

Dear MGC Garden Club Members:

I would like to ask you to update your clubs at their fall meetings regarding the Black Swallowtail Bill (HB4159) with the following information: The status the bill is that it has passed the House but has been Resources and Agriculture Committee. This is an election year which adds a whole new dimension to the legislative process. Our legislators are busy campaigning which means the Senate has fewer session days and that the Senators are very busy when in session. Consequently, there is less time to hear pending bills. At the recent MGC Board of Directors meeting, we discussed our next steps in support of the Black Swallowtail as our official state butterfly. Your board of directors felt that it would be difficult to push the bill from committee and through the Senate during the Lamé Duck session as many bills will be standing in line and the legislative process can be very unpredictable during this period. Meanwhile, MGC will watch closely to see if Rep. Julie Brixie is re-elected. If so, we will watch for the Black Swallowtail Bill to be reintroduced. Your legislative team is continuing to be in touch with Rep. Brixie and her staff. We will, also, be working behind the scenes to reach out to supporters of competing legislation (the Blue Karnar and the Monarch bills) and investigate professional lobbyists who may be able to assist us in our strategic planning if the Black Swallowtail bill is once more introduced. There are many unknowns at this point. However, be assured we are closely watching the legislative process in the hope that the Black Swallowtail will be designated as the official state butterfly for Michigan.



Finally, and very importantly, MGC wishes to thank all its members who have worked so diligently. Without all those letters knocking at the door of legislative members, without all those visits to Representatives, without attending the House committee hearing, and without your voices, HB4159 would not have progressed as far as it did through the legislative process. Thanks for a job well done!

Jeanette Meyer
Legislative Chair

