



# The IIB Gardener



January 2018



Lynn Keelan

District Director

Happy 2018, I hope your holidays were joyful and merry!

We have a full year ahead of wonderful activities for District IIB. I'll be calling all of our garden club presidents to chat and connect, and we hope to have a presidents' gathering soon.

IIB Designers will meet in February. This group is open to all garden club members. If you want to learn new ways to make flower arrangements, design entries or improve your designs come to a quarterly meeting. Participating is best, but if you just want to watch you may, either way you will learn something.

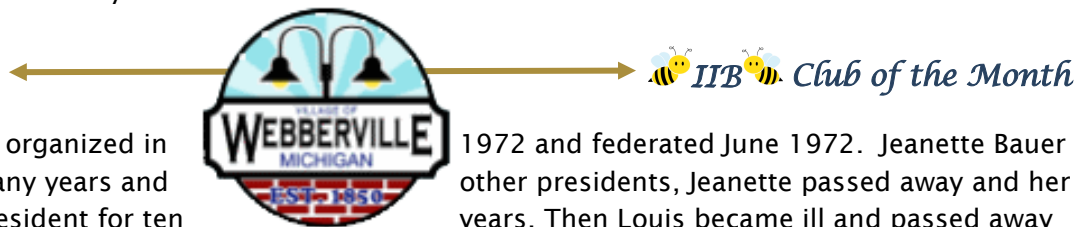
Barb Ketchum has taken the lead role in making "Partners in Gardening" happen at Eagle Eye Conference Center, as a unique combined effort of many IIB clubs and to include a special Flower Show.

Our 20th year of Flower Shows at the Lansing Home and Garden Show will again find us showing our best efforts in design and horticulture at the MSU Pavilion March 15-18, 2018. If you have never gone, you do not know what you are missing. The many vendors and massive outstanding displays by some landscapers are amazing. Our Flower Show draws many interested people and educates the public about local, state and national garden clubs.

With the Steering Committee we are trying to initiate more communication between clubs so that we can learn from each other, possibly attend other club's programs that interest us, and see other gardens and nurseries around the District and State. I hope that that all IIB members will soon be reading this monthly newsletter and viewing the IIB website for information.

I wish you all a healthy and safe winter. Plan to grow a garden, a planter or a houseplant and your mind along with it. There is much to learn and do this new year!

## Webberville Garden Club



## IIB Club of the Month

The Webberville Garden Club was organized in started the club in 1972. After many years and husband, Louis Bauer, became president for ten and Jet (Jeanette) Johnson became president. After Jet retired this year, Julie Hath ([jhath@tds.net](mailto:jhath@tds.net)) was elected the new president starting in 2018. She is the daughter of the founding family, Jeanette and Louis Bauer.

1972 and federated June 1972. Jeanette Bauer other presidents, Jeanette passed away and her years. Then Louis became ill and passed away

Our club works with Webberville Downtown Development Authority which provides funds for our projects. They provided new metal planters for our flowers in the spring and evergreen decorations in December. The boughs are provided by the Moon and Family Christmas Tree Farm. We also decorate the entrance to the industrial Park near I-96 and M-52. Our Fund raiser is at Firemen's Field Day celebration in September when we have a silent auction and bake sale.

As one of our beautification projects, we donated and planted two maple trees at the new Memorial Park being developed now on North Webberville Road. They were planted near the area where the children's play area will be.

Our last meeting of each year is in November. We have a potluck and members donate food for the Food Bank. The club also donates money to the food bank and adopts a needy family for Christmas. At our meetings we try to provide educational information to better our knowledge of our community and of our world. Our club started a Junior Garden Club in 2013 with meetings once a month after school. That club is headed up by Julie Hath and Jeannie Bosworth with help from other members of the adult club. Thirty-two kids attend to learn about protecting our environment, as well as how to plant and care for flowers and vegetables. They are also learning how to enter competitions.

