



November 2023 Newsletter

2022-2023 Executive Board

President: Susan Absher

VP Publicity: Gail Cooper

VP Programs: Nancy Nordin

Treasurer: Diane DeVincent

Secretary: Lee Doyle

Past President: Linda Smith

Website:

www.themilfordgardenclub.org

Email:

mifordgardenclub@outlook.com



President's Report

Susan Absher

Well, we can all take a sigh of relief. All the remaining positions open for the 2024 Garden Walk have been filled. A special thank you to

Diane DeVincent and **Karol LaHaie** for co-chairing this important fundraiser. **Nancy Kay** has opened her home once again to host the preview party. **Linda Becker** will be her coordinator, and **Linda Smith** will arrange to have either artists or musicians at some of the gardens.

I'm being asked to attend a President's Meeting in the near future. If there is something you would like me to address, please let me know. We are still making inquiries into obtaining a guest speaker for the Division Council Meeting we will be hosting next year. I will be making phone calls in the next week to see if any of your suggestions for a guest speaker have a positive outcome. Please keep your suggestions coming.

A special thank you to **Lisa Hill** for helping me set up an account with SignUpGenius. The Board suggested creating an account as a fair method for members to volunteer for the various positions needed to host the Division Council Meeting on September 25, 2024. By the time you read this Newsletter, you should have already received an email asking you to sign up with a more detailed explanation of what each position entails.

Thank you for all your help.

A garden is a grand teacher
It teaches patience and careful watchfulness;
It teaches industry and thrift;
Above all it teaches entire trust.

Gertrude Jekyll (1843-1932)



November Meeting

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

Where: Milford Senior Center
 1050 Atlantic, Milford, MI

Speaker: Mark Brooks, ISA

Program: All about tree and shrub pruning, and more

Milford Garden Club Established 1948

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

November Membership Meeting

Fall is upon us and as we prepare our gardens and yards for the long winter ahead (hopefully not too severe), I am grateful for the advice and tips we received from Emily at our last meeting. Using our fallen leaves to protect the bulbs that will rise and bloom in spring and as nutrients for our soil, not to mention the small eggs of bugs and caterpillars on the leaves. The dried leaves also provide shelter to creatures such as toads, frogs and snakes. Instead of cutting back seed pods, leave them for the birds and other animals for their winter sustenance. As gardeners, we are nurturers of nature which includes being environmentally responsible. I hope everyone enjoyed Emily's presentation as much as I and that we are all considering where we can establish a rain garden and what native plants to use while we plan during our winter break for spring planting.

Mark Brooks from Save a Tree will speak at our meeting in November and provide guidance on tree health and diseases, when to prune trees and shrubs, do our trees need additional nutrients and suggestions for what types of trees and shrubs that may work for an area of your yard.

I am looking forward to seeing you at our meeting in November.

Nancy Nordin

VP Programs



New Website for Michigan Division WNFGA

The new website for the Michigan division of WNFGA is: michiganwnfga.org

The Password is: _____

Greeters

The friendly person greeting us at the November meeting will be **Janet Kinney**.

Greeters need to be at the Senior Center at 6:30 to greet members and guests as they arrive.



Club News

Year Book Correction

Please add: **Diane DeVincent** (7/21)

3932 Lakes Edge Drive

Commerce Twp., MI 48382

Peel and stick 2003-2024 labels for the front of your year-book will be available at meetings

Brook



From the Editor

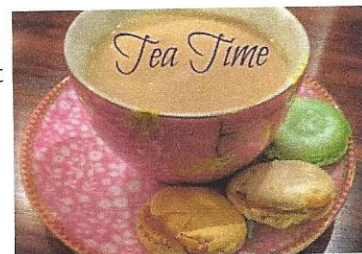
Thank you everyone who got me regular content and interesting contributions in a timely manner. Please send anything other members would find interesting.

Jackie Swenson Your input makes these pages more relevant to all MGC members. You can send your contributions to: jacquelyn.swenson@gmail.com

Tea Time

There is no information about the November Tea Time.

Please Call **Mary McFarland** at _____



Gift Idea

Cathy Jones is sharing this website with the membership —think craft and/or gift idea.



