

Milford Garden Club Newsletter



March 2023

2022-2023 Executive Board

President: Susan Absher

VP Publicity: Gail Cooper

VP Programs: Nancy Nordin

Treasurer: Cindy Bauman

Secretary: Janet Kinney

Past President: Linda Smith

Website:

www.themilfordgardenclub.org

Email:

mifordgardenclub@outlook.com



March Meeting

When: Thursday March 9 @ 6:30 pm for social 1/2 hour, 7:00 pm meeting

Where: Milford Senior Center
1050 Atlantic, Milford, MI

Speaker: Jean Persely

Program: Naturally Natives for Butterflies and Moths

Milford Garden Club Established 1948

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

President's Report

Susan Absher



While some of our members decided to travel South to escape Michigan's cold climate, I, on the other hand took a different route and headed North to McMillan in the Upper Peninsula. There I fulfilled a childhood dream by riding in a sled pulled by a team of Alaskan Huskies. Now, it's time for me to fulfill my duties as President of our club.

Please take a look at the changes being made to our Website. Sue Tompkins has done a wonderful job getting it current. The pictorial Directory is looking fabulous. There are still members who have not yet submitted a photo. Remember, our members are the only ones who have access to it. This directory is a great tool to put a name to a face. It will help new members get acquainted more easily. It will also alleviate any embarrassment to established members to remember names. Submit a favorite picture of yourself that we can recognize as "You." Photos can be taken at any meeting or event if that's to your liking. If you absolutely don't want a picture of yourself in the directory, let me know. Sue will try to get the photos into the directory in a timely fashion. Placement can be challenging, so she may wait to get a number of them submitted before she rearranges the pages. To get on the site, you must take the following steps: type **themilfordgardenclub.org** into Google. Any variations may lead you to another club in another state. Go to Menu. Scroll down to About Us. Hit Members Only. The code needed can be found in the back of your Yearbook. If there are any errors in your section, please let Sue know so she can correct them.

At the Division Council Meeting held in autumn of 2022, there was concern about how to draw new members into the organization. Members who attended were asked for ideas on how to increase membership. A list of suggestions to increase membership was presented to all the branches. Please look at this list that is in this Newsletter. Also, if you chaired an activity that

Continued on page 2

President's Report continued

was significant and you want to give the Milford Branch some recognition, submit an article and photos to Gail Cooper, our Vice President of Publicity, and she will direct your information to the right people in Division.

In case you were not at the holiday gathering in December, it was announced that we are still awarding scholarships to local high school students but the amount has been increased to \$2,000 each. Diane Pearson has been working hard on getting together a Welcome Packet for new members. She will be presenting her ideas at the March meeting.

Sue Grifor is not only our Community Out Reach Chairperson but she is also an active member of Milford's Historical Society. The new President of the society is Ron Wilson, who happens to be a Master Gardener. He is revitalizing the Log Cabin by the Fire Department, and he has asked Sue to be head of a committee whose purpose is to resurrect the 1830's garden. I, too, am a member of the Historical Society, and will be helping her with this project. I'm sure she would appreciate any help from our members to restore this site.

Please note the calendar of events in this Newsletter. Along with Lisa Hill's contribution about upcoming field trips there are a lot of activities that will be taking place before our two big fundraisers.

The March Meeting will have a social period with snacks and such. It is being chaired by Brook Qualman. This is the first of four times per year we will go back to the old manner of hospitality (before Covid). June, September and December will have someone hosting these events. The Remaining months will have bagged snacks provided at the meetings. Please note: **Bring your own beverage bottle. We will no longer be providing water.** The membership voted at the November general meeting to discontinue providing water in any capacity.

Welcome New Members

D. Lee Doyle

Be sure to say Hi, and introduce yourself to our newest member.



