



THE MICHIGAN NEWS

WOMAN'S NATIONAL FARM AND GARDEN ASSOCIATION, INC.

Volume 77, Issue 1

Winter 2020

THE ENTHUSIASTIC SCOOP ON WNF&GA MEETINGS !

The following article was originally published in Milford Garden Club's November 2019 newsletter *From the Vine*. The article is reprinted here with the authors' permission.

WNF&GA Annual Meetings - What We Wish We'd Known

Here are some things we wish we'd known before we went to the WNF&GA annual National Meeting in New York in 2013:

We went to our first meeting mainly because it was in New York. After four days with fellow garden club members, we were hooked. We especially appreciated that the bus fee paid for the modern bus transportation to and from the location and its use while there. Admission fees, tours and several meals were included in the registration fee. The hotel fee was separate.

We expected the business meetings to be dull. We were wrong. We discovered how important WNF&GA is. We had no clue how we all fit together – Milford, Michigan Division and National. We learned how WNF&GA helps women of the world improve the lives of their families through horticulture. We also learned how WE are an important part of that help.

The next year was the 100th (1914-2014) anniversary celebration of WNF&GA at Temple University's Ambler College in suburban Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on the grounds of the former Pennsylvania School of Horticulture for Women. Louisa King was the WNF&GA's founder and its first president. There were 12 original members.

Milford Garden Club's flag was presented, along with flags from many other branches.

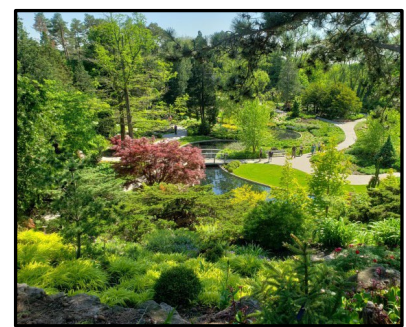
The next annual meeting we attended was held in Cincinnati in 2017. We learned things we didn't know we didn't know. We learned about the river, butterflies and information about the underground railroad. We continued developing friendships that had begun at previous meetings.

The 2018 meeting was held in the naturally beautiful Finger Lakes Region around Ithaca, New York and Cornell University. The Cornell Botanic Gardens were spectacular. (Plus the university's dairy store had great ice cream!) We learned how wine is made. Because we were returning home through Canada, we couldn't take back any plants. Bummer!

In Toronto in 2019, we visited two major botanical gardens and attended a city garden walk with more than twenty homes. There was more than a person could see on just one trip.

We don't have any idea what we will learn next, but we are looking forward to the opportunities. We encourage you to consider joining us for the next annual meeting to be held in Louisville, Kentucky from June 3 – 7, 2020. Feel free to contact one of us if you would like more information.

- Jackie Seitz & Emily Kirshner



Top to bottom – photos by Emily & Jackie

2014 – Emily Kirshner with Milford Garden Club flag, Ambler College in suburban Philadelphia

2017 – Cincinnati riverboat tour

2019 – Royal Botanical Gardens, Toronto

Michigan Division of the WNF&GA For Your Information

Executive Committee 2019 – 2021

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

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

Michigan Division www.michdivwnfga.weebly.com Member Area Password: skneeshaw2021	WNF&GA (national) www.wnfga.org Member Area Password: Farm100garden
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Mary Schwark—newsletter editor & MI DIV advisor

What's Happening & When?

February 1 - 15, 2020	Submit info & photos for spring newsletter.
April 15, 2020	Daffodil Day on Belle Isle
May 1 – 15, 2020	Submit info & photos for summer ONLINE-ONLY newsletter
May 20, 2020	Spring Council Meeting
June 3 – 7, 2020	National Meeting, Louisville

He's ba-aack
Be like Kermit.
Go green!



And again:

Please help Michigan Division save resources and costs by receiving your newsletters electronically. If you can't live without a hard copy, you can easily access and print your own from MI DIV's website.

When you read newsletters online or print your own, **YOU CAN VIEW ALL IMAGES IN COLOR.** There are nearly 30 photos in this issue alone. Please try it. Then notify registrar Cheryl Malin (white box with yellow & blue arrow immediately to the right) that you're willing to **GO GREEN.**

VERY IMPORTANT: Keep us in the loop. **We don'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've decided 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

From Sheila Kneeshaw, your Michigan Division president ...

