

From the Vine

Milford Garden Club Newsletter



**Mark your
Calendar**



**Program: Bees in the D —
A Pollinator's Garden
Presenter: Brian Peterson**

Date: Thursday, Sept 9th

**Time: 6:30 PM Social
7:00 PM Business Meeting**

Where: Milford Senior Center

Sept 8	Wed	View & Tour Julia Hofley's gardens Meet at Senior Center at 9am. Details on Page 10.
Sept 9	Thurs	General Membership Meeting Greeters: Jackie Sietz & Martha Klemmer Hospitality: Cindy Bauman & Linda Smith
Sept 20	Mon	MGC Board Meeting—5 PM
Sept 23	Thurs	Tea Time - Noon
Sept 28	Tues	Newsletter Deadline - Martha Klemmer

**Milford Garden Club
Est. 1948**

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

President Report

Linda Smith

SEPTEMBER

Thank you to **Brook Qualman** for getting our yearbook revised and printed. We will be distributing them at our meeting at the Milford Senior Center on September 9th. Remember to pick yours up! The yearbook no longer has the code for the storage locker. The board voted to accept **Janet Kinney's** kind offer to allow us to store our supplies in her pole barn. This will save our club \$780 per year in rental fees. Janet is out of town from January 1 to April 4 so any supplies that are needed during this time frame will need to be removed before January 1.

Due to the increase in COVID cases, we have decided to offer only bottled water and individually bagged snacks at our September meeting. We will also have hand sanitizer and masks available for those who wish to wear them and didn't bring one. We are not currently requiring masks but it is recommended by the CDC that we wear masks in indoor spaces in larger groups. If the senior center changes their policy prior to the meeting, we will notify you via email. If we offer member prepared food in the future, it will depend upon the Covid infection rate and if we have volunteers to set up, clean up, and provide the treats.

Thank you to **Barb Amey** and **Linda Becker** for getting all the programs arranged for our garden club year that starts this month. They have secured many wonderful topics and speakers. You can check out the meeting topics and speakers in the garden club yearbook.

We are in need of someone to coordinate our Community Sharing one time collection of pantry items. The chairperson picks the month, notifies our members via the newsletter, and has their vehicle parked by the front door for members to drop off their purchases. After the meeting, the donations are delivered to Community Sharing. This is a simple project to do but makes a huge impact on the members of our community in need. Let **Linda Smith** know if you would like to coordinate this project.

In an effort to encourage our membership to receive their Master Gardener Certification, the board is recommending that we reimburse, upon request, \$100 to any club member who receives their Master Gardener Certification and provides proof of certification. The request for reimbursement must be made in the fiscal year the certification was earned. We will discuss and vote on this proposal at our September meeting. The current cost is \$325 to enroll in the program.



President's Report continued on next page..



President's Report Continued from previous page

Please review the proposed budget for 2021-2022 that will be emailed to you prior to our September meeting. We will vote on accepting the budget at our meeting. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the proposed budget, please contact **Cindy Bauman** or **Linda Smith**.



Remember to bring extra cash and coins to our September meeting. We will hold our De Vine Raffle and collect for Pennies for Friendship. If you have items to donate for the raffle, you may give them to **Sheila Myers** or **Lisa Hill** at the De Vine Raffle table.

Warm regards,
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



Garden Tips



It can be challenging to get your vines to run up the way you want them to. Fasten zip ties around the stalks and strap them to something firm to direct the vines. Don't cinch the vines too much.



There is no need to harm deer or rabbits that like grazing on your garden plants, and there is no need to go through the hassle of erecting a fence to keep them out. Instead, reuse your old plastic forks by burying them upright in the dirt, and they will be discouraged from returning.



Coffee Filters Help Keep Soil from Seeping out of Pots



To prevent soil from getting all over your work surface, lay a coffee filter in the base of the pot and fill it with water. When the water drains away, it will prevent the soil from becoming a sloppy mess.

A coffee filter placed at the base of your potted plant, in between the pot and the soil, will allow for ideal drainage while also keeping your soil looking neat and clean. There will no longer be a mudslide of earth erupting from the bottom of the pot.

Garden Tips (Continued)

Milk Jugs Can Act as Greenhouses for Seedlings



Are you fed up with your seedlings staying in the elements? A tiny greenhouse can emerge out of the top of a milk jug. It safeguards sensitive plants while providing a warm, wet climate that promotes their growth.

The best plastic greenhouses are a less expensive alternative to greenhouses. Still, they also offer their own set of benefits:

- They come in tiny sizes.
- They lengthen the growing season (particularly for early sowings).
- They can help you grow heat-loving veggies more successfully.