A little creativity.
A little mindfulness.
A little time just for you.

<https://wattleandloop.com/>

Fall '24 Division Council Meeting

There are still a lot of empty slots for volunteers on Sign UP Genius. If you can help please use the link to the online sign up or let a board member know. **Many hands make light work.**

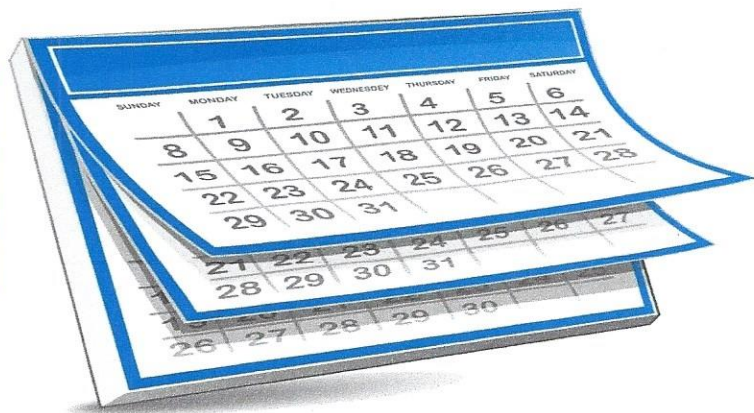
Herbal Thyme

October was the month of studying garlic and we learned its history, about planting, growing and harvesting, and about garlic in our diet/and health. We tasted a garlic spread (WOW!!), garlic cheese, all on crackers or corn chips. Have you ever had an olive stuffed with a garlic clove? Delicious!

Novembers herb is: (did you guess it?)....SAGE (thinking Thanksgiving).

Herbal Thyme is meeting Monday November 13 at 1:00 pm at Milford Public Library in the Community Room. Hope to see you there. FYI: Did you ever fry up sage leaves and eat as a snack? Yum! Tasty!

Herbally Yours,
Shelley Dale



Dates to Remember

2023

November 9, 6:30/7:00 General Membership Meeting
November 13, 1:00 pm Herbal Thyme
November 20, Board Meeting
November 27 December Newsletter Deadline
December 5, 11 am Christmas at Meadow Brook Hall
December 14, Holiday Party
December 18, Board Meeting
December 27 January Newsletter Deadline

2024

March 14, General Membership Meeting
March 18, Board Meeting
April 11, General Membership Meeting
April 15, Board Meeting
April 17, 2024 Daffodil Luncheon
May 9, General Membership Meeting
May 18 & 19, 2024 WNFGA National Meeting, Hershey, PA
May 20, Board Meeting
June 1, Annual Plant Sale
June 13, General Membership Meeting
June 21 & 22, Annual Garden Walk
September 25, Fall Division Council Meeting

Fall Clean up and Daffodil Planting



Senior Center Crew

We planted the daffodils and cleaned up the gardens at The Milford Senior Center and Arthur's Park on a beautiful fall day. Everyone worked very hard.

Thank you to our great crew!

Kathy Blackburn



Arthur's Park Crew



Update on Michigan's first state butterfly

We recently received information from Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. regarding the initiative to make the Black swallowtail the official Michigan Butterfly. I decided to find out where this stands. I found an article on **mLIVE** by Alyssa Burr published May 25, 2023. Michigan is one of the only states in the country without an official state insect, but that could soon change.



The Black swallowtail butterfly, scientifically known as the *Papilio polyxenes*, would be named state butterfly under House Bill 4159.

Common in North America, the black swallowtail is easily identified by its black, three to four inch diameter wings with yellow, blue and orange markings. It can be found in open areas like field, parks, wetlands and sunny backyards.

Legislative attempts to make the black swallowtail an official state symbol date back to 2016. Rep. Julie Brixie, D-Okemos, is now leading the effort as bill sponsor. Jeanette Meyer with the Michigan Garden Clubs testified alongside Brixie in support of the bill at a House Natural Resources, Environment, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Committee hearing this month.

The black swallowtail deserves to be chosen as state butterfly because it is “a full-time Michigan resident,” Meyers said—it’s the only species that can be found year-round and throughout the state. It also is a pollinator that helps grow many plants native to Michigan.