I hope that all of you had a wonderful holiday season with your families and friends. On behalf of the Executive Board of the Michigan Division WNF&GA, I would like to wish you a Happy New Year for 2020. Thank you for your continued support of your branch and Michigan Division to accomplish the goals that have allowed others to benefit from your many hours of volunteering.

Thank you also to the members of the Country Garden Club of Northville for hosting the 2019 Fall Council Meeting. The 2020 Spring Council Meeting will be hosted by the Waterford Garden Club branch on May 20, 2020. I do look forward to seeing you there. Will you please plan on attending? - Sheila Kneeshaw



- photo by Jeanne Bolcer

Save the Date!

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

Michigan Division
Spring Council Meeting

hosted by the

Waterford Garden Club

Speaker:

Janet Macunovich

Full details, including the registration form, will be published in Michigan Division's spring newsletter & on the Michigan Division website.

Save the Date!

Tuesday, October 6, 2020

10 am - 1 pm

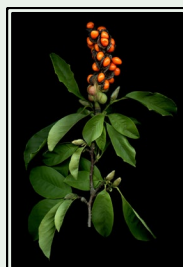
The Troy Garden Club invites you to the first Doris Schuchter Symposium:

- 2020 Vision -

an exhibit of informal floral designs PLUS brunch PLUS a moderated conversation & floral celebration with three Michigan horticulture rock stars:

Julia	George	Laurie
Hofley	Papadelis	Tennent

Full details & registration form available on the Troy Garden Club website on February 1, 2020
www.TroyGardenClubMI.com



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
MSU Management Education Center
811 W. Square Lake Road
Troy, Michigan 48098

Northern Japanese Magnolia Seed Pod, 2018
The Morton Arboretum
Image used with the permission of Laurie Tennent, photographer

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

My heartfelt apology – TWICE – to the Plymouth Garden Club! The Michigan Division 2019 summer and fall newsletter issues included articles about Daffodil Day 2019. Expressions of gratitude were offered to eight Michigan Division branches whose members provided beautiful centerpieces for the Daffodil Day luncheon tables on April 17, 2019.

There were, in fact, **NINE** branches, not eight, whose members created D4D centerpieces. I am very sorry to have omitted one branch's name in both newsletter issues. I didn't learn about the omission until after the fall newsletter was published and – wow! – am I embarrassed! I appreciate the opportunity to set the record straight.

*Thank you to the Plymouth Garden Club
and to their members who provided wonderful centerpieces for Daffodil Day 2019!*

Q & A with a Michigan Division branch president

Q: What do lifelong curiosity, a love of herbs and a former hippie have in common? **A:** *Sandra Jackson, president of the Grosse Pointe Park Garden Club branch of Michigan Division.*

Several months ago, during phone conversations and text exchanges with Sandra, I realized that she's a treasure trove of interesting information about the WNF&GA, garden centers, herbs and other topics. I requested that we meet so that we could talk further. An unwelcome November snowfall delayed our meeting by a week – but meet we did, on November 21, 2019, at the Red Crown, a restaurant in Grosse Pointe Park. The following Q & A is a small part of our chat.

Q: How did you first come to gardening? **A:** *I grew up in Wayne, Michigan, and always lived in apartments and flats. That didn't result in my developing an interest in gardening. But my father grew up on a farm in Tennessee and he was a beekeeper. That got me "into bees." I joined the Detroit Garden Center in the 1970s. I still wasn't a gardener, but I went to their programs and became especially interested in herbal vinegars. I put my toes in everything. The Herb Society of America, through the Grosse Pointe unit, opened my world and my life as a gardener, probably because of the historical significance of herbs. As of a few years ago, there were more than 50 active Herb Society of America units in the United States, but not in every state. Numbers have been shrinking, however, and now there are approximately 46 active units in the U.S.*

Q: There are elements of your post-high-school-graduation life story that make me wonder: Were you a hippie? **A:** *Yes, until I got a civilian job with the U.S. Navy.*

