



Growing Our Minds and Gardens

Michigan Garden Clubs District IIB

Summer 2021

A very typical April, which is never typical. Then there is May, that always holds surprises. It can be warm and beautiful providing a warm summer break and then sometimes it is mean and gives a cold snap right after we planted all our summer vegetables and flowers. I don't trust Mother Nature. She is unreliable.

I am ready for the approaching summer. My gardens are not! With the work of being a new District Director, I still have yard cleanup, garden planting, summer family outings to plan. After last year's restrictions and sheltering in, I am totally ready and vaccinated for my summer. I plan to spend a while in our boat fishing and manage to steal away some time with my family.

The assignment as IIB Director, officially begins after our June election at the Michigan Garden Clubs Annual Conference. I have enjoyed serving on our current Steering Committee and serving as the interim Director. Sadly, the team's loss of Anne Crimmins in December of 2020, I was asked to step in early. We have accomplished so much together and saved our identity as a strong District. I can tell you; the numbers prove that our District is strong and engaged. Attendance in the Monday Morning Meetings and in the All Together Now District Meetings, is higher from our district than most. We came in second highest in registrations and attendance. That means to me that we are engaging and supporting the MGC programs and our clubs.

We will continue to rise to the challenge of growing membership and furthering the mission and objectives of our organization. I am so proud to be a member of our wonderful district. I know we are an active group of gardeners, sharing an awesome array of talents that result in outstanding presentations given by our District members. It will be exciting to see new ideas emerge as we add members to our Steering Committee. I am grateful to Jolanta Piecuch, Peggy Bryson, Ann Schoals, LaNita Campbell, Ronnie Polad, Lynn O'Shaughnessy, Laura Grainger, Terry Such, and Debbie Richards for serving with me.



"We strive to serve you by using new technology to communicate better as a District and within your clubs. These efforts will help bring in new members to share our love of nature, gardening and friendship.

I will continue to bring you information on using these new electronic garden club tools.

Please join me in this effort"



Have a happy healthy summer!

*Carol Grainger
District 2B Director*

The Mayberry Garden Club

of Aunt Bee's time was far from what our Garden Clubs are today. When Aunt Bee wanted to invite club members to come together to discuss the city hall garden project, she walked around town delivering a handwritten note to members or had Deputy Barney Fife deliver the message. She could telephone members and if intercepted by a party-line user the news would spread quickly, but this mode still took a lot of time and there was often times confusion.



Garden Clubs today are very different. We have so many ways to reach members and potential members, with email, websites, Facebook and Zoom. And as good environmental stewards we try to reduce paper and ink use, save money on postage stamps, most of all save a whole lot of time when information is just a click away. Communication is so different today. Do you remember when your family didn't have a phone, TV, or printer? Many of us do. There is so much to explore with these new garden tools. Explore and have Fun!

To engage with this newsletter on your computer:



1. Follow our 2B bee below by clicking where indicated. This opens our secure website that has all sorts of information beyond this newsletter. As you read through click on graphics, logos and underlined text.

2. Ask a garden club or other friend to assist you

No computer? Ask your club president or other member to print it for you.

Start here by clicking below:

mgcdistrict2b.weebly.com/ log in using
PW: 2bgardeners for resources from our District and MGC news and events.



"Let's get clicking ladies! Don't be shy. It's easy and fun!"

Find and like us on Facebook-
facebook.com/MGCDistrictIIB/



Join our Facebook Group
for special interest groups in our district - facebook.com/groups/MCGDistrictIIB



For fun info on Mayberry
and The Andy Griffith Show
[CLICK HERE](#)



IIBB *Featured Club*

Looking Glass Garden Club, Wacousta, Ionia County

In celebration of Earth Day 2021 members of Looking Glass Garden Club transplanted daffodils. Replanting many in our local parks. And, then the rain came! A good day other than when we found a tick followed us home. Yikes! Be careful out there.



<https://www.facebook.com/looking-glassgardenclub/>



Thank you ladies, gents and dogs!



See all pics posted on FB Groups





NEWS FROM OUR CLUBS



Michigan Garden Clubs District IIB represents 15 clubs and more than 650 members. We share a love of gardening, respect for our environment, a thirst for knowledge, and a willingness to share our expertise to beautify our communities and tend our gardens.