## District IIB Steering Committee



**Lynn Keelan**, Howell Garden Club, 517-304-3329, [boomerage47@yahoo.com](mailto:boomerage47@yahoo.com), 2765 Earl Lake Road, Howell, MI 48843-8613 - District Director

**Peggy Bryson**, Meridian Garden Club, 517-614-9428, [plbryso@gmail.com](mailto:plbryso@gmail.com), 5512 Jessael, Bath, MI 48808-9791  
District Treasurer, Facebook Administrator, Website Administrator, Recording Secretary

**Barb Ketchum**, Mason-Sycamore Creek Garden Club, 517-331-2027, [baketchum15@gmail.com](mailto:baketchum15@gmail.com), 1036 W Barnes Rd., Mason, MI 48854, Member Services to Clubs, Event Coordinator

**Sue Wittick**, Meridian Garden Club, 517-242-8259, [witticks@gmail.com](mailto:witticks@gmail.com), 4103 Breakwater Drive, Okemos, MI 48864-4413 - Communications, Newsletter, Graphics & Printing

**Any IIB club member is welcome to attend District IIB Steering Committee meetings.** The next meeting will be held on January 18th at the Michigan Nature Association, 2310 Science Pwy, Okemos, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Discussion topics will include the IIB budget and planning for a club presidents gathering.

## District IIB Steering Committee Member News



### Peggy Bryson, Treasurer



The District checking account had a balance at the end of November, 2017, of \$849.52. You can stay abreast of District financial information on the District Website, where it's a sub-menu under the District News tab (<https://mgcdistrict2b.weebly.com/financial-reports.html>). There you will find the monthly treasurer report, the semi-annual District financial report (most recently filed in mid-December), and District meeting final reports. Your questions about any of these can be directed to [plbryso@gmail.com](mailto:plbryso@gmail.com).

### Sue Wittick, Communications, Newsletter, Graphics/Printing

The Steering Committee is considering a new logo for District IIB, but we need your feedback! Please send me your comments and suggestions. A modified version of the same design is being used with the Spring 2018 District IIB Meeting materials. You will see that on the next page and on the flyer that is sent with this newsletter.



It is gratifying to see the volunteers from IIB clubs for the Spring District Meeting—we certainly couldn't do this without YOU! A special thanks to the following:

- Barb Ketchum, (Mason Sycamore Creek)—Event Chair
- Carol Granger, (Williamston Red Cedar Garden Club)—speakers
- Coleen Hyslop and Carol Armstrong, (Meridian Garden Club)—meeting registrations
- Jean Goetz, (Meridian Garden Club)—displays
- Diann Jackman, (Mason Sycamore Creek)—centerpieces
- Lois Snover-Hanson, (Meridian Garden Club)—Horticulture Specialty Flower Show
- Peggy Bryson, Barb Ketchum, Williamston Red Cedar, Howell GC—silent auction items
- Linda Mogyoros (Meridian GC) who has volunteered to lead efforts to create a new IIB banner, once we have settled on a logo design.

# Thank You

If your club produces a newsletter, please put us on your distribution list. We love to see all the things that are happening in IIB clubs, and you have so many great ideas that can be shared. I also ask that you send me the names of your new members so I can keep our IIB member roster up-to-date.

**We ask that IIB Club Presidents make this newsletter available to all their members. To be added or removed from the e-mail distribution list for this newsletter, please contact Sue Wittick. Club presidents may request that the newsletter be sent directly to all their club members.**

**Barb Ketchum**, Member Services to Clubs, Events

Reminder: **Save the date for the District II B Spring Meeting on April 18, 2018** at the Eagle Eye Conference Center in Bath. Our theme is "Partners in Gardening," reflecting the fact that we are doing this cooperatively as a district, with volunteers from a variety of clubs.



New at this meeting: we will be hosting a small horticulture Flower Show! Watch for more information soon.

The District is organizing this meeting and looking for volunteers for the following positions: If you can help, please contact me at [baketchum15@gmail.com](mailto:baketchum15@gmail.com) or call 517-331-2027.

**New position! Advertising sales.** Contact garden related business to sell ad space in our program. Help us keep the meeting affordable for everyone while connecting them with great area businesses.