Q: Did you go to Woodstock? **A:** *No, but several of my friends and I were offered a last-minute invitation to go there in an RV with an acquaintance who had a handful of tickets.*

Q: What can you tell me about how the Detroit Garden Center got started? **A:** *It was founded by Garden Clubs of Michigan and was the third such garden center in the U.S. The first garden center was in New Jersey and the second in Cleveland. Garden centers established libraries which were open to members and non-members, and the centers were also instrumental in helping people create successful Victory Gardens.*

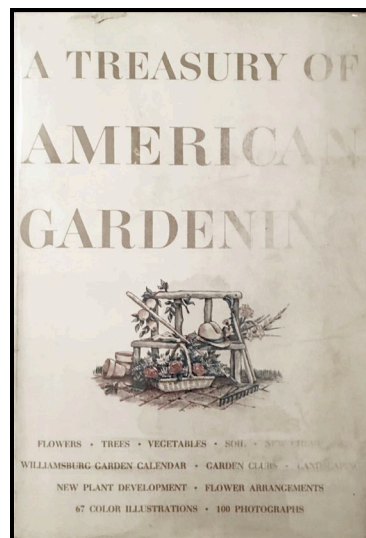
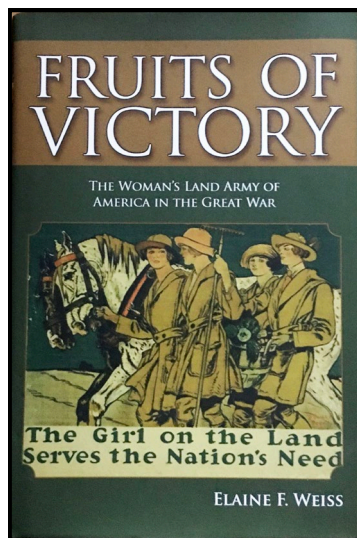
Q: Do you have any other special interests? **A:** *My passion is curry and I'm very interested in the ethnobotany* of Christmas. When it comes to the history of gardens, two books are favorites: A TREASURY OF AMERICAN GARDENING, edited by John R. Whiting, 1947, 1954, 1955 and FRUITS OF VICTORY, THE WOMAN'S LAND ARMY OF AMERICA IN THE GREAT WAR, by Elaine F. Weiss, 2008. Everybody knows about Rosie the Riveter, but very few know about the Woman's Land Army.*

*ethnobotany – the scientific study of the traditional knowledge and customs of a people concerning plants and their medical, religious and other uses

INTERVIEWER'S NOTE:

For those who may be interested in acquiring Sandra's favorite garden history books, I was able to order both on amazon.com. They arrived quickly. The book edited by Whiting was available only in used condition. My copy, from 1955, was previously owned by Donald A. Ward. The Weiss publication is still available as a new book.

– Mary Schwark



Daffodils4Communities



Once again, our Michigan Division board thanks all branches which have created daffodil projects in public places. We urge all other branches to do the same.

Has your branch established a relationship with a community venue or organization – your post office or library, a school, a park, a senior center or other public gathering place? If so, we hope you've planted a special daffodil garden there. Branches' efforts to establish Daffodils4Communities projects are in addition to, but separate from, Daffodils4Detroit.

In the Branch News sections of this and future newsletter issues, daffodil icons will continue to appear next to the names of participating branches.

Save the Date!

Daffodil Day 2020

Daffodil Day will be on April 15, 2020, in the main dining room of the Detroit Yacht Club on Belle Isle. In the photo to the right is one of the beautiful 2019 centerpieces.



We invite all interested branches – those who participated in 2018 or 2019, other branches, or a combination of the two – to provide centerpieces again on April 15, 2020. It's not too early to sign up by emailing MI DIV advisor Mary Schwark: schwark@aol.com

SPECIFICATIONS REMINDER:

- Use **simple clear glass vases** of any shape.
- Finished centerpieces do not have to match.
- Finished centerpieces must be **no more than 14" tall and no more than 12" wide**.
- Place a small ID label on the vase underside.

At least 50%, of the floral material should be daffodils. You may be creative with the other 50%, provided daffodils are dominant.

