

From the Vine

Milford Garden Club Newsletter



**Mark your
Calendar**



Program: Making Soaps & other Gifts

Speaker: Mary Ellen Quaine

Date: Thursday, Oct 14th

Time: 6:30 PM Social

7:00 PM Business Meeting

Where: Milford Senior Center

October speaker is Mary Ellen Quaine
Owner of *Forever Summer*
She will discuss making of natural soaps and lotions
There will also be product available for purchase

Oct 14	Thurs	General Membership Meeting Greeters: Terri and Jerry Hardick
Oct 18	Mon	MGC Board Meeting—5 PM
Oct 28	Thurs	Tea Time - Noon Terri Hardick RSVP to Mary McFarland
Oct 28	Thurs	Newsletter Deadline - Martha

**Milford Garden Club
Est. 1948
A Member of the Michigan Division
Woman's National Farm and Garden Association**

President Report

Linda Smith

OCTOBER

We had a great September with tea time at the home of **Jane Follmer**, our field trip to **Julia Hofley's** home and our dynamic speaker Brian Peterson-Roest from Bees in the D.

Eight members gathered for tea time. We enjoyed time to socialize and to celebrate the first day of fall. Tea Time is a great way to get to know each other better. I hope you will be able to join us in October at the home of **Terri Hardick**.

To learn a little bit about our field trip to Julia Hofley's home, please see the article and pictures submitted by Barb Amey in this issue. Julia shared a wealth of information with us during the tour. It was fun to hear stories about some of her favorite plants. As a bonus, Julia offered some seeds and plants from her garden to those in attendance.

The Highland Garden Club is hosting Julia Hofley via Zoom on October 11th at 7pm. Her topic is "My Love Affair with Ferns and Other Shady Plants". See the email from **Martha** with the details regarding how to register for this free program.

If you ever get a chance to hear Brian from Bees in the D, it is well worth it. Brian is one of the co-founders of this not-for-profit. The organization was created to educate on the importance of pollinators and to aid in the conservation of honeybees by building a network of urban honeybee hives throughout Detroit, SE Michigan and Canada. Since its founding in 2016 with 6 hives and 360,000 bees, it has grown to over 200 hives and over a million bees in 2021. Increasing the number of bees is important as bees are the insect that pollinate most of our crops in Michigan. We learned about the difference between bees and wasps, the bees that make up the hive, and the role of each type. We also learned what type of plants the bees prefer. It was a very educational evening for our membership.

Due to the high rate of Covid infections, the board decided we will offer bagged snacks and bottled water for our next meeting on October 14th. The room set up will be chairs without tables. If you weren't at our last meeting to pick up your yearbook, be sure to pick one up at our next meeting. They will be at the small table next to the nametags.

Thank you to **Terri & Jerry Hardick** who volunteered to coordinate the community sharing collection for us. Please see information in this newsletter regarding this upcoming project.

Susan Absher asked us to collect seeds this fall that we can sell at our May plant sale. She would like a volunteer to prepare the packets for sale. If you would like more information about how to save seeds, the Waterford Garden Club will have Judy Cornellier as a speaker on Thursday, October 8th from 10-noon. Her topic is "Seed Saving". The meeting will be held at the Waterford Senior Center. The cost is \$5 and masks are required.

The co-presidents for Michigan Division have been having gatherings around the state with branch presidents. I was able to attend the one in Owosso. It was fun to meet nine of the presidents that are in our geographic area. We shared ideas about our clubs and got to know each other. We would like to help support each other by sharing programs, assisting with projects, and acting as a resource.

The WNF&GA fall newsletter is now available. A link for the newsletter was sent via email on September 17th from cmalin09@gmail.com or you may go directly to the national website at wnfqa.org and select magazine. On page 8, there is a questionnaire to fill out regarding the 2022 Annual Meeting. Please take the time to fill out the survey. The deadline to submit is October 22nd.

Warm regards,

Linda

Smith



Milford Garden Club Plant Sale for 2022

I have agreed to chair the Milford Garden Club Plant Sale for 2022. Since many of our members have physical limitations, I thought it would be a good idea to recruit high school students to help us with some of the digs and heavy lifting the day of the sale. High school students are expected to complete a number of community service hours and I thought this would be a good opportunity for students to acquire the hours and for our club to acquire some help. **Bonnie Lynch** has agreed to be the liaison between the schools and our organization.