Use Newspapers to Suffocate Weeds

You may spend hours picking weeds out by the roots or simply smothering them. But, it turns out that it's pretty simple. Merely cover the garden bed with newspaper, and they will wither.



The newspaper will suffocate the weeds, but water and nutrients will still reach the flower bed. In reality, when the newspaper decomposes, it supplies nutrients to the soil and the species that live nearby.

Garden Tips (Continued)

Hydrogen Peroxide Can Help Protect Your Seedlings

Hydrogen peroxide is known for its ability to destroy an infection in a skin cut. It can, however, battle illness in the soil as well. So if you're worried about your plants contracting diseases from the dirt, spray them with peroxide.



Coffee Grounds For Keeping Pests Away

Eggshells Also Keep Unwanted Pests from Your Garden
Use eggshells instead of coffee if you don't drink coffee. They're also effective insect deterrents, and they're safe for the environment.



Use Croquet Wickets for Keeping a Hose in Place



For insect management, all you have to do is throw your empty eggshells through a food processor for a few seconds or roll them under a bottle or rolling pin. After that, sprinkle the eggshells around your garden in places where slugs, caterpillars and other crawling pests are an issue.

Garden Tips (Continued)

Once the water cools, you can use it to “fertilize” your plants in your garden or planting containers rather than pouring this rich water out. →

Use Vegetable Cooking Water to Fertilize Plants



Pinch Your Garden Plants for Growth ←

An ancient proverb says that for your hair to grow, you have to cut it. It turns out that the same is true for plants as well. So to encourage thick and vigorous growth, pinch off the dead heads of your plants regularly.

Cinnamon is a Disease Killer in the Soil

Cinnamon contains natural antifungal effects, in case you didn't know. As a result, it's an excellent solution for keeping your plants safe and healthy. Simply sprinkle it throughout your garden. You'll love the cinnamon smell on your soil.



Vinegar can Kill Weeds

You don't need to use store-bought weed killers to get rid of those weeds once and for all. All you need is a little vinegar, which you most likely already have in your kitchen cupboard.

Vinegar is a natural weed killer in organic farming. Vinegar's acetic acid gives it the ability to kill weeds; the higher the acetic acid concentration, the more lethal it will be.

Garden Tips article submitted by **Martha Klemmer**

Toxic invasive poison hemlock is spreading into US parks and backyard gardens



By Sarah Bowman & London Gibson—Indianapolis Star
A toxic invasive species that can be deadly if eaten is spreading, [wrecking havoc across parks](#), flower beds and backyard gardens. Poison hemlock, which *resembles Queen Anne's Lace*, can be spotted in highway right-of-ways, along fences and on the edges of farm fields. In just the last year, however, the plant that was originally brought to the U.S. from Europe has migrated near more populated areas, which has experts concerned.

“That movement is a bit scary to me because this plant is very toxic and it’s more of an opportunity for kids to play with it and pets to eat it,” said Dan Shaver with Indiana’s Natural Resources Conservation Service. “It is not a plant you want around your home or in your local park.” The toxic biennial can be found in nearly every state in the U.S., according to the [National Park Service](#).

This is the time of year that poison hemlock spreads and grows its footprint. Each plant produces a lot of seeds — up to 30,000 — that ripen between late June and August after it flowers. Those seeds are easily scattered during late summer mowing, Shaver said.

It loves to find those little pockets that are unmanaged, whether that’s a street corner not getting mowed or a pollinator habitat growing wild in a neighborhood. [Poison hemlock](#) also does well in moist soil conditions, Shaver said. So with the wet springs the Midwest has seen, it’s been the perfect environment for the toxic plant to explode.

“It just hit this exponential rate of spread,” Shaver said. “Poison hemlock was nowhere and all of a sudden it was everywhere.” Kevin Tungesvick, a senior ecologist with Eco Logic, an environmental restoration company, said in Indiana, the plant has spread too broadly to be eradicated from the state.

Short of that, he said, the goal is to try to manage and control poison hemlock to the maximum extent possible — to protect both environmental and public health.

In June, Jason Hartschuh of the Ohio State University Extension said the hazardous plant was [appearing “everywhere” in Ohio](#) — more visible this year than ever before.