NOTE: The centerpieces will again be "loaners." Take them to the DYC on Belle Isle and then take them home to enjoy. Deliver the centerpieces on April 14, the day prior to the event, or by 10:30 am on April 15.

Branch News continued

Waterford Garden Club continued from page 10

On December 7, the club held a successful Greens Market. In May we will host our Spring Plant Sale. We are currently busy as we juggle our approaching events!

- Sue Malone, president

Right: Susan Markle, Waterford Garden Club's November presenter



Exceptional Branch Project Recognitions

This year's submission deadline is March 15, 2020.

In May 2018 and again in May 2019, a total of 10 outstanding branch projects were recognized by Michigan Division at the Spring Council Meetings.



All branches are urged to submit applications for recognition of their exceptional activities and projects.

The 2020 application is on the MI DIV website. Please mail completed applications, **postmarked no later than March 15, 2020**, to MI DIV 2nd VP Jo Sillanpaa. See her contact information on page 2.

Recognitions will be announced and presented at Michigan Division's Spring Council meeting hosted by the Waterford Garden Club on May 20, 2020.

~ In Memoriam ~

It is with great sadness that the Lapeer Wildflowers acknowledge the unexpected death of one of our members, Mary Streeter. Mary was one of the charter members who formed our club in 2004. Over the past 15 years, Mary held several offices including club president and corresponding secretary. As our parliamentarian, she always made sure that we followed the rules of order. Mary, who loved children, singing, flowers and laughing, was a bright spark who will be missed by all who knew her.

- Kimalee R. Augustine, corresponding secretary

Attention, Branch Treasurers!
Dues - \$12 per member – were due
by December 1, 2019.

If you have not yet paid your branch's dues, please do so soon. 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

Donations for Pennies for Friendship, Daffodil Day, International Tea and the Detroit Zoo may also be sent to Pat Brown.

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 each year by December 31.*

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

Branch News



Bloomfield Hills Branch

The Bloomfield Hills Garden Club traveled west to Grand Rapids in October to visit the Frederick Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park. Members who attended were in awe of the beautiful Japanese Garden, the Children's Garden, the fabulous outdoor sculpture park, as well as the indoor gardens! Fun was had by all on the bus ride to and from Grand Rapids. The tour guides were insightful, and lunch in the café was healthy. There was so much to explore and appreciate. What a great way to spend a relaxing fall day with our garden club members!
- Julie Beals, president



Above: Bloomfield Hills Garden Club members' 2019 fall visit to the Frederick Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park in Grand Rapids

Left: Julie Beals, Bloomfield Hills Garden Club president and Sheila Kneeshaw, MI DIV president, at the branch's 90th anniversary celebration.

Clarkston Farm & Garden Club

Members of the Clarkston Farm and Garden Club were busy in the fall, selling wreaths, roping and cemetery blankets to the community. We've sold wreaths and roping for almost 30 years. While our community has many places to purchase such items these days, we continue to have a number of citizens who order from the garden club because of our involvement in the community.

For the fall months, downtown planter chairpersons Diane Putvin and Beth Kerr inspired us to remove the annuals but leave our grasses in the downtown planters and add gourds grown at Clarkston Family Farm.

Our club and members are supportive of the farm, providing funds for students in the Clarkston Schools to spend a day or more at the farm. Students learn about how food is grown, about chickens and rabbits, and how to cook in the new outside kitchen. The farm is gearing up to make maple syrup this spring.

For winter, it was again time to change the downtown planters, and members dressed warmly in November after one of the earliest snowfalls. After chopping the edges of the planters with an axe, member Sue White placed red dogwood in the centers and greens around the edges, along with a few pinecones. The planters are ready for a long winter and look colorful for the snow that is sure to fall.

..... continued on page 7

Branch News continued

Clarkston Farm & Garden Club

..... continued from page 6

Other club members shared their abilities on the Creative Committee, led by member Anita Andes. Beginning each year in April, the committee's creativity produces items – natural arrangements, swags, Merry Bunches and pot-pourri – for the Greens Market, which is held on the first Saturday of December.