Dates to Remember

2023

March 9, 6:30/7:00 pm General Membership Meeting
- Jean Peresly "Naturally Natives for Butterflies and Moths"

March 20, 5 pm Board Meeting

March 21, Tea Time 12 - 2 pm

March 26 Deadline for April Newsletter

April 13, 6:30/7:00 pm General Membership Meeting
- Janet Maconovich Butterflies and Butterfly Gardens

April 17, 5 pm Board Meeting

April 19, 10:30 am Annual Daffodil Day Tour

April 22 10:00 am - 1:00 pm Heavenly Scent Stained glass tree workshop

May 9, 9 am Arthur Park Spring Clean Up

May 10 Rain Day for Arthur Park Spring Clean UP

May 11 Michigan Division Spring Council Meeting

May 11 6:30/7:00 pm General Membership Meeting -
Carol Brodbeck - Attracting Birds to Your Garden

May 15, 5 pm Board Meeting

June 3 Garden Market 10 am - 12 pm

June 8 6:30/7:00 pm General Membership Meeting

June 19 Board Meeting

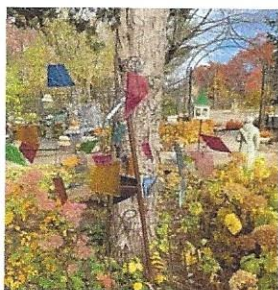
June 21, 5: pm Preview Party for homeowners and garden hosts and hostesses

June 23 4: pm - 8: pm & 24 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Garden Walk

July 13 6:30/7:00 pm General Membership Meeting

Field Trips

April 19 Annual Daffodil Day tour at Belle Isle and luncheon at the Detroit Yacht Club. Tickets are \$50. and a commemorative tile can be purchased for an additional \$50. I hear that this event sells out so I wanted to let people know early that it's upcoming. If you are interested in going please text/call or email Lisa For every 8 attendees we can reserve a whole table. See page 8 for flyer.



April 22 Kathy the owner of Heavenly Scent Herb Farm has agreed to host a "Stained Glass Garden Art Tree" class at Susan Absher's request. The class Starts at 10 am and is 2 1/2 hours long. The cost is \$93.12

which includes materials. In order for Kathy to run the class we will need between 12 and 18 people to sign-up. Please make checks payable to the Heavenly Scent Herb Farm

Lisa Hill



Michigan Division

Women's National Farm and Garden Association, Inc.

Mark your Calendar: The Spring Division Meeting will be hosted by the Troy Garden Club and held at The Community House in Birmingham. The speaker at the Spring meeting (May 11) will be Kerry Ann Mendez of Kennebunk Maine. Ms. Mendez's presentation will be "Power UP Garden Beauty and Power DOWN Garden Maintenance". Ms Mendez is an award winning garden educator, author and design consultant based in southern Maine. More information will be in the Spring Division newsletter.



Tea Time

Gail Cooper will be hosting tea time on March 21, from 12 to 2 Please RSVP to Gail by text or phone to _____



January Tea Time was at Black Label Tavern on January 19

Linda Becker, Beth Sciberras, Karol LaHaie, Nancy Nordin, Barb Amey, Lisa Willard, Martha Klemmer, Anna VanHyfte, Terri Hardick attended.

Club Business

The March meeting will include sweets and savories brought by members (like we have done in the past) To cut down on recycling you will need to bring your own beverage. There will be coffee if you want to bring a cup. If you would like to volunteer to bring a treat email or text Brook. _____

Thanks

Greeters

Greeters are still needed for the March and May meetings. You need to be at the Senior Center

at 6:30 to

greet people as they arrive. If you are able to help fill these spots please contact Barb Brennan at _____



Gardening in Michigan

Michigan is great for growing fruits, vegetables, flowers and landscape plants. MSU Extension offers many resources including the Extension Master Gardener Program, the Smart Gardening initiative and a gardening hotline at 1-888-678-3464 Gardening in Michigan www.canr.msu.edu/home_gardening/