I have also agreed to coordinate the digs but am unable to do the physical labor. **Janet Kinney** has offered to be on the digging crew. If you are able and willing to be part of the digging crew, please contact me by email or text.

Teresa Smith is downsizing her garden and would like members to dig up some of her plants. The dig is set for October 7th at 10 am. If you can't make it at that time, you may call her and arrange a time that is more suitable. Also, Teresa is in need of some 1-gallon pots. Contact her if you have any to spare.

Teresa and I will be transporting plants for winterizing to my son's house in Clarkston. If you have plants that need to be winterized as well, they need to get to my home before mid-October.

Please keep in mind -- if you would like a dig for your garden or know someone who is in need of a dig in the spring, try to arrange a time in the late afternoon or evening so we can take advantage of the high school students who can bear a lot of the physical labor that is required.

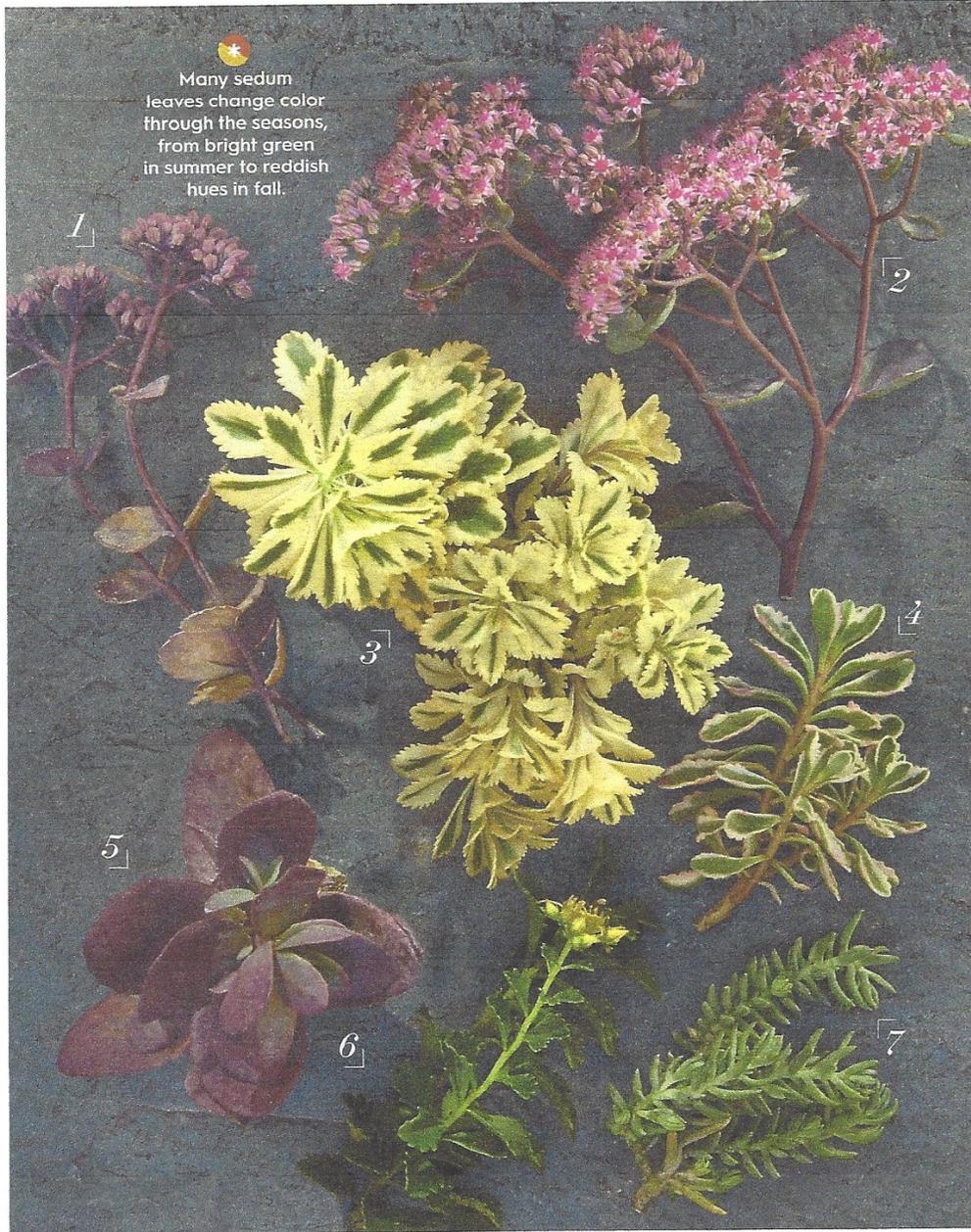
Thanks ahead of time.



