



# August 2024 Newsletter

## 2023-2024 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](http://www.themilfordgardenclub.org)

Email:

[mifordgardenclub@outlook.com](mailto:mifordgardenclub@outlook.com)

## Programs

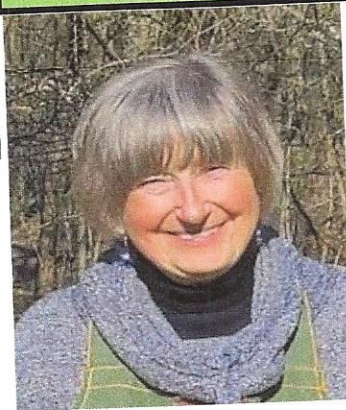
We concluded the 2023-2024 season of presenters for the Milford Garden Club, with Erin Hamilton from The Mushroom Conservancy. Many of our members have asked to have Erin come back for a workshop or we could do a field trip also. So that is one project in the works for the coming months. I am looking forward to finishing our list of speakers which will be in our new yearbook so, stay tuned. This will be my last year as your meetings and programs person. When I first agreed to take this position, Barb Amey and Linda Becker graciously took me under their wings and provided their list of speakers, ideas and contacts. I used this information and then expanded from there. I have listened to ideas from our members,



*Continued on Page 2*

**Milford Garden Club Established 1948**

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



## President's Report

### Susan Absher

The Fall Council Planning Meeting had many attendees, and everyone there was enthusiastic and volunteered for many of the positions needed to make the event a success. Please refer to Lisa Willard's email to use Sign Up Geni-

us if you are planning on attending and/or working for the event. Members are needed to help with the centerpieces whether forming the gourds into vases or painting them, not to mention doing the flower arranging.

It was decided to paint the gourds verdigris so that it would contrast with the colorful flowers rather than compete with them. It was also decided to set the tables with harvest gold napkins.

I would like to thank everyone who served as a chairperson for our organization for the past two years during my presidency. However, some of these positions are being filled by different members and I would like you to be aware of the changes. Earlier this past year Diane Craft took over for Dale Benedict and now is responsible for the name tags. Diane DeVincent and Karol LaHaie have agreed to co-chair the Milford Garden Walk 2025. Mille Hulewicz will take on the Greeters position while a newcomer, Beki Franchcock, will take on Hospitality. Linda Sturgeon will take on Teacher Mini Grants along with Scholarships and Barb Amey will chair Tea Time. Nancy Nordin and I will plan the Holiday Party. Lastly, The Field Trip Coordinator will be left open to the entire membership. After unsuccessfully trying to recruit someone for this position, I decided to leave it open. Therefore, any member who comes across a place or event they feel would be of interest to the club can gather information and send out an email through Lisa Willard to see if there is any interest. If there is, then the member can contact Lisa Hill. Lisa offered to put field trip events on Sign Up Genius to help the member arrange for the field trips.

Enjoy the remainder of your summer, wherever you may be, and be prepared to have a busy and exciting September.



**Programs continued:**

considered topics that impact the environment in our community and researched different topics online to find experts that may be interested in talking with our Club at a meeting. It has been an enjoyable experience and has given me the opportunity to connect with more of our members. Thank you, and see you in September!



**To create a sensory garden you should consider all five scenes.**

**Sight** Combine a mixture of colors and textures to create visual appeal in the garden. Warm colors like red, oranges and yellows promote energy, and cool colors like blues, purples and white promote restfulness and tranquility. Gazing globes, sculptures and garden stakes also add interest!

**Sound** For a sense of tranquility consider adding different elements of naturally occurring sounds. Adding a bird bath will welcome our friends of flight and their gentle sounds. Enjoy the sound of trickling water from a fountain or bird bath, and the peaceful songs from windchimes.

**Touch** Think texture when creating a touch friendly sensory garden. Try plants that are soft, fuzzy, rough, prickly, and springy. Use smooth and rough stones around the garden for touching.

