



THE
MICHIGAN NEWS
WOMAN'S NATIONAL FARM AND GARDEN ASSOCIATION, INC.

Volume 80, Issue 4

Fall 2023

Michigan Division Fall Council Meeting – Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Everything You Wanted to Know About Belle Isle

Meeting presentation by Michele Hodges

The Bloomfield Hills Garden Club will be hosting the 2023 Fall Council Meeting on September 27 at The Village Club. The keynote speaker will be the vibrant Michele Hodges, President and CEO of the Belle Isle Conservancy.

What do **you** want to know about Belle Isle? It will be interesting to learn about the history of the island. How did people use the island long ago? When did the conservatory and aquarium open and who funded their construction? Who is Nancy Brown Pearce and why was a carillon built in her name? How big is the island and how did it become a park?

I am sure Michelle is going to answer those questions and regale us with many other fascinating facts and stories.

Ms. Hodges biography is just as interesting. She has been president of Belle Isle Conservancy since 2012. The Conservancy, in partnership with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and the City of Detroit, works to bring private and public resources to the park.

Prior to that, Michele had been President of the Troy Chamber since 2001. Governor Snyder and Mayor Bing appointed her to chair the Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee and she sits on numerous boards, including the DSO Board of Trustees and the Detroit RiverFront Conservancy Programming Committee.

The registration form for this event is on page 4.



*Speaker - Michele Hodges of
the Belle Isle Conservancy*

REMINDER - BRANCH TREASURERS

Dues of \$12 per member should be sent by
December 1, 2023.

Make checks payable to:

Michigan Division-WNF&GA

Send to: Suemarie Klimek, Division Treasurer

333 Yerkes Street

Northville, MI 48167

Questions: 734-459-8327 OR smak324@aol.com

Donations for Rural Women in Action, Daffodil
Day and the Detroit Zoo may also be sent to
Suemarie Klimek.

EXPLANATION OF DUES

\$6 is sent to Michigan Division and

\$6 is sent to WNF&GA



Michigan Division of the Woman's National Farm & Garden Association FOR YOUR INFORMATION

President	Sue Malone (Waterford Garden Club) 1155 Shoman Steet, Waterford 48327	248-613-5381	smalnewgc@gmail.com
Vice President	Cinda Schantz (Saginaw Garden Club) 802 Adams, Saginaw 48602	989-860-5753	cwrschantz@gmail.com
2nd Vice President	VACANT		
Administrator & Operations Treasurer	Suemarie Klimek (Northville Branch) 333 Yerkes Street, Northville 48167	734-459-8327	Smak324@aol.com
Charitable Treasurer	Pat Brown (Warren Garden Club) 31616 Lexington Street, Warren 48092	586-530-7922	Pat501946@gmail.com
Secretary	Barb Lepri (Troy Garden Club) 4532 Whisper Way Drive, Troy 48098	248-321-8291	bjlepri@gmail.com
Representative to National Council	Sheila Kneeshaw (Member at large) 2474 Iroquois, Detroit 48214	313-821-7480	Kshaw2474@yahoo.com
Representative to National Council	Charlotte Westbrook (Rochester Br.) 5563 Meadow Lane, Shelby Twp., 48316	586-781-3242	cdwestbrook@comcast.net

Michigan Division Volunteer Positions

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WEBMASTER - Kathleen Krasity
kathleenkrasity@yahoo.com

What's Happening & When?

September 27, 2023	Michigan Division Fall Council Meeting Information & registration Form on page 4.
November 1-15, 2023	Submit information and high quality photographs for Winter 2024 newsletter; January 2024 distribution

Visit Michigan Division &
the WNF&GA (national) organization online:

UPDATED 9/27/2025

Michigan Division
www.michiganwnfga.org

WF&GA (national)
www.wnfga.org

Member Area:
Password - Malone2025

Member Area:
Password - Farm100garden

Please take time to explore the two websites. There is much to learn about the history of the Michigan Division and the WNF&GA. You will find bylaws, standing rules and other significant documents. Several years of WNF&GA magazines are posted as well as Michigan Division newsletters. There is a how-to-document about hosting a council meeting.

VERY IMPORTANT - Please report ALL branch roster changes including: member additions, subtractions, change of address, phone numbers and email addresses. Also, please tell the registrar that you would like to access the newsletter via the MI DIV website!

