



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

Volume 78, Issue 1

Winter 2021

Save the Date!

Wednesday, April 21, 2021, 11:00 am

Daffodils are Dauntless!

Even with flooding on Belle Isle and a pandemic, we are still planting daffodils. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to donate 130,000 bulbs to the City of Detroit. Added to the City's contribution of 200,000 bulbs, a total of 330,000 were planted in the fall of 2020.

Join us for an exciting online program. Watch for full details in the next Michigan Division newsletter.



Arden Park, Detroit - photo by
City of Detroit Floriculture Unit

The City of Detroit's Barry Burton - landscape design unit project manager - will lead us on a *virtual* tour of Detroit's renovated parks, gardens and neighborhoods, all abloom with daffodils!

Please share our information with your fellow Michigan Division members and all your friends. Help us continue to make Detroit beautiful!

Daffodils4Detroit

Daffodils4Detroit 2020

Honor Roll Additions to the 2020 Summer & Fall Newsletter Lists

Franklin Garden Club

Grosse Pointe Farm & Garden Club

Cecily O'Connor, in memory of Tony Scioly

Attention, Branch Treasurers! Dues - \$12 per member – were due by December 1, 2020.

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,
Daffodils4Detroit, International Tea
and the Detroit Zoo
may also be sent to Pat Brown.

Michigan Division Members-at-Large

Non-branch members who wish to become Michigan Division Members-at-Large & receive future MI DIV publications & other information, may join as follows:

First, be or become a WNF&GA member-at-large. Complete the application in the national magazine and pay the annual fee of \$15.

Next, complete the Michigan Division application available on the MI DIV website. Include your name, full mailing address, email address and phone number(s). Send the application plus a \$6 check payable to Michigan Division WNF&GA. Mail to Patricia Brown (*See address in green box above.*) *Returning Members-at-Large should renew each year by December 31.*

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

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, 2021	Submit info & photos for spring newsletter.
April 21, 2021	VIRTUAL Daffodil Day
May 1 – 15, 2021	Submit info & photos for summer ONLINE-ONLY newsletter
May 6, 2021	VIRTUAL Spring Council Meeting
June 5, 2021	VIRTUAL National Meeting

**Go
green!**



Please help Michigan Division save resources and costs by receiving your newsletters electronically. If you require 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. Please try it. Then notify registrar Cheryl Malin (white box with blue arrow immediately to the right) that you're willing to GO GREEN.

VERY IMPORTANT: Keep us posted. We won't find out unless you 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 want to read the newsletter on the MI DIV website. You can also print it from the website!



Please call or email

Cheryl Malin, MI DIV registrar
707 McDougal, Waterford, MI 48327
248-421-6093 cmalin09@gmail.com

From Sheila Kneeshaw, your Michigan Division president ...

As we enter 2021, on behalf of the board of directors of the Michigan Division, I wish you and your families the best of everything that life has to offer. 2020 was a year filled with challenges, both with our personal families and our garden families. As all gardeners know, we garden all year long. When we are not planting and harvesting, we are planning. With the arrival of seed, flower and tree magazines, I am now selecting what to plant in the spring.

ZOOM appears to have become a new way of visiting friends and family and holding business meetings. With the cancellation of the 2020 Spring and Fall Council Meetings, along with the International Tea, we have not been able to see each other face to face. At the last board meeting of the Michigan Division, we decided to have a ZOOM meeting for the 2021 Spring Council Meeting. Watch for all details in the spring edition of the MI DIV newsletter.

Even with the limitations on travel, you can visit public gardens and national parks on the internet. How many of you visit the websites of your fellow garden clubs in the MI Division, or the other garden clubs within the national WNF&GA? Just take a virtual visit, and I am sure you will enjoy it. I frequently visit and enjoy the experience very much. I get to see what different garden clubs are doing and planning.

Until we see each other again, please be safe, happy, and let's look forward to planting our gardens and having our much-missed garden tours this year.



- photo by Jeanne Bolcer

1964-66 WNF&GA President Matilda Dodge Wilson has returned to school!