Article submitted by **Martha Klemmer**

**It was nice to finally
have a face to face
meeting again!**



Cooking with Herbs
with Mary Spencer





Field Trip

**Wednesday,
September 8, 2021**

View & Tour of

Julia Hofley's gardens

Meet at **Milford Senior Center** to park and car
pool at **9:00 AM** leave about 9:15

If leaving car at senior center please park at
far end away from all doors to center

Please rsvp to **Linda Becker** by text or call

Need know who's coming and
give number to Julia

And lunch after if you wish

There are tricks to get long-lasting cut flowers.

Video course shares tips for great cut flowers

Last week, I took my own advice and signed up for the seed company Floret's (floretflowers.com) free video-based mini course that includes how to cut and care for flowers in a vase. I



NANCY SZERLAG

found it well worth the effort because how and when you harvest flowers and foliage affects their vase life.

Dirt and bacteria quickly shorten the life of flower arrangements by clogging their stems, preventing them from taking up water. And, just as in cooking, quality tools are also a key to success.

Whether you choose to use clippers or scissors, the tool blades must be clean and sharp to prevent crushing the stems. Keep in mind the blades of quality tools hold their edge longer and are good investments. Washing tools with soap and water and then wiping them with 70% alcohol does the job.

Buckets and vases also need to be clean, so wash them with soap and water and rinse well before using.

Timing is also important, so harvest in the coolest part of the day. Early morning or evening are the best, when the plants are most hydrated. Blooms harvested in the heat of the day often wilt fast and have a difficult time recuperating.

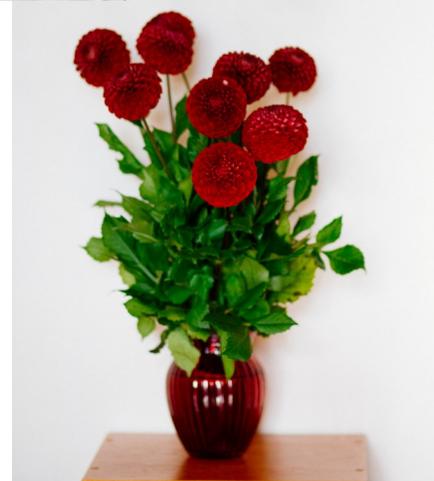
Take a clean bucket of fresh water with

you when harvesting so the flowers go right in the water after cutting. Another timing issue is harvesting flowers and foliage at the right stage of development. A good rule of thumb is to cut the flowers when they are one-third to one-half open, before they have been pollinated. Once the bees get to the blossoms, they won't last long and may wilt immediately. For foliage, wait until the stems are mature and firm. Pick too young and they may wilt immediately.

On this video are profiles for 100 of the most loved and commonly grown seasonal flowers, including the proper stage of harvesting for each, plus special instructions and approximate vase life expectancy. There are also tips for wimpy drinkers such as scented geraniums, dusty miller, basil and hellebores. For these, immediately after harvest, dip the bottom few inches of the stem into boiling water for 7 to 10 seconds (in a heat-safe container you use only for flowers), at which point you will notice they change color and texture; then place them in cool water.

Whether you only cut a few flowers or you're growing for a big celebration, this video is a must see.

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.



A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO YELLOW STRIPEY THINGS



CARPENTER BEE

- ACTS LIKE IT'S TOUGH, BUT CAN'T ACTUALLY HURT YOU
- HAS NO CONCEPT OF WHAT GLASS IS
- LIVES IN YOUR FENCE
- FLIES AGGRESSIVELY TO TRY AND SCARE YOU AWAY



HONEYBEE

- IS THE BEE THAT NEEDS HELP THE MOST
- EXCELLENT POLLINATOR
- VERY FRIENDLY
- CAN ONLY STING ONCE



BUMBLEBEE

- ALSO POLLINATES STUFF VERY WELL
- SO FAT IT SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO FLY
- WILL LET YOU PET IT WITHOUT GETTING AGITATED
- ACTUALLY A FLYING PANDA



HOVERFLY

- WEARS YELLOW STRIPEY UNIFORM TO SCARE YOU
- ACTUALLY CAN'T DO ANYTHING TO YOU
- HANGS OUT IN FIELDS
- FOLLOWS YOU IF IT LIKES YOU



PAPER WASP

- LOOKS SCARY, BUT WILL ONLY ATTACK IF PROVOKED
- STING HURTS LIKE THE DEVIL
- WILL CHASE YOU IF YOU SWAT AT IT
- HAS NO CONCEPT OF PERSONAL SPACE



YELLOW JACKET

- WANTS YOUR FOOD AND WILL FIGHT YOU FOR IT
- NEVER LEAVES YOU ALONE
- WILL STING YOU JUST FOR THE HECK OF IT
- IS JUST A JERK



