

From the Vine

# Milford Garden Club Newsletter

2020



September

**Mark your  
Calendar**



**Program: Monarch Metamorphosis  
Kathy Bunko, Presenter**

**Date: September 10**

**Time: 6:30 PM**

**Where: Zoom Meeting**



Sept 10 Thur General Member Membership Meeting

3PM Executive Board Meeting—Zoom meeting

August 26 Wed Tea Time Group NOON at Karol LaHaie's  
Let Karol know if you are coming 248 467 6084 or  
karoljacklahiae@gmail.com  
To join Tea Time contact Mary McFarland at (248) 520-7186 to be  
included in the email notification list for upcoming meetings.

Sept 28 Mon Newsletter Deadline - Martha Klemmer 248-685-8204  
Send articles to: MarthaKlemmer@comcast.net

**Milford Garden Club  
Est. 1948**

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

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Linda  
Smith

Thank you to **Cindy Bauman** for putting together a stellar presentation of our members' gardens for a virtual garden walk at our August meeting. The program wouldn't have been possible without our membership submitting many wonderful photos. We had an opportunity to view gardens in various seasons, the making of gardens with before and after pictures, animals and insects that visit our gardens, vegetables, various types of gardens, and the highlighting of individual plants. It was so much fun to tour the 17 gardens and ask questions about what was pictured. If you didn't get a chance to attend the meeting, you can see the program on our website.

It is hard to believe that in three months we will be having our Holiday Dinner Meeting. **Brook Qualman** volunteered to coordinate the decorations for our December meeting and **Diane Pearson** has secured the entertainment. I am still looking for someone to take the lead on coordinating the menu. Please let me know if you are interested in this opportunity.

**Susan MacGonigal**, one of our brand new members, volunteered to partner with **Sheila Myers** to coordinate our Devine Raffles once we are able to start meeting in person. Thank you, Susan, for jumping right in.

Tea Time has been meeting in person for wonderful potluck lunches.

With the beautiful summer weather, the group has been able to meet outside. Please contact **Mary MCFarland** if you would like to learn more about the group and where the next meeting will be held. The group meets the last Wednesday of the month at noon. All members are welcome to participate.

At our last general membership meeting, we approved the 2020-2021 budget. The budget was created assuming that we would be able to hold the plant sale in May and Garden Walk in June. If one of these events is cancelled, we will have to adjust our budget. We also approved the last of the proposed bylaw changes. I will be working with **Sue Tompkins** to get the revised bylaws posted on our website.

**Barb Amey** and **Linda Becker** have been hard at work getting programs lined up for this year. I am looking forward to hearing the remote presentation on butterflies at our September meeting by Kathy Buko. At our August meeting, I learned that our very own **Pat Coppersmith** has been raising and releasing Monarch butterflies. It is great to know that we have such an excellent resource in our organization.

Warm regards,  
Linda Smith

# Our Gardening Inspirations

By: Cindy Bauman

I walked around the garden, wondering what to write for this article, when I came upon my “shiso grove”. For 19 years I have kept a patch of red shiso, or *Perilla frutescens*, in the garden. It self-seeds each year and when I see the first seedlings emerge in spring it is a joy and relief to see them again. We both made it another year!



It made me think of garden inspirations, the ideas, experiences and dreams that keep us growing and designing through the years. What is your individual gardening story?



My gardening story began as many do, in the garden with my mom. She had a huge vegetable garden at our house in Catawba, OH, and I would pick beans and walk through rows of corn and eat warm cherry tomatoes on golden afternoons in August. I watched her plant, weed, can and freeze those delicious fruits and vegetables.

During my summers at home during college I started my own small garden and learned about herbs from Mrs. Greenleaf, my good friend's mom. She was a very talented gardener and cook. Do you have a gardening mentor? She was mine. The three of us walked through her garden and she explained so many things. Mrs. Greenleaf gave me a beautiful book on herbs that sparked a serious interest in learning about plants and she also introduced me to an organic gardener who sold lovely plants.

In my early 20s inspiration came from visits to estates and gardens with my mom, such as Cleveland Botanical Garden (Cleveland, OH), Holden Arboretum (Kirtland, OH), Kingwood Center (Mansfield, OH), Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens (Akron, OH) and the Biltmore Estate (Asheville, NC). Seeing gardens on a grand scale taught me about design and place, and how plantings could evoke moods.



