



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

Volume 77, Issue 4

Fall 2020

Keeping it green, keeping it positive, keeping it going, keeping it real!

**Where's a good quote when you need it?  
 Below are encouraging thoughts from  
 three insightful women.**

"All the world is full of suffering. It is also full of overcoming."  
 - **Helen Keller**

"You may encounter many defeats, but you must not be defeated. In fact, it may be necessary to encounter the defeats, so you can know who you are, what you can rise from, how you can still come out of it." - **Maya Angelou**

"The most beautiful people we have known are those who have known defeat, known suffering, known struggle, known loss, and have found their way out of the depths. These persons have an appreciation, a sensitivity, and an understanding of life that fills them with compassion, gentleness, and a deep loving concern. Beautiful people do not just happen." - **Elisabeth Kübler-Ross**



**Attention, Branch Treasurers!**  
**Dues - \$12 per member – should be sent  
 by December 1, 2020.**  
 Make checks payable to:  
 Michigan Division–WNF&GA  
 Send to: Pat Brown, Division Treasurer  
 31616 Lexington St.  
 Warren, MI 48092  
 Questions? 586-268-0975 **OR**  
[patb501946@comcast.net](mailto:patb501946@comcast.net)  
 Donations for Pennies for Friendship, Daffodil Day,  
 International Tea and the Detroit Zoo  
 may also be sent to Pat Brown.



- Rochester Branch's *No Frills Garden Stroll*  
 Colleen Dykstra's hillside crocosmia

**Is a picture worth a thousand words?**

Many quotable individuals - from Leonardo DaVinci to Napoleon Bonaparte to Henrik Ibsen to Fred R. Barnard (who's Fred R. Barnard?) - have used those exact words or similar words to express the same idea. If you agree with the idea, perhaps you also believe that an eye-catching **high-resolution** photo is worth even more!

To those submitting photos for the MI DIV newsletter: **thank you** for sending high-resolution images! If you haven't yet heard the pitch – and if your cell phone is your go-to camera – how should you decide what and how to share? That's the easy part! **What will the recipient do with your photos?**

Regarding a photo **for viewing only**, when your phone asks you what "size" you want to send, your decision is less critical. But when you email a photo **for printing or publication**, the choice of size is extremely important. Always choose "actual," "original," or "large." Why? Because "size" refers to how much digital information is in the photo file. The greatest amount of information – in other words, the largest number of "bytes" – will result in the sharpest image, whether printed or published online. Please keep taking – and sending! – lots of bytes. - 1 -

## Michigan Division of the WNF&GA For Your Information

### Executive Committee 2019 – 2021

<b>President</b>	<b>Sheila Kneeshaw</b> (Indian Village Branch) 313-821-7480 2474 Iroquois, Detroit 48214	<a href="mailto:kshaw2474@yahoo.com">kshaw2474@yahoo.com</a>
<b>First Vice President</b>	<b>Marcia Mandell</b> (Country G.C. Northville) 248-478-3391 18894 Milburn Street, Livonia 48152	<a href="mailto:mjmandell2012@gmail.com">mjmandell2012@gmail.com</a>
<b>Second Vice President</b>	<b>Jo Sillanpaa</b> (Country G.C. Northville) 248-513-6496 16625 Winchester Drive, Northville 48168	<a href="mailto:jcsillanpaa@gmail.com">jcsillanpaa@gmail.com</a>
<b>Division Treasurer</b>	<b>Patricia Brown</b> (Warren Branch) 586-268-0975 31616 Lexington Street, Warren 48092	<a href="mailto:patb501946@comcast.net">patb501946@comcast.net</a>
<b>Charitable Treasurer</b>	<b>Lenore Treba</b> (Troy Garden Club) 248-362-3738 859 Portsmouth Drive, Troy 48084	<a href="mailto:leetreba@att.net">leetreba@att.net</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Vicki Guntenaar</b> (Troy Garden Club) 303-807-4364 19425 Georgia Street, Roseville 48066	<a href="mailto:vguntenaar56@gmail.com">vguntenaar56@gmail.com</a>
<b>Representative to National Council</b>	<b>Cheryl Malin</b> (Pontiac Garden Club Br.) 248-421-6093 707 McDougal, Waterford 48327	<a href="mailto:cmalin09@gmail.com">cmalin09@gmail.com</a>
<b>Representative to National Council</b>	<b>Charlotte D. Westbrook</b> (Rochester Br.) 586-781-3242 5563 Meadow Lane, Shelby Township 48316	<a href="mailto:cdwestbrook@comcast.net">cdwestbrook@comcast.net</a>

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

Michigan Division <a href="http://www.michdivwnfga.weebly.com">www.michdivwnfga.weebly.com</a> Member Area Password: skneeshaw2021	WNF&GA (national) <a href="http://www.wnfga.org">www.wnfga.org</a> Member Area Password: Farm100garden
---	---

Mary Schwark—newsletter editor & MI DIV advisor

### What's Happening & When?

Not scheduled	Fall Council Meeting
November 1 - 15, 2020	Submit info & photos for the 2021 winter newsletter.

For more info about MI DIV happenings, view the FALL CALENDAR at the top of page 6.

## Being Green



We've made progress since 2018, but let's keep up the good work!

- Save natural resources and costs.
- Receive your newsletters online.
- Print your own copies from MI DIV's website.

When you read newsletters online or print your own,

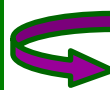
YOU'LL VIEW ALL PHOTOS IN COLOR !

Notify registrar Cheryl Malin (white box with purple arrow immediately to the right) that you're ready to

GO GREEN!

### VERY IMPORTANT: Keep us posted. We won't know if you don't tell us!

Please report all branch roster changes: member additions, subtractions, changes 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!



