardening groups are meeting almost every month. What fun to share ideas and learn new techniques from like-minded fellow gardeners! Join any of the scheduled activities whenever you would like—every group is open to new members.

Last month I challenged the interest groups to contribute something to IIB fundraising and the photographers have stepped up to the plate. We will be selling IIB notecards featuring members' photos at our district event on April 18th. We also have a generous supply of the cute bee pins and earrings (that would look great with your new IIB t-shirt). If you would like to volunteer to help with sales, please let me know.

Please don't forget to tell me what your clubs are doing. Your articles are needed in this newsletter to inspire activities in other clubs. Also, don't forget to send me contact information for your new members so I can add them to my distribution list. I hope you are taking steps to ensure that members who do not have e-mail addresses also receive copies of this newsletter. We don't want anyone to miss out because they weren't informed!



The IIB Gardener, March 2019

IIB Interest Groups

IIB Photographers





The group met on February 25th to study winter photography as presented by Lynn O'Shaughnessy and Sue Wittick. Challenge photos were submitted for still life photography and the winning photo by popular vote was taken by Brigitta Bruning.



Brigitta Bruning's still-life photo For the **Challenge Competition** at the next meeting, members may submit an un-framed, and un-matted 5"x7" winter photo.

The group's next meeting will be on **March 25th** at 1:30 at Michigan Nature Association, 2310 Science Parkway, Okemos, with a guest speaker yet to be announced. To join the IIB Photographers Interest Group, contact Sue Wittick, 517-242-8259, witticks@gmail.com.



IIB Crafters

This group will meet on March 20th, 1:30-3:30 pm to create gift bags from old gardening calendars or magazines. Our presenter will be Peggy Fankhauser (Meridian GC). If you are interested in attending or would like to join the IIB Crafters Interest Group, contact Sue Wittick, 5172428259, witticks@gmail.com



IIB Desígners

The group met on February 20th to explore the Botanical Arts "freedom of style" designs. This is the only class where fresh plant material can be painted, shined, or glittered!

Examples of creations from this session are pic-tured.

To join this interest group, contact Kathi Dominquez, <u>dominguezk@comcast.net</u> or 517-669-5112.





Design by Kathi Dominguez



Design by Terri Tomak



Design by Jolanta Piecuch

IIB Youth Gardeners

This group will meet on March 11th for dinner at Spagnuolo's Restaurant, 662 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos, 5:00-6:00 pm. The group will also attend the bluebird program sponsored by the Williamston Red Cedar GC on the same date, 6:30-8:00 pm.



To join the IIB Youth Gardeners Interest Group, contact Ronnie Dush, ronniedush@gmail.com, 989-307-0248.



IIB Quilters

This group is currently seeking a leader (or co-leaders). To volunteer or to join the group, please contact Sue Wittick, witticks@gmail.com, 517-242-8259.

The IIB Gardener, March 2019

a Symphony of Orchids



Jenny Bond and Sue Wittick co-chaired the "Symphony of Orchids" Flower Show in conjunction with the Greater Lansing Orchid Society (GLOS) Show and Sale at MSU, February 23-24. Thirty-eight designs were entered and the following IIB clubs were represented: DeWitt Millennium GC, The Garden Club of Greater Lansing, Meridian GC, Williamston Red Cedar GC.

Blue ribbons were won by Jenny Bond (Greater Lansing), Kathi Dominguez (DeWitt), Rita Ghose (Meridian), Jolanta Piecuch (Meridian and Williamston), and Sue Wittick (Meridian.)



Jolanta Piecuch's entry of a "creative line design with wood" won the Marilyn Lee Award for best amateur design, and the Popular Vote Award.



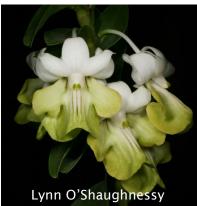
Sue Wittick's headband entered in the "personal adornments" category won a "Special" GLOS ribbon.

Dennis Banning, designer at Van Atta's won the GLOS trophy for "Best Orchids in Use" by a professional floral designer.



Diane Flatley's (Meridian) multirhythmic design won the GLOS trophy for "Best Orchids in Use."