**Smell** Include both subtle and strong scents in your garden like creeping thyme, while mixing Roses, Lilac Hyacinths, Jasmine and Lavender for a mixture of fragrance. Spread out your most fragrant plants to not overwhelm!

**Taste** Explore taste in your garden by adding edible flowers, fruits, and veggies. Herbs like basil, mint, tarragon and cilantro taste (and smell) divine.

*Adapted from an article shared by English Gardens*



**We are so glad you have joined the Garden Club**

**Noreen Kozlowski**

**Cher Flaherty**

## Herbal Thyme

Just a note to thank Bobbi Kuschel for heading up the June Herbal Thyme meeting, a note to all for your understanding to cancelling the July meeting and now announcing that we will not meet in August. So, we will meet next in September on Monday the 9th. (second Monday). Time 1:00pm - 3:00pm Place: Milford Public Library in the Community Room. Food and drink allowed. Septembers Herb will be announced in the next newsletter.

Wishing everyone a continued great herbal summer! See you in September!

Herbally Yours,

Shelly Dale



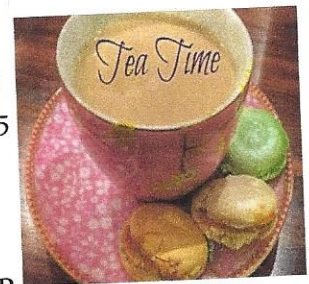
## Lets Swap

Are you looking for a particular plant or have an abundance of a plant? It has been suggested that there be a space in the newsletter to offer/request specific plants.

- My Oak Leaf Hydrangea has sent out A LOT of baby plants. If anyone wants to try to transplant these babies let me know.

## Tea Time

Beki Franchock will be hosting the August Tea Time at her home (1295 Esther Ln., Milford) on August 28th, from 2-4 pm. Iced tea and lemonade will be serve, as it's to hot for hot beverages. Please RSVP to \_\_\_\_\_ and let her know if you will be bringing a sweet or savory finger food to share.



## Guy Time

We meet at the New Hudson Inn on Grand River just east of Milford Road, the fourth Wednesday of every month at noon. We cordially invite you to join us for a drink, a sandwich, and to help solve all the world's problems. Gardening? Sometimes. Questions? Call/Text me at \_\_\_\_\_





# Arts & Craft Club

Thank you for coming  
over to do the wood transfer!  
Hope you had fun!!



## Dates to Remember

- August 8, Arts & Crafts Club - Cement Leaves
- August 28, Tea Time
- August 20, Board Meeting
- August 27, September Newsletter Deadline
- September 12, General Membership Meeting
- September 5, Arts & Crafts Club - Gourd Assembly
- September 6, Arts & Crafts Club - Gourd Painting
- September 9, Herbal Thyme
- September 16, Board Meeting
- September 24, Arts & Craft Club - Flower Arranging
- September 25, Fall Division Council Meeting
- October 10, General Membership Meeting
- October 21, Board Meeting
- November 14, General Membership Meeting
- November 18, Board Meeting
- December 5, Holiday Party

### PROJECT #2 Cement Leaves

August 8th. 9:00a.m.

440 Rowe Rd.  
Milford, MI.

### WHAT TO BRING:

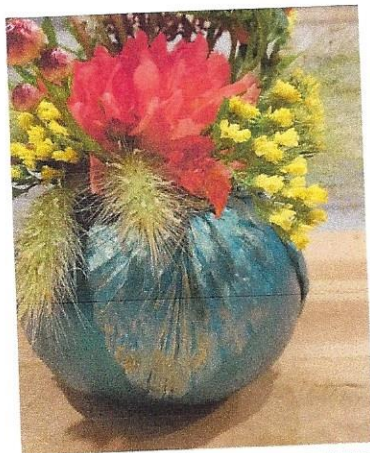
- 2 fresh leaves with strong texture  
(One leaf for you, one is donated to the council meeting)



Plain Cement leaves  
\$12 (2 medium size leaves)