Matilda Dodge Wilson has taken up permanent residence at Oakland University. In the 2021 spring WNF&GA magazine, which will be published in March, watch for a detailed article about Matilda's return to the school she founded with her husband Alfred G. Wilson. Since Matilda's return to campus more than two years ago, a landscape project has grown up around her, thanks to a \$2,200.00 grant to Michigan Division from the WNF&GA's Hazel Herring Civic Improvement Fund. (Hazel Herring was WNF&GA national president from 1982-1984.)

Chicago-based sculptor Lou Cella (of Comerica Park baseball figures fame) created the statue, which was unveiled in October 2018. Five very fine and durable containers, which surround Matilda, are now planted with five beautiful 'Koster' compact Hinoki false cypresses, aka *Chamaecyparis obtusa* 'Kosteri.'

The site - a short walk from the large university parking lot which runs parallel to Squirrel Road - is near the western edge of campus and adjacent to a recent major addition to the university's student center. Matilda, with shovel in hand and just steps from North and South Foundation Halls, overlooks the original hub of OU.

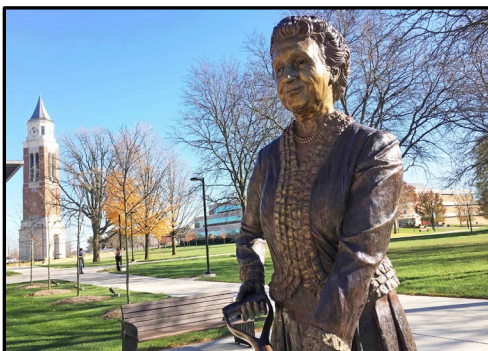
Although completed later than expected, the Matilda Wilson statue planting project, with generous funding from a Hazel Herring Civic Improvement Fund grant, has proved to be a favorite gathering spot on the OU campus.

It's so nice to see you again, Mrs. Wilson!

- Mary Schwark, MI DIV newsletter editor & graduate of the 3rd OU class



Far left above:
Matilda's unveiling on October 6, 2018; attended by Michigan Division members, L-R: Mary Schwark, Marcia Mandell, Charlotte Westbrook & Claudia Grace



Far left below:
Matilda Wilson and the OU carillon tower



Near left:
OU founder Matilda Wilson, surrounded by five 'Koster' compact Hinoki false cypresses

Funding for the plants and containers was provided by the Hazel Herring Civic Improvement Fund.

**FEATURE ARTICLE: *From famed car dealer's home to gardens and a lavender farm PLUS
a center for autism enrichment & learning***
www.livingandlearningcenter.org

Late last spring the Country Garden Club of Northville formed a committee to do community garden renovation work at the new location for the Living and Learning Enrichment Center (LLEC) in Northville. The project was brought to our attention by Kristen Bos, a CGCNV branch member affiliated with the LLEC. As soon as all of the state and federal ADA compliance renovations have been completed, the campus will be an active enrichment and learning day center for teens and young adults with autism. The program was founded and initially funded by Rachelle Vartanian in 2015, and it was established as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in 2017.

Rachelle, who has a son with autism, envisioned a program that would give young people with autism a comfortable, safe place to fine-tune verbal and motor abilities, and to learn interview and job skills. The ability to be independent is the main end-goal for many of the students. While practicing stress management for future community engagement, they'll develop emotional and social confidence. They will also make new friends in the process through various social activities. Rachelle saw an opportunity to realize her dream when a prominent Northville property came up for sale. On 12 acres, the house, caretakers' cottage and outbuildings were owned by the widow of Don Massey of Don Massey Cadillac dealerships. Through determination, personal sacrifice and good timing, Rachelle was able to purchase the property in February 2019.

In September 2019, the LLEC opened "Mod Market," a gift shop and coffee bar located at 150 Mary Alexander St. in Northville. A unique concept, it features the artwork and crafts of more than 60 local Michigan artists, including some of the LLEC students. Students service a coffee bar under staff supervision. They practice their communication and social skills while generating income to cover some of the program expenses.

