

From the Vine

# Milford Garden Club Newsletter

2020

# MARCH

**Mark your  
Calendar**



**Program: Renovating Perennial Beds**

**Speaker: Janet Macunovich**

**Date: Thursday, March 12**

**Time: 6:30 PM**

**Where: Milford Senior Center**

- |        |       |   |
|--------|-------|---|
| Mar 12 | Thurs | General Member Membership Meeting<br>Hospitality: Cindy Bauman & Gail Cooper<br>Greeters: Marion Benedict & Emily Kirshner                              |
| Mar 16 | Mon   | Executive Board Meeting 6:00 PM   |
| Mar 25 | Wed   | Tea Time Group<br>To join Tea Time contact <b>Mary McFarland</b> at (248) 520-7186 to be included in the email notification list for upcoming meetings. |
| Mar 28 | Thurs | Newsletter Deadline - Martha Klemmer 248-685-8204<br>Send articles to: <a href="mailto:MarthaKlemmer@comcast.net">MarthaKlemmer@comcast.net</a>         |

**Milford Garden Club  
Est. 1948**

**A Member of the Michigan Division  
Woman's National Farm and Garden Association**

## From the President's Desk..... *Linda Smith*



It seems like it has been a long time since I have seen some of you. I hope you have had a healthy winter and have enjoyed our milder Michigan winter. We have a lot of important information that will be presented at our March membership meeting. I know you are looking forward to hearing Janet Makunovich speak so I am asking you to read the Growing Greens Milford Community Garden proposal and the proposed by-law changes prior to the meeting. Please contact me if you have any questions or need further information prior to the meeting. Both proposals are in the newsletter after my letter.

We need two volunteers to join **Barb Amey** on the nominating committee. The only position that must be filled this year is secretary as the other officers are willing to serve one more term. The nominating committee will need to present the proposed slate for secretary at our April meeting and we will vote at our May meeting. Sadly, Ellen Collins, our secretary, has moved out of the area and will be unable to continue after the end of August. The secretarial duties include recording the minutes at the general membership and at the board meetings. If you have an interest in serving as secretary, please reach out to the nominating committee. We love volunteers!

The May Plant Sale on May 9<sup>th</sup> (Mother's Day Weekend) will be chaired by **Susan Absher** and **Barbara Brennan**. The committee met in January to start planning for this major fundraiser. The committee decided to eliminate the bake sale as it hasn't been very successful the last few years. **Pat** and **Al Coopersmith** will work on updating our signage to reflect the change. The committee is looking for plant donations to dig for our sale. If you know anyone who has a garden with plants that need dividing, let the committee know. If you are interested in getting involved in the committee or being a part of our "we dig it team", please contact Susan or Barbara.

The Michigan Division Spring 2020 Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 20, at the Bay Pointe Golf Club in Waterford. The speaker will be Janet Macunovich. Her topic will be "Landscape Ideas from Her Favorite Gardens, Before and After". The deadline to register is May 8<sup>th</sup>. See the registration form in this newsletter. Let pack a couple of cars with our members and go on a road trip. Fun, fun, fun!

Our garden club will be hosting the Michigan Division Fall Meeting 2020. **Beth Sciberras** and **Emily Kirshner** are chairing this event. Currently, the committee is working on securing a venue. Once the place and date is set, the committee will start contacting speakers. The theme will be determined once the speaker is secured and topic is determined. If you would like to be on the committee, please contact Beth or Emily.

**President's Report** continued on next page.. 

Even though we didn't have any general membership meetings in January and February, we have been busy building new friendships. Two evening socials were held with good attendance for both. **Linda Becker** coordinated an evening gathering in her home in January and **Cindy Bauman** coordinated a February dinner social at the Benstein Grill. **Barbara Brennan** coordinated the noon Tea Time Group at Jimmy's restaurant in January. We enjoyed good food, laughs, and getting to know each other better at these socials.

Warm regards,  
**Linda Smith**, President

## **Growing Greens Milford Community Garden – Please Read**

The following proposal will be discussed at the March 12<sup>th</sup> garden club meeting. Contact **Linda Smith** prior to the meeting if you need more information.