Send to:
Cheryl Malin, MI DIV registrar
707 McDougal, Waterford, MI 48327
248-421-6093 cmalinwgc@gmail.com

We do not know unless you keep us informed.

From your Michigan Division president.....

The end of August has brought some picture-perfect Michigan summer weather and as I walk around my yard, I am amazed at the greenness that is still prevailing. The lawn is not brown, the ferns and foliage are lush, and many flowers are still putting on a colorful display. After the spring drought I thought it was going to be a dismal growing season, but I was elated that summer rains brought relief. I am sure branches with garden walks sighed with relief too! I visited four garden walks and thoroughly enjoyed each one, every garden has its' own uniqueness. I applaud everyone for their hard work that goes into having a garden walk. I hope September brings us gentle weather, beautiful fall color and plenty of time to prepare our gardens for winter.



On September 27, 2023, I will be conducting my first council meeting that will be graciously hosted by the Bloomfield Hills branch and held at The Village Club, a lovely setting. I am already nervous and let me apologize now for any mistakes or goof-ups that I might make while adjusting to the president's role.

At the Fall Council Meeting we will vote on a new fiscal budget, hear updates from our committees and learn about the 30th Triennial World Conference for Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW). Josephine Sillanpaa, of the Country Garden Club of Northville, with Kay Engelhart and Kathy Meinshein, both from the Saginaw branch, attended the conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. They will provide a presentation about the conference and explain the importance that Michigan Division is to ACWW and the global work that ACWW accomplishes.

As you have read from the first page our keynote speaker will be Michele Hodges of the Belle Isle Conservancy. She will entertain us with "*Everything You Wanted to Know About Belle Isle*". I hear she is a fascinating speaker, and I am looking forward to learning much more about the little I know of Belle Isle.

I also prepared this fall newsletter after Mary Schwark stepped away from the position. She did such a great job on the newsletters that I decided not to re-invent the wheel but use the same newsletter format. Members are accustomed to the format and know where to find important information. We find ourselves in need of a newsletter editor and we would love to have someone come forward and give it a try. We have a template started for you. I want to thank Joette Kunse, Clarkston Farm and Garden Club, and Cheryl Malin, Michigan Division registrar, for all their assistance in reviewing this newsletter.

We will be planning another round of Presidents' Gatherings soon. Watch for invitations in your email. Michigan Division continues to work for you and feel free to contact any board member with any suggestions, comments, or concerns. We are very proud of our branches for all the community work that they do.

-Sue Malone, Michigan Division president, 2023-2025

Update from Daffodils4Detroit – by Robin Heller

* The 2023 luncheon was a success! Thank you to all who attended, donated, volunteered, and supported us in any way.

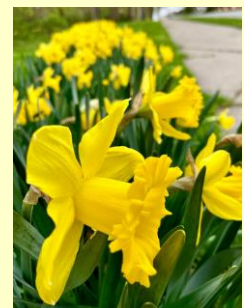
* The bulbs are due to arrive the week of September 11. The City of Detroit is prepared to plant all 100,000 of our Dutch Master bulbs on Belle Isle. This will augment the plantings on Daffodil Hill, extend the planting along the Iron Belle Trail, and add some new locations.

* **SAVE THE DATE** for the next Daffodil Luncheon at the Detroit Yacht Club

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Watch for details in the Winter Newsletter and online.

-photo by Kathleen Krasity



Michigan Division Fall Council Meeting – REGISTRATION FORM

Wednesday, September 27, 2023, at The Village Club

190 E. Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

HOSTED BY THE BLOOMFIELD HILLS GARDEN CLUB

Meeting Schedule

9:00–9:45 am: Check in, raffle baskets, visit gardens.

9:50 am: Welcome and Invocation

10:00 am: Seated Breakfast

10:30 - 11:45 am: MI DIV Business Mtg

11:45 am: Break

Noon – 12:45 pm: Speaker, Michele Hodges

12:45 pm: Raffle baskets

1:00 pm: Adjourn

Everything You Wanted to Know About Belle Isle

SPEAKER:
Michele Hodges
President & CEO
of Belle Isle
Conservancy



PLEASE NOTE: The registrar will send a registration confirmation to your email address. No email? You may enclose a self-addressed & STAMPED envelope when you send your registration. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY:

Name _____ Member? or Guest? Phone _____

Street address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email address (print clearly to assure confirmation receipt): _____

Branch Name (and any current branch office, if applicable): _____

PER PERSON: Incl. breakfast & Speaker \$ 35

OPTIONAL DONATION (tax deductible) \$ _____

TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED\$ _____

THIS REGISTRATION FORM WILL SOON BE

AVAILABLE ON THE MICHIGAN DIVISION WEBSITE:

<https://michdivwnfga.weebly.com>

Make check payable to: Michigan Division WNF&GA

Please mail with your completed form to:

Julie Beals

4075 Chatfield Lane

Troy, MI 48098

248-321-5099

Registration questions: Julie_beals@hotmail.com

Registration deadline September 15, 2023

Non-members guests are welcome while space remains.