Susan Absher

groundcover SEDUM

These water-wise perennials form a colorful carpet in the garden and flourish even in tough conditions.



Many sedum leaves change color through the seasons, from bright green in summer to reddish hues in fall.

The world of sedum is vast, with hundreds of varieties in different sizes and colors. But the short groundcover versions of this succulent-leaved plant are particularly good problem-solvers in the garden. Quick spreaders, they can be used to fill bare spots in a flowerbed (suppressing weeds in the process). They also work well as trailers along the edge of a pot or in a rock garden, where they wind gracefully around the stones. Wherever you plant them, these hardy, drought-tolerant plants will ask very little of you.

SEDUM FAVORITES

- 1 'Lidakense' Pink flowers open in fall.
- 2 'Vera Jameson' On the taller side, it reaches 8-12 inches.
- 3 'Atlantis' Yellow flowers bloom in summer.
- 4 'Tricolor' A pretty container edger, with frilly leaves.
- 5 'Firecracker' Spreads especially quickly.
- 6 'Little Miss Sunshine' Abundant yellow flowers in summer.
- 7 'Blue Spruce' Can grow in part shade.

Sedum 411

What you should know before you plant.



FULL SUN



LIGHT TO MODERATE



WELL-DRAINING SOIL



4"-12" TALL



ZONES 3-9

Article submitted by **Sandy Riss**

[POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY]

LATE-SEASON HEROES SEDUM FLOWERS ARE AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF POLLEN AND NECTAR, ESPECIALLY FOR MONARCH BUTTERFLIES IN FALL.



Combine different varieties of groundcover sedums for a tapestry of color.

■ PLANTING

Plant sedums in spring, summer, or early fall to allow them time to settle into the garden before winter. They thrive in lean, gravelly soil in a rock garden and on sunny slopes. Set plants in the ground with their crowns at soil level, spreading the roots gently. Firm the soil around them and water well. Continue watering new plants a couple of times a week for the first few weeks to encourage root growth. Poke

your finger in the soil: If it's moist, wait to water. Stop watering after frost. Fertilizer isn't necessary.

■ MULCH

Apply an organic mulch (compost or crushed autumn leaves) around but not touching the stems of plants to help conserve soil moisture and keep soil temperature even. Brent Horvath, a sedum hybridizer and the author of *The Plant Lover's Guide to Sedums*, recommends

topdressing around plants with a 1-inch layer of sharp gravel (available at garden shops). It looks neat and improves drainage as it is incorporated into the soil.

■ WINTER CARE

The flower clusters of groundcover sedums disappear as plants continue to grow. If you like, clip off the spent clusters with hand clippers. In spring, new growth emerges at soil level around deciduous sedums, such as 'Lidakense'. Evergreen

sedums, such as 'Blue Spruce', produce fresh leaves along their stems.

■ PESTS AND PROBLEMS

In the right location and with proper drainage, sedums are practically care-free plants. Avoid overwatering. Deer are not likely to damage plants, but if they do eat leaves or flowers, the plants will survive.

■ SOURCES

bluestoneperennials.com, witsendgardens.com ■

PLANT PARTNERS

To play up their texture and forms, pair sedums with perennial flowers and ornamental grasses.



BLUE FESCUE

Ornamental grasses create a feathery backdrop for sedums' more structured shapes.



CATMINT

The silver foliage and soft purple flowers of catmint contrast nicely with a ribbon of sedum.