### Who needs to know?

Cheryl Malin, MI DIV registrar

707 McDougal, Waterford, MI 48327  
248-421-6093 [cmalin09@gmail.com](mailto:cmalin09@gmail.com)

## From Sheila Kneeshaw, your Michigan Division president ...

The days are now getting shorter as we head into fall. Summer is just about gone as we continue to socially distance and, hopefully, keep safe.

On June 6, 2020, a virtual National Meeting was held via ZOOM webinar. The meeting was well attended and very interesting. The past Executive Committee did a great job of organizing the meeting. I know all of us wish we could have met in person, and hopefully next year we will be able to do so.

The new executive committee also took office during this meeting. Mary Schwark, a member of the Troy Garden Club, as well as our immediate past president of the Michigan Division, was sworn in as president of the National WNF&GA for 2020-2022. Patty Burnside, a member of the Saginaw Garden Club, is the new vice president. Mary Lynne Moellering took office as the A&O treasurer and is from the Rochester Garden Club Branch. She replaces Lenore Treba, who is a member of the Troy Garden Club.

On behalf of the Michigan Division, congratulations, ladies. Thank you, Lenore, for your years of service to National representing the Michigan Division, and as you continue with the WNF&GA as finance chairperson.

As there is still much uncertainty about the pandemic, the Michigan Division executive board voted to cancel the 2020 Fall Council Meeting. Please take care and be safe.



Sheila Kneeshaw  
- photo by Jeanne Bolcer

## *In Memoriam*



**Marjorie Elinor Hogan**

Romeo & Juliet Garden Club member  
d: June 15, 2020

Marjorie was a lover of gardens, gardening, birdwatching, and all animals – especially her two horses. A graduate of the University of Michigan with a BS in nursing, she was a retired surgical nurse. She was a world traveler and lived for many years in California before returning to Michigan, where she was born. A kind and gentle person and friend, Marjorie will be greatly missed. The garden club has donated funds in her name to Daffodils4Detroit. She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law and 11 nieces and nephews.

- submitted by Kathy Bruggeman



**Karen Rowena Bigger**

Troy Garden Club member  
d: June 30, 2020

Karen, a long-time member of the Troy Garden Club, was born in Lexington, Michigan and raised her children in Sterling Heights. Prior to retiring in 2006, she was a special education teacher for 17 years. Karen and her husband Tom spent summers in the Lexington area and winters in Florida. Besides gardening, Karen loved board games, music and reading. She is survived by her husband of 55 years, two sons, two daughters-in-law, five grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

- information obtained online



**Emily Kirshner**

with Milford Garden Club flag  
d: August 24, 2020

Emily joined the Milford Garden club in 2000 and worked on their annual plant sale, annual garden walk and mentoring program. A retired teacher, she also volunteered at the Milford Library, and was both an avid line dancer and gardener. Emily also attended several WNF&GA meetings and loved them. She is survived by her husband Bob, one son and one daughter, five grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

- submitted by Terri Hardick

## FEATURE ARTICLE: A Boy's Passion for the Outdoors Becomes a Path to a Career Milford Garden Club Branch

The Milford Garden Club was pleased to award a scholarship this year to a young man who loves the outdoors and gardening. Benjamin Getzen, a 2020 graduate of Lakeland High School in White Lake, Michigan, was chosen as Milford Garden Club's (MGC) sole 2020 scholarship recipient. Our club usually awards up to three scholarships annually to local graduates. Due to the pandemic, this year's fundraising opportunities which support our scholarship program were severely curtailed, but we still awarded one scholarship.

Ben's background and early interest in gardening probably sound familiar to those of us who grew up with gardeners – helping in grandparents' gardens, picking berries with our moms or growing our own little gardens. As a child, Ben was always interested in bugs and the outdoors, and as he got older, he became enthusiastic about biology.

Ben also had a home garden, where he grew some vegetables and pumpkins. He said that the vegetables were a success. The pumpkins? Not so much, but they had nice leaves!

His interest continued to grow. He and several other students started the Lakeland High School Garden Club in 2018. To make the garden club a reality, the students started talking to teachers about the idea and were given a small strip of land for vegetable gardening. The club's mission was to grow and distribute fresh food to the community, while providing the opportunity for high school students to learn about gardening. In 2020 there were eight members, all of whom were seniors, so Ben hopes that the club will continue.

This fall, Ben will begin studies for a degree in biological systems and agricultural engineering (BAE) at Michigan State University. He said that the degree "combines the two areas I am most interested in: biology and engineering."

According to MSU's website, "Biosystems engineers may, for example, design pathogen control processes to protect the safety of our food supply, [design] constructed wetlands to improve water quality and quantity, [design] biomass conversion processes to sustainably supply renewable energy and products, and/or [design] diagnostic and risk modeling systems to protect and enhance human and animal health."



- Milford Garden Club 2020 scholarship recipient Benjamin Getzen

Ben had a job this summer that has provided a good learning experience as well as enjoyment. He has worked for a professional gardener and is learning the basics – weeding, pruning and hardscaping – which align with his engineering interests. He said that he also learned more about bugs!

In the photo to the left, Ben shows off his hardscaping project, for which he designed a way to secure the lightweight obelisk. He also engineered proper water flow.

The Milford Garden Club is thrilled to help Ben start on his career path.

- submitted by Diane Pearson,  
VP of publicity

Please be sure to read three additional *feature articles* in this publication:

***Gardening RN Provides TLC for Butterflies, page 12***

***Yarrow – an herb, a remedy, a weed, a garden beauty, a pollinator?, page 13***

***No Frills Garden Stroll to the Rescue, pages 13 - 14***

## *Daffodils4Detroit 2020*

### **Honor Roll Additions to the 2020 Summer Newsletter List**

*Keep Michigan Beautiful*

*Romeo & Juliet Garden Club,  
in memory of Marjorie Hogan*

*Trailwood Garden Club*

## **Daffodils4Communities**

Thank you to many Michigan Division branches which have already established their own daffodil projects. We urge all branches to participate. ***Now's the time to add to your existing daffodil plantings or to begin new ones!***

If your branch has an existing relationship with a public entity in your area – post office, school, museum, community center, library, et al, – could you and your branch establish a special daffodil garden there? Branch projects, while distinct from Daffodils4Detroit, are related and are still part of the greater effort.