“The black swallowtail makes an ideal candidate as a state butterfly as it is nonthreatening, loved by all, represents hope for environmentally healthy futures, is ubiquitous throughout our state and is easily identified,” Meyers said.

Since the species is so accessible to Michiganders, Brixie believes it would be a great educational opportunity for Michigan Students.

A group of fourth graders from Okemos Public Montessori at Central Ingham County have been some of the lead advocates for the black swallowtail butterfly since they

studied the insect in class. “I really enjoyed learning about this butterfly. My favorite reason for it to be our state butterfly is that it stays in Michigan all year,” one of the students told the committee. “We are better students because of this butterfly experience.”

Several other state symbols represent Michigan. The American robin is the state bird, the eastern white pine is the state tree and the brook trout is the state fish.

Michigan and Iowa are the only two states without an official state insect or butterfly, according to the Smithsonian Institution. The black swallowtail is also the Oklahoma state butterfly.

The bill has seen some bipartisan support this term about four dozen co-sponsors. It currently awaits a vote in committee.

Technology in the Gardener?



Recently **Linda Smith** and I talked about apps that can help us identify plants. Linda stated that one she believed to be free initially turned out to charge a fee. I did a google search to identify free plant identification apps and have listed some

negative comments that were posted about them.

- LeafSnap - an add comes up after each photo
- PlantNet - somewhat limited plant database (I have been using this one and find it adequate for my needs)
- GoogleLens - does not provide enough information about plants
- iNaturalist - you are required to create a new observation to identify every new plant
- Seek - The app is relatively slow. Image recognition algorithm can be improved, users cannot confirm the result. (A friend uses this one and is pleased with it.)

The one I use was very easy to add to my phone - I'd assume the others are also? Is anyone else using one that they can recommend?