They should send their own registrations and checks.

Suggestion: Photograph or make a copy of your completed registration form and check before mailing.

Valet parking is included & provided at main entrance. If you want to self-park and save time, use the WEST entrance.



**Gardens
at The
Village
Club**

Branch News

Bloomfield Hills Branch

We had a busy spring-summer with our Annual Meeting and luncheon, in May. We re-elected our current Board for one more year! In June, our new member Patsy Hartmann hosted our annual Soiree, where members enjoyed appetizers, wine, and conversation with fellow members surrounded by Patsy's beautiful garden! For the first time, we offered another meeting, a garden tour of one of our member's gardens!! Thirty-five members and four guests were welcomed by Gale Colwell and her daughter. Gale's beautiful garden features several hidden seating areas, perfect for relaxing and enjoying the tranquility of her garden. It was a warm day and Gale offered cookies and iced lemonade to members as they strolled through her gardens.

We will resume in September with several events planned for our membership before breaking for the winter months. On September 27th, our branch will be hosting the WNF&GA Michigan Division Fall Council Meeting, and we hope that many of you will attend!!

-submitted by Bobbi Polk, president

Clarkston Farm and Garden Club

Clarkston Farm and Garden Club had a busy summer with three events taking place within six weeks. In June, we celebrated our scholarship winners and families with a salad luncheon, and we learned about the four recent graduates and their plans for college. The students and their families were invited to a potluck lunch to pick up their checks and share their future plans. All of them are great students who have been involved in gardening, farming, and environmental activities before graduating. As they look to the future, one student is heading to Cornell University for health science, while another young lady is going to Albion College with hopes of becoming a veterinarian. Another student, who was president of her FFA (Future Farmers of America) chapter, is going to Northern Michigan University. The young man in the group is heading to the Air Force Academy. We wish them well as they head for their college years.

In July, club members prepared for the Clarkston Garden Walk. Five hundred guests visited six gardens to see their uniqueness, meet the gardeners, and enjoy volunteer guest musicians and artists. Our Artisan Market committee had about twelve vendors showing their arts and crafts for sale on the library grounds. There was a lot of preparation for the Walk including publicity, program booklet creation, restaurant planning, ticket sales, and meeting with the gardeners in the months leading up to the event. Despite two bridges under construction, making travel to the gardens an adventure, Mother Nature gave us a beautiful day and we were so happy to greet our visitors.



Mary Lee Kramer, Co-Chair of the Lonely Bouquet, checks out the bouquets that members created.

In August, we created Lonely Bouquets to put around the community. Members brought flowers from their gardens or purchased them, and we created bouquets to be placed in different areas such as parks, the post office, businesses, and health care centers. There is a note on the bouquet that says "Adopt me please, I'm all alone and looking for a home. Can I live with you or a loved one? Please take me." Beth Kudla and Mary Lee Kramer chaired the Lonely Bouquet project, which is an international project. More information can be found on the Internet.

We are looking forward to our fall fundraiser, where we sell fresh wreaths, roping and fresh arrangements. Wishing everyone a Happy Fall!

-submitted by Joette Kunse, Communication Chair

Country Garden Club of Northville

Our 29th Annual Garden Walk was a huge success! We managed to avoid the rain and had a lovely day. There were six gardens on our walk, all unique and full of personality. It's a lot of work, but such an enjoyable event. If you know of a garden in the Northville/Novi area that should be on the walk next year, let us know!

Our work on gardens around town has paid off. The Post Office Garden looks amazing this year, and the garden at the Northville District Library won a beautification award! Members volunteer to work in these gardens throughout the year, planting, mulching, weeding, etc.

After taking the month of August off, we start our regular monthly meetings in September. They are held the first Wednesday of every month. All are welcome to attend. The schedule, location, and speakers can all be found on our website. You can also follow us on Facebook for updates. You can find us by searching Country Garden Club of Northville.