In the **Branch News** section of this issue, daffodil icons appear next to the names of already participating branches.

*Michigan Division sends condolences to member-at-large Claudia Scioly, a longtime champion of Daffodils4Detroit and the WNF&GA. We wish her comfort and healing after the passing of her husband Anthony Joseph (Tony) Scioly on July 11, 2020.*

## **Have you heard?**

**2020 Vision**, Troy Garden Club's special 50-year anniversary celebration was originally scheduled for October 6, 2020. It has been postponed. With good luck, good health, crossed fingers and providential blessings, **2021 Vision** will take place on **October 5, 2021**.

The location – Michigan State University Management Education Center in Troy – will be the same, along with timing and the program with our three horticultural rock stars: Julia Hofley, George Papadelis and Laurie Tenent. Artist, writer, magazine editor and art educator Megan Swoyer will join us as moderator. Watch for updates in the spring 2021 Michigan Division newsletter.

## **What's cooking?**

Does your basil abound? Are your tomatoes tempting? Is your garlic going strong? Do you have a baguette that's begging to become bruschetta?

Yes? Yes? Yes? Yes? Then here's a recipe for you:

From Anita Andes, Clarkston Farm & Garden Club

**Bruschetta:** a *garden-fresh* mixture served on toasted French baguette slices. Serves 10.

4-5 Roma tomatoes, small-diced & immediately drained in a wire strainer

1 clove garlic, minced

1/4 cup finely chopped fresh basil

2 Tbsp. olive oil

1 Tbsp. red wine vinegar


1/2 tsp. each kosher salt & freshly ground pepper

Mix the above ingredients & let stand at room temperature for an hour. Makes 3 cups.

**The French baguette:** Prepare the French baguette while the garden-fresh mixture is marinating at room temperature. Cut the baguette on the diagonal into 1/2" slices. Brush each slice with olive oil. Rub each slice with a 1/2 clove of garlic. Toast under the broiler until golden brown.

**To serve:** On a large tray, place a dish of the garden-fresh mixture. Surround with the toasted baguette slices. Provide several large spoons for placing the mixture onto the toasted slices.

## **Exceptional Branch Project Recognitions**

In May 2018, and again in May 2019, a total of ten outstanding branch projects were recognized by Michigan Division at the Spring Council Meetings. 

Four more outstanding branch projects were recognized in the spring 2020 newsletter, for a new total of 14. Certificates for 2020 have not yet been distributed because of this year's Spring Council Meeting cancellation.

If they wish, branches may continue to submit applications for recognition of their exceptional activities and projects. The 2021 application will be on the MI DIV website by September 30. Mail completed applications, postmarked no later than March 15, 2021, to MI DIV 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Jo Sillanpaa. See her contact information on page 2.

If it is possible to have a 2021 Michigan Division Spring Council Meeting, recognitions will be announced and presented at that event. If no meeting can be held, recognitions will be announced via the MI DIV newsletter. Stay tuned for updated information as decisions are made.

## FALL CALENDAR - Michigan Division Branches' 2020 Upcoming Activities & Events



Saturday, October 3 – *Spooktacular Gardens*, sponsored by the *Troy Garden Club* (See page 15.)

Beginning mid-October – *Wreath & Roping Sale*, by the *Clarkston Farm & Garden Club* (See page 7.)

November – *Greens Workshop*, by the *Warren Garden Club Branch* (See page 11.)

November – *90<sup>th</sup> Greens Sale*, by the *Saginaw Garden Club Branch* (See page 10.)



## MICHIGAN DIVISION MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Those who are not branch members but who wish to become Michigan Division Members-at-Large and receive future MI DIV publications and information may do so as follows: (1) Be or become a WNF&GA member-at-large by completing the application in the national magazine and paying the annual fee of \$15. (2) Complete the Michigan Division application available on the MI DIV website. Include your name, full mailing address, email address and phone number(s), and send the application plus a check for \$6 payable to Michigan Division WNF&GA. Mail to Patricia Brown (see mailing address on page 2.) Returning Members-at-Large should renew by December 31.

**Annual Michigan Division membership runs from January 1 through December 31.**

## Branch News



### Bloomfield Hills Branch

The Bloomfield Hills Branch has been on hiatus. We miss seeing and being with our gardening friends. We have taken this social distancing time to focus on our own gardens.

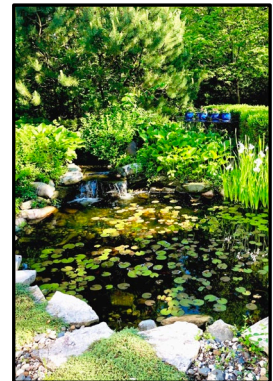
- Julie Beals, president



Above: Bobbi Polk's English garden



Left: Karen Williams' porch pots



Right: Lynn Ferron's lily pond

Right: Marilyn Way's lakeside garden  
Center right: Rebecca McNaughton's northern Michigan garden  
Far right: Pamela Gerber's garden



### Clarkston Farm & Garden Club

Clarkston Farm & Garden members have become Zoomers. We've embraced the technology, and from 50 to 90 years of age, we are holding our meetings on Zoom. Members are so happy to see and chat with each other. Our meeting time consists of 30 minutes of Zoom social time, and then President Diane Putvin leads us through our meeting. We've had great discussions together. Members Zoom on computers, iPads and telephones.