CGC of Northville members have removed existing overgrown shrubs and weeds from the beds surrounding the pool and have also cleared additional beds adjacent to the pool. They've added climbing roses; divided peonies from existing beds; planted purple and red coneflowers, creeping phlox, anemone, black-eyed Susans, daisies, and mums from club members' donations. Anticipating spring color, they've also planted daffodil, tulip, and iris bulbs donated by club members. In the spring and summer of 2021, they will add summer phlox, red and hot pink hibiscus, as well as additional annual plants to round out the beds for a dramatic change from the "before" photos of 2020 to the anticipated "after" photos of 2021.

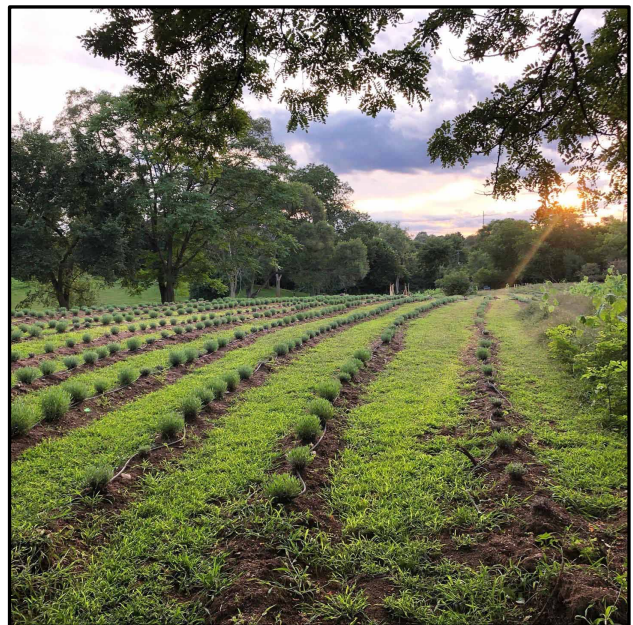
In July, our branch was invited to tour the grounds to see the beekeeping operation and the 2,300 lavender plants that Mary Goodman, the farm operations manager, had just finished installing. (See photo below.) We also wanted to find out about what future gardening and landscaping help was needed. While touring, we heard about the Boy Scouts' building plans for a henhouse for the twelve chickens that Mary recently purchased, a future area for alpacas being donated and shipped from Peru, and future herb and vegetable garden installations. The existing greenhouse will eventually be used for plant care, flower arranging and horticulture therapy activities. All the planned activities will help to create future jobs and income for the program.

In mid-October, our branch was again approached to help with the lavender harvest. Some of us worked in the field, cutting flower stalks for use in sachets and leafed branches for fire-starter bundles. Others worked at bundling the flower stalks to be dried for future projects.

In late October, a few members cleaned up the iris and hosta gardens in front of the house and heard Mary share information about native plant specialist Drew Lathin's suggestions for bringing native plants into future landscaping projects. To that end, our branch has an opportunity to continue the WNF&GA 100,000 Native Plant Project initiative by donating and installing native plants. The project was originally featured in the 2003 fall issue of *Farm & Garden*, our national magazine.

*- submitted by Marcia Mandell,
Country Garden Club of Northville*

- photo by Rachelle Vartanian



Daffodils4Communities



Thank you to the Michigan Division branches which have created daffodil projects in public places. We hope all other branches will eventually do the same.

The Saginaw Garden Club is the latest branch to establish a truly special daffodil garden. See their article and photos about *Daffodils4Saginaw* on page 9.

When branches create Daffodils4Communities projects, they complement the Daffodils4Detroit program.

Daffodil icons on the Branch News pages will continue to appear next to the names of participating branches.

2021 WNF&GA National Meeting Update

In March 2020, the annual National Meeting in Louisville was postponed and rescheduled for June of 2021. The latter meeting has now been cancelled, and for several very good reasons. Although cancellation was a difficult decision for the WNF&GA executive committee to make and to carry out during this highly unusual time, ultimately it was the correct decision. Plans are beginning for an interesting VIRTUAL National Meeting. Stay tuned. Details will follow as soon as possible. Questions? Please contact WNF&GA president Mary Schwark: schwark@aol.com

Exceptional Branch Project Recognitions

This year's submission deadline is March 15, 2021.

In May 2018, 2019 and 2020, a total of 14 outstanding branch projects were recognized by Michigan Division at the Spring Council Meetings or via newsletter.