After closing the 2019 market on Saturday afternoon, we partied with an afterglow at a local golf club and held our last meeting of the year on the following Monday.

Our club is on hiatus during January and February and will resume meetings in March. We wish you a happy and bountiful New Year.
- submitted by Joette Kunse



L-R: Clarkston members Jeanne Molzon, Pat Evans, Nancy Wint & Diane Putvin



L-R: Clarkston members Mary Himburg & Denise Lipusch



L-R: Franklin members Dorothy Nagy, Sue Leach, Pat Ciagne & Molly Hammerle during lunch in the Cass Community Services staff dining room

Franklin Garden Club

In October a group of about 30 Franklin Garden Club members carpoled to Detroit, where we were the guests of Cass Community Services. We were there to learn about the work that Cass Community Services did in their neighborhood of Detroit. CCS wears many hats, helping those in the Detroit area who are homeless, living on the streets, unemployed and hungry. All services are under the very capable leadership of Faith Fowler, executive director, and her equally capable CCS board members, with Paul Smith as board chairman. Cass has become the destination for many national groups who are eager to know about the work that is done, especially their Tiny Homes project.

While there, our club was permitted to view the Ford Freight Farm, which is their project for growing fresh vegetables hydroponically all year-round within a large freight container. We were very impressed. We were equally impressed when we were able to tour the Tiny Homes community of residences which has garnered national attention as well. Then we were treated to a delicious lunch in the CCS staff dining room.

For our November meeting, once again we held our Thanksgiving Luncheon and our silent auction, "Make It, Bake It or Fake It," which has become a tradition for us each November. Our members bring an item that others can bid on in a silent auction, and all the proceeds go to Forgotten Harvest, headquartered in Royal Oak. A great success, the club was able to donate a sizeable amount for this year.
- Margaret Bancroft, co-president

Lapeer Wildflowers Garden Club

The ladies of the Lapeer Wildflowers had a very eventful year filled with both success and sadness. We enjoyed each other's company while helping our community, and we said goodbye to a longtime member. (See page 5.)

Our year began in May with our annual Mrs. Tebben's Tea at the Huntsman Hunt Club in Dryden. The tea was well attended and it provided a venue not only for fundraising, but an opportunity to network with other garden clubs.

In June our service projects began in earnest. Member Sandy Vukonich headed our efforts to revamp the gardens at the Lapeer Post Office. Cecelia Montgomery and Emmajane Brice led our team at the Lapeer Court House. Our members planted, weeded and rototilled the way to beautiful three-season displays at both locations. During the summer we also found time to meet at members' homes and enjoy several delicious potlucks. In addition,

members traveled to the Applewood Estate in Flint. We also attended an educational seminar on monarch butterflies at Seven Ponds Nature Center. In September we installed new 2019-2021 officers: President Patty Bradshaw, VP Dahna Loeding, Treasurer Martha Mattson, Recording Secretary Barbara Rehl and Corresponding Secretary Kim Augustine.



Lapeer Wildflowers members at the 2019 Mrs. Tebben's Tea; recognized by Michigan Division for many years of WNF&GA membership & service: L – Emmajane Brice, 53 years and R – Nora Tebben, 69 years

Branch News continued

Milford Garden Club

Milford Garden Club members have been busy! The following information appeared in their colorful November 2019 newsletter:

Seven members, including new branch president Linda Smith, attended Michigan Division's October 15 Fall Council Meeting. Country Garden Club of Northville was the host branch at Schoolcraft College in Livonia and Julia Hofley was the featured speaker. At that meeting, Milford Garden Club offered to host Michigan Division's 2020 Fall Council Meeting!

On October 25, more than a dozen Milford Garden Club members visited Hidden Lake Gardens in Tipton, MI. The trip, which included lunch at the British Pantry Tea Shop in Tecumseh, was planned by member Karol LaHaie. A week earlier, 13 club members met for a fall clean-up of the gardens at Arthur Park as well as at the Senior Center, where the branch holds its monthly meetings.

Milford's annual Christmas party – dress code: holiday ugly – was held on December 12. The club is currently planning a plant sale in May. That event typically raises nearly half of the branch's annual scholarship funds.