The following positions are needed the day of the meeting:

**Vendor host:** Meet the vendors, direct them to their spot at the venue, make sure they have what they need and get their box lunches. Assist in cleanup at the end of the day.(We are arranging vendors now. If you know someone who is interested in being a vendor, please let me know as soon as possible.)

**Head hostess:** Greet the designated table hostess, pass out a sheet of instructions and answer questions about centerpiece auction. Help treasurer collect auction money at end of meeting. (We are asking clubs to designate 2-3 attendees to be hostesses at the meeting.)

**Silent Auction host:** Set up tables with auction items and help promote bidding. Coordinate with treasurer at the end of bidding to collect payment and distribute item to the auction winner. (We are asking clubs and/or members to donate items for the auction. Do you have something or make something you are willing to donate?)

**District IIB Club January Meeting Dates and Program Topics**

- 8 — Greater Lansing *Crafts for Veterans*
- 8 — Williamston Red Cedar GC
- 10—Hartland
- 11—Brighton GC *Frogs*
- 12—Dewitt Millennium GC *Vegetables*
- 16—Marshall Area GC
- 22—Meridian Garden Club *Sierra Club*




**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Wednesday April 18, 2018**

*District IIB Spring Meeting*  
*Eagle Eye Conference Center, Bath, Michigan*

**IIB**  
*Partners in Gardening*

*Lost and Found*

Found—a lovely black umbrella with white polka dots. This was left at Eagle Eye after the Fall IIB District Meeting in October. Contact Sue Wittick to claim.

( [MGCDistrict2b.weebly.com](http://MGCDistrict2b.weebly.com) password 2bgardeners )

The structure of the site is built, but there are a lot of gaps in the information we want to see there. Here's a quick walk through.

Under the District News tab, you'll find the [District newsletter](#), information on [flower shows](#) (if you're hosting one, send Peggy the show schedule, please), [District financial reports](#), and [minutes of Steering Committee meetings](#). You will find the [District Meeting Handbook](#) (handy the next time your club hosts the meeting) and information about [club grants](#) (our District needs to build up its treasury before we will be able to make grants) and [garden centers](#) under the Resources tab. [Steering Committee](#) contact information is under the District Information tab and our meetings are posted on the [Event Calendar](#) (under the Home tab).

Under the District Information tab, you'll find a [page for each club](#)--please review yours and let Peggy know what needs to be added or corrected. If you have a club logo and a photo (or more) of your members and/or projects, we'd love to include them. If it's not already on the page, please let Peggy know when your club meets and where. And please share your meeting program information so that others who may be interested can attend. We'll post it on the District event calendar. It would be helpful, too, to know whether your club welcomes guests and whether they would need to pay a fee to attend your meeting.

The [Awards and Recognition](#) page shows the 2016 awards granted to District clubs in 2017. We'd love to showcase any other awards or recognition your club has received.

As you look through the District website, you will see there is room for you to share information about [speakers](#) you know, [meeting venues](#) in your area, [vendors](#) you like that would be fun to include at a District meeting, garden centers in your area, and events and activities like flower shows and garden walks. Send your input to Peggy so it can be added to help future meeting and road trip planners.



We have purchased a 2-year subscription to web-host Weebly. It's a DIY site, so we can make changes and do updates to the District website quickly ourselves.

## *Flower Show News*



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

The Greater Lansing Orchid Society will hold its annual Orchid Show at the Michigan State Plant and Soil Science Conservatory on February 25-26. We are hosting a small flower show for designs with orchids, called "**Orchids on the Move.**" Jenny Bond, Garden Club of Greater Lansing and Sue Wittick, Meridian Garden Club, are co-chairs.

Our 2018 Standard Flower Show "**We Love Michigan**" will be held at the Michigan State Pavilion March 15-18. There are still some openings in design categories so call Sue Wittick to see what's available. Please look around your house for any Michigan posters or paraphernalia that could be used for staging the show.