In lieu of our July garden walk, which we cancelled, one of our buds (who are talented husbands with video cameras) created a video of a local gardener and her garden. The 17-minute YouTube video has music, great images and Patsy Carlson talking about her garden, plants and artwork. We archive emails from past garden walk customers, so we sent the video to them to remember us for future garden walks, and we added the garden walk to our Facebook page and website. We invite you all to visit the Carlsons' garden via **Facebook Clarkston Garden Club**. Scroll down to July 15 and click on the link. Patsy's garden was on the Detroit Garden Walk a few years ago. We've also found other garden walks to add to our Facebook page.

## Branch News continued

### Clarkston Farm & Garden Club ..... continued from page 6

In August, the club had planned an outdoor meeting, but the weather did not cooperate, so back to Zoom we went – with coffee, whatever members wanted to wear, and friends.

Probably like all branches, we are thinking about our future fundraisers and projects. Each year, the Clarkston Branch has a Wreath and Roping sale in November, as well as a Greens Market. We have decided that customers will not want to come to the Greens Market, and club members don't want to work that closely together either, so the December Greens Market is cancelled. But we felt that we could still do our Wreath and Roping Sale.

We will make a big push to sell wreaths, roping and cemetery blankets beginning in mid-October. Sales will be prepaid and pickup will be “pop your trunk and we'll place your items inside” so we can socially distance and still serve our community. We are going to try a Square Store to sell wreaths and roping.

Some of us were talking recently, and we are surprised that, with members whose average age is 70, we are so into technology. We decided that being members of the Clarkston Garden Club has kept up our technology skills, and we are always looking for new ways to share with the community.

We continue to maintain and water (hectic in July!) our planters in downtown Clarkston, and we water and weed the beautiful flowers at the library, where members can work while they practice social distancing.

We are bidding goodbye to one of our honorary members – Mary Beth Huttenlocher – who has been a Clarkston Garden Club member for over 50 years. She and her husband Rick are becoming fulltime Florida residents in September.

- submitted by Joette Kunse, communications director



Clarkston members attend a Zoom meeting - photo by Joette Kunse

### Franklin Garden Club

The Franklin Garden Club decided to hold its September meeting outdoors, with all members supplying their own lawn chairs and lunches. We will meet on the grass under the trees on the Franklin Green, just across from the Franklin Community Church where we would normally meet. We will not have a speaker that day, but we will discuss strategy for the rest of the year. At this time we all have to adapt and take things as they come. By meeting outside, we can socially distance. It is not certain that all of us will feel safe enough to attend on September 14, but meeting this way will give a greater feeling of safety and all members can do what they feel comfortable with. If it rains, we will meet on the next Monday, September 21. I know that we will schedule some field trips in the future, but I do not have that information at this time.



- Broughton House watercolor by Debbie Johnson

Unfortunately, our annual Labor Day activity – participating in the Franklin Village Labor Day Roundup – is cancelled for this year. A number of our members have been active, working in the Broughton Garden located next to the Village offices. The garden was suffering from neglect and needed to be watered almost every day during the hot and dry days of July. Several plants had become invasive, taking over the garden and crowding out others. The invasives were weeded and thinned out and were replaced by new plants. We also replaced a tree that had died two winters ago, so that has been watered faithfully. The garden should look great next spring, assuming the rabbits don't eat it all.

Our club has held its informal garden visits as usual, meeting in the gardens of club members. The visits have been a summer tradition for many years. The attendance has been good, and it is an opportunity for us to be in touch.

- submitted by Margaret Bancroft

### Grosse Pointe Shores Garden Club

My message to our club members at our last meeting in early March was packed with possibilities of what would lie ahead in 2020 and beyond. Our VP, Ruth Ellen Mayhall, expressed the same optimism along with a cascade of fresh new program ideas.

As we all know, the world profoundly changed in mid-March. Our “new normal” felt like anything but normal as we hunkered down at home. A year that began with so much promise, changed in mid-March, forcing us to end our meetings until September and possibly beyond.

.....continued on page 8 - 7 -

## Branch News continued

### Grosse Pointe Shores Garden Club ..... continued from page 7

We did get together to celebrate a drive-by 99<sup>th</sup> birthday for our long-time member, Jean Hodges. On a cold and dreary day, we honked and cheered while making several passes by her lovely home, with our cars gayly decorated with birthday greetings. Jean was seated on her driveway, waving with family members! So far, every one of our members has been blessed with good health since March.

For those who feel comfortable gathering, we are planning a September garden party without our usual luncheon and speaker, but with masks and social distancing. We will discuss future plans for another possible outdoor garden meeting in October and for voting on continuing meetings after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year. All of this, of course, is dependent upon our governor's recommendations and a possible vaccine, as all our club members are in the most vulnerable age group.

I am certain many of our gardening girlfriends' clubs are trying to work out a "new normal" for meetings and going onto a Zoom meeting platform for those who are able to do so. We look forward to finding out how other clubs are expanding their creativity for holding meetings.

- submitted by Shirley Hartert, president

*Happy 99<sup>th</sup>!*



Above: Roses at the Lapeer Post Office

Below: Lapeer County Courthouse



### Lapeer Wildflowers

Despite the difficulties resulting from our global health crisis, the Lapeer Wildflowers Branch of the WNF&GA has worked to maintain its various community projects: the Lapeer County Courthouse, the Lapeer Post Office and the Lapeer High School sign. Members have worked in small, socially-distanced groups at the various projects: weeding, spreading mulch, pruning and planting. Some work sessions have ended with an outside BYO lunch or dinner and conversation.

Of course, our members have had extra time in their own gardens since we have all been spending a lot of time at home! That has resulted in lovely gardens, leading Cecelia Montgomery to say, "My gardens have never looked better, but there is no one around to see them!" Kay Buszek has had great success with dahlias, especially the 'Kelvin Floodlight.' The Bobo® hydrangea is another favorite whose white panicles become blush pink, then a darker pink.