2022 - 2023 Committees

Community Outreach: Sue Grifor

Devine Raffle: Sheila Myers

Email Distribution: Lisa Willard

Facebook: Lisa Willard

Field Trip Coordinator: Lisa Hill

Linda Becker

Garden Walk: Diane DeVincent & Karol LaHaie

Garden Maintenance: Kathy Blackburn

Janet Kinney

Greeter: Barb Brennan

Historian: Anna VanHyfte

Holiday Party: Carol Hilf

Don Caley

Hospitality Coordinator: Mike & Cindy Bauman

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

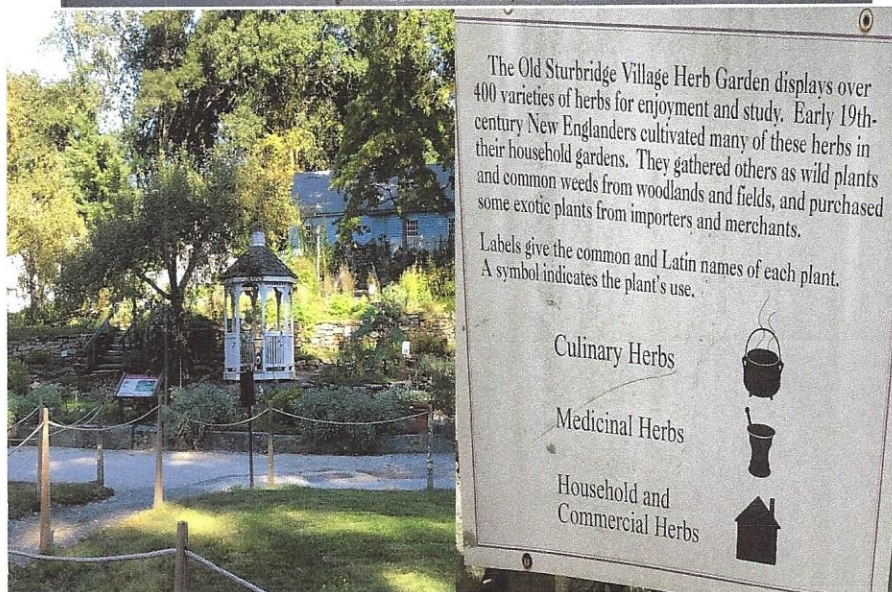
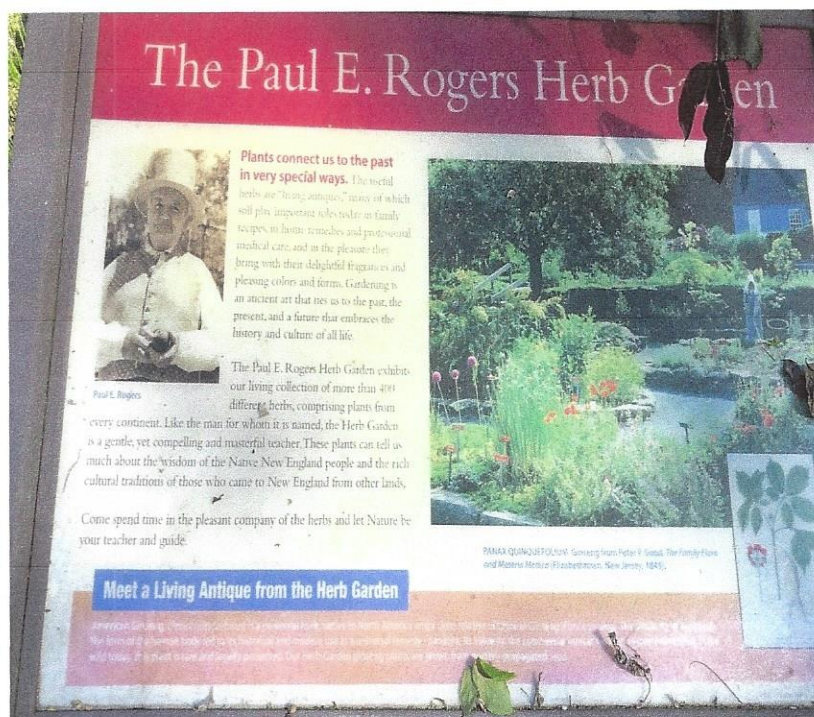
WF&GA (Michigan Division): www.michdivwhfga.org



Susan Absher recommends this book to anyone wanting to learn about native plants for our gardens. Susan got hers at Barnes & Noble.

In The Garden

In Early October I was at Old Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts and was very impressed with the Herb Garden in the Village. It was amazing!



We had the opportunity to talk to one of the volunteers working in the garden. They were getting ready to take the tender herbs inside for the winter. She had worked with Paul Rogers when he created this garden. She recommended Rodale's Illustrated Encyclopedia of Herbs as a go to resource.

If you have seen anything in your gardens or when wandering that you think would delight other gardeners please send a picture and description to me at: jacquelyn.swenson@gmail.com

Milford Garden Club

General Membership Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2023

President Ashber called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

The greeters and hospitality coordinators were thanked.

The meeting minutes dated September 14, 2023 were approved as submitted.

The President's Report:

- Those who attended this year's Division Council Meeting at the Village Club in Bloomfield Hills on September 27th learned many things, including not to use sticky name badges or sell centerpieces. Instead, perhaps offer centerpieces as prizes.
- Next year we are hosting the fall meeting on Wednesday, September 25, 2024.
 - Nancy Nordine will be the liaison to the golf club venue.
 - Diane DeVincent will organize registration.
 - We still need volunteers to act as greeters, coordinate set up and clean up, organize name badges, coordinate gifts and prizes, coordinate center pieces (perhaps we will make ours with a fall theme. Volunteers can grow pumpkins, gourds, dry flowers etc.) A sign-up sheet will be circulated.
 - We need suggestions for great speakers for the event. So far suggestions have included:
 - Carl Sands (children's programs at Kensington Park)
 - Main Street Art – a photographer of the Mackinac Island gardens
 - Nancy Szerlag, who writes for the Detroit News and is a Master Gardener
 - Michael Monroe from Brighton (whose wife illustrates childrens' books)
 - Someone from Michigan Wildflower Farms in Portland.
- We have 6 gardens confirmed and one additional very likely for the 2024 Garden Walk. That completes the most time-consuming part of organizing the event. With that in place, volunteers were sought for the position of Chair of next year's event and Diane De Vincent and Karol LaHaie agreed to be co-chairs.
- Linda Becker will serve as the Garden Walk Coordinator to orchestrate the potluck and other things.
- Members were asked whether they would like a pre-embroidered sweatshirt produced. If enough people are interested, we can order some. Information will be circulated.
- The Epson Company has been contacted for further information on projector suggestions and we are awaiting a reply.