IIB members Jolanta Piecuch, Lynn O'Shaughnessy (Howell), Julie Turner (Meridian), and Sue Wittick also entered photography in the Arts portion of the GLOS show. Lynn won both blue and yellow ribbons in "color photography" and Jolanta won a red ribbon in "black and white photography."



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



Central Region, NGC ENTRAL ENTRAL EXCON Login: member



MGC District IIB https://mgcdistrict2b.weebly.com/ Password: 2bgardeners



www.michigangardenclubs.org Login: member Password: mgcgrow

Lois Snover-Hanson, Flower Show Chair

It is only two weeks to our District IIB Gourmet Gardening Flower Show at the MSU Pavilion. I hope you are busy creating lovely designs and sprucing up your plants to show quality! We need your contributions and there are 33 horticulture classes to match every plant in your home and yard. If you don't have a show schedule, you can find one on the IIB Website—select "District News" and scroll down to "Flower Shows." See previous page for website login information.



Set-up will be Wednesday. March 13th, beginning at noon. If you have some time, please come and help! Bring any pictures, posters, and knick-knacks related to the show theme that could provide atmosphere to the show.

You may submit your entries on Wednesday, March 13th, from 3:30-6:30 pm or on Thursday, March 14th, from 8:30



-10:30 am. Everything must be in place by 10:30 so that judging can begin on time. No entries can be removed prior to 5:00 pm on Sunday. March 17th.

We enjoyed a very successful "Symphony of Orchids" Flower Show at MSU in February. Thanks are due to co-chairs Jenny Bond and Sue Wittick, who worked diligently to make it lovely, to all the designers who entered the show and to Marie Smith, Lisa Emerson, and myself who judged the show and to our clerk, Diane Flatley.

Already, we are looking forward to the next flower show in our district. It will be a June event at an iris farm in Okemos. You can start thinking about spring flowers!

Kathi Dominguez, Hospitality Chair

Here are the dates and times where we really need HOSTS for the March 14-17 District IIB Flower Show at the MSU Pavilion:

- Thursday 3/14/19 6:15 pm 9:00 pm Need two or more HOSTS 3/15/19 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm Friday
- 6:00 pm 9:00 pm 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm Saturdav 3/16/19 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
- Need two or more HOSTS Need one or more HOSTS Need one or more HOSTS Need one or more HOSTS

Please contact Kathi Dominguez, dominguezk@comcast.net, 517-927-4665 (cell), or 517-669-5112 (home). Your help is greatly appreciated.

Jean Goetz, MGC Second Vice-President

Promoting the Black Swallowtail at the Lansing Home and Garden Show



Spring is coming! Be a believer!

A great way to anticipate warmer weather and new beginnings is to attend the Lansing Home and Garden Show at the MSU Pavilion on Farm Lane, March 14-17, 2019. In addition to ideas for home improvement projects, you can view our beautiful, District IIB Flower Show near the entrance.

Once again MGC members will be staffing a Black Swallowtail pollinator booth #3003 on the south side of the building near Door R. We will be sharing information about the importance of pollinators and advocating for the Black Swallowtail to become our Michigan State Butterfly. Free educational brochures, a shopping list featuring host and nectar plants, butterfly fans for children, and Black Swallowtail pins will be available.

We expect to have a new Black Swallowtail Senate Bill number to share with everyone. Keep sending those letters and signatures of support, and we will succeed.

Stop by and say hello to the Meridian Garden Club members who are working a shift!

The IIB Gardener, March 2019



Announcing a Very Important New Benefit for All M.GC, Inc M.ember Clubs

At the November 8, 2018 MGC Board of Directors Meeting the board approved expanding the MGC Commercial General Liability Policy to include <u>all member clubs in good standing</u> as of the policy date of October 21, 2018. This change now covers member clubs against claims made by non-members (the public) attending a club meeting or event or damages to the event facility as a result of actions by MGC or its member clubs. The policy underwriter is West Bend Insurance Company which is the largest provider of non-profit insurance in the country.

Korotkin Insurance Group, one of the largest privately-owned independent agencies in Michigan, will manage the policy. Jeff Belen, a principal with KIG, and an attorney considered a state specialist in non-profit insurance matters, will lead the team to provide service to MGC and our member clubs.