Sandy Vukonich has been successfully raising monarch butterflies. It started with a hairy ball plant given to her by a friend. In time, Sandy was surprised to find caterpillars on the plant! It turns out the plant is related to milkweed and butterflies had visited. Chrysalises followed and butterflies began emerging about three to four weeks after the eggs were laid. So far, 12 monarchs have taken flight and five chrysalises remain. Sandy is so excited about her adventure, and she recommends the Facebook page *Beautiful Monarchs* for lots of information on the topic.

Our lives might have been upended by recent events, but gardening has provided a wonderful, healthy, beautiful antidote.

- submitted by Barbara Reehl

### Milford Garden Club

*See Milford Garden Club's feature article, page 4.*

Each year the Milford Garden Club hosts its annual two-day garden walk for garden lovers in our community. As is the case with many other Michigan garden associations in 2020, our club cancelled this year's event. Even so, we were not about to give up our love of touring gardens!

So, at the end of our virtual membership meeting earlier this month via Zoom, our club took a virtual tour of gardens of 17 of its members. We saw a lovely parade of sun, shade, lakeside and woodland gardens. Many of the garden views were from summer, but there were also vistas of spring and winter gardens. We saw photos of gardens that demonstrated not only lovely design skills, but ingenuity and hard work. Also included as part of the tour were two local public gardens that the Milford Garden Club is responsible for maintaining – Arthur's Park in downtown Milford and the Milford Senior Center.

.....continued on page 9



## Branch News continued

### Milford Garden Club ..... continued from page 8

The idea for the virtual garden walk came about in late spring. Once it became clear that our 2020 garden walk would not take place, our president and newsletter editor requested that members submit digital photos of their gardens. Next, our treasurer took responsibility for assembling the many photos in a lovely, cohesive show. View Milford Garden Club's virtual 2020 garden tour on our website at: <https://themilfordgardenclub.org/>

*From Milford Garden Club's virtual garden walk*

*Right: Pond and waterfall*

*Below: Wise owls and lilies*



- information submitted by Diane Pearson, VP of publicity

### Pontiac Garden Club

Please see the fall 2020 WNF&GA magazine for more information about Pontiac Garden Club's 80th birthday.



### Rochester Garden Club Branch



Photos from Rochester Branch's innovative *No Frills Garden Stroll* on July 25, 2020. See Rochester Garden Club's feature article, pages 13-14, about the branch's successful fundraiser, which was accomplished by thinking outside of the box.



*Above: Monarch on milkweed in Jane Giblin's garden*



*Above: Robin McGrath's Garden Shed*

*Below: Sally Edwards' beebalm*



*Above: Jane Giblin with her mixed pot featuring irisine*

- photos by Mary Schwark

## Branch News continued

### Romeo and Juliet Garden Club Branch

The Romeo and Juliet Branch has been happily having outdoor meetings, including in July and August. While we had to suspend meetings for the spring, we energetically met outdoors on patios and decks for our last two meetings. We have discussed all our renewed energy in our own “Victory Gardens,” growing vegetables on our own properties and lots of flowers as well.

We have also kept up three beautification gardens in our community. Our fresh air meetings included luscious desserts and refreshments at one evening meeting in Romeo and a wonderful partially catered luncheon on a large country deck. There’s nothing better than fresh air, good food, gardening discussions and friendships. The best!

– submitted by Kathy Bruggeman, president



Left to right: Wanda Rybak, Nancy Pihlaja, and Irene Mozuras

Below, L – R: Kathy Oliver, Shirley Gizinski and Carol Leonard



### Saginaw Garden Club Branch



Saginaw Branch members, tired of sitting at home, pulled on their garden gloves and made arrangements to plant flowers at two of our normal locations – the Andersen Enrichment Center and Community Village.

We are planning for fall, with the understanding that all our plans may come to nothing. We do hope to have our 90<sup>th</sup> Greens Sale in November, although severely scaled down.

Also, we have one member, Vicki Engel, who will be recognized for 20 years of service (if we ever have a meeting). In reviewing members’ longevity, we found three who recently celebrated more than 90 years of age. We asked members to send cards for each one, and more than 25 of our members were able to do so. Those senior members are Addie Heilbronn, Ellie Wilson and Jean King. It was a treat to be able to recognize them. The person who has been a member the longest is Yoko Mossner. She joined in 1967!

Unusual for a garden club, we have one member expecting her first child. Andrea Fischer, who is Addie Heilbronn’s granddaughter, is due in late summer.\*

– submitted by Stella Thelen, president

\* Happy news! Baby Margaret Joan Fischer “bloomed” on August 30, 2020.

Gardeners’ identifications provided by Stella Thelen:

Above, back row, L – R: Hanny Sullivan, Kim Vance, Penny Butterfield, Sue Sonntag, Cathy Gerding, Holly Furlo, Renee Foote. Front row, L – R: Stella Thelen, Janet Skulley, Mary Jo McInerney, Judy Thomas.

Right, L – R: Cathy Rousseau, Kathy Meinschein, Sue Sonntag, Holly Furlo, Cinda Schantz, Judy Thomas, Stella Thelen, Mary Jo McInerney, Renee Foote, Cathy Gerding, Penny Butterfield



## Branch News continued

### Troy Garden Club

*See Troy Garden Club's feature article, page 13.*

As we patiently await the return to “normal,” Troy Garden Club has been carrying on with our monthly garden maintenance at the Troy Historic Village. Thankfully, we have many beautiful perennials and plantings that are providing color in the gardens. We work and leave energized by the camaraderie and connecting with our gardening “buddies.”

It seemed weird not to have our annual garden walk, which has always provided the funds for our donations, but one of our members came up with an idea to have an October garden walk showing seven members' gardens. With a nod to Rochester Branch's *No Frills Garden Stroll*, we will host *Spooktacular Gardens* on Saturday, October 3, from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Fall and Halloween are the themes. See the flyer on page 15.