DIANTHUS

Try a bright pink dianthus like 'Firewitch' with green sedum; it will spread alongside it.

Article submitted by **Sandy Riss**

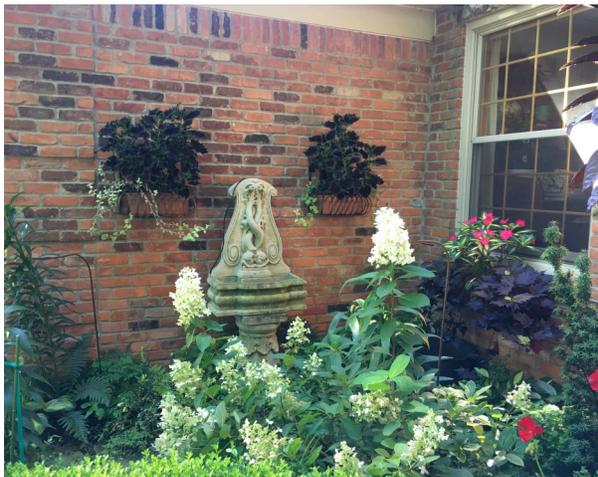
Summary of a Wonderful Fieldtrip

Submitted by **Barb Amey**



On September 8 a small group of Garden Club members accepted the invitation to tour the gardens of Julia Hofley in Bloomfield Hills. What a treat to have a guided tour of an acre lot by such an inspirational, knowledgeable person who spent almost 3 hours with us! Julia's husband, Eric, is the editor of Michigan Gardener and Julia writes articles for the publication as well as has a busy schedule of speaking engagements.

The approach to Julia's front door is a rainbow of colors from annuals and perennials that are her favorites and that she often writes about. She overwinters many annuals in her basement with grow lights.



One annual that is new this year is the Wicked Witch Coleus which she has used in window boxes and it has performed very well.

Fieldtrip continued on next page.. 

Field Trip continued from previous page



Another is the Variegated Salvia which has two shades of gold leaves and red flowers. It was performing beautifully. Along the back of her house she has what she calls a Hummingbird Highway that has many varieties of Phlox, verbena, clematis and I think any plant we have ever heard of that grows in our time zone! She has a hardy Japanese Banana plant that rises well above the first story.

Julia's husband Eric designed a tiered garden on the side front of their property that connects to a tree lined hill. So many beautiful plants catch your eye as you walk the switchback path to the top. Notice the huge oak trees that form a canopy over the front yard. Julia and Eric have different sections of their acre lot that they each have created and tend to. Eric favors trees and conifers and Julia loves and cares for her perennials.