-submitted by Shay Leonard, 2nd vice president



Photo Credits: Garden Walk and U.S. Post Office by Shay Leonard; Northville District Library Beautification Award by Barb Sturtz

Franklin Garden Club



Congratulations to Co-Chairs Sharon Wolf and Georgia Charnas, and their committee, for an outstanding Garden Walk and Artisan Market on the Summer Solstice, June 21st! The Garden Walk featured six impressive and inspirational gardens in Bloomfield Township, Beverly Hills, and Birmingham. Please see the photos taken by Cindy Juliano.

We held our end-of-season picnic at the home of Mary Sue and Paul Ewing. The rain didn't deter us from exploring their spectacular, four-acre gardens; and we enjoyed a delicious salad lunch in their lovely, art-filled home.

Once more Peggy Dufault organized six informal garden visits, to which members may bring guests. Held on Wednesdays, some in the morning and some in the evening, these visits are a happy way to enjoy each other's company and gardens. Here are the highlights:

Cindy Chelovich hosted us again, and we were more than excited to enjoy the warm, homemade scones with lemon curd, jam, and clotted cream! Her big project this year involved removing and replacing forty, 25-foot-tall arborvitae damaged in the spring ice storm. Cindy says her miniature garden is bigger and better than ever, and it's one of her favorite places to putter around.

Joyce Pippel's home was our next stop. Joyce does not miss the marauding deer, burrowing woodchucks and abundant leaf fall at her former residence. Moving to a lakeside, walkout lower-level ranch condo last November, Joyce had no idea she'd inherited three lovely, small gardens outside, and an indoor atrium planted with akebia and clematis vines, hellebores, ferns, brunnera, liriopie, and more.

Our third garden visit took us to the gorgeous gardens, home, and art studio of Julie Dawson. The path through the woods to the Rouge River is complete. The roof of the second gazebo on the property, cut from aluminum, is a colorful kaleidoscope of birds, animals, and flowers she has seen in her gardens.

Sharon Wolf hosted us again at her gardens, which are filled with beautiful trees. Her favorite is a Weeping Purple Beech. White Pine, Hinoki Cypress, Larch, Ginkgo and many grasses also grace the property. Over the year, Sharon has worked with Judy Partridge to develop and maintain this magnificent space.

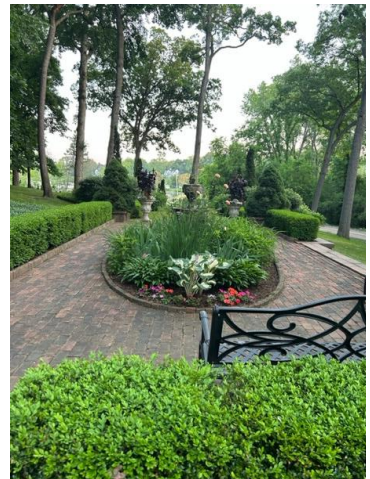
We next visited Sandy Debicki's garden. Through the years, Sandy has focused on perennials. She says she's a "seat of your pants" gardener, enjoying the challenge of trial and error. We admired Sandy's lovely roadside bed in front, the large sunken garden in back, and three unusual trees: one that looks like an upside-down spade; one that has no innards, and one that definitely could be an art piece.

We concluded our garden visits at Cindy Schiano's home. Her large property includes, breath-taking gardens, a waterfall and stream, an enclosed gazebo with attached, fenced-in vegetable gardens (take that, deer!), and numerous beautiful outdoor spaces for entertaining.

On Labor Day, our club participated again in the Franklin Round-Up, a country fair-like event featuring artisans, children's activities, and food. We decorated a golf cart and rode in the two-block parade, tossing candy to the crowd. Members donated plants for our plant sale.

We look forward to the speakers, tours and events arranged for our 2023-24 season by Program Co-Chairs Kathy Lorencz and Pam Rijnovean!

