

IIB Youth Gardeners Interest Group

Review of October 17, 2018 Meeting

Attendees: Mary Backus (Mason), Jon Dahl (DeWitt), Marsha DeGroot (Howell), Ronnie Dush (DeWitt), Lynn Keelan (Howell), Simar Pawar (Meridian), Sharon Rogers (Mason), Sherry Sevic (Webberville), Lynn O'Shaughnessy (Howell), Cathie Ware (Williamston), Sue Wittick (Meridian)

Purpose: The purpose of this group will be to share ideas and to support all the youth gardening activities in District IIB.

IIB Youth Gardeners members held an exciting first meeting at the Flap Jack Restaurant in DeWitt. It was clear that many of our IIB clubs offer activities that connect young people with gardening. Several other clubs expressed eagerness to expand their efforts in this area.

1. Attendees each introduced themselves and gave a brief overview of activities with youth in their club.
2. Ronnie Dush agreed to chair the group.
3. No one volunteered to help with group communication (keeping meeting records, articles for IIB newsletter and IIB website). After the meeting, Sue Wittick agreed to fill that role until the end of May 2019.
4. Tentative plans are to meet every other month September – May, and more often in the summer months. Location will be moved around our district, and clubs may volunteer to host.
5. Meetings will be organized to include business; an educational component (e.g. sharing club project, speaker, exchange of information on a particular topic, outside presenter, field trips); and lots of sharing.
6. Ronnie explained that few Youth Gardening resources have been collected by MGC, but our idea of a Youth Gardening Interest Group might be something that could be replicated in other districts.
7. Sue Wittick passed around information on the Michigan Garden Clubs Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Program that was provided to the district by Peggy House, MGC chair.
8. Schedules were distributed for the December 5, 2018 flower show which is primarily for youth entries and will be held at the Okemos Best Western, near I-96 and Okemos Road. Clubs were encouraged to share this with possible exhibitors and/or to plan an event that would provide kids with materials and instruction for completing their own designs.
9. In about six weeks, Ronnie will send some possible meeting dates for input from group members.

Possibilities the group may consider in the future:

- Rotating meeting location around the district, possibly “sponsored” by various clubs.
- Inviting interest group members to visit when a particular club is engaged with an event for young people.
- Activities for youth in a common location for anyone in the district (scavenger hunt, dig-a-thon, visit to MSU Children’s Garden or Nature Center, learning to identify trees, etc.)
- Activities for the district when any garden club member can bring a child and both can participate.
- Outreach to other clubs in the district who don’t yet have a member in this group.

Resources:

- MGC/NGC Youth Awards: <https://michigangardenclubs.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/NGC-Printable-Youth-Awards-List.pdf>
- NGC programs for youth: <http://www.gardenclub.org/youth/youth-contests.aspx>

Attachments:

- IIB Youth Gardeners Interest Group Membership Roster
- Schedule for “Kids in Toyland” Flower Show

Note: All attendees will be added to the membership of the IIB Youth Gardeners Interest Group and will receive mailings to the group. If you do not want to be considered a “member,” please let Sue Wittick and Ronnie Dush know.