grow

2022 - 2023 Committees

Community Outreach: Sue Grifor

Devine Raffle: Sheila Myers

Email Distribution: Lisa Willard

Facebook: Lisa Willard

Field Trip Coordinator: Lisa Hill

Garden Walk: Linda Becker

Barbara Amey

Garden Maintenance: Kathy Blackburn

Greeter: Barb Brennan

Historian: Anna VanHyfte

Holiday Party: Janet Kinney

Bonnie Lynch

Hospitality Coordinator: Pat Coopersmith

Membership: Terri Hardick

Mentoring: Diane Pearson

Name Tags: Marion & Dale Benedict

Newsletter: Jackie Swenson

Plant Sale: Lisa Hill

Scholarship: Linda Sturgeon

Sunshine: Kathy Barker

Tea Time Group: Mary McFarland

Website: Sue Tompkins

Yearbook: Brook Qualman

WNF&GA (National): www.wnfga.org

WF&GA (Michigan Division): www.michdivwhfga.org



Nothing says "Spring is on its way" like spotting the first blooming Crocus. When the crocus are blooming it's almost time to start weeding and making plans for what else needs attention in the garden.

In The Garden

This section of the newsletter is for club members to share inspiration from their gardens, or that they see on their travels. There is so much beauty around us if we just look.



I'm not finding anything popping out of the ground yet. I was however in awe of the beauty around us as I drove around on errands the other day. The sun was shining on the ice coated trees making them sparkle like they were covered in diamonds.

Then came Winter Storm Olive!!

My poor River Birch is bent double with the top laying on the ground. The good news is that it bounced back up and is again standing tall.



Do You Know?

Questions for this contest come from the newsletter content. If you know the answer email it to: jacquelyn.swenson@gmail.com. All correct answers will be entered in a drawing. The winning name drawn will receive 3 tickets for the next DeVine Raffle.

The Winner of the December drawing is Linda Sturgeon. Congratulations Linda

This month's question is: How many daffodil bulbs have been planted on Belle Isle since 2010?

DeVine Raffle

The Devine Raffle happens at every other Garden Club Meeting. The tickets are 1 for \$2.00 or 3 for \$5.00. Items for the Raffle are all donated by club members. On alternate months there is a 50/50 auction.

Merry & Bright Merry & White

There was a great turnout for the annual Holiday Party. The tables were beautifully decorated by volunteers. Wonderful conversation, music and food all shared with fellow gardeners was a great way to celebrate the end of the year and start thinking about the new year.



Spring Clean UP

The Spring Clean up for Arthur's Park and the Senior Center will be Tuesday May 9 at 9 am with May 10 the rain Date. Arthur Park is on the garden walk this year, so we need many volunteers to keep it looking beautiful.



There will be sign up sheets at the March and April Meetings.

Thank you,
Kathy Blackburn

Garden Walk News

Greetings Garden Friends,

We want to update you on the progress of the Garden Walk. Since we are all using our 2023 calendars now, it is a good time to write the dates for the Walk and the activities around it. The dates are Friday June 23rd from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm and Saturday June 24th from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. The preview party for Homeowners and garden hosts will be Wednesday, June 21st at 5:00 pm with the rain date Thursday, June 22nd.

The homeowners have submitted their garden descriptions and pictures of their gardens to us for the Garden Walk programs. A big thank you to Mark Cryderman who is again going to solicit local business for ads and these will help pay for our printing costs.



We have committee chairmen in place except for raffle baskets. This involves contacting groups or individuals to design a raffle basket probably in April or sooner. We already have a bench being donated again. In June when the baskets are put together, you would take pictures and put them on posters to be displayed at the homes. One person or 2 can work together. Please contact Linda or Barb if you donate a basket. Watch for a meeting of Committee chairs in April Thanks to all who have stepped up to help us!

Barb Amey and Linda Becker

**FOR
SALE**

Garden Boutique

As you start thinking about spring and are cleaning out your garden shed, or tool bench be thinking about items that you no longer need or want that someone else may be delighted to have. We will be collecting anything that is garden related to offer for sale at the Garden Boutique. We did quite well with the Boutique last year and hope to match or better that success this year. If you have items to donate you can either bring them the day of the sale or call Jackie Swenson after April 1 at _____

Member Spotlight

This is a new feature of the newsletter where we will learn more about people who have recently joined the Garden Club and others who have been members longer. The thought is that the more common ground we can find with other members the stronger friendships we can develop.