*-submitted by Amy Stevenson, co-president
Photos of Garden Walk by Cindy Juliano.*



Grosse Pointe Shores Garden Club

Earlier this year the Grosse Pointe Shores Garden Club decided to cancel one of our winter meetings and extend our meeting calendar into the summer months. We held our July summer meeting at the Romeo Lavender Farms where we strolled through acres of lovely lavender and wildflower fields. We also enjoyed viewing Native American relics found on the property. At the far end of the property was a small clear stream with fish and a few milkweed plants with pods. Some of us were able to see Monarch eggs on the plants! The owner, who is also a beekeeper, gave us a personal tour of his land. Our V.P., Ruth Ellen Mayhall, made all the arrangements for this wonderful outing. After enjoying the little store on the grounds, we shared a delicious meal together at a nearby local restaurant suggested by our secretary, Margie Prokop.

In June our club participated in the Grosse Pointe Garden Center Garden Tour, hosting at one of the picturesque gardens in Grosse Pointe Shores on Friday and Saturday. Despite the rain showers, tried and true gardeners attended this grand event on our side of town. It was well attended, as we ran out of general tickets and raffle tickets.

On August 30, we had a pop-up garden tour at a friend's home in Mt. Clemens. She raises butterflies and her wonderful garden has been on their garden tour.

"I think everyone would agree that a garden club should be able enjoy our summer blooms and get outdoors more often to enjoy the wonderful creations we adore from God."

We look forward to seeing you all at the Fall Council Meeting!

-submitted by Shirley Hartert, president



Picture at Lavender Farm

Left to right: Ruth Ellen Mayhall, Margie Prokop, Shirley Hartert, Pat Tappert, Diane Karaabetsos. Back row: Susan Richner and Diane Karwowski

Milford Garden Club



New Logo!

June was a busy, but gratifying month as Garden Club members hosted our two major fundraisers, that largely support our annual high school scholarship awards. Thanks to Plant Sale Chair, Lisa Hill and Garden Walk Chairs, Barb Amey and Linda Becker and members, both events were successful.

With inspiration from President Susan Absher and VP Nancy Nordin and approval of general membership, our official Logo was designed in honor of our Club's 75th Anniversary. The Logo represents flowers from Michigan's three growing seasons. We hope you have had a rewarding summer. Until next time, be well and happy harvesting.

-submitted by Gail Cooper, Publicity VP

Moonglow Garden Club

The Moonglow Garden Club has had a fun and busy summer! We hosted our eighth bi-annual garden walk, which, despite the rain, was a success. The gardens were still beautiful and all who attended enjoyed the lovely Trenton gardens. We also held two different garden parties at members' homes. A late August field trip to the Four Star Greenhouse in Carleton was a fun way to close out summer. This year we started a book club, thanks to an idea from one of our newer members. This group takes turns meeting in each other's homes and even had their last meeting at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, where they attended the Julia Child exhibit together! Garden Club is not only about gardening but also about building friendships, too!

- submitted by Glenda Albright, president

Northville Garden Club

Every May, the Northville Garden Club holds a plant auction to raise money for their operating and scholarships funds. Kathy Galarneau assisted while Suemarie Klimek led the successful auction with a gavel in her hand and an adorable hat on her head. Beautiful perennials, pots, and yard art donated by members of the garden club were auctioned off.

Sally Hayes retired from her role as Treasurer after 20 years of service. Kathy Galarneau, the outgoing President, and the incoming Treasurer thanked Sally for her dedication and for doing a marvelous job managing the finances. A delicious happy retirement cake was enjoyed by all in Sally's honor.

The Northville Garden Club also completed their spring clean-up of the gardens at the Northville Public Library. As part of their community service, the club beautifies one of the stunning gardens at Mill Race Village, specifically the Yerkes home. The garden is adorned with colorful annual flowers planted around the fountain. In addition to flowers, a variety of vegetables such as potatoes, green beans, peppers, corn, and tomatoes are grown. During the fall season, the fresh produce is harvested and donated to Northville Civic Concern, a local food bank that helps the community. For more information on the Northville Garden Club, please visit our website: <https://northvillegardenclub.com/home>, and our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/thenorthvillegardenclub>.