Stained and sealed  
\$18 (2 medium size leaves)



### PROJECT #3

Gourd Assembly  
September 5th. @ 9:00am

Gourd Painting  
September 6th. @ 9:00 am

Gourd (centerpiece) Flower Arranging  
September 24th. @ 9:00am

440 Rowe Rd.  
Milford, MI.



## From the Editor

Thank you to everyone who sent news items and articles for this month's newsletter. The deadline for the August newsletter is August 27. Please send your contributions to:

Jackie Swenson



# grow

## 2023 - 2024 Committees

- Arts & Craft Club: Isabel Davis  
Community Outreach: Sue Grifor  
Devine Raffle: Sheila Myers  
Email Distribution: Lisa Willard  
Facebook: Lisa Willard  
Field Trip Coordinator: General Membership  
Garden Walk: Diane DeVincent & Karol LaHaie  
  
Garden Maintenance: Kathy Blackburn  
Janet Kinney  
  
Greeter: Mille Hulewicz  
Historian: Anna VanHyfte  
Holiday Party: Susan Absher & Nancy Nordin  
Hospitality Coordinator: Beki Franchock  
Membership: Terri Hardick  
Mentoring: Diane Pearson  
Name Tags: Diane Craft  
Newsletter: Jackie Swenson  
Plant Sale: Lisa Hill  
Scholarship : Linda Sturgeon  
Sunshine: Kathy Barker  
Teacher Mini Grants: Linda Sturgeon  
Tea Time Group: Barb Amey  
Website: Sue Tompkins  
Yearbook: Brook Qualman  
WNF&GA (National): [www.wnfga.org](http://www.wnfga.org)  
WF&GA (Michigan Division): [www.michdivwhfga.org](http://www.michdivwhfga.org)

If you would be happy all  
your life,

plant a garden.

*Nan Fairbrother (1913-71)*

## Along the Vine

If you have seen anything in your garden or when wandering that you think would delight other gardeners please send pictures and description to me at: [jacquelyn.swenson@gmail.com](mailto:jacquelyn.swenson@gmail.com)



Visitors to my  
back yard in the  
last week



Mama turkey and her  
two babies

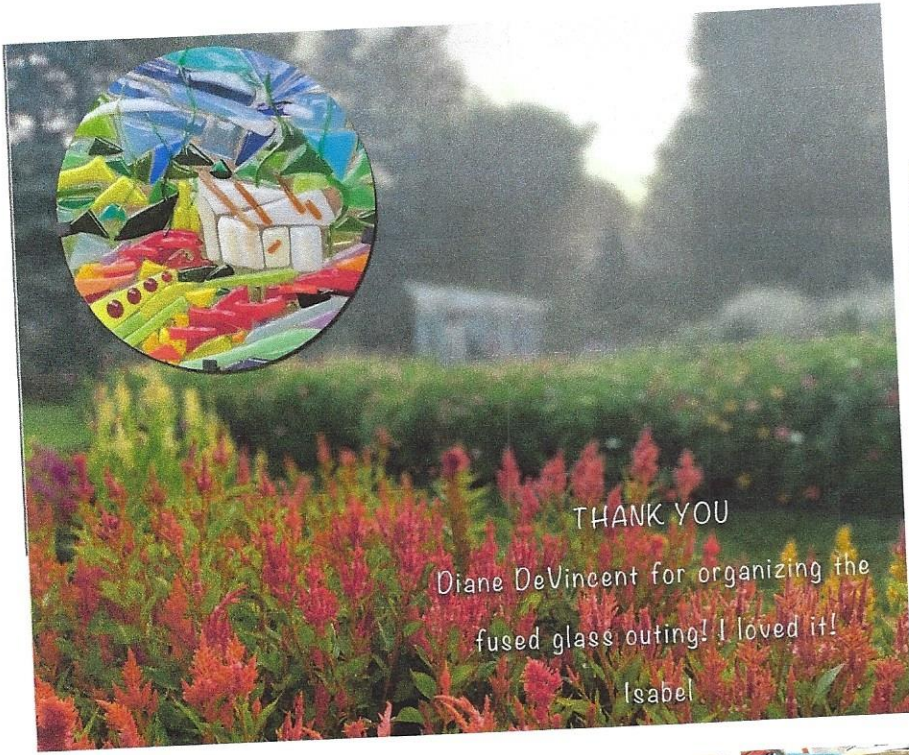


A dragon fly perched  
perfectly on the top of  
a weeping fir tree.