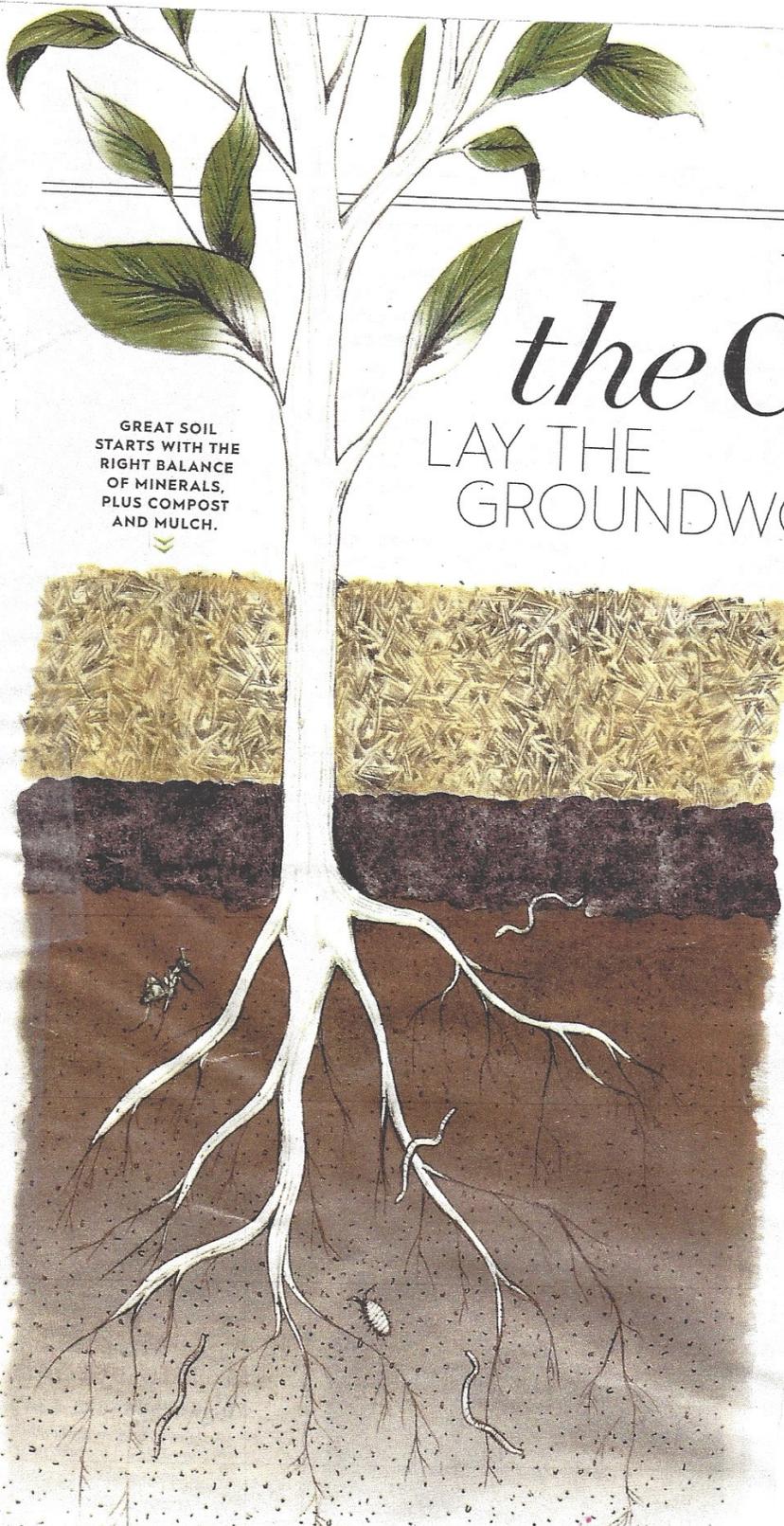


After this wonderful tour of the Hofley gardens, the group enjoyed lunch together at Beau's Grillery on Maple Road.



I'm taking over the **MGC Facebook** page from Ellen Collins and need info and photos to post on the site. If you are chairing a club event, participating in a club gathering, have an upcoming program or have other news to share.

Lisa Willard



GREAT SOIL
STARTS WITH THE
RIGHT BALANCE
OF MINERALS,
PLUS COMPOST
AND MULCH.

the dirt

LAY THE GROUNDWORK

the gardening season may be winding down, but fall is the best time to feed the soil for healthy vegetables, shrubs, and perennials next year. Unlike spring—when gardeners often work in high-nitrogen, growth-stimulating fertilizers—this is the time of year to add organic materials that release slowly over time.

To amend the soil, you'll want to add a layer of compost and natural mulch and, depending on your soil's composition, you might also sprinkle on minerals.

Then put your shovel away. Over winter, soil-dwellers like worms and beetles incorporate the amendments into the soil, where an army of microbes transforms them into plant food.

That's right. You supply the raw materials, and millions of invisible helpers do the rest of the job. Your reward will be rich, healthy soil come spring.

Article submitted by **Sandy Riss**



SPREAD MINERAL SOURCES ON THE SOIL, AND CREATURES WILL MIX THEM IN.

[STEP ONE] GET TO KNOW YOUR SOIL

Every soil has a different mineral composition. To determine if or what mineral amendments your soil may need, have it tested by your local Cooperative Extension Service. They will examine a sample you mail in, report any deficiencies you may have, and recommend minerals to correct them.

6

MINERALS

These are some of the most common mineral add-ins; use only as needed.

1

LIME

Adds calcium and raises the pH of soil that is too acid.

2

PHOSPHATE ROCK

Raises the phosphorous level.