Nancy Nordin

I am a native Michigander who grew up in the Romeo area. I have worked in many different jobs in various parts of the country during my working Career. My last and longest job was as a paralegal for a New York law firm in the tax practice group based in Buffalo, New York. Two months after starting at the firm, I started my weekly traveling, mostly to NYC but also included Albany, Palm Beach, Washington D.C. and other cities where we had clients. In 2021, after a rewarding and successful career spanning 30 years, I retired from the New York Law firm. It was time to come home to Michigan to be close to some of our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. The Village of Milford is now our happy, forever home. I am married to Nathan, a union carpenter and Vietnam veteran. Nathan worked for a Detroit contractor who sent him around the world. We are the proud owners of two mixed breed rescue dogs named Janis (after Joplin) and Jackson (after Browne).

I have lived in the Milford area for the past 30 years, and in Michigan my whole life. I can't imagine living anywhere else. My husband and I retired ten years ago when we sold our CPA practice. We have traveled quite a bit internationally and lately within our wonderful country. We enjoy traveling with the Michigan Historical Society "Michiganders on the Road". We visit not only well known historical sites, but some off the beaten path sites that are wonderful.



Jackie Swenson

When not in the yard I can be found either reading or sewing. While I have over the years made clothing, drapes/curtains, knitted, embroidered and played with other textile arts. I now focus on quilting. I am currently working on two wedding quilts for grandchildren.

I was encouraged to join the Garden club, by friends who kept telling me what a warm and welcoming group the members are. I was tagged to take over the newsletter before my membership check cleared the bank. I have found it challenging and enjoyable.

Wherever I have lived around Michigan I have always gardened, walking barefoot in the grass and getting my hands in the dirt help center me. I took the Master Gardener Course in Sanilac County where we had a cottage. I think probably my experience was a bit different as I was with farmers who thought those of us from "below" grew meatballs and cones in our yards. I never did the volunteer hours required so am I a Master Gardener? I did give up the vegetable garden two years ago. The ornamental gardens kept multiplying to the point that I couldn't keep up with it all.

NEEDED

Plant and Garden Boutique Volunteers!

Can you Dig, Set Up, Sell and/or Clean up?

Digs take place prior to the day of the sale, The sale date is June 3rd from 10 am to 12 pm

Please Contact Lisa Hill _____



SYNOPSIS of Strategic Plan 2022 - 2027

Michigan Division of the Woman's National Farm & Garden Association, Inc. (WNF&GA)

Approved as amended on October 20, 2022

During the past year, the Michigan Division Board worked to develop a strategic plan. In the plan, we listed our Mission and Vision Statements along with our Core Values, Strengths, Weaknesses, Threats and Opportunities.

We identified two major goals:

1. Expand our current membership by 50% by 2032.
2. Through contributions to Rural Women in Action Fund, increase donations to ACWW by 15% by 2028.

In our first year, titled Preparation Year (2021-2022), we were able to accomplish several initiatives:

1. Presented a strategic plan to members at the Michigan Division Fall Council Meeting on October 20, 2022.
2. Moved \$30,000.00 into an investment setup.
3. Conducted three president gatherings, where branch presidents met to exchange ideas and discuss issues.
4. Created a compilation of membership categories.
5. Found a webmaster replacement.

Year One (5/2022-5/2023): We plan to create a brochure which represents (1) Michigan Division, (2) WNF&GA branches and (3) the WNF&GA, Inc. organization at the national level. We also plan to have officers prepare notebooks which describe their duties and which provide information that will be passed along to incoming officers.