-submitted by Dana Whelan



Left: Kathy Galarneau assisted with leader Suemarie Klimek at the auction - photos by Dana Whelan



Above: Kathy Galarneau with Sally Hayes who retired as Treasurer – photo by Dana Whelan



Left: Northville Public Library clean up



Right: Fountain Garden at Yerkes house in Mill Race Village

Plymouth Garden Club



Beatrice (Bea) Gray, photo courtesy of PGC Archives and Shirley Connors

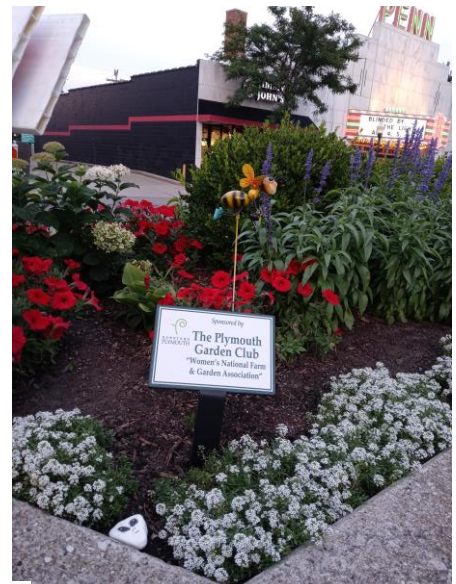
Memories of “Bea” were buzzing around, as Plymouth Garden Club began its 2023 planting season at Kellogg Park. The result was a fitting tribute to Beatrice (Bea) Gray who passed away earlier this year. She loved to design at least one of the flowerbeds to reflect an Americana theme. Her floral selection always overflowed with red, white, and blue annuals. That was our Bea!

In Bea’s own words, “Garden Club is something special to me. I really enjoy all the friends I met and all the hard work they do planting beautiful flowers downtown and at Garden Club Park. Such nice people!”

-submitted by Mary Prouty, Publicity



*Above: before the planting in Kellogg Park:
Back row L to R: Dorothy Simescu, Shirley Zaetta, Margi Bake, Billie Barton, Nancy Earle, Denise King, and Justina McNamara.
Front row L to R: Pat Bierzynski and Susan Crites. Photo courtesy of a passer-by*



Right: A tribute to Bea's garden

Port Huron Garden Club

As the Port Huron Garden Club prepares for the end of the garden season, we look forward to celebrating our Garden Club 90th Birthday. At the same time, we look back on our history, admiring the foresight of the ladies in our community for planting our beautiful gardens throughout the city.

Members will plant daffodils again this fall along the walking path on Pine Grove as we prepare for our annual green sales in November. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

-submitted by Ginny Paknikar, president



*Photo from on a garden walk, Back row L to R: Margo Fox, Julie Gardner, Judy Hall, Kathy Emery, Chris McNutt
Front row L to R: Jill Christian, Cathy Busdicker, Vicki Cartwright, Kay Price, JoAnn Brooks*

Rochester Garden Club

This summer has been a busy one for the Rochester Garden Club. We have enjoyed a productive partnership with the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm, where we design and maintain the very popular Children's Garden on their grounds. In addition to the individual gardens staffed by our volunteers, we also hold a "Working Thursday" every other week throughout the gardening season, which gives all our members the chance to work in the garden on a regular basis.

We held two successful functions at the Van Hoosen Farm. Our designers presented a "Container Garden" workshop in late June, which was open to the public and was a great way to interact with our community. We also held a "Flower Arranging Workshop" in late July, where our guests learned how to create beautiful arrangements that they could take home for a price of \$45. Everyone had a marvelous time.



Our monthly meetings resume in September, and this means we begin planning for our big fundraiser, the 77th annual Gifts and Greens Market. Members prepare incredible permanent and fresh arrangements, craft items, herbal treats, and holiday baked goods. We also sell a variety of lovely fresh greens so you can make your own decorations. This year the market will be held on Thursday, November 30 from 5 pm to 8 pm (Opening Gala), Friday, December 1 from 9 am to 5 pm and Saturday, December 2 from 9 am to 1 pm. (Market Days). Our location is the Abiding Presence Lutheran Church, 1550 Walton Blvd., Rochester Hills, MI 48309. We hope you all can attend. The proceeds fund our charitable work and scholarships.

-submitted by Jenny Van Dusen, president

Photos of flower arranging workshop

Saginaw Farm & Garden

Springtime was filled with gardens and friends for the Saginaw Garden Club. In May, we held 'Tea at Ten' which brought together members and prospective members to share what Garden Club is all about in Saginaw. At the end of the month, Community Service sites were planted, bringing color to Community Village, the Andersen Enrichment Center, and the Children's Zoo. At our June annual meeting we installed the new board of directors, followed by our annual garden walk, featuring the special Saginaw gardens that we had recognized with awards at our October meeting. Spring brings out the gardener in us, and we gather to share the joy.

As our newsletter editor, Joy Walter, said: "When we share a piece of our garden, we share much more than leaves and roots."