Growing Greens Milford Community Garden (GGM), a 501(C3) organization established in 2011, approached the MGC to take over the management of their organic garden. This garden is located behind Pet Supplies Plus off GM Rd near the new dog park. The land is part of Kensington Metro Park and there is an agreement between the village and GGM to utilize the land for organic gardening. There are 19 rental plots 15'x30', 19 plots 15'x15', and a large plot for growing vegetables for donation which could be divided into 21 rental plots 10'x10'. The GGM organization wants to dissolve their organization as their leadership is burned out. They would like to see another organization take on the ownership of this project. GGM would transfer all funds (\$950?) and other assets to the MGC if we voted to accept this project. They have 11 people that have expressed interest in renting plots this year and a handful of gardeners that would be willing to help with various aspects of the project.

If the MGC were to take over the GGM Community Garden, the minimum responsibilities are as follows:

1. Form an ongoing committee to oversee this project with a chairperson.
2. Secure gardeners to rent the plots through publicity and word of mouth.
3. Set and collect rental fees, provide contract for renters to sign and submit, and assign plots.
4. Hold an organizational meeting in March or very early April for prospective gardeners.
5. Manage the website (This might be on our website if we took on this project.).
6. Communicate with the gardeners during the season.
7. Schedule spring garden clean-up days and fall clean-up days to work on the garden including paths.
8. Order supplies for the garden including compost and mulch.
9. Pay annual insurance fee of \$480 unless it would be covered by our existing insurance policy.

**Growing Greens Milford Community Garden** continued on next page..



10. Interface with the Village to transfer management of GGM to the MGC and work with the Village as needed during the year.
11. Maintain the fencing and perform any other required repairs.

**Potential Benefits:**

1. Continue to offer organic gardening to the community in an area that has already been prepared, improved and fenced.
2. Provide organic gardening space to residents in our area that don't have land here they live, e.g. people living in new condos and apartments.
3. Able to transfer all assets to us as we have a 501C designation.
4. We have an existing bank account and treasurer to collect and deposit funds.
5. High visibility due to proximity to new dog park may help with recruitment of gardeners.
6. Source of new members for the MGC by expanding our projects to reach a different audience.
7. A new fundraising project for our club through plot rentals.
8. Designated space for the garden club to heel in plants for our plant sale.
9. Fits within the current purpose of the MGC. "to encourage a greater interest in gardening and conservation, to provide horticultural education to our members and the community."

**Concerns:**

1. This is not a one year project. Do we have the support of our membership and the leadership needed to continue this in perpetuity?
2. According to the national president of WNFGA, there are no branches that are doing this type of project in the United States.
3. Is there any liability if someone sued because they became ill after eating crops raised on the property? Previously, water was used to irrigate the gardens from the Huron River which at one time had high levels of PFAS chemicals. The Village Council has since reversed the ban on using water from the Huron River for irrigation as the amount of PFAS chemicals is below the safe standard of 70 parts per trillion for drinking water. Also, studies have been conducted that show that PFAS chemicals are not easily absorbed into plants. An additional concern is the potential for E. coli to be in the soil due to the number of geese in the water and on the land.
4. MGC board members asked the Growing Green members if they had approached the village leadership about managing the garden. The GGM members said that they haven't talked to the village leadership about the garden in the last three years. It is a concern that MGC might take on this substantial responsibility when the village might be willing to manage it and provide maintenance support.
5. In the past, it was hard to enforce that the renters must keep their plot weeded and maintained. If the MGC took on this project, how would we handle this issue?

## Proposed Bylaws Change

### Article VII – Dues Section III

Members joining prior to January 1 shall pay full annual dues. **New** members joining after January 1 shall pay dues prorated **of \$2.50 per month** based on the number of ~~meetings~~ **months** remaining **prior to May 1st** ~~in the club fiscal year.~~

Rational: Currently

It is hard for new members to understand what we are charging them and why. We have 9 meetings per year. The \$30 annual dues should be divided by the 9 months that we have meetings. This would be \$3.33 per month after January 1. According to our bylaws, it appears that someone joining in March would pay 5 meeting months of dues to the end of the fiscal year (August 31<sup>st</sup>) (We don't meet in January, February, or August). This would be \$16.65. In May, they would pay an additional \$30 which would cover their dues for the new fiscal year starting on September 1.