**FOR CLUB NEWS POSTED
ON OUR SECURE WEBSITE**



click here

MGC District IIB

PASSWORD - 2bgardeners

Select any of the clubs below for more info and meeting times.

[Across the Fence Post Garden Club,
Laingsburg and Perry, Shiawassee County - 2nd Tuesday](#)

[Brighton Garden Club - 2nd Thursday](#)

[DeWitt Millennium Garden Club - 2nd Thursday](#)

[Eaton Rapids Home & Garden Club](#)

[Garden Club of Greater Lansing - 2nd Monday](#)

[Grand Ledge Garden Club - 4th Tuesday](#)

[Hartland Home and Garden Club - 2nd Wednesday](#)

[Howell Garden Club - 3rd Wednesday](#)

[Looking Glass Garden Club, Wacousta, Ionia County - 1st Monday](#)

[Marshall Area Garden Club - 3rd Tuesday](#)

[Mason Sycamore Creek Garden Club - 2nd Tuesday](#)

[Meridian Garden Club - 3rd Monday](#)

[Sherwood Garden Club - 4th Tuesday](#)

[Webberville Garden Club - 1st Wednesday](#)



[Williamston Red Cedar Garden Club - 2nd Monday](#)

You are welcome to visit any of our clubs to see what's going on!



Recap of 2020

Howell Garden Club turned 45 years old in 2020 but thanks to Covid 19, the celebration will have to wait for an extra special 50th Anniversary. Members were able to keep in touch with monthly Zoom meetings and held a 'Member Tidbits' contest at year end. Five weekly rounds of trying to guess the unknown tidbit of member's personal lives. Who knew our Treasurer formerly entertained at parties in a gorilla suit, our former president descended from underground railroad operators and a Timex watch can overwinter in your garden and, when found in the spring....keep on ticking!

Our first 'live' meeting was held in April at the Howell park on the lake with a presentation by **Jim McGrath** of Nature Discovery in Williamston. The photo below is Jim holding a Michigan native stinging nettle plant. Despite being commonly treated as a 'weed' the nettle is more nutritious than most of the greens that we grow intentionally. The sting disappears when it is boiled or sauteed and its tea is used to relieve arthritis. Even more important, the nettle works as the 'nursery' for the Red Admiral, Milbert's Tortoise Shell, Comma and Question Mark Butterflies. (yes, the markings under the wings of the last two look like a comma and question mark!)



Thanks to a recommendation from the District 2B, the Howell Garden Club created their first picture postcards with the club information on the back. They turned out beautifully with a full color photo of our flower, the pansy, on front and club information on the back. The Howell Garden Club, where gardeners thrive (since 1975).

Dewitt Garden Club held our September 2020 meeting outdoors at a park and were able to install our officers. The rest of our meetings have been via Zoom. We have had excellent presentations thanks to our co-president, Ronnie Dush. We are planning our May meeting outdoors again at a park. We completed our annual Cups of Cheers project, while keeping all of our members safe. We have just finished our annual Geranium sale with a very good amount of orders. The flowers will be delivered and distributed in early May. A scaled down version of our Gold Star Dedication has been rescheduled for June 3 at 1:00 in the cemetery in DeWitt (more details to follow). We are also planning our Garden Treasure Hunt for the last week of June and the first week of July. The purpose is to get area residents into the City of DeWitt gardens. It should be a fun activity for children and hopefully will generate interest among younger people to join our club. The grand prize will be a beautiful flower gathering basket, handwoven by one of members, Judy Koos. (I'll send the flyer once completed). We plan to have a presence at the DeWitt Farmer's Market this summer with a youth activity. I was told that because of Covid restrictions any activity must be a take and go so we need to think how we can make this work. Hopefully we will, as this would be another opportunity to recruit younger parents to our club. And of course, we will all be gardening in the city gardens this summer. We may also try and have a few informal, outdoor gatherings just so we can get together and visit. Our plan is to resume our in-person, indoor meetings in September. We will, of course, follow all CDC recommendations. Our members are anxious to see each other again.



The Gold Star Families Marker honors the families of U.S. Armed Forces members who died in battle or in support of certain military activities.