3

AZOMITE

Fertilizer made from compacted

volcanic ash and containing a wide range of trace elements. Acts like a multivitamin for depleted soils.

4

GYPSUM

Used instead of lime to raise the calcium level in alkaline soil.

5

WOOD ASHES

Provide phosphorus, potassium, calcium, boron, and other essential elements while raising the pH.

6

GRANITE DUST

Adds potassium and other elements.



Dig in
Learn more about making your soil richer and more productive.
BHG.com/Soil

[STEP TWO]

ADD COMPOST

The gold standard of soil amendments, compost is a mix of decomposed organic materials. It helps soil retain water in a drought and drain in a deluge, while supporting soil's beneficial creatures. The most efficient way to make compost is to stack alternating layers of moist, high-nitrogen components (grass clippings, kitchen scraps) with dry, carbon-rich ones like straw and dead flower stems. Over time, bacteria will heat up the pile, decompose the materials, and turn it into crumbly black gold. Spread an inch or so of homemade or store-bought compost on soil.

[STEP THREE]

LAYER ON MULCH

Mulch is a garden workhorse: It deters weeds and prevents erosion, water evaporation, and wild freeze/thaw swings. Mulch with natural materials, and they'll also improve soil as they decompose. So layer it on; 2 inches is about right.



CHOPPED STRAW

Baled straw is good for mulching, but chopped straw is easier to handle, stays put, and is heat-sterilized to eliminate weed seeds. Find it in most garden centers.

LEAF MOLD

An easy way to mulch shrubs is to pile leaves around them. They'll decompose and become leaf mold. For other areas, apply actual leaf mold (just let leaf piles break down about three years).

SHREDDED HARDWOOD BARK

The most nutritious wood mulches are from shredded bark, twigs, or branches less than 3 inches in diameter. Buy at garden stores or from a local tree service. ■

Article submitted by **Sandy Riss**



Community Sharing

has communicated to me that November is the best month to give donations since they are gearing up for Christmas.

The following list is what is needed most:

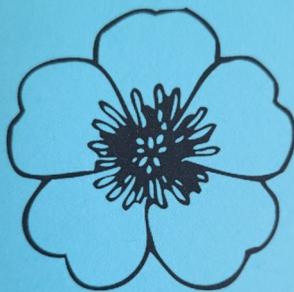
- Mac & Cheese
- Chunky soups
- Child Friendly Foods, i.e., Spaghetti Os
- Canned tuna fish
- Canned chicken
- Cookie Mixes
- Feminine Products
- Children winter clothing

Our car will be parked at the Senior Center entrance with the trunk open for you to deposit your donations at the November meeting.

Thank you.

Terri & Jerry Hardick

Milford Garden Club



2021-2022 Yearbook

Correction to the Yearbook

The address of the website for Woman's National Farm and Garden on page 16 is incorrect.

The 'a' is missing in the yearbook.

Please correct your copy of the 2021-2022 Yearbook.



I had a nice surprise in my garden on 9/22/21. I found this beautiful Iris blooming.

I couldn't believe it was blooming the first day of fall and so robustly! The fragrance was wonderful.

Linda Smith



Fall clean up

of the
**Senior Center Garden
& Arthur Park**

The clean up will be

Wednesday, October 20, rain day
Thursday, October 21

Please email or call
Kathy Blackburn to volunteer

Thank you



Preserve Herbs For Way Longer By Freezing Them

How many of us have desperately seen our herbs getting bad before we have enough time to use the whole thing? Apparently, there's a way to not let them go bad or dry out so quickly. Simply place the herbs in an ice tray, add some water and olive oil, and freeze.



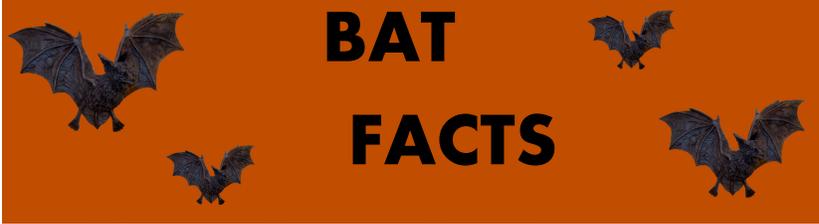
Thank you note from Griffin Bristow 2021 MGG Scholarship winner



THANK YOU
Dear Milford Garden Club,
Thank you for choosing
me as this year scholarship
recipient. It was awesome
to meet all of you in the
garden club.