All branches are urged to submit applications for recognition of their exceptional activities and projects. While it may seem surprising, in 2020 there WERE exceptional activities and projects!

The 2021 application is on the MI DIV website. Please mail completed applications, *postmarked no later than March 15, 2021*, to MI DIV 2nd VP Jo Sillanpaa. See her contact information on page 2.

Recognitions will be announced and presented at Michigan Division's VIRTUAL Spring Council meeting on Thursday, May 6, 2021. Watch for complete details in the spring 2021 Michigan Division newsletter.

All gardeners know what a bulb is. How about a "bulblet"? Can you pronounce it? Define it?

Look for a newsletter article that includes information about bulbs AND bulblets.

Branch News



Bloomfield Hills Branch

Bloomfield Hills Garden Club members have been meeting via Zoom. Most recently, members were able to participate in a lecture by Matthew Bertrand from Friends of the Rouge River. The topic was "Rain Gardens" and we learned about their impact and importance on our environment, especially the Rouge River, which winds through Bloomfield Hills and Birmingham.

Several of our members had the privilege of planting bulbs for the Oudolf Detroit Garden on Belle Isle. Visiting the newly planted garden was a special treat and we learned a great deal about the design, types of flowers, plants and bulbs which were specifically placed in the garden matrix. We met numerous other gardeners from throughout the metro area. It was a warm and sunny afternoon and fun was had by all.

A few of us were a wee bit sore the next day, but the experience was worth it. We cannot wait to visit the garden next spring to see blooming daffodils which emerged from the bulbs which we planted!

We are planning to hold our annual Christmas Tea via Zoom. We are hopeful our members will brew a cup of tea, sit in front of their decorated trees and offer holiday wishes to their fellow members.



L-R: Bloomfield Hills Garden Club members Julie Beals, Kelly Cash, Marianne Gard and Nancy Strickland
- photo by Ryan Southern

- submitted by Julie Beals, president

Branch News continued

Clarkston Farm & Garden Club

As you read this in early 2021, hopefully the future will be a bit brighter.

When the Clarkston Farm and Garden Club looked at the fall of 2020, we decided that we could find safe ways to sell and deliver our wreaths, roping, and cemetery blankets, as well as a few other items on an online Square store. Thanks to our techie member Liz Schoebel, who spent many hours learning about how to create the store, we were able to sell online as well as call people who had purchased greens from us over the years.

It's too early to tell exactly how successful we were, although we continue to move forward with fundraising endeavors. The little greens niche market was developed and supervised by our Greens Market creative chairperson Anita Andes, who put together some items for sale with nice packaging. Our resident glass artist Sheila Partington shared some of her jewelry creations and masks for the store, and our resident knitter Blair Schweitzer knitted wash cloths galore. Many members pitched in to help.

We, too, are Zooming for meetings and we are so proud of our 90-year-old member Marian Emery, who is with us at each meeting. She bought a new computer with camera and she knows how to Zoom. You are never too old to learn something. At one meeting there were 40 people on our Zoom.

In November, Kay (Karen) Engelhart, Saginaw Garden Club, joined us to talk about Pennies for Friendship and where funds are used. A big thanks to Kay for sharing with us.

We also have two new members. Marilyn Zigerac was a Bloom for over 10 years while she was working full time as a CPA. She retired and became a full member of the Clarkston Garden Club while working on her Master Gardener certification. Her goal and her interest are to learn how to design gardens. Tina Lewis also joined the Clarkston Garden Club. She recently moved to the community and has acreage outside of Clarkston. Before she retired from the pharmaceutical company where she worked in Wisconsin, she said, "I wanted to figure out what I was going to do with my life after retirement."

Tina has taken several classes online from Cut Flower Farmers, including Floret, and has connected with the Association of Specialty Cut Flower Growers. She is getting ready to expand her flower production.

In the fall, Tina planted 1450 daffodils, 300 alliums, 100 crocus and 180 tulips on her property. She hopes to sell some of her flowers this year at farmers markets and at a stand on her property. She also plans to become a U-Pick Farm. Tina is investigating many options this winter. We welcome both of our new members to the Clarkston Garden Club.

Though we are happy with Zoom and being able to see people safely in our current environment, we, like most of you, look forward to being together and talking person-to-person, versus on Zoom, in 2021.