In my late 20s I took a brief break from working office jobs to try something different. I'm glad I did! I first worked at a huge commercial grower in Oberlin, OH, which was amazing. I remember clocking in and walking through greenhouses that seemed like football fields – so large that some people rode bikes through them to get from one place to another. The greenhouses were very quiet with just the

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## **Our Gardening Inspirations—** Continued from previous page

whirring of enormous fans and heavy scent of the plants.



It was a joyful sight to see thousands of portulaca blooms. When I looked at the portulaca in our rose garden this afternoon, it made me smile to remember seeing them en masse all those years ago. What stuck with me the most from that job was how the growers carefully tended the plants in each stage of their growth cycle. When I see plant-packs of annuals at the store I think how much time and care was put into producing every single plant and I want

to continue nurturing them in our garden.

I next worked at The Chef's Garden in Huron, OH, for about six months. It was a very special and unique time that made me become passionate about gardening. I picked micro herbs and vegetables and packed them for sale to fine restaurants across the country. I also picked tiny cucumber blooms, pansies, nasturtium and other edible flowers. The products were delicate and as close to perfect as you could imagine. I worked with migrant workers from Mexico and students from Russia and learned about gardens in their countries. It was from there that I brought home my first red shiso from discarded plants we could keep, and that has yielded its progeny in my gardens the past 19 years. Working at The Chef's Garden was a daily inspiration in the dedication and diligence to tending the plants and learning the amazing artistry of how the best chefs in the world used them.



In my early 30s I bought my first house in Bay Village, OH. As a single woman my inspiration was to create a highly personalized space in which I could relax and dream. My inspirations then (and now) came from Gardens Illustrated magazine and seeing gardens while on walks. When I married for the first time in my early 40s and moved to Milford, I brought many of my treasured plants with me – they were like my family! Our gardens hold a part of our hearts.

One of the greatest sources of inspiration as a gardener now is my husband Mike! We have created our garden beds together, with him suggesting ideas I would not otherwise have tried – curving beds and pops of yellow flowers. All that we give to the garden it gives back tenfold. The inspiration that continues through the decades of one's life is remarkable as we dream all winter of what the following seasons in the garden will hold.

# WELCOME New Member

**Cindy Sharp**

2715 Bay Vista Drive  
Highland, MI 48357  
(248) 343-1889

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

**WE'VE  
MOVED**



**Dolores Donnellon**

Has moved in with her son and is very happy with the move. Her new address is:

919 E Clark  
Superior Twp, MI 48198  
Phone is the same: 248 807 2981

New Address and Email for

**Ellen Collins**

2144 Austin Drive  
Utica, MI 483816  
[collins2575@gmail.com](mailto:collins2575@gmail.com)



Our sympathy to  
The Kirshner family.  
**Emily Kirshner**  
passed away.

There will be no funeral just cremation at her request.

Sympathy cards can be sent to her husband:

Bob Kirshner  
P.O. Box 190  
Milford, MI 48381

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**Jim Mikuska**

**Kathy Mikuska**, past member of the Milford Garden Club. lost her husband **Jim** on August 24rd after a long illness.



He has been in hospice care for two weeks.

You can send sympathy cards to:  
Kathy's Mikuska

12197 Woodline Drive  
Fenton, MI 48430  
or call 810 750 5167

No public funeral at this time

# Meet Our 2020 Scholarship Recipient

The Milford Garden Club was fortunate to award a scholarship this year to a young man who loves the outdoors and gardening. Benjamin Getzen, a 2020 graduate of Lakeland High School was chosen the club's sole 2020 scholarship recipient. We usually award up to three scholarships annually to local graduates; however, due to COVID 19 circumstances, this year's fundraising opportunities which support our scholarship program, were severely curtailed so membership decided to award only one scholarship.

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

Ben also had a home garden. He grew some vegetables and pumpkins; he said the vegetables were a success, but the pumpkins, not so much—they had nice leaves!

His interest continued to grow. He and several other students started the Lakeland High School Garden Club in 2018. To make the garden club a reality, the students talked to teachers about the idea and were given a small strip of land for vegetable gardening. The club's mission was to grow and distribute fresh food to the community, while providing the opportunity for high school students to learn about gardening.

This fall Ben will begin studies towards a degree in Biological Systems and Agricultural Engineering (BAE) at Michigan State University. He said the degree "combines the two areas I am most interested in: biology and engineering." I needed clarification since I'm not familiar with this degree so I consulted MSU's website which said "Biosystems engineers may, for example, design pathogen control processes to protect the safety of our food supply, construct wetlands to improve water quality and quantity, biomass conversion processes to sustainably supply renewable energy and products, and/or diagnostic and risk modeling systems to protect and enhance human and animal health." Ah, now it makes sense!