Sincerely,
Griffin

BAT FACTS



Contrary to popular myths, most bats have very good eyesight and echo-location, and so they do not become entangled in human hair

Bats are very clean animals, and groom themselves almost constantly

All mammals can contract rabies; however, less than half of 1% of bats do

Installing a bat house outside will almost surely cause any bats inside your house to move to the bat house

Bats will not attack nearby humans. The diving motion you see is to catch insects, often around lights

A single little brown bat can eat up to 1000 mosquitoes in a single hour

A bat house can hold 300 bats or more (depending on its size), that's a massive mosquito eating force

Bat guano (excrement) makes great fertilizer



www.BatConservation.org

Egg Cartons as Seed Starters

Egg cartons are another excellent source of seed starting material. They're compact, have a lot of storage space, and the cardboard ones are biodegradable, which is a plus. As a result, they're an excellent choice for a garden!



When it is time to plant them in the garden, cardboard egg cartons can be used to start a dozen seedlings. All you have to do is cut them apart to produce each one individually.

Test the pH Level of Your Soil with Common Home Item

Here is a quick procedure on how to test your soil:

Take one cup of soil from various locations in your garden

Separate the ingredients into two equal-sized containers.

Examine the soil after adding one-half cup of vinegar to see whether there is any reaction. If your soil fizzes, your soil is likely alkaline, with a pH level of 7-8.

Your soil is alkaline if



Your soil is acidic if



Hang Your Gardening Tools from a Mounted Pallet

Building up and taking advantage of your wall space is sometimes the most excellent method for organizing your tools.

All you'll need is a basic pallet to build a super-effective tool holder right into the wall of your garage or gardening shed.

Honey Encourages Cuttings to Thrive

Believe it or not, honey is an excellent strategy to aid in the growth of your cuttings because it includes growth enzymes that aid in forming new roots.



As a bonus, it possesses antibacterial characteristics, which may help to keep your plants healthy and disease-free.



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

Milford Senior Center
September 9, 2021

Linda Smith called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. The agenda was approved.

Thank you to **Martha Klemmer** and **Jackie Seitz** as greeters, the **Baumans** and **Al Coppersmith** for room set-up, and **Cindy Bauman** and **Linda Smith** for snacks.

Terri Hardick moved to approve the general membership meeting minutes from July 8, 2021. **Motion carried.**

Treasurer's report was given by **Linda Smith**. Total in the bank account is \$7513.89. The Treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

Lisa Willard moved to adopt the 2021-2022 budget as presented. **Motion carried.**

Karol LaHaie moved that the Milford Garden Club, upon request, reimburse members \$100 who provide proof of completing their Master Gardener Certification during the fiscal year they received it. **Motion was carried.** **Linda Becker** will place an article in the newsletter with a detailed explanation.

President's Report was presented by **Linda Smith**.

Board meetings are the 3rd Monday of the Month at 5:00 pm. Please contact **Linda Smith** if you would like to attend.

Storage Locker - We are no longer renting a storage locker. All of the garden club items are now stored in **Janet Kinney's** pole barn. Contents include Garden Walk signs umbrellas, cooler, and other supplies; Plant Sale signs, picks, pots, and other supplies; 2 pieces of lattice fencing; table cloths for holiday party; 2 pitchers; butterfly MGC sign; lock from storage locker with combination of 1948 (the year MGC was founded); presidents notebooks; financial records back to 2013; scrapbooks; and 1 new three panel display board. The pole barn will not be accessible from January 2 through April 3. Thank you **Pat** and **Al Coppersmith**, **Steve** and **Janet Kinney**, and **Chris Smith** for assisting with the move of items to the pole barn. Thank you to the Kinneys for saving our club \$780 per year by letting us utilize their pole barn for storage.

Garden Club Minutes continued on next page..



MILFORD GARDEN CLUB MINUTES (Continued from Precious page)

Chairperson Reports

Tea Group - Mary McFarland

September 23 at **Jane Follmer's** home. Parking is limited to one side of the road. Please carpool if possible. It is best to enter her sub off Loon Lake Road.