Proposed Change

If they joined in March, we would charge them \$5 for this year and then they would pay an additional \$30 in May when we collect the annual dues from all of the membership.

Even though we don't have a general membership meeting every month, we do have other activities for our members. We should divide the dues by month rather than months with meetings.



### Correction to Yearbook

**Bonnie Lynch's**

email is:

[bonitarosita21@gmail.com](mailto:bonitarosita21@gmail.com)

### New Member

Update your yearbook

**Sheila Lengel**

781 Promontory Drive

Milford, MI 48381

810-919-8015 (cell)

[slengel4110@yahoo.com](mailto:slengel4110@yahoo.com)

Sheila is interested in the butterfly garden, garden walk, hospitality, May plant sale and senior center garden.



## Community News

Zonta Club of Milford is sponsoring a fundraiser at

**The Clothing Cove**  
on April 14  
from 6:30 to 8:30.

Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Contact **Linda Smith** at (248) 996-3610 for tickets and more information about the evening.



# Plant Sale

Spring is around the corner and so is the Milford Garden Club's annual Plant Sale on Mother's Day weekend. This year it will be held on

**Saturday, May 9, from 9 a.m. until noon.**

Just a few reminders:

- Watch for new plant growth that will be suitable for planting
- Divide plants that need to be thinned
- Save plastic pots to be used on digs
- Gather plastic holders used to hold lawn treatment signs. Mini blinds slats are useful for plant identification
- Unwanted books, tools, and lawn ornaments will make a fine addition to our Garden Boutique
- Items not usually found in gardens that can be repurposed for ornamentation are welcomed
- Borrowed wagons will help transport plants for members



Volunteerism has been overwhelming for this event. The biggest concern is to have a large and diverse supply of plants. Please contact us to arrange for a dig if someone would like us to remove or thin plants. Please let homeowner know that we do not prune or weed but simply remove plants they wish to donate.

The sale and the digs will be announced on both the Milford Garden Club and the Village of Milford's Facebook pages. The dig will have to have some explanation so readers know the service we are offering. If you have any other suggestion as to a manner of procuring plants, please let us know.



Thank you to all who have offered help and suggestions along the way.

It is much appreciated.

Susan Absher and Barbara Brennan  
Co-chairpersons for Plant Sale

# Gardening

## Sprouting seeds a fast way to grow fresh vegetables

If you've been thinking about trying some kitchen gardening to help fight off the winter ickies but lack the space and funds to do a setup, seed sprouting is a perfect place to start.

Sprouting seeds is a quick and easy way to grow a fresh, nutritious vegetable crop indoors with no fuss, no dirt — and you don't need special lighting.



**NANCY SZERLAG**

Sprouts are high in fiber, low in calories, easy to digest and fat free. They contain protein, minerals, enzymes, amino acids and a variety of vitamins and can be used in salads, sandwiches, stir-fries and a passel of other ways including smoothies.

One of my favorite recipes is to saute the sprouts with mushrooms and onions and add them along with slivered almonds when scrambling eggs. A dash or two of low-sodium soy sauce to the raw egg adds additional flavor. It's a dieter's dream come true.

Although alfalfa and mung beans are the most popular seeds for sprouting, there's a large array of vegetables to choose from, including broccoli, radishes and lentils. And there's no comparison between those you grow yourself and store bought.

Botanical Interests' ([botanicalinterests.com](http://botanicalinterests.com)) seed collection offers lots of choices, including a salad and sandwich mix. For zip, try Radish China Rose.

If you really get into sprouting, Johnny's Selected Seeds ([johnnyseeds.com](http://johnnyseeds.com)) also carries certified organic seed in larger quantities. A quarter-pound of mung beans runs \$6.50.

Along with freshness and flavor, what's great about sprouting is you can grow these healthful little morsels with a minimum of effort. All you need is a clean 1-quart wide-mouth glass jar, some cheesecloth, a large rubber band and some seeds.