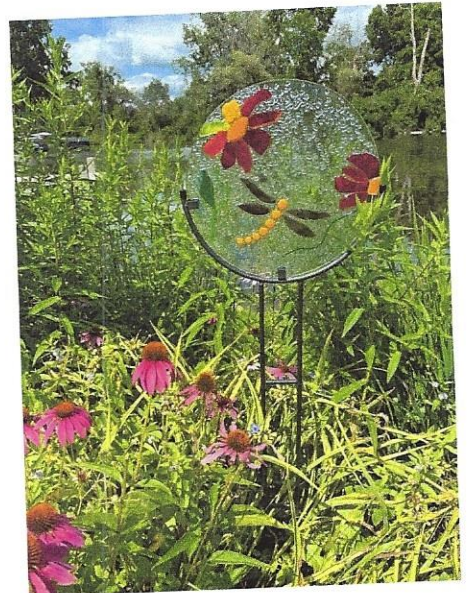


# A great evening at Ceramics By You & Glass Fusing

Hard at work being creative



Some finished works of art!





## New Home for Arthur's Park Birds

The first birdhouse was successfully erected on June 3, in approximately the same location as the original. The two-part post was installed 42" down below ground in about 12" of concrete at the bottom of the posthole, ensuring that frost won't heave the post out of the ground over time. The post itself remains unpainted until it thoroughly dries later this summer (paint does not adhere well to damp treated posts.)



Birdhouse #2, the single level eight-sided one, was taken down the same day. Its post was riddled with carpenter ants, the damage from which would have likely crumbled and cracked it within a year. The good news is that, except for the base, most of it is in solid shape and can be re-used with minor repairs, new glue, reinforcement and paint. The base needs to be re-built and a new post assembled.



Kathy Blackburn



## Around Town And Beyond



August 9, 5-8 pm, W. Bloomfield, SUMMER SORIE \$15.

August 24, 10-11 am, all locations TIPS FROM THE GARDEN PHARMACY Free For more information: [www.englishgardens.com](http://www.englishgardens.com)



August 16, 9-10am RESIN & FLOWER NECKLACE/KEYCHAIN \$16. For more information: [goldnerwalsh.com](http://goldnerwalsh.com)



August 17, 10am—1 pm NATIVE PLANT IDENTIFICATION @ Indian

Springs Metro Park \$15. For information: <https://events.anr.edu/NativePlntID> or Kristine Hahn @ 248-802-4590

## MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension



Foundations of Gardening

(FOG) is a comprehensive 10 week **online** MSU extension course for adults interested in the MSU Extension Master Gardener (EMG) volunteer program **AND** for anyone in the public who wants to learn the scientific principles of gardening. The course is open to all It explores many aspects of gardening through the use of self paced learning modules partnered with weekly live lectures from experts in the field. FOG is entirely electronic with many downloadable materials. There is also an option for a print version of the readings (at an additional cost)

Course offered twice per year—Late winter and Fall

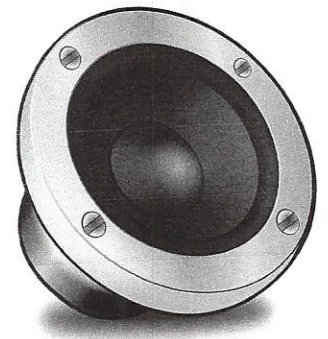
**Fall 2024 Registration is Now Open!**

Registration Period: July 20—August 27, 2024

Fall 2024 Sept 3—Nov 19 Live sessions Tuesday nights 6-8:30

Cost: \$350/per person More Information: [MSUE.FOG@msu.edu](mailto:MSUE.FOG@msu.edu)