Left photo: Water feature at the Romo garden, winner of the Creative Design Award.



Right photo: Past President Ann Herm and President Kathy Meinschein admire the Itoh peony in the Van Kirk Garden, winner of the Farm & Garden Award.

-submitted by Kathy Meinschein, president

Trailwood Garden Club

On June 27th, members eagerly hosted our first garden walk in two years. Thanks to everyone's help, everything went off without a hitch. During the walk, we featured five gardens, and a sixth garden available for viewing where our plant sale was located. In May we planted our garden planter in downtown Plymouth, volunteered for planting at the War Memorial, and did our annual planting at Township Hall. We also honored long-time member Marie Everitt for her outstanding community service at "The Taste of Plymouth", an annual volunteer showcase. At the end of July, we had our second annual picnic at member Carol Gardeners' Lake house on Zuckey Lake, where we were treated to a tour of the lake by pontoon boat.

-submitted by Terry LaBeau



Right: Marie Everitte



Left: Trailwood members at the war memorial.
L to R: Georgia Randinitis, Cathryn Pennybaker,
Elba Fillmore and Ann Marie Young.

Waterford Garden Club

On August 25, six Waterford Garden Club members met for breakfast in Clarkston before visiting Applewood Estate, located in Flint, Michigan. The estate was commissioned by General Motors executive, Charles Stewart Mott and was a working farm until 1949. Today, the estate grounds are open to the public and are maintained by the Ruth Mott foundation. During their visit, club members walked the beautiful grounds and saw huge beech, oak, and elm trees. They also saw the rose garden, Friendly Frog statue built by Marshall Fredericks, cut flower and demonstration gardens. Visitors can explore the home's main floor and basement (which includes a built-in bowling alley). There is an apple tree on the property that is over 100 years old and still produces fruit. At the visitors' center, club members enjoyed freshly harvested pears grown by the estate.

-submitted by Connie Kiefiuk, recording secretary



Demonstration garden and LaBrezza statue, photo by Carrie Sue Cempura



C. S. Mott home, photo by Sue Malone



Perennial garden, photo by Carrie Sue Cempura



Carrie Sue Cempura and Friendly Frog statue by Marshall Fredericks, photo by Sue Malone

The Joy of Gardening – Some Words on Weeds

My personal relationship with weeds began in my girlhood when I was taught to hoe the navy bean rows clean in my father's fields. His instruction was eloquent in its brevity and razor sharp in its objective. He showed me a bean plant, ordered me to remember what it looked like, pointed me in the direction of the field and told me to kill any other growing thing that was not it. The sun was hot, the rows of beans were long, and my capacity for feeling sorry for myself was boundless. When my father inspected and discovered that the halfhearted whacks, I had taken at those weeds barely cut the tops off, he was livid. Now that I have a garden of my own, I realize the level of his frustration.

Finally, I can hear and truly understand the battle plan my father tried to make me understand as a soldier being sent to the field. Root (not just rout) those weeds out. Grab their stems and yank them from their moorings. Throw them where their leaves will wither to nothing in the sun. He told me that some weed seeds can lie dormant for as long as a hundred years and still sprout if brought to the surface of the soil, so it is imperative that each weed be plucked from its life cycle before those seeds form.

As I grew to become a gardener, I realized that most of our cultured and coveted perennials which fill my yard with beauty, originated somewhere back in time from a weed,

I suppose it should be no surprise that there be some sort of symbiotic relationship between the two. However, it never ceases to amaze and at the same time infuriate me at the innate craftiness of those barbarian throw backs that they should be so expert at knowing exactly where to grow so as to be perfectly disguised for the longest period of time, thus enabling them to set seed for next year's crop of crap!

Carrying centuries of survival in its seed, this enemy knows just where to grow. Only the seeds of ones that have a similar leaf shape to a valued perennial sprout next to that plant, so that all the nutrients I have supplied in order to have exceptional blooms go to produce the sturdiest, most glorious specimen of a weed I've ever seen—but—I sometimes don't see it until one morning it sticks its tongue out at me by waving its seed heads in the breeze, seed heads that overnight have grown to tower over my flowers bringing back the all too vivid criticisms of my hoeing techniques so long ago on the farm. I grab each one when I see it and ferociously tear its roots from the soil.