Treasurer's Report:

- The Treasurer's report was adopted as written.
- It was noted that we have noted a \$3,000 deficit for the purchase of a projector and to fund next year's division meeting. We did build a fund balance during COVID, and we give scholarships with overages.

Garden Maintenance: Everyone is encouraged to join on Tuesday October 24th at Arthur's Park to plant daffodil bulbs. The rain day will be October 25th.

Field Trips: Lisa Hill reported that the field trip to Hofley's Garden was a fabulous three-hour tour. The couple has more than 5,000 plants and are very experienced gardeners. He is the editor of Michigan Gardener magazine, and she writes for it. He is also the president of the Great Lakes Chapter of the Hardy Plant Society.

The next field trip will be to Meadowbrook Hall on December 5th. If you haven't signed up, do so right away as reservations are due this week. You can use Sign Up Genius, which the group agreed is easy to use. However, the link listed in the Newsletter is not a hyperlink, so you should cut and paste it into your search window.

The Herb Group meets on the second Monday of the month at 1:00 pm at the Milford Library. It is fun to learn about herbs and next month's topic will be sage.

Hospitality coordinators Carol Hilf and Dan Caley did an anonymous survey of member preferences for the holiday party format. The cost is estimated between \$25-\$30 per person. Results were circulated and the majority voted for a catered sit-down dinner.

We don't need a Nominating Committee this year. All current officers have agreed to serve for another year.

The business meeting was adjourned at 7:45

Rain Gardens and Bioswales

The following summarized the highlights to the guest speaker Emily Dughinh's talk on rain gardens. Ms. Dughinh represents the Blue Heron Headwater Conservancy, which protects 1500 acres and 61 nature preserves. She notes that 95% of our natural areas are gone. We have lost 2/3 of our wildlife since 1970. The goal is to protect 30% of land and water for nature. Our yards could collectively protect more than the national parks.

Bioswales are features of landscaping that collect stormwater runoff, soak it into the ground, to filter out pollution. They focus on runoff from larger, impervious surfaces, like driveways and parking lots.

A rain garden is a depressed area in the landscape that collects rain from a roof, driveway or street and allows it to soak into the ground and planted with grasses and perennials.

Our climate today is experiencing periods of intense rainstorms followed by drought, flooding and erosion. Rain gardens can solve storm water problems from the runoff and provide habitats for butterflies and birds.

Our grass lawns are impermeable. Ground water needs to be recharged and purified. Lawns don't do that. Right now, fertilizers, pesticides, bacteria, sewage and oils from our roads are flowing untreated into lakes. 1 inch of rain flowing off your roof is 5,000 gallons of water running into your driveway or turf. A rain garden can better direct that water.

The best placement of a rain garden is 10 feet from the house, near a downspout or down a hill. If you have a storm drain in your yard, place a rain garden around it. The garden can be between 10-30% the size of your roof, dug into a depressed hole, perhaps sided with a berm to keep water in, especially if on a hill. Add compost, mulch and plant. Plants should be close together, not spaced. Some suggested native plants include:

Wild Geranium	Pink Turtlehead	Cone Flower	Fox Sedge	Anemone
Wild Strawberry	Joe Pye	Button Bush	Swamp Milkweed	
Aster	Kobald Blazing Star	Rose Mallow		

Baby birds need caterpillars for protein. Caterpillars eat native plant leaves. Monarch caterpillars only eat milkweed. Pollinators are essential to our lives. Natural ornamentals support 29 times more life than do our lawns. And the best way to allow insects and caterpillars to over-winter in our gardens is to leave a layer of leaves on our beds. A thin layer of mulch on top will keep them from blowing off. Look for Blue Heron's plant sales in June and September.