We plan to give the **Marilyn J. Lee award** at both the Spring and Fall 2018 District IIB Meetings. An application form is being sent to club presidents and will be posted on the District IIB website. This club award is for civic beautification projects.



The Spring 2018 District Meeting, April 18th, will feature a Horticulture Specialty Flower Show "**Bee Ready for Spring.**" and the schedule for that is being sent with this newsletter. April 18th will be a wonderful time to feature daffodils, tulips, and other cut spring flowers from those bulbs you planted last fall (or years ago). Bottles for your cut specimens will be available near the registration desk. Be sure to have your Entry tags completed in advance. Blank tags will be available on the District IIB table at the "**We Love Michigan**" flower show in March.

On **April 24**, the IIB Designers will host a "**Spring Fling**" Flower Show, at the DeWitt Fire Department. This show will feature the designs that were new in the 2017 Edition of *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Armature, Assemblage, and Cascade. Schedules for all these flower shows can be found on the District IIB website.

### Orchids on the Move

#### Floral Designs with Orchids

February 24 - February 25, 2018

\* Entries may be placed on February 23 between 1:30-7:30 p.m.

\* Judging arrangements begins at 8:30 a.m. February 24

\* Show open noon-5:00 p.m. February 24  
11:00 a.m - 4:00 p.m. February 25

Plant and Soil Science Conservatory  
Michigan State University



Small-Standard Flower Show

Wednesday April 25, 2018

Entries placed 9:30-10:00 a.m.

Judging of show 10:00-10:45

Show open 11:00-12:00 noon

Presentation and discussion of Cascade Design

DeWitt Fire Department  
911 W. Main Street  
DeWitt MI 48820



Horticulture Specialty Flower Show

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

In conjunction with  
the Michigan Garden Clubs (MGC) District IIB  
Spring Meeting  
Eagle Eye Conference Center, Bath, Michigan

### Marilyn J. Lee Award for Civic Beautification



The Marilyn J. Lee Award for Civic Beautification was presented at the fall, 2017 IIB District Meeting to the Looking Glass Garden Club. Lisa Emerson and Ron Overton accepted the award.

### News from National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC)

Gay Austin, NGC First Vice-President:

Information for the 2018 Annual Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania is now on the NGC website. It is scheduled for May 20-24, 2018 - I hope that you take time to review all of the pertinent information available to you. There are four documents pertaining to this meeting, including: Registration Form, Tentative Schedule, Seminar Information and Tour Information. Please note special information on the second page of the Registration Form pertaining to the Loews Hotel. Discounted room rates are available IF reservations are made prior to January 31, 2018. After that date, they increase \$20 per night, so please take advantage of this offer.



Our website provides NGC news. In the Members Section you will find the convention information, the *Keeping in Touch* newsletter, a digital version of *The National Gardener Magazine*, a Social Media Workshop in a Powerpoint PDF format and other useful tools.

## News from NGC Central Region (CR)

**Fran Stueck**, NGC Central Region Director

I am honored to be your Central Region Director. Thank you for the support you have given me and I promise to give my best effort in service to this great Federation. Let's continue to 'Plant America' across the seven states.



The 2018 Central Region Convention, hosted by the Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. October 22 & 23, 2018, at the Bavarian Inn Lodge & Conference Center, in Frankenmuth, Michigan, promises to be a wonderful event. I look forward to meeting many Michigan garden club members there.

For news of NGC Central Region, please visit our website, especially the member section where you will find the quarterly newsletter.

## News from Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. (MGC)

**Carol Brodbeck**, MGC President

The NGC convention in Philadelphia would provide an excellent reason for club members to plan a vacation to an exciting city, visit the various gardens, and attend the convention. If you plan to attend the convention and would like to serve as a delegate to the annual meeting, please let me know and I'll add your name to the MGC list that I'm compiling (I take the names in the order in which members signed up until we reach our maximum number). Hope to see you there!



**Jean Goetz**, MGC 2nd Vice President in Charge of Civic Affairs

**Sue Leahy**, Legislation Chair

On December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> we staffed an educational booth at the indoor, winter, Meridian Mall Farmers' Market in Okemos. It was enjoyable to greet local folks, often personal friends and acquaintances.