As an additional learning opportunity Ben worked with fellow member Pam Carter's The Deer & Gardens professional gardening crew. Pam says "Not only is he a conscientious worker, but he exhibits a positive and inquisitive nature. I have enjoyed Ben's inquiries about plant characteristics which resulted in our discussions about such things as the difference between annuals and perennials and between hybrid seeds vs. open pollinated seeds." Ben also learned from Pam the botanical Latin plant names' importance because Latin provides a precise name for each plant type, rather than the confusing world of common plant names. Ben also learned about plant origins, form, color, size, and other characteristics. Plus, he still learned more about bugs!

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## Scholarship Winner—continued from previous page

Ben was also able to apply his excellent problem solving skills, which should serve him well in his degree studies. For example, below Ben shows off his hardscaping project, in which he designed a way to secure the lightweight obelisk and engineered proper water flow.



Best of luck Ben on your path to your degree.

Submitted by *Diane Pearson*



## Monarch Metamorphosis

Topic for  
General Membership meeting—Sept 10th  
**Kathy Bunko**

calls herself an amateur “hatcher” of Monarch butterflies. Her Dad got her started with the Monarchs when he bought her a Milkweed plant a couple years ago. It was through a lot of reading and observation that she’s taught herself about the Monarch’s life cycle. She recently completed the MSU Extension Master Gardener course and is semi-retired from work in Media Production. She spends most of her free time playing golf and gardening at her home in Fenton.



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# **Using Social Media to Promote Milford Garden Club**

In the past Milford Garden Club (MGC) has primarily published its meetings and special events, such as the Plant Sale and Garden Walk, in local area newspapers. However, newspapers have drastically reduced local articles due to mergers with larger communication groups and to decline of readership. However, social media continues to grow.

As a result, over the last year the club expanded its reach by publicizing our monthly meetings in a few social media sites, such as Facebook and Facebook groups (Milford Matters and Highland Matters). We need to keep MGC alive and reach out to potential members! With that in mind, the MGC Board at its July 2020 meeting came up with more ways to tell the community what MGC has to offer.

Currently COVID limits our interactions. But, when we are able to resume in-person activities we plan to publicize our monthly meetings and special events (Plant Sale and Garden Walk) to all local gardeners living in Milford, Highland, Commerce and White Lake on these local social sites:

Nextdoor Neighbor for Milford, Commerce, Highland, White Lake communities  
Facebook public groups including Milford Matters,  
What is happening in Milford, Highland Matters and Highland Happenings

Our publicity will also have a link to the Milford Garden Club Facebook page for more details about the club and its activities.

We will revamp the MGC Facebook page to include more photos of our activities and community involvement and provide horticulture education opportunities and resources. Specifically our FB page will provide:

A short explanation about MGC and what we offer  
Our involvement to help our community (e.g., Arthur's Park and Milford Senior Center garden maintenance)  
Upcoming meetings  
Ask a gardener section  
Few links to garden resources  
A contact email address and a link to our website (<https://themilfordgardenclub.org/>)

Submitted by.  
**Diane Pearson, VP of Publicity**

# Spooktacular Gardens !



Rain or Shine

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

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

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

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

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

FACEMASKS ARE REQUIRED, OF COURSE! Costumes are optional.

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

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

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

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

Garden 1: 710 Hartland, Troy 48083 (southeast)

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

Garden 7: 1252 Bates, Birmingham 48009 (southwest)

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

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

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

## MILFORD GARDEN CLUB MINUTES

8/13/2020 Remote

Linda Smith called the meeting to order at 7:03PM.

Welcome to new member, **Sue MacGonigal**.

Needs Sunshine: **Barbara Brennan** is recovering from hip surgery. Please let Kathy Barker know of any additional needs.

The minutes of the 5/14/20 General Membership Meeting were approved.

The proposed 2020-2021 budget was reviewed. The Community Sharing donation and the scholarship awards may be revisited if the club's fundraisers are canceled next year.

**Motion: Beth Sciberras moved to accept the 2020-2021 Budget developed by the board and presented by Cindy Bauman. Motion carried without dissent.**

Treasurer's Report – **Cindy Bauman** reported a bank balance of \$7547.38.