We wish all our sister branches, a blessed New Year with lots of projects and being as back-to-normal as possible.

- submitted by Joette Kunse, Communications Director



Clarkston
Greens Market –
waiting for
customers' cars
to arrive for
greens pickup

L-R: Beth Riegel,
wreath & roping
co-chair and
Denish Lipusch,
Ways & Means
director

Country Garden Club of Northville



~ See FEATURE ARTICLE, page 4.

Franklin Garden Club

As November drew to a close, our members breathed a sigh of relief as we looked out the windows of our homes and saw beautiful green lawns. Piled by our driveways were bags and barrels of leaves waiting for yard waste crews to collect our stash for recycling into compost. The latter, of course, will be made available in the spring for our homeowners to enrich their gardens. Our bulbs were arranged neatly, deep in the soil, to rest until next spring when we will eagerly await the arrival of their heads poking through the ground.

Earlier in the fall, the pandemic was an incentive for our club to become creative, so we took a chance and scheduled an outdoor meeting at the gazebo in the park at the Franklin Community Church, our usual meeting place. Luckily, the weather was superb that day, and 30 members brought chairs, their lunches, and wore masks. What a joy that turned out to be, and the social time following the meeting was a treat for all. (See photo on page 7.)

..... continued on page 7

Franklin Garden Club continued from page 6

Our fall program included a most enjoyable trip to Blake's Orchards in Armada, Michigan. The day was fantastic and included a very interesting presentation on the history of the orchard. The food at their restaurant was superb, and the grand finale included a wagon ride to the orchards, where we were given bags to fill with apples that we picked. There were 42 different types of apples to select and, by the way, they made delicious pies, cakes, applesauce and muffins! The United States ranks third in the world for apple production and Michigan ranks third in the United States.

Lastly, a crew of club members tackled the Broughton Garden and put it to bed for the year. But as all gardeners rearrange things, the garden will take on a new look in 2021. What a relief as the crew left the garden, knowing it was ready for the winter months.

We had our first Zoom meeting in November and, taking into account the uncertainty presented by the pandemic, we worked to finalize program planning for the year.

- Kathy Lorencz and Cindy Juliano, co-presidents



Franklin G. C. above: Meeting on the green at the gazebo
Below: L-R & front to back: Kathy Lorencz & Pam Rijnovean; Margaret Bancroft, Jennifer Weight, Sheila Marshall; Cindy Juliano, Diane Wright, Barbara Tobaben; Inga Bricio

Northville Garden Club



Since 1975, the Northville Garden Club, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, has hosted a yearly Greens Mart, including 2020's 45th annual sale to area residents and businesses. Like the US Postal Service's unofficial motto, "neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night . . ." (nor a pandemic) has kept the club from completing its mission to provide customers with "fresh and top-quality wreaths, roping, mixed bundles and bows," while generating funding for donations.

The sale supports community organizations such as Friends of the Northville District Library, Northville Historical Society, and Northville Parks and Recreation. The fundraiser also provides scholarships to Northville High School students, as well as to Schoolcraft College students who reside in Northville.

Thinking outside of the box was required in 2020. The biggest difference in procuring orders was not being able to canvass businesses door-to-door. Having email addresses for past customers helped to generate new orders, and many ordered the same as in the past, or even more! All Northville members were responsible for contacting their own previous customers.

Suemarie Klimek, Greens Mart chairperson and past club president, tallied up all orders and submitted them to the greens vendor. Club members were kept very busy making bows for several months in advance, as well as during the week of November 16, which began with greens delivery on Monday. Pinecones were attached on Monday and Tuesday, and pickups at Suemarie's house occurred on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The protocol was "drive up, give your name or the name of your business, pop your trunk, wait for the greens, and away you go." (See Northville Garden Club's Greens Mart photos below.)

In addition to their winter fundraising efforts, Northville members also maintain gardens at the Yerkes House in Mill Race Village. They tend the hosta garden and Kohs Arbor at Northville District Library's Garden Club Park. And each May, in cooperation with the Northville Beautification Commission, they plant Northville's downtown flower containers.