Start by soaking the seeds overnight in warm water in the jar. Then drain off the water and inspect larger seeds, removing any that are broken. Next, fill the jar half-full of fresh water, cover with the cheese cloth secured by a rubber band, swish the seeds around and drain. I prop the jar on an angle in a bowl that sits in the kitchen sink. Repeat the process at night.

Twice-daily rinsing is key to successful and healthful sprouting. The Botanical Interests website includes instructions on how to disinfect the seeds, which is optional. Both Botanical Interest and Johnny's seeds have been tested and certified negative for the presence of disease.

When ready to eat — usually in about four to five days — give the sprouts a final rinse, drain well and store leftovers in the refrigerator. They should be rinsed daily.

Botanical Interests' seeds are available at independent garden centers as well as by mail order.

Email Nancy Szerlag at [Szerlag@earthlink.net](mailto:Szerlag@earthlink.net).





Beacon Mix Impatiens have been bred to resist the downy mildew that has kept impatiens out of Michigan gardens for several years.

# New impatiens hybrid designed to fight disease

I'm often asked if it's safe to start growing common impatiens in our gardens again. What was once North America's No. 1 selling bedding plant and often touted as Mother Nature's most perfect flower took a dramatic fall from favor when the common Impatiens Downy Mildew (IDW) strain of fungal disease swept most of the nation and wiped out gorgeous gardens in a matter of weeks.



**NANCY SZERLAG**

Surprisingly, the fungus that causes IDW was first found in the United States in the late 1800s — but it was the early 2000s before it began to rear its ugly head due to what some scientists call “the perfect storm” — a combination of heat and humidity that awakened this sleeping beast that destroyed entire crops across the United States. By 2013, the disease was rampant on the East Coast and the New York Botanical Gardens recommended common impatiens no longer be planted.

Oh, there were replacements to color up shade gardens that were pretty much disease free — wax begonias, New Guinea impatiens and coleus, to name a few. But none of these put out that intense non-stop color of common impatiens; were as easy to grow and care for and best yet were dirt cheap. Homeowners could buy whole flats of these pretties for 10 to 12 bucks.

While common impatiens are still available at some garden centers and big boxes, the disease IDM is still a risk, especially with the crazy weather we have to deal with throughout the growing season. For me growing these plants is a crap shoot, and that's a gamble I choose not to take.

But the good news is researchers have been hybridizing the common impatiens walleriana, and PanAmerican Seed has developed the new Beacon series that contain genetics that have proven to be highly resistant to the dreaded IDW. In tests across Europe and the United States, Beacon Impatiens have survived and done well when grown next to IDW infected plants and have been successful replacements in plots where IDW disease ridden plants had just been removed.

On their website, Burpee (burpee.com) is now offering the new Beacon Impatiens as both seeds and plants. A packet of 25 seeds runs \$5.95 and 24 plants ( 6 each of 4 colors) is priced at \$29.95.

Beacon Impatiens should be available at independent garden centers and nurseries but I doubt they will be priced at \$12 a flat. Still, I have a few dark spots in the garden that could use some real sparkle. and I think Beacons might be that ray of light.

Nancy Szerlag is a master gardener and Metro Detroit freelance writer. Her column appears Fridays in Homestyle. To ask her a question go to Yardener.com and click on Ask Nancy. You can also read her previous columns at detroitnews.com/homestyle.

# Annual Christmas Dinner



**Chairperson:**  
Janie Cryderman  
**Punch:**  
Kathy Barker &  
Martha Larsh

**Decorations:** Brook  
Qualman, Shelly Dale  
& Pat Coppersmith

**Desserts:**

Brook Qualman,  
Susan Absher





Seed catalogs are a great place to start studying which plants are best for you.

# Time to research plant seeds for your garden

If you're jumping on the pollinator gardening bandwagon, you may want to try your hand at growing plants from seed. I will be giving tips from time to time to help you along, but now is a good time to do some research on what



**NANCY SZERLAG**

and how to grow, and seed catalogs are a great place to start.