The battle, however, is not so easily won. There are also the weeds that know to survive, they must slink along the ground underneath your prize plants, creeping and crawling their way into seed production, hoping they won't be seen until it's too late. Oh, this indeed is a hundred-year war of mammoth proportions. Only the fit and the limber will prevail. On my knees or bent double is my usual battle formation. Recent rainstorms have produced two feet of weed growth in one night, so armed with righteous passion, a kneeling pad for my still decent knees, and my father's advice, I march to my Eden---indomitable---resolved---to take no prisoners.

-submitted by Joy Walter, Saginaw Branch

A Trip of a Lifetime! An Adventure of a Lifetime! The 30th Triennial World Conference of Associated Country Women of the World Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (5/17-5/25, 2023)



I had the pleasure of attending the conference with my daughter, Rayline, and two other members from Saginaw Branch, International Cooperation and Frysinger International Project Chairman Kay Engelhart and President Kathy Meinschein. We flew out of Detroit Metro on Saturday, May 13th, and arrived in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Monday the 15th after two flight changes, 23 hours in the air, and crossing 12 time zones.

We arrived three days ahead of the conference and were able to take side trips to Kuala Selangor, where we took the Firefly Boat Tour to see silver leaf monkeys and many fireflies; a city tour of Kuala Lumpur and the Batu Caves, where we climbed 272 steps to the Hindu Shrines; and the Cameron Highlands to travel through many villages and visit a tea plantation.

Our host hotel was the Putrajaya Marriott, and our hostess society was the Women's Institute of Pahang with Chairperson Queen Azizah. The hotel was very comfortable, and the Women's Institute could not have been more gracious. Our breakfast buffets were very international with choices of various meats, cheeses, eggs, cereals, fruit, pastries, ice cream, a coffee bistro, and options that I did not recognize but enjoyed trying. Our lunches were buffet style. Our dinners were themed with food and entertainment representing the many cultures of Malaysia—Malays, Indian, Chinese, and indigenous.

Before the conference, we were given the choice of four different outings to experience on Sunday. The three of us chose a different option, so that we could share information with each other. We were picked up by buses and taken to the location of our choice.

The Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) is an organization that comprises nine million members from various organizations in 82 countries worldwide. During the opening ceremony, flags of member nations were carried in, and The Song of Peace was sung. Throughout our six days of sessions, 21 resolutions were presented, discussed, and voted on, including the Establishment of Rural Women's Employment Action Plans and Rural Gender Impact Analysis. Our current ACWW World President, Magdie de Kock, from South Africa kept our sessions moving and informed.

And let's not forget Queen Azizah! She extended an invitation to the over 400 of us in attendance for a seven-course dinner and traditional entertainment Sunday evening at the National Palace! We dressed accordingly and were transported by seven buses to the palace. Whenever and wherever we traveled by bus, we had a motorcycle police escort.

This was the first ACWW Triennial World Conference to have a queen as a chairperson and the first to offer a virtual option. If you would like to view any of the happenings at this conference, you may do so on the ACWW website. There, you can see daily conference sessions, view fabulous food and glamorous entertainment, and even see me participating alongside Rayline, Kay, and Kathy.

At the conclusion of our sessions, the 2026 destination was announced, and the flags of member nations were carried out. The 31st Triennial Conference will be held in Ottawa, Canada in April 2026.

Additionally, three of us stayed for a second week and flew to Kuching, Sarawak on Borneo. Why Borneo? Might there be a Peace Corps Connection? I look forward to sharing more information about this part of our trip in the upcoming Winter Edition of Michigan News.”

-submitted by Jo Sillanpaa, Advisor, and past president of Michigan Division of WNF&GA



Above: Kathy Meinschein, Kay Englehart and Jo Sillanpaa visit with ACWW World President Magdie de Kock.



Above: Main course served at the palace among seven courses.



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Matthew Ross update:

Mr. Ross was the speaker for our Michigan Division 2021 Spring Council Virtual Meeting. He gave a wonderful presentation about “*Gardens In and Around the Great Lakes*”. At that time, he was Director of Continuing Education at Longwood Gardens. He is now in our own Great Lake State of Michigan! Mr. Ross is the Executive Director of The Botanic Garden at Historic Barns Park in Traverse City. “In his new role, Matthew will provide leadership of all areas of operations and work closely with the board to forge both vision and strategy for the next stage of the garden’s development.” I visited Barns Park this summer and found it a real gem in the Traverse City area.

-submitted by Sue Malone