

Lisa Letter Continued:

Most MGC clubs include some youth participation in their programs and projects, MGC is proud of the time, expense and energy spent to promote, educate, include and inspire youth. This is so important for our future. Please remember to visit the President's Club Youth Engagement Award on the MGC website and apply for your Youth project.

The MGC project, Gardening with Purpose, is a valuable way to assist the underfed in Michigan. A report form is on the MGC website, and I encourage every member to donate to food pantries in their area, then report the donation through this form. The Food Pantry Directory is up to date. As summer harvests wrap up, donate your extra and remember to donate at your Fall District meeting or event, these donations will be counted, as well, and every pound aids this important issue.

Sadly, our longtime MGC Board and Executive Committee member, Gail Taggart, had to resign her position as 2nd VP due to health reasons. I am thrilled to announce that Trish Payne from District 6, and our former Blue and Gold Star Chairman, has accepted the role of 2nd VP. Get to know her in this issue. Welcome, Trish!

Thank you so much for reporting your member updates and paying club dues in such a timely manner. Sincere thanks go to Bunny LaDuke, MGC Treasurer, Shelly Andrews, MGC Member Services Administrator and Ronalee Polad, MGC Financial Assistant with help from Sue Hendrix for their dedicated efforts throughout the summer to accept, document, assist clubs, and follow up on these updates and payments.

MGC continues to offer in-depth educational opportunities:

- Gardening School, Course 4, took place in Sawyer, MI, Sept 18-19.
- Landscape Design School, Course 2, was held in Traverse City, October 8-9.
- Environmental School Course #4 will be held in Hickory Corners, Nov 2 & 3.

MGC appreciates the hard work and efforts of the host clubs for these schools. The current Gardening School and Environmental School series are at an end. Hosting a school not

only supports MGC and the education of our members but is also a fund-raising opportunity for your club. If your club or a couple of clubs want to host a new series of Environmental School or Gardening School, please contact me or MGC 3rd VP Jean Horrocks. We would love to discuss the requirements and hear your ideas.

The East Lansing Awards Judging Day will be November 10, 2026, and I am happy to announce that an alternative Awards Judging Day will be held on Oct 28, 2026 at the Otsego County Library! We ask for 3-4 members from each District to attend one of these sessions. If you are interested in assisting with Judging Awards from across the state, this is your chance. Please contact your District Director to add your name to the list. We plan to work from about 9:30am to 3pm and Lunch will be provided. This is a fun day that offers an opportunity to see how the Awards process is handled and to get ideas about applying for club awards.

Until next time...Happy Gardening!