Many citizens stopped to look at our Black Swallowtail educational display board and to discuss the critical need to take action in support of our threatened pollinators in Michigan. They were enthusiastic! People took home brochures and several Black Swallowtail pins were sold. Children and their parents were delighted with the butterfly fans we distributed.

On both days we received encouraging feedback and support from 30+ citizens who signed petition sheets asking Senator Arlan Meekhof to move SB 298 out of the Government Operations Committee and onto the senate floor for a vote.

Simar Pawar, a Meridian Garden Club member and local Girl Scout leader, volunteered her troop to cut out and assemble the butterfly fans for children. We also had a scout distribute some fans while we talked to parents. The Girl Scouts promote community service, and this was an excellent opportunity for them to contribute to a community, legislative effort.



We also learned that there are several Girl Scout Badges relating to government, voting and helping to create public policy which the girls may earn. Badges are described in the scout leader manual. Some badges to consider are Inside Government; Behind the Ballot; and Public Policy. There may be others! Simar requested and received a sample letter to help scouts write their own letter in support of SB298. In addition, A Citizens Guide to State Government can be requested by local scout leaders from their senator. Leaders might inquire about other resources for children and explain that they are using SB298 to educate Girl Scouts about how government works.

Our Black Swallowtail project should become a youth education outreach project in each garden club. Please check out all these and other resource materials which are available on the MGC website.



**Judy Lindemulder, MGC Blue Star Memorial Chair**



The Blue Star program began with the planting of 8,000 dogwood trees by the New Jersey Council of Garden Clubs in 1944 as a living memorial to veterans of World War II. In 1945, the National Council of State Garden Clubs adopted this program and began a Blue Star Highway system that covers thousands of miles across the Continental United States, Alaska, and Hawaii. A large metal Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker was placed at appropriate locations along the way.

The Blue Star became an icon in World War II and was seen on flags and banners in homes for sons and daughters who were away at war, and in churches and businesses. This program has been active all through the years to the present. The program has been changed to honor all members of the Armed Forces who are currently serving, and those who have served in the past. Michigan has been part of this program since it started and now has 92 markers cross the state.

*Planning a dedication? The date of your dedication is very important.*

The choice is totally a decision of the club. Choose a day of the week when most club members and the public can attend. If young people (scouts, high school choirs and bands) will participate, it's best to choose a date when school is in session. Michigan families often travel during school vacations. Generally, dedications are held between May and November. This is Michigan! Sometimes a November date can include freezing rain or snow! Some clubs like their dedication to coincide with a patriotic holiday. Whatever day you choose, be proud of creating a patriotic, community event to honor the service and sacrifices of our veterans.

*Share Your Club's Blue Star Photos*

You are all invited to share your club's Blue Star dedication photos on our MGC web site, in the Blue Star section! Send photos as jpg files to Charley Bohland, cbohland@gmail.com Include the name of your club, your dedication date, and the names of the people in the photos. If you only have printed photos, see if you can scan them locally and then send them as jpg files. If that is not possible, you may send photos to Charley who will scan them for you. His address is 5166 N Custer, Monroe, MI 48162-9648. Prints should be sent with a return envelope with the names of your club, your club president and your district director on the outside. Charley will give the envelopes to your district director at an MGC Board Meeting, so no return postage will be required.

*Blue Star Memorial Price Increase*

Our NGC Blue Star Chairperson, Andrea Little, has advised that a price increase for memorials is expected this spring. It has been two years since Sewah Studios last increased prices. The amount of the increase is unknown currently. Two clubs have already placed orders for memorials which will be dedicated in 2018. A few clubs in the active planning stages should anticipate the increase in price. Clubs ordering memorials should allow a minimum of 14 weeks for casting and delivery. Happy Planning!