Please see the article and photos on page 1 about the WNF&GA's annual meetings. With the authors' permission, the article and three photos have been reprinted from the November 2019 Milford Garden Club newsletter.



*Left: PGC members created succulent teacups at their October meeting. The activity was inspired by an article in **The Detroit News Homestyle** section, July 19, 2019.*

Five Bucks & a BYO Teacup !

Plymouth Garden Club

For only five bucks and a BYO teacup, we each enjoyed a lovely succulent cup of tea. Rachel Nisch, the new owner of **Graye's Greenhouse**, brought the perfect soil and a variety of tiny succulent plants to Plymouth Garden Club's October Meeting. With her expert advice, we each potted up our very own charming teacups to take home.

Graye's Greenhouse has been a Plymouth, Michigan landmark and a family tradition since 1928. Rachel's presentation gave members an opportunity to reminisce and be reassured that the tradition of what's growing inside at the corner of Lilley and Joy is here to stay. You can go to graysgreenhouse.org to learn more, or just go to the greenhouse for a unique experience!

On another tea-note, 11 PGC members traveled to Hartland, MI to spend a relaxing afternoon sipping tea in a cozy dining room at **Secluded Celebrations**. Hostess Grit (Margaret) Francis served multiple dishes of her own making from scratch. Her commentary between courses was just about as delightful as her delicious food.

Between raindrops and dessert, Grit took us out to her perennial woodland garden where she has collected something like 2,500 varieties of hosta. There was an opportunity to purchase some of her cultivated plants at reasonable prices. You could visit secludedcelebrations.com, but to spend an afternoon with hostess Grit and her **Secluded Celebrations Tea and Tour** is worth the drive to Hartland.

- submitted by Mary Prouty, publicity

Port Huron Garden Club

Our fall and winter programs included a great dinner evening with our husbands or special friends. The entertainment was a 50s rock and roll singing group and the event provided a fun time for all.

We also planted herb window boxes and enjoyed a craft night making gnomes to sell at our annual greens sale and luncheon event. Our projects help to fund two scholarships and they also fund the six community gardens that we plant each year. We are looking forward to a fun-filled year in 2020. *- Sue Smith, president* *..... continued on page 9*



*Above: PGC members - Tea at **Secluded Celebrations**. Standing, L-R: Marilyn Norgrove, Linda Coughlin, Ann Leland, Mary Prouty, Shirley Zaetta, Billie Barton, Shirley Connors & Nancy Earle. Seated, L-R: JoAnn Harreld, Maureen Armstrong & Ann Hause.
- photo by Grit Francis*

Branch News continued

Port Huron Garden Clubcontinued from page 8



Above: Gnome-making, L-R: Wendy Thompson, Pam West, Kathi McNamee, Linda Kearns, Sue Hinton, Connie Hall



Left: Sleepy gnomes!

Below, L-R: Chris McNutt & Cathy Busdicker



Left: Cooking in the kitchen, L-R: Gail Kelly, Pam Ruehle, Sue Smith, Jenifer Kusch



Right: Linda Kearns and her gnome

Rochester Garden Club



With the efforts of Gifts & Greens Market, Old-Fashioned Christmas, our Holiday Party and the Christmas season behind us, the Rochester Branch is happy to settle into the quieter part of our year. January brings workshops that will improve our knitting, painting and other crafts skills. The Herb Committee will hold their annual Soup Potluck in addition to a study group that will focus on the 2020 herb of the year – rubus.

The Horticulture Committee will hold a workshop where members can make seed balls – seeds encased in protective coverings. The seeds used will include milkweed, which has become a must-have for members of the Rochester Branch. Are you growing milkweed in your yard to help support monarch butterflies? The busy Horticulture Committee has also held numerous beehouse workshops. The houses are perfect for our smaller native bees which like to build nests in holes and under bark. The workshops are always well-attended, and some houses have even been sold at our Gifts & Greens Market.

Daffodil Day is a much-anticipated event and we thank the committee for arranging a special day to showcase Belle Isle and the hundreds of thousands of daffodils already planted on our island jewel. Spring activities come fast and furiously as the weather warms. Among the activities are civic planting, and also Pre-K planting. The latter will allow many of our members to plant mini-gardens with area four-year-olds. It's a favorite activity that has us smiling for the rest of the day.