<u>All clubs are covered</u>; your club is not required to be a 501(c)(3), 501(c) (4) or 501(c) (7) organization or a member of the MGC GTEP

News from IIB Clubs

Williamston Red Cedar Garden Club

BLUEBIRD PROGRAM

or registered as a non-profit with the State of Michigan to be included. The only two requirements for this first policy year are timely payment of club dues to MGC, Inc. and continued support of the MGC Mission.

For this first policy year **effective October 21, 2018-October 21, 2019** the MGC Board agreed that all member clubs would be covered, regardless of whether the club currently has an individual or group liability policy, and that the premium for the MGC Commercial Group Liability Policy would be paid for by MGC, Inc.

Additional details regarding event coverage guidelines, as well as a proof of insurance certificate will be available on the member-side of the MGC website.

The MGC, Inc., contact is Nancy Ryan, MGC Finance Chair (<u>n.j.ryan@comcast.net</u>) and the KIG contact (all insurance related questions) is Jeff Belen (jeffb@getkig.com).

Carol Sue Brodbeck MGC President *Plant America: "Grow & Share:"*





The Wiliamston Red Cedar Garden Club will host an event on **Monday, March 11 at 6:30 p.m.** at the Williamstown Township Hall, 4990 Zimmer Rd., Williamston. The topic of the program is the Eastern Bluebird including its life cycle, habitat and nesting preferences. Tips will be offered regarding nesting box placement, management and issues with predators and competition. The presenter will be Earl Wolf (Williamston Red Cedar GC), who is a retired DNR State Park Naturalist/exhibit designer, and an expert on Bluebirds. Bluebird cedar nesting boxes and kits will be available for purchase (\$10 per kit, \$15 assembled nesting box). Call with questions (517) 774 – 2020. The program is free and community and other clubs members are invited to attend.

The DeWitt Millennium Garden Club Presents its Annual Spring Speaker Event: Jan Bills – SUSTAINABLE GARDENS



March 25, 2019 at Redeemer United Methodist Church, 13970 Schavey Rd., DeWitt., 7:00 to 8:30 PM. Cookies and coffee available 6:30 to 7:00. Jan shares her gardening philosophy of comfort, ease and arms her audiences with practical day-to-day organic gardening tips, techniques and solutions. Jan loves providing her audiences with the confidence and knowledge they need to create and maintain beautiful, sustainable gardens. Her broad gardening knowledge, enthusiasm and engaging personality creates an educational and fun experience for everyone.

Tickets \$5. Call or email Barbara at 517-974-8158, <u>houghtal3@yahoo.com</u>, or Kathy at 517-669-2166, <u>katb6@comcast.net</u>. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Hartland Home and Garden Club



The Hartland Home and Garden Club will hold its annual Spring Tea on Wednesday, April 24th at 7:00 pm,

Hartland Consolidated School Senior Center, 9525 E. Highland Road, Howell. Cost is \$20.00 per person.

Reservations are required by April 10th. Contact Anne Crimmins at 248-684-1116 or <u>anne.dave@comcast.net</u>.