- information provided by Claire Kreher, Northville member & past president

Preparing for Northville's Greens Mart



- photos by Suemarie Klimek

Branch News continued

Plymouth Garden Club

Nestled in a lovely neighborhood, and only a walk away from downtown Plymouth, is a pocket-sized city park. It has a fun playfield, a delightful playscape and even a picnic shelter. To make the space complete, there are lovely flowerbeds in both corners of the park. They are designed, planted and maintained by members of the Plymouth Garden Club. Kudos go to Maureen Armstrong, Shirley Dunn, Judy Krieman, Billie Barton, Jan Dersey and Eliza Callow, who demonstrated their expertise and gave much TLC throughout this past spring, summer and fall.

There's a large sign that welcomes you to *Plymouth Garden Club Park*. The new signage, replacing the old, was very recently made possible through the efforts of PGC members Maureen Armstrong and Judy Krieman, and the funds provided by the Wilcox Foundation.

We are proud of this park that bears our name. It's a popular spot for neighborhood kids to gather and play. With its proximity to the downtown business area, it's a favorite spot for workers to relax and enjoy a bagged lunch. As our members have planted, weeded, watered and pruned throughout the years and seasons, they have often heard passersby say, "Thanks for making it so nice!"

Welcome to *Plymouth Garden Club Park* on Forest Avenue between Carol Avenue and Sutherland Street, in a pleasant neighborhood, just a short stroll from downtown Plymouth.

- submitted by Mary Prouty, publicity



New Plymouth Garden Club Park sign; funding provided by the Wilcox Foundations

- photo by Mary Prouty

Rochester Garden Club



In early November we were very busy moving the Gifts and Greens Market to online instead of in-person sales. It's amazing how much work it was, but our members were up to the challenge. Unique one-of-a-kind gifts were ready to sell starting Sunday, November 15 through November 25. Curbside pickup occurred on December 4 and 5 at the Rochester Fire Station. Our publicity committee worked hard to get the word out via newspapers, Facebook and emails.

Our Civic Service committee safely conducted their annual search for outstanding public landscaping, and the winner of our annual Beautification Award was . . . the City of Rochester Hills. Two traffic circles on Tienken Road were chosen as the winning gardens. The city planted those very heavily-viewed areas with colorful annuals and a beautiful variety of perennials that also supply nice winter interest. Civic Service co-chairperson Joyce Murphy presented a plaque to Mayor Bryan Barnett in recognition of the city's contribution to the beauty of our community. See photo above.

- submitted by Sally Edwards & Robin McGrath

Branch News continued



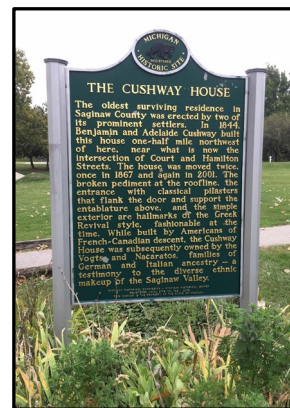
The weather was beautiful, the turnout was great, and spirits were high as the WNF&GA gals - & guys! - gathered

Saginaw Garden Club at 10:00 am on October 10, to plant 2,200 daffodils and daffodil bulbets along a sunny knoll at Saginaw's historic Cushway House property. (See photos on right.) Co-chairs Cinda Schantz and Sue Sonntag are planning for many more daffodil beds in public spaces around the county over the next five years.

In September, the co-chairs, along with Patty Burnside, Ann Herm, and Kathy Meinschein, picked up 2,200 daffodil bulbs and bulbets (*seedling bulbs*), from Dr. John Reed,* of Oakwood Farms, in Niles, Michigan. Dr. Reed is considered the USA's leading daffodil propagator according to the American Daffodil Society. At his suggestion, in order for the beds to look more in keeping with the historic nature of the Cushway House, their varieties and hues are not known to us. Oh, what surprises await us in the spring!

- submitted by Cinda Schantz

Right, above, L-R: Daffodil planters Hanny Sullivan, Holly Furlo, Penny Butterfield, Cinda Schantz, Wendy Bellinger, Stella Thelen, Sue Wiggins, Cathy Young, Sue Sonntag, Kathy Giffin; kneeling: Stephanie Skinner, Cinda's daughter
Right, below, L-R: Sue Sonntag, Cinda Schantz, Stella Thelen; Cushway House in background - photos by Mary Schwark



*The Saginaw Branch is sad to report Dr. Reed's death in November 2020. Details will appear in the spring WNF&GA national magazine.