- submitted by Sally Edwards



Above: Beehouse creators, L-R: Susan Gerrits, Jane Giblin, Karen Matheson, Cindy Miller

Below: Rochester Garden Club's beehouse architectural variations



Troy Garden Club



Invite the president and she will come! Trick or Treat at the Troy Historic Village is an annual event which includes Troy Garden Club member participation. The backdrop of 70 scarecrows and fantastic outer space-themed decorations attracted over 650 participants. On Saturday, October 26, Michigan Division president Sheila Kneeshaw not only joined us but stayed for the entire time, interacting with our space station and mini-pumpkin handouts to the delight of the munchkins.

..... continued on page 10

Branch News continued

Troy Garden Clubcontinued from page 9

The centerpiece of our partnership with the Troy Historic Village is our monthly gardening commitment to community beautification. Keep Michigan Beautiful, Inc. is a nonprofit state organization dedicated to combatting litter, promoting beautification, cleaning up gardens and recycling. In 2019, KMB Inc. recognized the Troy Garden Club for their garden beautification efforts at the Troy Historic Village, as well as at the Troy Public Library. Our award was presented at the KMB annual banquet in Lansing in October. On hand to accept the award were garden club members Sue Vette, Karol Carter, JoAnn Preston, Josh Dixon, Pat Schultz and Bill Williams.

Our holiday events included a November meeting food drive to help stock a local food pantry. On display at the meeting were small Christmas trees decorated and donated by our members to the 2019 Festival of Trees benefit for Children's Hospital. During our December meeting, we honored our three Volunteers of the Year. In addition, we shared a fun potluck and enjoyed holiday music presented, once again, by members of the Troy High School Concert Choir. One of the highlights was a special version of *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, which featured "five handsome farmhands" instead of "five golden rings." A raffle of festive baskets concluded our meeting, with proceeds going to Troy People Concerned, an organization which helps people in need in our community. - *Bev Hydo, advisor*



Above: Troy Garden Club Volunteers of the Year - L-R: Onita Fitz, Linda Forrester, Jayne Smith

- photos by Mary Schwark

Below: "Five Handsome Farmhands" - members of the Troy H.S. Concert Choir



Warren Garden Club



Warren Garden Club members attended Michigan Division's October 15 Fall Council Meeting hosted by the Country Garden Club of Northville.

L-R: Carole Wiseman, Paula O'Brien, Pat Brown

A highlight of our summer was a "Christmas in August" surprise from a 1962 Warren High School graduate and

previous winner of three Warren Garden Club scholarship awards. Our funds assisted her in achieving a bachelor's degree in occupational therapy and a master's degree in management. She completed her career as a director of a rehabilitation team. Our winner felt that she hadn't fully expressed her gratitude, so she sent us a lovely letter, along with a generous donation to our scholarship fund. It's fantastic to know that our efforts are truly appreciated!

The busy summer season galloped into fall and some very enjoyable events. Four of our members attended the Saginaw Branch's 90th birthday celebration. Their sunflower theme set the tone, and young violinists entertained us. The event also featured a wonderful lunch and auction. The highlight of October was the Michigan Division Fall Council Meeting hosted by Country Garden Club of Northville. Three of us attended and, following the business meeting, we were treated to a clever presentation by Julia Hofley about **Gardening Girlfriend Road Trips**. And of course, we enjoyed another scrumptious lunch!

Our branch's monthly meetings resumed in September, and our Courtyard Crew worked diligently well into October. After our Greens Workshop and all of the required preparations were history, we relaxed at our Annual Christmas Dinner on December 11 – a nice respite between the hectic Greens Workshop and our own family preparations. Peace, blessings and a very safe winter season to all!

- submitted by Paula O'Brien, branch president

Waterford Garden Club

The Waterford Garden Club held their November meeting at Susan's Florist and Gifts in Waterford Township. Susan Markle, owner and master designer (see photo, page 5), provided a very interesting holiday arrangement demonstration. Besides learning a lot about the floral industry, we also were given good tips for creating beautiful arrangements. Susan was a gracious hostess, and I am sure that members will consider taking some of the other classes she offers. They appear to be opportunities for perfect evenings out with friends.