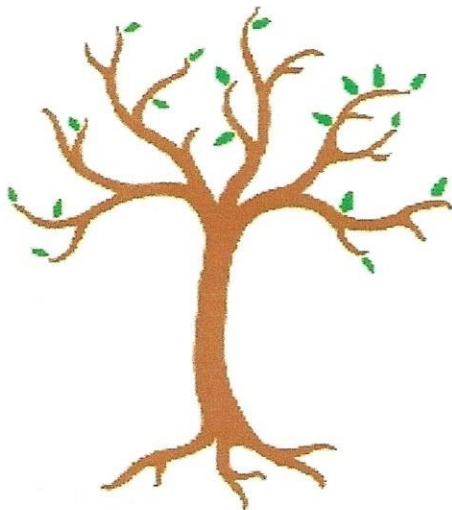
Year Two (5/2023-5/2024): We will review bylaws and hold another presidents' gathering that will include branch treasurers.

Ongoing tasks through the upcoming years are (1) to encourage participation in the National Meeting and the Spring & Fall Council Meetings; (2) to support Daffodils4Detroit and (3) to increase contributions to ACWW through the Rural Women in Action Fund.

The complete Strategic Plan will be available for review on the Michigan Division website.

-submitted by Sue Malone, vice president

Have you ever wondered why your garden club is called a BRANCH?



THE BRANCHES:

Individual Garden Clubs

The branches are the most visible, active & ever-evolving parts of a tree.

(Is each member a leaf?)

THE TRUNK:

Michigan Division

The trunk works for members by supporting the branches & by delivering "water & nutrients."

THE ROOTS:

WNF&GA – founded in 1914

The roots collect & supply nurturing "water" & historical "nutrients."

Annual Daffodil Day at Belle Isle

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

Detroit Yacht Club

10:30 a.m. Special tour
11:00 a.m. Registration begins
Noon Luncheon

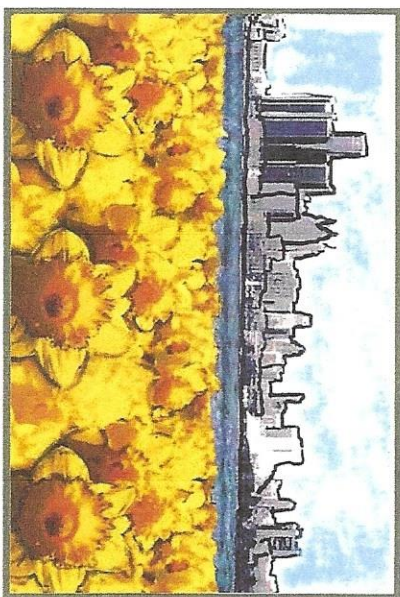
Keynote topic **TBD**



Menu:
Salad, Fruit, Rolls & Desert
Daffodil Delight
Cash Bar

Online registration will be available in January.

*Our Vision: Celebrating each life in the Detroit region
by planting four million daffodils.*



Where flowers bloom, so does hope.

... Lady Bird Johnson

Detach and return with remittance.

- ☐ Yes! I want to attend the luncheon at the Detroit Yacht Club!
- ☐ Yes! I want to help to buy more daffodil bulbs! *
- ☐ Yes! I want to purchase a Daffodil Tile (\$50) *

Name _____

please print

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Branch _____

Dietary Restrictions: _____

The maximum number of guests per table is 8. Please check one option below:

- _____ Reserve an entire table (check & names enclosed)
_____ Please seat me with other members of my branch.
_____ No seating preference. Please seat me at an open table.
_____ I would like to sit with (registering separately):

No. of guests _____ x \$50 (Before April 12) = Total \$ _____
No. of guests _____ x \$60 (After April 12) = Total \$ _____
Lunch _____ x \$100 with Program Listing = Total \$ _____
No. of Daffodil Tiles* _____ x \$50 = Total \$ _____
Additional Donation* _____ = Total \$ _____

**The Michigan Farm and Garden Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization.*

Check to: **Michigan Division, WNF&GA**

Mail to: **Pat Brown, Daffodils 4 Detroit, Daffodil Day Luncheon**
31616 Lexington St., Warren MI 48092

No confirmation will be sent. Please make a copy of your registration and check.

Thank You!

History:

The Daffodil Day Luncheon is an annual event to showcase the restoration progress on Belle Isle and to raise money for the purchase and planting of additional daffodil bulbs.