President's Report – **Linda Smith**

- Most board meetings will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 6 PM through Zoom. Please let Linda Smith know if you will attend prior to the meeting. Please note that our board meeting in August will be 8/24 at 3 PM using Zoom.
- The Milford Senior Center has been reserved for 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month for our general membership meetings and programs except January, February and August of 2021. It is reserved from 6-9 PM. The general membership will be informed when the club is able to start meeting there instead of doing Zoom remote meetings.
- Deadline for the newsletter is 8/28 or sooner to **Martha Klemmer**. Linda encourages each of our Advanced Master Gardeners, Master Gardeners, or members to share interesting information with fellow club members. Please let Linda know if you are willing to write an article and the month you would like to submit it.
- Tea Time is August 26th at noon at **Karol LaHaie's** home. Please contact Karol if you are planning to attend. If you would like to be a regular participant, contact Mary McFarland to be added to the email distribution list.
- **Volunteers Needed** – Please Help! This is a great way to get to know other members and to have fun!
- We need a volunteer to chair the December holiday dinner meeting - to plan the menu and select a caterer

Minutes continued on next page..



## **Minutes** continued from previous page

for the dinner. **Diane Pearson** has secured entertainment. Thanks to **Brook Qualman** who volunteered to handle table decorations.

- **Sheila Myers** is going to continue to chair the DeVine Raffle and she would like someone to work with her when we are able to resume in person meetings. **Susan MacGonigal** volunteered to assist. Thanks Susan!

## Officer Reports

- Programs – **Barb Amey** thanked the members who submitted all the beautiful photos of their gardens and **Cindy Bauman** for incorporating them into a fabulous presentation. The September Zoom general membership meeting will feature “Butterflies & Hatching” by **Kathy Buko**. In October, Neil Atzinger will speak on “The Magic & Mystery of Peonies.” Barb will submit speaker bios for publication in upcoming newsletters.

## Unfinished Business

Proposed Bylaw Change Presented at our May meeting to be voted on tonight.

Change Article XI Amendment to Article XII. Insert new Article XI Dissolution.  
**Please note that there are no plans to dissolve our organization. However, the board thinks that we should have this included in our bylaws should the situation arise in the future.** The board recommends the adoption of the following amendment.

### Amendment XI

- The dissolution of the Milford Garden Club (the Club) shall be put to a vote of the membership by the Board of Directors. Upon the dissolution of the Milford Garden Club, all of the business, properties, assets and income of the Milford Garden Club remaining after payment of all debts and liabilities of the Club, shall be distributed to a nonprofit fund, association, or corporation which is organized and operated exclusively for tax exempt purposes, which are reasonably related to the purposes and goals of this Club, as determined by the Board of Directors of the Milford Garden Club in its sole discretion, and which has established its tax exempt status under 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.
- The Club will promptly notify the President of the Michigan Division of the Woman’s National Farm and Garden Association in writing of the dissolution and a report of the funds distributed. The Michigan Division is responsible for notifying the Woman’s National Farm and Garden Association.

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**Minutes—Continued from previous page**

- After notifying the Michigan Division of the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association, the Club will file a dissolution report and fee as required by the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs. The corporation ID number required on the report is 800931404 for the Milford Branch of the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association.

**Motion:** Barb Amey moved to change current Article XI to Article XII and to adopt a new Article XI Dissolution. Motion carried without dissent.

Meeting adjourned at 7:23PM.

Minutes submitted by **Ellen Collins**

**For your calendar**

**Date/Time** 8/24, 3 PM

**Event:** Board Meeting Zoom

**Where:** Zoom

**Other information:** Let Linda Smith know if you want to attend.

**Date/Time:** 8/26, noon

**Event:** Tea Time

**Where:** Karol LaHaie's home

**Other information:** RSVP to attend

**Date/Time:** 9/10, 7 PM

**Event:** General Membership Meeting and Program

**Where:** Zoom or Milford Sr. Center

**Other information:** If we meet at the senior center, the doors will open at 6:30.

# **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:** Lynn Burrows 248 842 0957

## **Committees**

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

**December Holiday Party**

**Devine Raffle:** Sheila Myers 248-714-9224

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

**Facebook:** Lynn Burrows 248 842 0957

**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

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

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

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

**Hospitality Coordinator:** Pat Coppersmith 630 215 7456

**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

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

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

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

**Scholarship:** Linda Sturgeon 248-685-8806

**Social Media:** Diane Pearson C 248 227 7981 H 248 887 0780

**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