The Blue Star became an icon in World War II and was seen on flags and banners in homes for sons and daughters away at war as well as in churches and businesses.

Congratulations!

Williamston Red Cedar Garden Club has received the Marilyn Lee Civic Beautification Award for the new plantings on main street.

Lynn O'Shaughnessy has been awarded first place in the Fine Gardening magazine First Signs of Spring photo contest. You can read her Fine Gardening interview [HERE](#).

District IIB SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



Belonging to District IIB offers opportunities to participate in many groups. These include Quilting, Photography, Youth Gardening and Crafting along with IIB Designers. Other groups such as bees, butterflies and birds can be added as interest is expressed.

Each group will be able to plan their own schedules, activities and interactions. There are no requirements for participation and no cost (except perhaps for materials for a specific project). You can participate as much or little as you desire— but without signing up, you won't know what's happening! See the contact information below.

IIB Crafters - Contact Sue Wittick, witticks@gmail.com, 517-242-8259.

IIB Designers - Contact Kathi Dominguez, dominguezk@comcast.net, 517-927-4665.

IIB Photographers - Contact Sue Wittick, witticks@gmail.com, 517-242-8259.

IIB Quilters - Contact Linda Mogyoros, turtlehatch@att.net, 517-712-2622.

IIB Youth Gardening - Contact Ronnie Dush, ronniedush@gmail.com, 989-307-0248.

GROWING MEMBERSHIP IDEA!

The Howell Garden Club recently developed this postcard to recruit new members. These will be given out at events, markets, by club members to anyone that would like to come visit a meeting. Good luck Howell Garden Club!



Join us...

Monthly Meetings & Guest Speakers
Field Trips ~ Garden Walks ~ Community Gardens
Flower Shows and Conferences ~ Workshops
Perennial/Seed Exchanges ~ Education
State Horticulture Scholarship

The Howell Garden Club
Where Gardeners Thrive
(Since 1975)

Email: joinus@howellgardenclub.org
Visit us on Facebook ~ Howell Garden Club

Meetings at Marion Township Hall
2877 W. Coon Lake Rd., Howell, MI 48843

Beginning at 6:30pm on the 4th Wednesday
of the month, September thru June.



PLEASE
PLACE
POSTAGE
STAMP HERE

*Members of the National Garden Clubs, Inc., Central
Region Garden Clubs, Inc., Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc
and District IIB.*



Upcoming Events

Summer 2021

SIGN UP NOW

**CELEBRATING
90 YEARS
OF
GARDENING
CONFERENCE**

*Hurry registration
deadline is May 21st.*

[Click here to Register](#)



[Click here to view or download the full Conference Flyer](#)

Meridian Garden Club Annual Plant Sale

May 22, 2021
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 pm

Central Park Pavilion,
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos

This event is a fundraiser to support garden club projects in the Meridian community. Masks and social distancing will be required. Mark your calendar and plan to join us at the Central Park Pavilion in Okemos. You will find hundreds of plants from the gardens of Meridian Garden Club members and native plants from a local grower; books, pots, ornaments and other "garden goodies"; and garden specialists to answer your gardening questions. Buy your Christians Greenhouse gift certificates here and Christians will donate part of the proceeds to the club.

Plants (except native plants from local grower) will be 1/2 price after 1:00 p.m.





Saturday, May 15

Perennial Exchange

9:00 to 11: AM

Cromaine Library Parking Lot
Bring your extra plants, bagged
and labeled with name, color,
and other relevant information,
to trade.

Master Gardeners will be
available for questions.

Free / Donations welcomed



Save the date!

30th Annual Marshall GARDEN TOUR!

SATURDAY JULY 10 & 11, 2021 SUNDAY

• **30th Annual "Welcome To My Garden" Tour** of six area gardens
Saturday & Sunday - Rain or shine, \$10 ahead of the tour - online or from our retail
partners, \$15 days of. Children's interactive map tickets (12 and under) are just \$2 and are
available at the gardens.