## Your Opinion Matters!

Many of our members have had issues at our meetings hearing our speakers. Currently the Club has a Karaoke machine with plug in microphones as our sound system. It is heavy to transport, weighing about 15 pounds and many of the speakers declined to use the microphone because it tethered them to the machine so they could not move freely around the room. We also have two wireless microphone receivers with battery powered microphones but we do not have a transmitter (speaker system, except for the karaoke machine) so they can be used. I spent time with a sound expert at Best Buy this past week and brought our equipment so he can see what we had and to help me understand what we would need to have not only for our meetings but to use at the Division meeting we are hosting in September.

Here are the findings:

We could use the wireless microphone system we currently have but we need to buy two speakers because the Karaoke machine is not powerful enough to broadcast the sound to the entire room at Beacon Hill. The cost of each speaker is \$169. so that would be an expenditure of \$338. For our meetings at the senior center, we would need only one speaker with our current equipment—theoretically. We did not test the equipment to see the sound quality as this was an information gathering trip and my focus is on the sound system for division.



I am not a sound system expert by any stretch, but I started thinking about alternatives. After searching for sound system experts, I found a list of companies that provide sound systems for weddings, meetings and events such as what we are hosting. I made some calls and talked to several companies. I was most impressed by Josh from Light up the Sound based in Holly. He is familiar with Beacon Hill and has done the sound systems for two

weddings there.

Josh sent a contract to me and I forwarded it to the Board for their review. Josh would provide two speakers and the projection Screen for our event and he will be at the event, setting up the sound system and will be there during the event to manage the sound system and the interface with the presenters power point and our projector. His fee is \$200 to provide the sound and technical expertise for our event.

Lee Doyle and I will meet with Josh during the next two weeks to review the contract with him and make some minor adjustments in the Club's best interest.

I have also discussed this with the Board members and they are all in favor of hiring Josh from Light up the Sound to work at our Division meeting . The only question is if we needed approval for the expenditure. I have reviewed the By-Laws and it appears that this would fall under the budget of the VP of Meetings and Programs. It also states in the By-Laws that if the budget of the VP of meetings and Programs (M&P) is not exhausted during the budget period, it will be carried forward to the next budget year. Since the budget for M&P was not used up during the last two budget years, there is money in this budget to pay for this expense and therefore would not need a vote from the general membership however, I am sending this so that you can voice your opinion. Please let me know if you are either in favor or opposed to hiring Light up the Sound for the Division meeting.

Thank you,

Nancy Nordin, VP Meetings and Programs



**Milford Garden Club**  
**General Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**July 11, 2024**

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm.

Board members in attendance: Susan Absher, Gail Cooper, Nancy Nordin, Diane DeVincent, Linda Smith; Lee Doyle absent

Cindy and Mike Bauman were thanked for not only the hospitality display this evening but for them chairing hospitality for the 2023-2024 year.

Two new members were introduced: Melissa Abood and Noreen Koslowski and three guests were recognized: Sue, Sharon and Lorena (a former member).

Minutes from the June 13, 2024 general meeting were approved.

A planning meeting is taking place on Monday morning at 9:30 at the Senior Center. Members are to check their email for info on the gourds and flower arranging to be used as centerpieces for the council meeting.

Clothing to be embroidered by Quicksilver Printing is to be brought to the September and April meetings to take advantage of group pricing. Safety pin your name to the area of the garment you wish to be embroidered.

Check out Arthur's Park. One of the tree birdhouses to be restored or rebuilt has been installed. Joe Gawle is working on number two.

Nancy Nordin is looking for speakers for the 2024-2025 year. Possible speakers: the nursery planting native plants in Central Park and an expert on bats. Nancy announced the guest speaker for the evening would be Erin Hamilton, a mushroom expert. She can be reached at: [themushroomconservatory.com](http://themushroomconservatory.com)

The treasurer's financial report is \$16,796.00.