Hospitality - Pat Coppersmith

If you were signed up for September you may be contacted for October depending on Covid restrictions.

Devine Raffle - Sheila Myers and Lisa Hill

Items for raffle were requested. Raffle tickets were sold during the meeting for the 50/50 raffle.

Field Trip - Karol LaHaie

The Field trip will be to Belle Isle on September 30. The plan is to meet at Bakers at 9:45 am to carpool and leave at 10:00 am. We will tour Oudolf Gardens. MGC has made a donation to the Gardens in the past. Lunch will be at Sindbad's Restaurant. Please sign up at the meeting if you plan to attend. She reiterated that you need a pass to enter the State Park. If you don't have a recreation pass for the State Parks you may get a free one day pass through the Library. Otherwise the cost is \$12 per car.

Yearbook - Contact **Brook Qualman** and **Terri Hardick** for any corrections. Pick up your yearbook tonight.

Fall Cleanup - Kathy Blackburn

Fall Cleanup is scheduled for Wednesday, October 20; the rain date is October 21. Please sign up tonight or contact Kathy directly.

Unfinished Business - Susan Absher

Susan will repeat as Plant Sale Chairman. The location at this time is still unconfirmed. She asked for two volunteers; one to be a seed coordinator and the other to be digging coordinator. The possibility of obtaining student help for lifting and digging was discussed. Students are required to complete community service and this may help them achieve this goal. She asked for a volunteer to contact the high schools to see if a partnership is possible.

MILFORD GARDEN CLUB MINUTES (Continued from Precious page)

You can give plants to Susan during the fall and she will over-winter them at the home of her son.

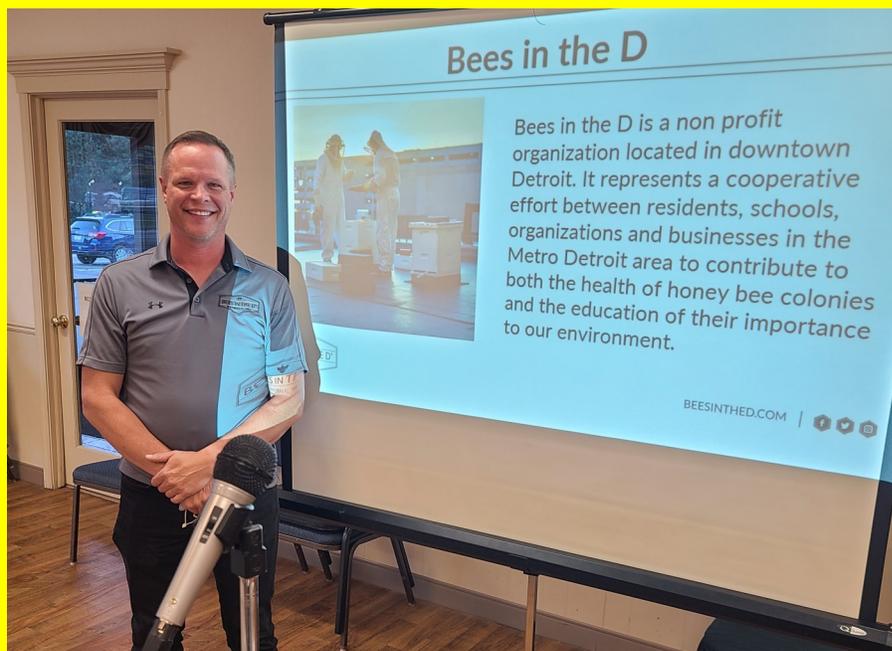
New Business - Chairperson for community sharing project. **Terri & Jerry Hardick** volunteered to be the new chairperson. Details will be in the newsletter.

A thank you note was received from the recipient of the scholarship and left at the table for all to read.

Facebook - **Lisa Willard** asked for information to post and mentioned that posting of pictures has been very successful in getting new members.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 pm

Submitted by **Janet Kinney** and **Bonnie Lynch**



September Speaker
Bees in the D —
A Pollinator's Garden
Presenter: Brian Peterson