The planned Doris Schuchter Symposium, 2020 Vision, has been moved to October 5, 2021, with all speakers onboard. We are still planning to have our November 2020 food drive as well as our December basket raffle to benefit Troy People Concerned.

Our board is meeting monthly, and we're keeping in touch with our members through our newsletter and other communiques.

“Adopt the pace of nature. Her secret is patience.” – Ralph Waldo Emerson

*- submitted by Barb Lepri, president*



*Momentarily maskless members of Troy Garden Club's Herb Study Group who have tended the Log Cabin's Herb Garden at the Troy Historic Village in 2020*

*Standing, L – R: Yolanda Tenorio-Thomas & Mary Schwark  
Kneeling and seated, L – R: Carole Cotter-Bodner, Kathy Brunner, Kay Betke and Joan McClelland*

*2020 gardeners not present for the photo: Judy Cornellier, Patty VanLehn, Pat Guibord*

### Warren Garden Club Branch

*See Warren Garden Club Branch's feature article, page 12.*

Congratulations to Mary Schwark, Troy Garden Club, on her installation as WNF&GA national president, as well as to Patty Burnside, Saginaw Branch, vice president, and Mary Lynne Moellering, Rochester Branch, A&O treasurer. Michigan Division is well represented, and we look forward to their leadership.

Thank you to the Rochester Branch for their *No Frills Garden Stroll* on July 25. It was very well organized and easily enabled social distancing measures. What a joy to take in the beautiful Rochester members' gardens, and especially to chat with Farm & Garden friends – lovely!

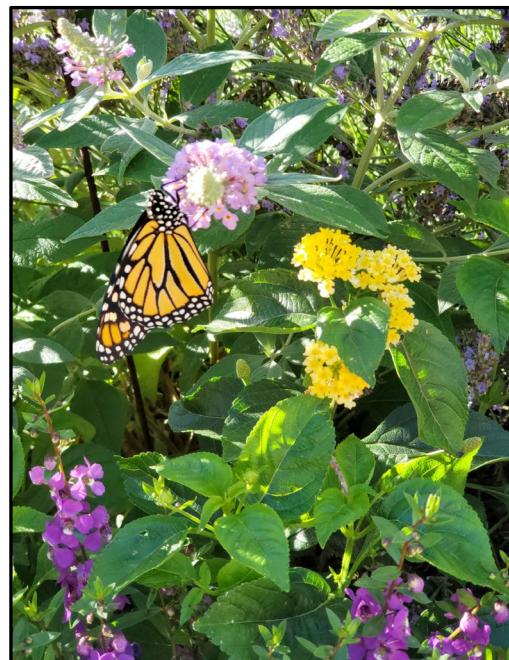
Summer 2020 has been a quiet time for our branch, and we are eager to resume some activities. Many members have talked about how much they have enjoyed working in their gardens this summer, as well as assisting neighbors with gardening and other needs. The Warren Community Center campus, home base for our meetings, has been closed since March, but we hope it will be able to reopen soon.

Our plan to hold our September meeting at the historic one-room Bunert School is also on hold for now, but it would be a good location for a late fall or holiday gathering. Our branch provides Christmas wreaths and garlands to the school in conjunction with the Warren Historical Commission.

Speaking of holidays, we will meet soon to confirm plans to socially distance at our Greens Workshop in November. We decorate approximately 150 wreaths of varied sizes to sell for our Scholarship Fund. It appears that we will not be able to work “shoulder to shoulder” this year, so our workshop will be another opportunity to “think outside the box.” In the meantime, we will continue to treasure our families and friends, good health and the beauty of this year's flowers and gardens.

*- submitted by Paula O'Brien, president*

*Right: Monarch butterfly enjoying its first meal  
- photo by Paula O'Brien*



## Branch News continued



*Monarch caterpillar*



*Waterford Weed Warriors: L-R: Connie Kiefiuk, Carrie Sue Cempura, and Cathy Colling*

## Waterford Garden Club Branch

Aren't we lucky that we have our gardens to escape to during this challenging time of staying at home and staying safe? It has become a haven for many people. Now that proper social distancing and working outdoors are considered "safe," a handful of our members have made great progress in weeding and caring for our gardens located at the Waterford Senior Center and Drayton Plains Nature Center. Since we could not get out to weed in March and April, you can imagine how quickly weeds took over the gardens. The gardens are now looking lovely under consistent care. Many thanks to members Connie Kiefiuk, Carrie Sue Cempura and Cathy Colling for doing the bulk of the garden cleanups. They even refurbished the weathered concrete memorial steppingstones for some of our past members. The stones now look refreshed and clean.

Like most other clubs, we have taken to monthly Zoom meetings to stay connected with members. We discuss what we are doing in our home gardens, personal lives and what work has been done in the clubs' gardens. During one meeting we shared "fun facts" about garden-related topics. We are trying to come up with new ideas to keep the meetings interesting.

Our editor, Jamie Schutt, produces a monthly newsletter called *The Daisy News*. She is very creative and clever to write about gardening tips, myths and facts, poetry and delicious recipes. The August issue included a virtual garden tour made up of photographs submitted by members. It was a treat to see members' gardens since we are not able to visit them in person.

We also stay in touch through our Facebook (FB) page. Several members share photographs and interesting topics or places on the FB site. Club member Connie Kiefiuk collects monarch butterfly eggs and caterpillars that she finds in the gardens and places them in a terrarium while they go through metamorphosis into butterflies. She then releases the butterflies into her gardens. It is fun to see photos of the process.