In mid-October we volunteered to host the Michigan Division 2020 Spring Council Meeting. Full information and the event registration form will appear in the spring newsletter. The event date is May 20, 2020, and we are currently researching venues. Don't miss our Save the Date notice in this newsletter on page 3. continued on page 5

**Register soon for your seat on the bus
TO, FROM and AROUND Louisville, Kentucky.
Choose carefully from OPTIONS 1, 2, 3 or 4.
As long as seats remain, you may guarantee your spot on the bus
via Options 1 and 2.
Deadline dates are firm. Avoid late fees!**

Please read carefully. There are changes from past years!

**2020 Woman's National Farm & Garden Association
Annual National Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky**

**Bus Registration Form – 56 passenger Bianco vehicle
FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED – DON'T DELAY! ***

Depart on Wednesday, June 3, 2020 ~ Return on Sunday, June 7, 2020

Three passenger pickup locations: (1) Laurel Park Place Mall, Livonia, MI;
(2) Troy Community Center, Troy, MI; (3) location TBD in northwest Ohio

OPTIONS 1 & 2 bus seats not reserved by April 1 will open to Option 3 riders on April 2.

OPTION 1 – \$160.00 – Ride the bus TO, FROM & AROUND Louisville.

Mail your \$80 deposit for arrival BEFORE April 1 and your final \$80 for arrival BY April 1.

OPTION 2 – \$160.00 (as long as seats remain) – Ride the bus TO, FROM & AROUND Louisville:

Mail your \$160.00 full bus fee for arrival BY April 1.

OPTION 3 – \$30.00 (as long as seats remain) – Ride the bus ONLY AROUND Louisville:

Mail your \$30 fee BEGINNING ON April 2 for arrival BY April 15.

OPTION 4 – (as long as seats remain) – Ride the bus TO, FROM & AROUND Louisville:

If your full registration fee of \$160.00 is postmarked AFTER April 1, 2020,
and BY the April 30, 2020 deadline, you MUST include an additional fee of \$20.

****DON'T MISS THE BUS!***

NOTE THE FOLLOWING VERY IMPORTANT CHANGE IN 2020:

Send your full bus “NO-LATE-FEE” registration (\$80 + \$80 or \$160) for arrival BY April 1.

See the box at the bottom of this page.

~ NO REFUNDS; NO EXCEPTIONS ~

To find out if seats remain, contact Helen Jositas (info below) after 9 am on April 2 (not before!).

A seat will be held for you provided your payment is received no later than four days after your call.

Please PRINT NEATLY to insure that your information can be recorded accurately.

Name _____ Branch _____ Division _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email address _____ Member _____ OR Guest _____

Make deposit of \$80.00 or full payment of \$160.00 payable to: WNF&GA Meeting Fund. Write “bus deposit” or “full bus registration” on the memo line. Mail your check and a completed copy of this registration form (after making a copy for yourself) to: Helen Jositas, 2834 Shannon Dr., Oakland, MI 48363 Questions? Contact Helen: 248-766-2300 OR tjositas@aol.com

I won't ride the bus TO & FROM Louisville, but I do want to ride it AROUND Louisville. I understand that, if any seats remain as of April 2, I may reserve my seat on the bus by sending my \$30 bus fee BEGINNING ON APRIL 2, 2020, for arrival by April 15.

Enclosed is my filled-out registration form above and my \$30 bus fee. YES _____



WNF&GA Michigan Division
707 McDougal
Waterford, MI 48327

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PERMIT NO. 81

Woman's National Farm & Garden Association



2020 National Meeting Louisville, Kentucky



June 3 – 7, 2020

Full details will be published in the spring 2020 national magazine.

Michigan Division Speakers Bureau

Is your branch searching for speakers? Please view 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. I hope you will find interesting presenters and topics for your branch meetings.

Please email me if you can recommend good speakers. I will contact them and ask if we may share their information with our branches. – *Joette Kunse, Speakers Bureau chairperson* jkhorses@comcast.net