Trailwood Garden Club president Georgia Randinitis with one of the club's two patriotic Christmas trees at the Plymouth Historical Museum

Trailwood Garden Club

Like many groups, our challenge has been finding meeting spaces. In good weather, the Trailwood Garden Club was able to use the Plymouth Township Park. We took our chairs, kept our distance, and it worked. Our first meeting in the park was during the summer to discuss "the garden walk that wasn't." The countdown clock on our website has been reset for June 22, 2021, the date of this year's walk. We discussed possible programs and elected a new vice-president, Shelley Hansen.

We also had board meetings and, for our membership meeting in September, we reserved a pavilion and had a nice turnout. But alas, our park began closing at dusk. In October, we embraced ZOOM technology. Cheryl English, Advanced Master Gardener, gave a presentation on Michigan Native Trees, Shrubs and Vines. She gave us the "why" of natives as well as the plants themselves. Nineteen members and guests joined the program. Our plan is to have a program in January. Marie Everitt is our tech person and will help make it successful.

We assisted with Christmas decorating at the Plymouth Historical Museum in November. The museum's exhibit "Christmas with the First Ladies," opened in November. We decorated two patriotic trees and hung roping and wreaths. As part of our community service objective, we have volunteered there for many years. On our first garden walk 24 years ago, the garden of Donna Keough, the museum's exhibit curator, was one of our venues.

In the City of Plymouth, Trailwood Garden Club helped to fund a winter planter with a sign to identify our sponsorship. It gets our name out there.

- submitted by Georgia Randinitis, president

Branch News continued

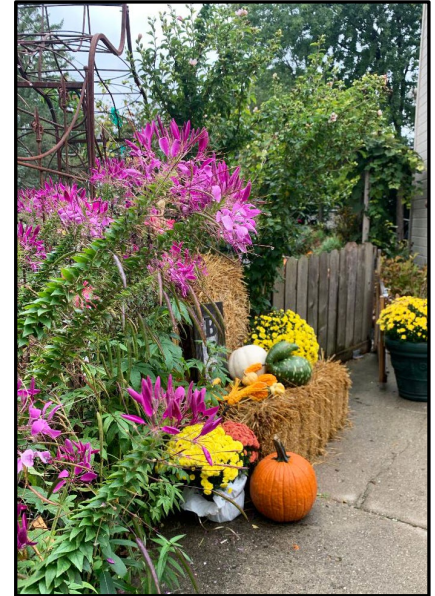
Troy Garden Club



Autumn provided us with some surprisingly beautiful weather. We were blessed with a perfect October day with lots of sunshine for our “Spooktacular Gardens” fundraiser on October 3. We added a plant sale, and the day was a great success. Thank you to all the members of local garden clubs for supporting us.

We are now having our board meetings via Zoom. The meetings are open to all our members. Our final gardening days at the Troy Historic Village saw great weather, and we also managed to collect food and other necessary items for the St. Anastasia Food Pantry which benefits Troy People Concerned. As an end to the “anno horribilis” 2020, we decorated a tree for the gazebo at the Troy Historic Village and placed a few wreaths on the doors of other buildings. Best wishes for a happy and more promising 2021.

- Barb Lepri, president



Troy Garden Club members’ Spooktacular Gardens

Above: Linda Forrester’s autumn vignette

Above left: Gazebo in Debbie Hancock’s garden

Left: Halloween in Kathy Martin’s garden

- photos by Mary Schwark

Warren Garden Club



Warren Garden Club members

Left, L-R:
Lurline Sears &
Madelyn Zamora

Right, L-R:
Paula O’Brien,
Jackie Slongo,
Connie Steward,
Carole Wiseman,
Lurline Sears
Not pictured:
Sue Keffer



Glorious autumn-colored tree at First United Methodist Church, Chicago Road, Warren
-photo by Pat Brown

As 2020 rapidly drew to a close, what a year it had been! It really got everyone’s brains in gear. We were happy to offer a few outdoor activities during the fall season.