*- submitted by Sue Malone, president*

---

**Editor's note:** *Over the years, I've observed that garden clubs tend to have many members who are medical professionals and educators. As I've wondered why, various opinions have included that both groups, like gardeners, are nurturers.*

## FEATURE ARTICLE: Gardening RN Provides TLC for Butterflies Warren Garden Club Branch

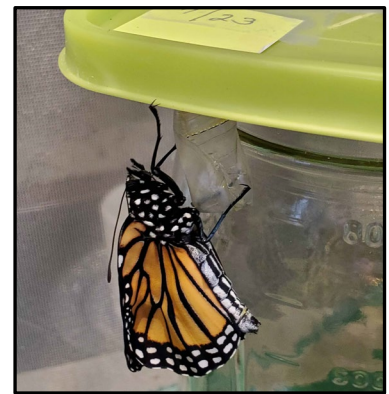
Several years ago, when the monarch butterfly population was dwindling, the hobby of raising butterflies became increasingly popular. Having been retired from the nursing profession for many years, the pastime has drawn me in to a fascinating experience.

Monarch butterflies will lay their eggs only on milkweed, so I began with two plants. Each year I added a few more with great success. I learned to utilize perennial milkweed, and have progressed to 24 plants. 2019 was a banner year, and we were happy to hatch 190 monarchs and 40 swallowtail butterflies! The process is time and labor-intensive, but how rewarding to nurture these tiny creatures!

To entice the beauties to return and lay more eggs, our garden offers a variety of their favorites: butterfly bushes, lantanas, zinnias, coneflowers, as well as kiss-me-over-the-garden-gate. Brenda Dziedzic's book, *Raising Butterflies in the Garden*, has been an invaluable resource.

Unfortunately, it has been documented that the monarch population is significantly lower this year. In contrast to 2019, we have thus far hatched only 26 monarchs and 25 swallowtails. Other members of our branch have been actively propagating butterflies, as I am sure many other Michigan Division members have also. It would truly be a shame if these marvelous creatures were to become extinct. The monarchs do not migrate to Mexico until October, so hopefully more eggs will be laid and harvested, and a good number will hatch prior to their departure.

*- submitted by Paula O'Brien, Warren Branch president*



*Above: Newly hatched monarch with wings not yet dry*

*Below: Kiss-me-over-the-garden-gate*

*- photos by Paula O'Brien*



---

---

**Editor's note:** The Troy Garden Club's Herb Study Group (HSG) has customarily tended the herb garden at Troy Historic Village's Log Cabin. While gardening there in 2020, I developed a vision of the herb garden as a teaching tool – especially for the many school children who visit the Village each year (when life is normal). I asked HSG's member Patty VanLehn to write an article about yarrow, which happened to be in glorious bloom when we gardened in July.

**FEATURE ARTICLE: Yarrow – an herb, a remedy, a weed, a garden beauty, a pollinator?  
Troy Garden Club Branch**

Yarrow is all of the above – herb, remedy, weed and a beautiful hosting bloom. A perennial herb, yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) is a member of the aster family. It has long been known worldwide for its medicinal uses. In ancient Greece, for example, soldiers used the herb to stop bleeding. Native Americans also used yarrow for healing. In most of North America and Eurasia, yarrow (the above-ground plant) has been, and still is, a remedy for many ailments, often used in such forms as teas, ointments and poultices. Heather Buckner, on [www.gardenerspath.com](http://www.gardenerspath.com) (March 25, 2020), discusses such remedies in depth. The website [www.webmd.com](http://www.webmd.com) examines similar treatments, with reservations. Yet to others, the plant is simply a pest.

Native to the more temperate climates here in North America, yarrow is considered by some to be a common weed. Often seen in both dry and moist areas, such as along roadsides and fields, it is a challenge to get rid of in both an unfettered setting and in a garden. The plant is hardy and drought-resistant, with roots that run deep and are sometimes invasive. Ironically, some of the challenges to taming the “weed” are also benefits to gardeners.

With such a colorful palette, yarrow certainly brightens a garden and welcomes pollinators, both bees and butterflies. It grows to between two and four feet tall, and sports small vibrant blooms (yellow, pink, red or white). Per [www.almanac.com](http://www.almanac.com), it is nearly care-free, thrives in full sun in most growing zones (3 – 9), and blooms in the summer (or more frequently with deadheading).

One caution. According to the ASPCA, yarrow is toxic to dogs, cats and horses, so take care where you plant this complex beauty.

- submitted by Patty VanLehn, Troy Garden Club, Herb Study Group



Above: stand of yarrow, Troy Historic Village

Left: full head of yarrow in peak bloom at the THV's Log Cabin herb garden

Right: stand of yarrow at Cranbrook Gardens' Sunken Garden

- yarrow photos by Mary Schwark



---

---

**Editor's note:** The Rochester Garden Club Branch's **No Frills Garden Stroll** in late July was not only beautifully presented. It was also financially successful and a perfect fundraiser during a very strange time for everyone. Social distancing was required, and gardeners were itching to get out. After attending the event, I asked Rochester member Sally Edwards to write a process-oriented article about the event's evolution so that other branches could benefit from Rochester's ingenuity and success.

**FEATURE ARTICLE: No Frills Garden Stroll to the Rescue – Rochester Garden Club Branch**

Restaurants and schools were closed and all outdoor and indoor activities were put on hold or were shut down completely. The virus had been hanging over our heads for several months when the decision was made to cancel the Rochester Branch's annual garden walk, usually held in mid-June. What a blow to our membership! The annual Rochester garden walk is a favorite activity for our garden lovers, and volunteering to work in the gardens is a way for us to repay the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm for all that they do for us as a club.

A native plant sale was going to be part of our 2020 garden walk. Our supplier, East Michigan Native Plants, had started many plants in anticipation of the sale, and it was decided that our commitment should be honored. With modifications, the sale could take place safely. Horticulture chair, Jane Giblin, with the help of other members, pulled together our plant sale with pre-sale orders, payments and drive-through pickup. On the day of the sale, Rochester Branch members organized orders, set up tables and carried boxes of plants while wearing masks and being socially distanced.