• **Pre-sale Tickets available online and on June 1 at:**

Marshall: The Mole Hole, Hemmingsen Drug Store, Harvester Flower Shop, Serendipity,
Oerther's Lawn and Feed, Darling Ace Hardware, Marshall Welcome Center, Herman's Hardware

Battle Creek: Happy House Gift Shop

Albion: Jolly Green Junction

Online: Marshallareagarden.org

• **Vintage Garden Market** Near the Fountain Circle by the TCF Bank

• **Garden Tour Hours** 10am to 4pm; Market stays open until 5pm both days

• **For more information** Marshall Welcome Center 1.800.877.5163



Marshall Area Garden Club, Inc.
Member: Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.
& National Garden Clubs, Inc.



Like us on Facebook!
Marshall Area Garden Club



Looking Glass Garden Club's 12th Annual

Native Plant Sale

Wildflowers, Grasses, Shrubs Shade plants and the Uncommon

These are all Michigan natives and local genotype plants. This year, we're focusing
on shade plants and the odd and rare natives you normally don't find, including
but not limited to: Fireweed, Rattlesnake-Master, Big Leaf and Heart-leaved
Asters, Bluestem Goldenrod, Northern Blazing Star, Ironweed.

Great plants at great prices obtained locally from Wildtype Nursery

When: Saturday June 5, 2021 from 9:00 – 4:00

At the Wacousta General Store

13051 S. Wacousta Road, Grand Ledge, MI 48837

Face Masks and Social Distancing Required

Questions about the sale or interest in joining our garden club:

Call Ron at: 517.626.6447 or overtonron@wowway.com

Find us on Facebook @Lookingglassgardenclubmi

Fall District Meeting in Marshall, MI on Sept. 30th

Hosted by The Marshall Area Garden Club

Michigan
Garden Clubs
Grow and Share



Monday Morning Member Meetings

Check the Member's side of the MGC
Website for login and password



Register Your Pollinator Garden with the national pollinator garden network! It's simple. Start at <http://pollinator.org/mpgcmapp/>, then click "Register".



Photos courtesy Lynn O'Shaughnessy

March Flower Show- 2022

The 2021 Mid-Michigan Garden Clubs flower show, Destination: National Parks, scheduled for March 18-21, has been postponed to 2022. Show schedule will remain the same. You can find it [HERE](#).

Free Zoom Training Sessions

The Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. (MGC) is hosting a free Lunch & Learn Tech Series for any MGC and NGC member interested in learning more about holding virtual 'Meetings' on Zoom and preparing for MGC and NGC opportunities.

For more info - <https://migardenclubs.org/>



District Resources



NATIONALGARDENCLUB.ORG
USER NAME: MEMBER
PW: CONSERVE



MICHIGAN GARDENCLUBS.ORG
USER NAME: MEMBER
PW: MCGCROW



REGIONAL NGCCENTRALREGION.ORG
PW: 7STATES



RESOURCE & CONTACT INFORMATION

This site is under continuous construction and we need your help to fill the information gaps. Please send us information about club location, contact information, website, Facebook page, membership, leadership, projects, meeting times and locations. And because there are a lot of interesting things happening and planned in the District, we'd appreciate your sharing your program information, special events, flower shows, garden tours, and so on. Take the opportunity to showcase your logo, your membership and projects by sharing images (send to plbryso@gmail.com). Thanks for your help in making this a fun, informative resource.



National Garden Clubs

[Keeping in Touch- May/June 2021](#)



View the Latest Keeping in Touch!

National Garden Clubs
4401 Magnolia Ave.
Saint Louis, MO 63110
www.gardenclub.org

CLUB VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

*Gleaners needs volunteers
in their Livingston Community Victory Garden*

Volunteer as a club activity or individually

This cornerstone garden in Livingston County donates fresh produce directly to pantries throughout the Gleaners distribution area.

Help through your love of gardening!
Be a part of this Gleaners Community Garden program by helping to provide fresh healthy home-grown organic produce to those in need.

Volunteer tasks include forming beds, composting, seeding, mulching, transplanting, weeding, and harvesting.

Up to 5 volunteers needed per shift during covid.

To Volunteer

*contact Stephanie Rock Nerby
snery@gcfb.org or 586-601-6736.*



2021 garden in planting stages



2019 garden

*The Brighton Garden Club cares for the
flowering entry to the vegetable garden.*

***Thanks
Brighton Garden Club!***