**Blue Star Memorials in District IIB**



Hartland Home and GC  
 Sherwood GC  
 DeWitt Millennium GC  
 Brighton GC  
 Meridian GC  
 Pinckney GC



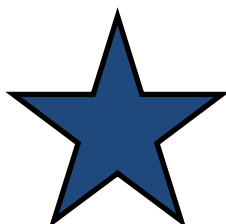
Across the Fence Post GC  
 Green Thumb GC  
 Eaton Rapids Home and GC  
 The GC of Greater Lansing  
 Perry GC  
 Looking Glass GC



Thornapple GC  
 Marshall Area GC  
 Williamston Red Cedar GC  
 Mason Sycamore Creek GC  
 Howell GC



Meridian Garden Club September 27, 2008



DeWitt Millennium GC September 10, 2008

## Volunteers Needed



- \* HELP with our District IIB Spring Meeting, April 18th: Vendor Host, Head Table Host, Silent Auction Host, Set - up, Clean-up. (See page 3 for details.)
- \* Fund Raising Committee Members for District IIB. Contact Sue Wittick.
- \* Civic Beautification Chair, Michigan Garden Clubs Board of Directors. Contact Carol Brodbeck, brodbeck@aol.com.
- \* Habitat for Humanity Chair, Michigan Garden Clubs Board of Directors. Contact Carol Brodbeck.
- \* Environmental Issues/NGC Backyard Wildlife Habitat Chair, Michigan Garden Clubs Board of Directors. Contact Carol Brodbeck.
- \* A place to hold a small summer 2018 flower show. If your club would like to host, please contact Lois Snover-Hanson.
- \* District Historian - Is there someone who would like to compile the history of District IIB? This will take some research, looking at old yearbooks, and talking to lots of nice people who have been in the district awhile.



## Dates for your Calendars

**January 18, 2018** IIB Steering Committee meets at Michigan Nature Association, 2310 Science Pwy, Okemos. Discussion topics will include IIB budget and planning for a club president's gathering. Any IIB members are welcome.

**January 27, 2018** "It's All About...The Ins & Outs of Gardening", Capital Area Master Gardeners 2018 Winter Symposium, MSU Plant & Soil Sciences Bldg.

**February 21, 2018** IIB Designers Workshop "Up, without a Ladder" 10:00-12:00 noon; Meridian GC to provide refreshments; DeWitt to provide coffee  
Project: Armature, a Creative Design featuring an Armature form (grid-like structure). (Handbook page 77)

**February 24-25, 2018** "Orchids on the Move," Greater Lansing Orchid Society (GLOS) Show and Sale, Plant and Soil Science Conservatory, Michigan State University.

**March 15-18, 2018** *We Love Michigan*, District IIB Flower Show, MSU Pavilion

**April 18, 2018** - Spring IIB District Meeting, Eagle Eye Conference Center, Bath, "Bee Ready for Spring" Horticulture Specialty Flower Show

**April 24, 2018**, IIB Designers + "Spring Fling" Flower Show, DeWitt Fire Department, 10:00 am—noon

**May 21, 2018 - May 24, 2018** - National Garden Clubs Convention, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**Websites and Passwords** (You can cut this out and place it in your club yearbook for easy access.)

**National Garden Clubs, Inc.**

[www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)

Username: *member*  
Password: *pumpkin*



Michigan  
Garden Clubs

[www.michigangardenclubs.org](http://www.michigangardenclubs.org)

Login: *2bmember*  
Password: *membermgc*



**Central Region, NGC**

[www.ngccentralregion.org](http://www.ngccentralregion.org)

Login: *member*  
Password: *7states*

**MGC District IIB**

<https://mgcdistrict2b.weebly.com/>

password *2bgardeners*





## Special Events

The **Mid-Michigan Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA)** has scheduled two dates for invasive species trainings in February 2018 with a new set of speakers and topics. These trainings are a great opportunity for a wide municipal audience, including: utilities, road commissions, drain commissions, public works departments, parks and recreation, city planners, garden clubs, landscape and fill companies, city and county commissioners, community stewardship groups, and more!

In addition, MDARD Pesticide Applicator Recertification credits are pending. Full details of these trainings are in the attached press release and also posted online on the [Mid-Michigan CISMA website](#) and [Facebook page](#) events.