The enthusiasm for the plant sale sparked a seed of an idea. If everyone else missed visiting gardens and talking plants as much as we did, could a small event be planned? Could a simple and safe walk feature the gardens of our . . . . continued on page 14

## No Frills Garden Stroll to the Rescue . . . . continued from page 13

own garden club members? Would people come? Well, the answer was a resounding “Yes.”

Pat Hambleton and Colleen Dykstra, the garden scouts for the Rochester garden walk, quickly contacted seven members to find out if they would participate and, after very little hesitation, they were rewarded with seven thumbs-up. The event was to be called a **No Frills Garden Stroll**. It would be a bare-bones operation with no refreshments, no vendors and no programs. A date was set and, with only about five weeks to plan, ideas were quickly put into place. A meeting for all garden owners was held to discuss details, possible problems and safety concerns.

Large road signs and simple one-page tickets were designed and sent to the printer. Other signage for the garden hosts to post at their venues was created and emailed for home printing, including reminders to wear facemasks, to socially distance, a “No Public Restroom” sign and signups seeking gardens for future garden walks.

Articles and photos were sent to all local newspapers and other media by publicity chair, Jenny VanDusen. Most local publications printed the submissions, often on the front page. All other garden walks, including ours, had been cancelled months before, but now we had the governor on our side. When facemasks became mandated, it became much easier to be comfortable with the safety aspect of the stroll.

Very little rain and brutal 90 degree weather kept participating gardeners busy watering. Weeding was a chore that was done faithfully right up to the last minute. Most gardeners created signs to point out particular or unusual plants or printed photos of favorites that were past their bloom. The photos were posted throughout their gardens. One homeowner printed a handout of the story of her garden! Cindy Miller, horticulture co-chairperson, delivered helium balloons, tickets and road signs to the garden owners on the day before the stroll.



- photos by Mary Schwark



Far left: Pat Hambleton’s informative sign with names of surrounding native plants in her garden

Center: Marilee Shortreed in her garden

Above: Karin Bickle and her “skyscraper-sized” cup plant

The garden gods smiled upon us as we were greeted by a beautiful day on July 25. Member volunteers arrived to staff admission tables. Tickets were sold only on the day of the stroll at specific gardens. As the strollers arrived at the other listed addresses, they only had to hold up their tickets to gain entry. Garden hosts provided bottles of cold water as well as hand sanitizer for visitors.

Before our 10:00 am start time, cars were already parked on the street, and people were beginning to arrive. From that point on, a steady stream of strollers continued until the gardens closed at 4:00 pm. It was exciting to see so many visitors and a true relief to observe compliance with the facemask and social distancing requirements. Couples, groups of friends and entire families attended, as did members of the Troy, Warren, Milford and Clarkston branches (forgive me if I missed your branch). We were thanked over and over for holding our event. Visitors took photos of plants and of plant descriptions, of themselves among the flowers, and they asked questions. The joy of being outside and talking about gardens was so evident in the voices of our visitors, that we knew we were providing a much-needed outlet to our fellow gardeners.

At the end of the day, we had sold 401 tickets to our **No Frills** event and, because there were so many children who attended with their parents, the number of visitors was probably close to 450. The event proved that gardeners belong to a fellowship of respect and love of growing things . . . and that walking through other people’s gardens is just plain fun!

- submitted by Sally Edwards, Rochester Garden Club

# Spooktacular Gardens !



Rain or Shine

**Whoooooo:** Lovers of gardens, autumn and Halloween!

**What:** Enjoy 7 private gardens in Troy & nearby.

**When:** Saturday, October 3, 2020, 10:00 am–4:00 pm

**Where:** Troy Garden Club members' autumn & Halloween-themed gardens

**How:** Hop on your broomsticks and fly from spooky garden to spooky garden. **BUT STAY 6 FEET APART AT ALL TIMES!** Invite your friends, family, and favorite little hobgoblins. (See age limits under **Tickets** below.)

**FACEMASKS ARE REQUIRED, OF COURSE!** Costumes are optional.

**Why:** Troy Garden Club reluctantly canceled its 2020 July garden walk.

Sadly, in 2021 we will not be able to fund our yearly donations to other horticultural organizations or scholarships to horticulture students . . . unless we're successful with our new effort to raise funds for their projects and educational pursuits. **- Cash or checks only for tickets and plants! -**

**Tickets:** \$10 each; \$5 for children 4 through 10. Limit of two children per adult. No children under the age of 4. No strollers. On October 3 only, purchase tickets *including maps* at locations # 1, # 4 and # 7. See addresses below. *Social distancing is required.* NOTE: Refreshments not provided.

Purchase tickets **ONLY ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2020, beginning at 10 am, ONLY** at the three locations below. **BE PREPARED TO SET YOUR GPS !**

Garden 1: 710 Hartland, Troy 48083 (southeast)

Garden 4: 1859 Buckthorn Ct., Troy 48098 (northwest)

Garden 7: 1252 Bates, Birmingham 48009 (southwest)

Additional information: [www.TroyGardenClubMI.com](http://www.TroyGardenClubMI.com)

Also at one of the gardens:  
Troy Garden Club's annual  
**PERENNIAL PLANT SALE**  
10 am – 4 pm  
(while supplies last)

The Troy Garden Club is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.



WNF&GA Michigan Division  
707 McDougal  
Waterford, MI 48327

PRESORTED  
FIRST-CLASS  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
MIDLAND, MI  
PERMIT NO. 181

*Watch for news in the 2021 winter and spring newsletters about future WNF&GA national meetings.*



### **Michigan Division Speakers Bureau**

Your branch may not be looking for speakers at this time, but we all hope to return to normal meetings in the future. You'll find the Speakers Bureau list on Michigan Division's website. See page 2 of this newsletter for details about website access. Go to **Members Area** (password required) and then to **Resources** at the lower right side. There you will find the second topic, **Speakers Bureau**, as well as contact information.

Speakers are added to the list periodically. Questions? Please email Joette Kunse to recommend good speakers or to request recommendations.