Here are some of the seed catalogs on my fave list:

**Johnny's Selected Seeds** (877) 564-6697; johnnyseeds.com. Paper catalog free. Maine-based, Johnny's

specializes in cold-tolerant vegetable, herb and flower seeds that are flavorful, disease resistant and good producers. Tested in organic gardens in Maine and other locations around the country.

**Richters Herbs** (800) 668-HERB; richters.com. Paper catalog free. If you're into herbs, Richters' website is a treasure trove of information. They also offer mail-order plants, including trays of small plugs, to the general public. This Canadian company ships to the U.S.

**Territorial Seed Company** (800-326-0866); TerritorialSeed.com. Paper catalog free. Huge selection and a great deal. Lots of plants, but order early as they sell out.

**Pinetree Garden Seeds** (207) 926-3400; superseeds.com. Paper catalog free. Small seed packs sold at lower prices. Now sells plants and DIY supplies, including cosmetic and soap making components.

**Botanical Interests Seeds** (877) 21-4340; botanicalinterests.com Paper

catalog free. Large selection includes Asian vegetables, perennial flowers and organic seed. Seed packets are loaded with cultural information. Info on DIY seed bombs.

**Renee's Garden Seeds** (888) 880-7228; reneesgarden.com. Online only catalog. Great selection of seeds for heirloom and cottage flower gardens, herbs, and gourmet vegetables from around the world. Dwarf Tasmanian Chocolate Tomato is a great container variety I grew in a container last year.

**Peaceful Valley Organics** (888) 784-1722; groworganic.com. Catalog online. A one-stop shop for the organic grower with seeds, fertilizers, bare root trees and tools.

**Seeds of Change**, seedsofchange.com. Paper catalog free. Purveyors of certified organic seeds and seedlings.

**Sow True Seed** (828) 254-0708; sowtrueseed.com. Paper catalog free. Highly rated organic seed house dedicated to quality and service.

**Nature & Nurture Seeds**, natureandnurtureseeds.com. Catalog free. Heirloom and open-pollinated seeds located near Ann Arbor. These seeds are adapted to the Great Lakes region.

Because of the high costs of print and postage, many seed houses have gone to online only catalogs. So even if you get the paper catalogs, do check out the seed house purveyors' websites for sales, blogs, gardening tips and online only merchandise.

Nancy Szerlag is a master gardener and a Metro Detroit freelance writer. Her column appears Fridays in Homestyle. To ask her a question go to [Yardener.com](http://Yardener.com) and click on Ask Nancy. You can also read her previous columns at [detroitnews.com/homestyle](http://detroitnews.com/homestyle).



Help wanted from a master gardener: I want to grow my own plants but I can't find bacon seeds



# Think Spring



Dear Michigan Division presidents and members-at-large,

Michigan Division's 2020 Spring Council Meeting will be hosted by the Waterford Garden Club on Wednesday, May 20, 2020. Many of Waterford's members, including branch president Sue Malone, have been very busy planning the event. As I'm sure you'll be happy to know, Janet Macunovich will be the event speaker. Very cool. Hurray, Janet! Hurray, Waterford!

Please distribute the hot-off-the-presses registration form to your branch's members as soon as possible so they're aware of the location, the date and the speaker. The form will also be available in Michigan Division's 2020 spring newsletter, which is scheduled to be published - fingers crossed! - in early March. Even if members aren't quite ready to register, they should appreciate the heads-up.

Mary Schwark

MI DIV advisor



**REGISTRATION FORM – Due May 8, 2020**  
Wednesday, May 20 – Bay Pointe Golf Club  
4001 Haggerty Road, West Bloomfield Twp., MI  
(Intersection of Haggerty & Richardson Roads – see map below)  
*Hosted by the Waterford Garden Club*  
9:15–10 am – Arrival ~ Check in & visit vendors  
NOTE: Vendors will continue selling during breaks.  
10–11 am – Breakfast ~ 10:30 am – MI DIV Business Meeting  
11:30 am – Break ~ 12:00 noon – Speaker  
12:45 pm – Door Prizes ~ 1:00 pm Adjourn

**Landscape Ideas from Her Favorite Gardens,  
Before & After**  
Janet Macunovich – photograph above – will walk you through time, as well as through beautiful spaces, to give you ideas, laughs, hopes and consolation in your own gardening efforts. Macunovich and her husband, photographer Steven Nikkila, are a creative, entertaining team that has designed, planted and renovated gardens for 40 years. The program covers some of their favorite projects. In addition, they share their design principles, maintenance tips and the life lessons learned from each.