Registration is now open. This year we will host the same free training in two locations. Lunch will be provided to registered participants. Please register for the one date and location that works best for you.

- Tuesday, February 6th, East Lansing, MI- Hannah Community Center, 10 am-2 pm [REGISTER HERE](#)
- Tuesday, February 13th, Ionia, MI - Ionia County Intermediate School District, 10 am-2 pm [REGISTER HERE](#)

Erin (Jarvie) Pavloski, Regional Invasive Species Coordinator, Ingham Conservation District, 517-676-2290

## English Garden Tour

A small group tour is being offered next May that sounds like gardener heaven--a week of beautiful English gardens in the Cotswolds (including Prince Charles' Highgrove) winding up with a day at the Chelsea Flower Show. If interested, you can find details at <https://www.walkeurope.com/copy-of-cotswolds-gardens-chelsea-f-4>. Club members Jean Goetz and Peggy Bryson (Meridian Garden Club members) are excited to be going.

## News from around our District

### Brighton Garden Club, Julie Cooper, Co-President

BGC continues in its efforts to support and promote pollinators. Letters are going out to our legislators asking that the Black Swallowtail butterfly be made our state butterfly. We plan to register our gardens for the Million Pollinator Challenge. We have constructed Carpenter Bee Houses for our gardens to be sold at our fundraisers.

We are looking at collaborating with the city of Brighton to create a pollinator garden alongside the Mill Pond.

We are pleased that we now have a Director for District IIB. Welcome Lynn Keelan! We look forward to hosting the the Fall District IIB meeting in October 2018. We met with Lynn as well as the rest of the steering committee on December 11 to discuss plans for this event.

On December 7 the club celebrated with a Christmas party complete with good food, singing and a story and that determined winners of the center pieces.



### Howell Garden Club, Lillian Van Houten, President

Our club is proud to have club member, Lynn Keelan as the new District IIB Director. We know she and her team will inspire us as with insight and innovation along the way.

The Howell Garden Club has had many activities going on since the start- up of our program year in September. Speakers discussed edible flowers, vegetables, herbal healing medicine, reducing anxiety, and learning to relax so we can enjoy our gardens and beauty around us. We also had workshops and outings.

November 11<sup>th</sup> brought out many members to honor our veterans at the Blue Star Memorial Gardens we maintain in Howell. A wreath was placed at the marker. This has been a tradition since establishing the site.



**Howell Garden Club (continued)**

Several members attended the Northville Holiday Home Tour in November and got many ideas for holiday decorating.



A gathering of greens and making swags and arrangements for our annual opera house sale was held at the home of Marlas Greiger. The sale was very successful with many helping hands.

A group of members met and made everlasting Christmas arrangements with guidance from Marlas and Lillian. The production of pretty designs and happy fellowship with one another got everyone into the holiday spirit.

Our annual "Tidings of Comfort and Joy" holiday gathering was held at the cheerfully decorated home of Marsha DeGroot in December. Following a delightful supper, an auction of special homemade baked goods and treats netted over \$400 to be used towards our Livingston County Horticultural Scholarship Fund. The scheduled evening that was greeted with a massive snow storm had to be postponed to the following night. Many faces were then able to attend with "the blanket of white" adding to the Christmas "Joy".

**Meridian Garden Club**

Over 60 members attended our holiday luncheon where themed tables provided a spectacular display. They were all "blue ribbon" quality!



We just celebrated our 48th anniversary as a club. Pictured here are founder Helen Tanner, club member Marie Smith, and cake!



*Your club news could be listed here!*

*Please send articles to Sue Wittick by January 20 for the February 2018 issue.*

The District IIB Steering Committee publishes this newsletter monthly to feature MGC news, district events and the projects and activities of IIB clubs. Each month we plan to report on one club in greater depth to foster a deeper appreciation of what makes us unique and of the love of gardening that connects us.

The deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month with the newsletter coming out around the 1st. It will be sent as an e-mail attachment. Send submissions for the newsletter to Sue Wittick.