Daffodil Day at Belle Isle, is sponsored by the Michigan Division, Woman's National Farm & Garden Association. Over three million daffodil bulbs have been planted since the first Daffodil Day in 2010. While we have met our Belle Isle goal, we continue to augment plantings on Belle Isle. The City of Detroit's daffodil bulb plantings in parks and along medians join our efforts to reach a vision of four million bulbs planted in the Detroit region. The vision of four million expands our partnership with state and local governments, businesses, and other non-profits.

Fall Council Meeting 2022—Suggestions for increasing membership

Increasing our Michigan Division membership was a primary goal of our strategic plan that was passed as amended at our Fall Council Meeting. To help accomplish this we had 4x 6 index cards on the table at the fall meeting asking for suggestions for doing so. Here is a tally of those responses.

- Have a presence on Facebook, Instagram, next door neighbor or home owner's association's sites. Have your branch name on the website for "newcomers" in your community. Keep information up to date.
- Are you a gardener at your church or other place of worship? How about their newsletter?
- If you generally meet in the evening, have a daytime meeting and visa versa: or switch every other month. Afternoon meetings. How about a meeting/function on a Saturday?
- Encourage a new member to be involved as soon as possible—help on a refreshment committee, join in a gardening project. Make them feel a part of the group. Help them meet you're your members.
- Items with branch names on them to make a member visible—hats, visors, shirts, notebooks, name tags, club jackets. There is a national pin available for purchase through our division board. These are a conversation starter.
- Discuss possible "elevator speeches" so members are prepared to share information with a friend, acquaintance or perfect stranger. Practice these at branch meetings.
- Create a trifold for your branch. Prepare a 3 X 8 piece of paper with your branch information to slip into the Michigan Division trifold (in the works as I type) as your branch distributes them.
- If you have a high school vocal group or some similar group perform at your meeting, have members invite a parent or grandchild to attend. Get them in the door.
- To address "connectivity" of the three levels, each branch could have a representative speak at each monthly branch meeting reporting division and national news.
- Speak to those who attend your garden walks, plant sales, gifts & greens markets;
- Reach out to people who pass by while you are working at your gardening sites. Have your spiel ready!
- Have your name on a sign at your community projects; include QR Code.
- Keep appropriate places/organizations supplies with your trifold.
- Offer to help boy scout and girl scout troops with a badge and invite their parents and grandparents to attend. Again, get them in the door.
- A daffodil planted for each resident of your town or township.
- Booth at county fairs, farmers' markets, senior & township expo and other city functions.
- Have a tea for new members; have a Q & A time.
- Tea at Ten—an elaborate tea to which prospective members are invited. Have posters displaying what each committee does
- Create something similar to Saginaw's Books and Blooms Literary event; invite the public
- Encourage members to bring guests, relatives, daughters, husbands, sons. Invite them to come as your guest, offer to pick them up. Everyone appreciates a personal invitation.

Continued on next page.

Suggestions for increasing membership continued

- Table with a guest gets to go to the lunch/dessert table first.
- Hold a meet and greet event at a public function—craft, art, library venue.
- Have open meetings to invite potential members.
- May high schools and community colleges have school/community gardens; we could work with/mentor these students and possibly recruit younger members or older family members.
- Ask for information about a new member to be printed in your newsletter. It will make them conversation starters, talents for a leadership position.
- Ask young/new members what appeals to them.
- Have field trips where guests are invited.
- When sharing information about your branch, include our connections. We not only have projects in our communities, but we support projects state wide through our Michigan Division including 4H, Detroit Zoo, Keep Michigan Beautiful and ECHO (an outdoor camp for underprivileged children); through our national organization, WNG&GA, we support Associated Country Women of the World and numerous scholarships and grants.

We have a special legacy—our organization was born in 1914 during the Women's Suffrage Movement. We have a history of strong women who make a difference. We want to pass this on to our daughters.

Thank you to all who submitted suggestions to increase our membership. We have lots of great ideas to work with!

I'm looking forward to