**Make check payable to:  
Michigan Division WNF&GA**  
Please mail with your completed form to:  
Susan Malone  
1155 Shoman St.  
Waterford, MI 48327  
Phone: 248-613-5381  
Registration questions:  
[smalnewac@gmail.com](mailto:smalnewac@gmail.com)  
**Reservation deadline: May 8, 2020**

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Guest? Yes No Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address (print NEATLY to assure receipt of confirmation) \_\_\_\_\_  
Branch (& any current office, if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE NOTE:** The registrar will send a confirmation to your email address. If you do not have email but wish to receive a confirmation, send a self-addressed & stamped envelope with your registration.  
**This form is also available on Michigan Division's website.**  
**REGISTRATION:** Breakfast buffet & speaker \$ 27.00 per person  
**TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Guests are welcome & should send their own registrations & checks.  
**YOUR PAYMENT IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE LESS THE \$20 VALUE OF YOUR MEAL.**



# Milford Garden Club Officers & Committees

## Executive Board

**President:** Linda Smith 248 996 3610

**Vice President Publicity:** Diane Pearson C 248 227 7981 H 248 887 0780

**Vice Presidents of Programs:** Linda Becker C 248 684 5049 H 248 685 0188  
Barb Amey C 248-390-9561 H 248-685-8975

**Treasurer:** Cindy Bauman 216 543 4943

**Secretary:** Ellen Collins 248-770-4763

## Committees

**Butterfly Garden:** Sandralynn Riss H 248-684-0586 C 248-408-0587 Brook Qualman 248-676-0234

**Butterfly Garden Maintenance:** Kathy Blackburn C 248-568-1764 H 248-684-1341

**Community Outreach:** Sue Grifor H 248-896-8558 C 248-787-4712

**December Holiday Party (food):** Janie Cryderman 248-231-9190

**Devine Raffle:** Teresa McCarthy 248-798-4907 and Sheila Myers 248-714-9224

**Email Distribution:** Martha Klemmer MarthaKlemmer@comcast.net C 248-787-5338 H 248-685-8204

**Fall Clean Up:** Karol LaHaie C 248-467-6084

**Field Trip Coordinator:** Karol LaHaie C 248-467-6084

**Garden Walk:** Kathy Barker C 248-842-9857 H 248-685-8352  
Martha Larsh C 248-330-1820 H 248-685-2059

**Greeter:** Barb Brennan C 248-494-1272 H 248-685-9568

**Historian:** Anna Van Hyfte 248-717-3060

**Hospitality Coordinator:** Martha Klemmer H 248-685-8204

**Membership:** Terri Hardick C 248-252-4719 H 248-676-0370

**Mentoring:** Tina Schave H 248-685-7567 C 248-767-3985 & Diane Pearson 248-887-0780

**Michigan Division Fall Meeting:** Beth Sciberras 248 302 3786 & Emily Kirshner 248 685 9842

**Monarch Project:** Monarch Monitor: Ellen Collins 248-770-4763

**Name Tags:** Marion Benedict 248-684-5845

**Newsletter:** Martha Klemmer MarthaKlemmer@comcast.net C 248-787-5338 H 248-685-8204

**Plant & Bake Sale:** Susan Absher 734 474 2996 & Barb Brennan C 248-494-1272 H 248-685-9568

**Scholarship:** Linda Sturgeon 248-625-8806

**Senior Center Garden Maintenance:** Karol LaHaie C 248-467-6084

**Social Media:** Ellen Collins 248-770-4763

**Sunshine:** Kathy Barker C 248-842-9857 H 248-685-8352

**Tea Time Group:** Mary McFarland C 248-520-7186 H 248-684-2149

**Yearbook:** Brook Qualman 248-676-0234

**Website:** Sue Tompkins 248-684-2055