The net income for the 2024 Garden Walk is \$5,788.23. Advertising brought in \$1,900; Presale tickets brought in \$885; residual plants and garden market items from our annual Plant Sale brought \$153; vendors \$175; basket raffle \$265; and general ticket sales \$3,300. Total expenses amounted to \$1,350. Directional signs cost \$400 but are being charged to the club's general expenditures and not to the 2024 Garden Walk. The co-chairpersons thanked Nancy Nordin for her great effort in procuring the ads for the Garden Walk book. The co-chairpersons, Karol LaHaie and Diane DeVincent also recognized the following members for their contribution to a successful Garden Walk: Sue Grifor, Sue Tomkins, Barb Amey, Susan Absher, Linda Becker, Nancy Kay, Al & Pat Coppersmith, Shelley Dale, Bobbi Kuschel, Brook Qualman, and Linda Smith.

Members Isabel Davis, Amy Sonk and Ron Krueger were thanked for opening up their gardens to the public.

Sue Grifor gave an update on the seed library at the Milford Library. She has explored other seed libraries in the area and prefers the binder style used by Wixom and Walled Lake. Her ideal manner of housing seeds at the library is using an old card catalog and asked members to watch out for one. The librarian for Adult Services is using a kiosk and hasn't been convinced to use another alternative. She has acquired seeds from libraries and other sources. Sue is waiting for her to complete her kiosk with holders before the MGC helps organize the seeds. She also mentioned the librarian who heads children's services was receptive to our help.



Isabel Davis is holding two craft club meetings: the wood transfer on July 18 and the cement leaf on August 8. Watch for her emails about materials needed for both projects.

The vintage MGC flag that was presented at the Spring Division Meeting in Saginaw will be on display in the reception area of Beacon Hill when we host the fall meeting.

Lisa Willard made a motion to offer a one-year complimentary membership to those people who opened up their gardens on our 2024 Garden Walk. Beth Sciberras seconded the motion. All members approved.

Karol LaHaie is hosting Regular Tea Time at her home at noon on July 24, and Beki Franchock is hosting the afternoon Tea time at her home on August 28 at 2 pm.

Bobbi Kuschel, Martha Klemmer, and Jan Niebauer were recognized for a 25-year longevity award.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 pm.

## **District Meeting Planning Session**

**July 15, 2024**

### BEACON HILL COUNTRY CLUB

- Start and ending times
- Menu
- Entry hall set-up
- Candies
- Banquet room set-up
- Vintage banner and hanging mechanism
- Outdoor logo banner
- Directional signs

### PUBLICITY FLYER

- Article on Jennifer
- Books available for purchase
- Registration form
- Registration information and deadline

### SPEAKER

- Table and location
- Computer, extension cords, microphone, screen
- Light control

### NAME TAGS

- Kind of tag
- Printing names and logo



- Assembly and organizing for meeting

#### VENDORS

- Number of vendors and table sizes
- Description of items they are selling
- Arrangement of tables and vendors
- Speaker's table
- Help vendors set up and remove wares

#### TABLES

- Number of tables
- Number of centerpieces
- Color of gourds/vessels
- Flowers and arranging
- Color of napkins
- Method of "winning" centerpiece

#### DRAWING FOR PRIZES AND SELLING CHANCES

- Chances on donated glass tree/ cost and tickets
- One seller on chances
- Process for attaining prizes donated by members or businesses
- Business cards from Chamber of Commerce
- Info from business association (For Feet's Sake or Blue Birch?)

#### SIGN-UP GENIUS

- Additional sub-committees will be added to the website
- Lisa Hill will develop MGC Sign-Up Genius

#### GREETERS

- At the door
- Main banquet room

#### CLEAN UP

- Remove any centerpieces
- Gather brochures and miscellaneous from the entry hall
- Remove all signs (indoors and outdoors)