CICADA KILLER

- LOOKS LIKE SATAN'S NIGHTMARES
- EXCLUSIVELY EATS CICADAS
- CAN STING YOU, BUT USUALLY WON'T
- STILL PRETTY TERRIFYING



DIRT DAUBER

- ALMOST NEVER STINGS ANYTHING EXCEPT SPIDERS
- BUILDS NEST IN THE GROUND
- HOARDS SPIDERS IN SAID NEST
- COOLEST LOOKING OF THE WASPS

Article submitted by **Martha Klemmer**

IN THE NEWS

Gardening group has wording problem

Facebook is offended by the use of word "hoe"

Moderating a Facebook gardening group in western New York is not without challenges. There are complaints of wooly bugs, inclement weather and the novice members who insist on using dish detergent on their plants.

And then there's the word "hoe."

Facebook's algorithms sometimes flag this particular word as "violating community standards," apparently referring to a different word, one without an "e" at the end that is nonetheless often misspelled as the garden tool.

Normally, Facebook's automated systems will flag posts with offending material and delete them. But if a group's members – or worse, administrators – violate the rules too many times, the entire group can get shut down.

Elizabeth Licata, one of the group's moderators, was worried about this. After all, the group, WNY Gardeners, has more than 7,500 members who use it to get gardening tips and advice. It's been especially popular during the pandemic when many homebound people took up gardening for the first time.

A hoe by any other name could be a rake, a harrow or a rototill. But Licata was not about to ban the word from the group, or try to delete each instance. When a group member commented "Push pull hoe!" on a post asking for "your most loved & indispensable weeding tool," Facebook sent a notification that said "We reviewed this comment and found it goes against our standards for harassment."

Article by Barbara Ortutay
AP Technology Writer

MILFORD GARDEN CLUB MINUTES
General Membership Meeting Minutes
July 8, 2021

Linda Smith called the meeting to order at 6:59 pm.

The agenda was approved with the addition of **Barb Brennan**.

Diane DeVincent (**Linda Becker's** neighbor) was welcomed as a new member.

Hostesses: **Tina Schave, Karol La Haie, Cindy Bauman, Lisa Hill, Linda Becker, Carol Hilf** and greeter **Gail Cooper** were thanked.

The 6/10/21 General Membership Meeting Minutes were approved as printed.

Treasurer's Report - Cindy Bauman

Total in the bank account is \$7651.61. No activity since the last report. The Treasurer's Report will be filed for audit. The Pennies for Friendship was mentioned and the container for donations was passed.

President's Report - Linda Smith

Pam Carter has been made an Honorary Member for her 25 years+ of loyal membership.

Asked for volunteers to chair field trips starting in September. **Karol LaHaie** gave a pep talk mentioning that it could be a team effort. She gave a pitch for the upcoming Belle Isle trip.

Janet Kinney and **Bonnie Lynch** volunteered to coordinate the 12/9 Holiday Party.

Linda reported that the audit of the books was completed through June of 2021.

Chairperson Reports:

Community Outreach (**Sue Grifor**). The community project is the butterfly garden at the entrance of the Oak Grove Cemetery. Plans have not yet been finalized.

Membership (Terri Hardick):

Dues are due. No need to complete a new membership form unless your contact information or interests have changed. If you have not yet paid, please pay.

Garden Club Minutes continued on next page..



MILFORD GARDEN CLUB MINUTES (Continued from Precious page)

Tea Group: Mary McFarland was not present)

Martha Klemmer is the host for the July 29 Tea Time. Watch for e-mails from Martha for future tea times as there is no newsletter in August

Hospitality (Pat Coppersmith)

Sign-up sheets were passed around and Pat indicated she wanted to see them completed. She reminded the hostess for the upcoming meeting should take the tub home and bring it back for the next meeting. She requested six people should bring a dish to pass and should arrive by 6:15. Hostesses should arrive by 6pm.

Devine Raffle (**Sheila Myers** and **Lisa Hill**)

Tickets were sold during the meeting. Items for future raffles were requested.

Field Trips (Karol LaHaie)

Belle Isle, July 20th, meet at Bakers of Milford at 10:30. Please sign up to attend.

Greeters (Barbara Brennan)

Barbara requested that she would like two people per month and sign-up sheets were being passed around. She will contact the greeters to remind them.

Unfinished Business - none

New Business (Barb Amey)

September meeting topic is "Bees in the D". **Mike Bauman** endorsed the organization.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:21.

Submitted by **Janet Kinney & Bonnie Lynch**

July Meeting:
Cooking with Herbs
with Mary Spencer