~ Janet Houston, Co-President

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arch Garden	n Club Meetings and Special Events		IIB 🤇	.
March 4	Looking Glass GC, 6:30 pm, United Methodist Church, Wacousta.			·
March 5	Mason Sycamore Creek GC, <i>Natural Weed and Pest Control,</i> presented by Jolan Williamston Red Cedar and Meridian Garden Clubs. 6 pm, Mason Historical Museu Mason.			t.,
March 6	Webberville GC, Start-up Meeting for 2019			
March 11	Williamston RC GC meeting, Understanding the Eastern Bluebird and How to A Year, presented by Earl Wolf, Williamston Red Cedar GC member and retired DNR S	tate Park	ıem Al	1
	Naturalist. 6:30-8:00 pm, Williamstown Township Hall, 4990 Zimmer Road., Willia	-		
March 11	IIB Youth Gardeners, <i>dinner at Spagnuolo's Restaurant</i> , 662 W. Grand River Ave 6:00 pm. The group will also attend the bluebird program sponsored by the Willia	mston Re	d Ceda	ar GC.
March 11	The GC of Greater Lansing, <i>Starting a Garden from Seeds and Cuttings</i> , prese Hunter Park Garden House Manager. 9:30—noon, followed by <i>Salad and Sandwid</i> United Methodist Church, 1900 Boston Blvd., Lansing.			
March 12	Across the Fence Post GC, Crooked Tree Nursery Presentation. 6:00 p.m. at B house, 5952 S. Corey Rd., Perry	arb Swart	z's	
March 13	Hartland GC, meeting, <i>Contained Tropicals in the Heartland</i> , presented by Lisa The <u>Houseplant Guru</u> . 7 pm, Hartland Senior Center, 9525 Highland Road, Howell		teinkop	of,
March 14	DeWitt Millennium GC, Game Night, presented by Jeanette Ongena. 6:30 pm, Rev	deemer		
	United Methodist Church, 13980 Schavey Road, DeWitt.			
March 14	Brighton GC , <i>Wetlands</i> , presented by Mary Gerstenberger, Consumer Horticulture for Macomb MSU Extension Center. 10:00 am, Brighton Community Center, 555 Brighton.			
March 14	District IIB Flower Show Set-up, MSU Pavilion, East Lansing, beginning at 1:00 pt	m.		
March 15—17	District IIB Flower Show, MSU Pavilion, 4301 Farm Lane, East Lansing .			
March 17	St. Patrick's Day			
March 18	Meridian Garden Club Drawing Pollinators to your Property with Native Plant Brinson and Liam Britton. 8:30 am, Meridian Township Municipal Building, 5151 M	Marsh Roa	ad, Oke	emos.
March 18	IIB Steering Committee meeting , 12:30 pm, Michigan Nature Association, 2310 S Okemos.			,
March 18	IIB New Leadership meeting , 2-4 pm, Michigan Nature Association, 2310 Science Okemos.			
March 19	Marshall Area GC, <i>Landscaping 101</i> , presented by Allison Mowry, Battle Creek La Design. 6:30 pm, Marshall United Methodist Church at 721 Business US 27 North,			
March 20	First day of spring!			- 🔆
March 20	IIB Crafters, <i>Making Gift Bags from Gardening Calendars and Magazines</i> , pres Fankhauser (Meridian GC), 1:30-3:30, Michigan Nature Association, 2310 Science Okemos.		Peggy	
March 20	Howell GC, <u>Two Women and a Hoe</u> , presented by Jan Bills. 6 pm, Hulbert Safety Tooley Road, Howell	Complex	-EMS, 1	1911
March 20	Mason Sycamore Creek Youth GC, <i>Monarch Butterfly Migration and Butterfly</i> by the Ingham Conservation District. <i>5:30 pm</i> , Mason Public Library, 145 West As			
March 25	IIB Photographers meeting, <i>Guest Speaker,</i> 1:30 pm, Michigan Nature Associati Science Parkway, Okemos.	<i>on</i> , 2310		
March 25	DeWitt Millennium GC, Two Women and a Hoe, presented by Jan Bills. 6:30 pm, United Methodist Church, 13980 Schavey Road, DeWitt. This is the club's spring public and tickets are \$5.00 each.			

March 26 Grand Ledge Garden Club, Seed Sharing Soirée. Bring seeds that you collected from your gardens Х last fall. Materials will be provided to get them ready for planting. 1:00 pm, Grand Ledge Library, 131 Jefferson St. Grand Ledge.

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 or club member 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, witticks@gmail.com.

Additional Opportunities for Your Consideration ...

Check out this cool web site which helps you select native



plants that attract beneficial bees and insects. It could be very helpful as members are planning pollinator gardens <u>https://www.canr.msu.edu/</u> <u>nativeplants/plant_facts/plant-</u> search-tool.

Holly Harper (Entomology Graduate Student at MSU), and Logan Rowe (Conservation Associate/Zoologist for Michigan Natural Features Inventory and MSU Extension), gave a great presentation for the Capital Area Master Gardeners called

"Good Guys in the Garden." They could be considered for a presentation at a future district meeting. ~ Patty Cotter, Meridian GC



Clinton Conservation Annual Spring <u>Tree</u> <u>Sale</u> Order forms are available on Clinton Conservation website for their annual spring tree sale. Orders due by March 22.





Your club news could be listed here! Please send articles to Sue Wittick by the 20th of each month for the next issue.

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The IIB Gardener, March 2019