Our home base, the Warren Community Center, was closed for group meetings. Our members, however, gathered

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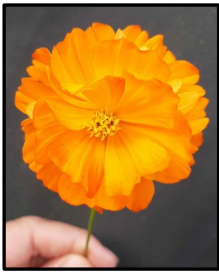
Warren Garden Club continued from page 10

in September at one of the pavilions to catch up and socialize. On September 20, we hosted a table at the Warren Farmers Market. We love participating with the community, and the venue presented a great marketing opportunity as well. Wanting to do something for the youngsters, but again limited by Covid, we provided a “Bean in a Baggie” take-away, with four beans and instructions included. The adults received paper bags containing a tea bag, a pre-packaged cookie, and a packet of marigold seeds. Photo boards showing our usual (non-Covid!) activities were informative for attendees. The day was sunny, but chilly and WINDY! We, as well as the other vendors, had quite a time keeping the displays anchored down. The outdoors called again in October, and we ventured over to the Red Oaks Nature Center. We walked their lovely, paved trails and “tailgated” in the parking lot with our “Bring your own snacks.”

By mid-November, we were nearing completion of our annual Greens Workshop. The wreaths we decorated with pinecones, berries, and bows, and they had all been pre-ordered. The owner of Kutchey’s Family Market graciously permitted us to utilize a large storeroom that provided plenty of room for us to social distance during our assembly process. Our members really came through and participated to ensure the success of our fundraiser at a very difficult time.

We hope everyone had a safe, and most importantly, healthy holiday season. Best wishes to all for a calm and peaceful 2021!

- submitted by Paula O'Brien, president



Left:
Photographic topic - single flower
cosmos by Carrie Sue Cempura

Below:
Photographic topic - garden art
by Beth Perry



Left:
Photographic topic -
container

Bathing begonias
by Peggy VanHull

Waterford Garden Club

The Waterford Garden Club is still hoping to host a future MI Division Council Meeting. Plans for a Spring Council Meeting in 2021 have been cancelled. We believe a vaccine will not be available and distributed in time for all to be vaccinated before next spring. However, we are feeling more confident that it may be possible to have a fall 2021 meeting. There are no date, theme or speaker lined up yet, but we figure there will be time to do that in the new year.

Meanwhile we hold monthly Zoom meetings, mostly to socialize and stay in touch. Some of our members are using their time in creative ways. For example, Jamie Schutt is taking a business law class so that she can become a paralegal in order to help with a non-profit organization. Rita Chester is writing a fictional, biographical book about her mother. Peggy VanHull is painting with watercolors. Cathy Colling is wintering in Arizona at a campground where half the contingency is missing. They are Canadians and, for them, traveling out of the country is difficult. They can travel out of Canada, but returning is very difficult!

Others are busy caregiving for loved ones or taking care of their own health. Our youngest member, Carrie Sue, is busy every day keeping her youngest child on track with remote schoolwork. We plan to contact a speaker or two who can provide a presentation for us this winter to keep our Zoom meetings interesting. We also continue to put together a monthly newsletter to keep us informed, and to share interesting articles, gardening tips and recipes.

We did not have a Greens Market in 2020, but we are going to plan a spring 2021 plant sale. Some members have been busy dividing and heeling in plants this fall in anticipation of a sale. We plan to hold it outside; we just have not yet determined the location or date.

During the summer we set up an eight-week garden photograph schedule so that we could see what was happening in each other’s yards. The photographic topics included: single flower; vines; garden; vegetable; garden art; container or hanging basket; shrubs and trees; and houseplants or succulents. See photographs on left.

- submitted by Sue Malone, president



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Woman's National Farm & Garden Association

2021 VIRTUAL National Meeting

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, June 5, 2021

Full details will be published in the spring 2021 national magazine.



Michigan Division Speakers Bureau

Do you need speakers? Maybe those who are willing to Zoom? 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.

Please email Joette Kunse if you can recommend good speakers. She will contact them and will ask if their information may be shared with Michigan Division branches.

Contact: *Joette Kunse, Speakers Bureau chairperson:* jkhorses@comcast.net