



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

Email:

mifordgardenclubmi@outlook.com



October Meeting

When: October 10, @ 6:30 PM Social time & Treats, 7:00 Business Meeting/ Program follows

Where: Milford Senior Center, 1050 Atlantic, Milford, MI

Speaker: Laurel Zoet

Program: Gardening on the Go! Co-existing with our furry friends and their importance to our gardens, yards and environment.

Milford Garden Club Established 1948

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

October 2024 Newsletter



President's Report

Susan Absher

"How do I Love thee? Let me count the ways." Sounds like a good opening, but it won't do.

"It takes a village..." That's another great introduction, but it's overused.

How about the familiar description of "a well-oiled machine"?

Now here's a collegiate chant... "We are ... Penn State." Now that's getting closer.

WE ARE ... THE MILFORD GARDEN CLUB!

What can I say! The Fall Council Meeting was a great success. I knew it would be because neither I nor anyone of our members would have it any other way. Twenty-three of our members were present to get everything in order, whether it was putting out signs, getting nametags and candy on the table, arranging brochures and flower arrangements on the tables, setting up the door prizes or helping the vendors. Members were there to greet guests and cater to their needs. Our members went off in different directions to sit with members from other branches. Other MGC members walked about the room and welcomed the guests to Beacon Hill.

Still others committed themselves to this event before the doors opened: creating vessels out of gourds, arranging flowers for centerpieces, purchasing chocolate flowers and assembling nametags, gathering gift certificates and offering purchases for door prizes, making cement leaves and painting landscapes.

We were like a well-oiled machine. No one was told what to do. They just did it. It doesn't matter if we are holding a potluck, celebrating the year with a Holiday Party, preparing for a Plant Sale or hosting a Garden Walk, we work together as a family, as a team, as a village to be successful in all we do. And I Love the Milford Garden Club for all it does. Thank You.

The president of the National WNF&GA spoke the other day at the Fall Council Meeting. She hinted that some major changes may need to be made. Consider that 25 Branches are in Michigan and the remaining 6 Branches are in New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. The question that is being raised is if the
Continued on Page 2

Presidents Report Continued

National organization has run its course. It has existed for 100 years, but is the National Organization thriving and fulfilling its original purpose?

A National Meeting is being held on Saturday, October 19 to discuss many subjects, one of which is the future of National. The Newsletter contains some of the information presented in the August Newsletter. There is also a registration form for the event.

Many of our members have expressed an interest in attending. If you plan on attending, send in the registration form with your payment on your own. Please let me know if you are attending and I will arrange for members to carpool. As always, we can meet at the Senior Center that morning.



We are so glad you have joined the Garden Club

Bethany Brdarski

Samuel Brdarski



Tea Time

The October Tea Time will be hosted by Nancy Kay. She has made a reservation for noon on Wednesday, October 23rd at the Wixom Station, 49115 Pontiac Trail, Wixom.

Driving from Milford on Wixom road you will turn left at Pontiac Trail and it is on the right. All garden club members are welcome to attend Tea Time. Sometimes the numbers need to be restricted due to the number of tables a restaurant will set aside for us or if hosted at a member's home the number of people they can accommodate. Nancy would like you to text her by Monday October 21st at



Barb Amy

Herbal Thyme

Note the change (1/2 hour earlier) for October and November. Meeting to start at 12:30pm - 2:00pm at the Milford Library Community room on Monday, October 14th, 2024. We will be studying even



more spices: "Star Anise" and "Nutmeg". Time to get those Holiday treats ready. Time to study their origins and of course time to taste their delicious flavors. Our October leader will be Jackie Seitz. We thank her now for helping out Bobbi and me. If you have a favorite herb or spice you would like to learn more about, give me a call

and I would appreciate help to lead the group that next month. November 11th meeting will also start at 12:30 - 2:00pm. The topic will be decided at the October meeting. All MGC members, we invite you to join us. It's an exciting time of year to discuss and sample the taste of the holidays.

Herbally Yours,
Shelly Dale



LET PLANTS CHOOSE THEIR DESTINIES.

Nancy Lawson (1970—)

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?



Fall Clean up

Fall clean up of Arthur's Park and the Senior Center is October 23rd at 9 am. Thanks to everyone who signed up at the September meeting. We still need more volunteers. There will be a sign up sheet at the October 10th meeting. Also, you can contact me.



Thank you,
Kathy Blackburn



Email: blackbrnks@comcast.net

Composting Pumpkins

taken from an Article and photo by: Leah Blinstrub in the Oakland Gardener.



Once Halloween is over, you can repurpose your pumpkin by composting it, turning it into a valuable resource for your garden. Pumpkins are high in nitrogen, making them an excellent addition to fall compost piles.

In October, compost piles often need more nitrogen to balance out the heavy carbon load from fallen leaves. To maintain efficient decomposition, aim for a carbon-to-nitrogen ratio of 3:1. Composting your pumpkin is simple and can be done in four easy steps:

1. Remove any non-biodegradable materials like wax or glitter.
2. Break the pumpkin into pieces roughly 3 inches in size.
3. Add the pumpkin pieces to your compost pile.
4. Mix the pumpkin thoroughly into the pile to ensure even decomposition.

If you're new to composting, check out University of Illinois Extension's **Compost 101**. Many cities in Oakland County also accept pumpkins as yard waste. In Michigan, state law requires that all yard waste be composted in an effort to reduce landfill use.



Dates to Remember

- October 10, General Membership Meeting
 - October 14, Herbal Thyme Meeting
 - October 19, WNF&GA Meeting
 - October 21, Board Meeting
 - October 23 Arthur's Park & Senior Center clean up
 - October 24, Rain day for clean up
 - October 23, Tea Time
 - November 11, Herbal Thyme
 - November 14, General Membership Meeting
 - November 18, Board Meeting
 - December 5, Holiday Party
- 2025**
- February 17 Board Meeting
 - March 13, General Membership Meeting
 - March 17, Board Meeting
 - April 10, General Membership Meeting
 - April 21, Board Meeting
 - May 8, General Membership Meeting
 - May 19, Board Meeting
 - June 7, Plant Sale
 - June 12, General Membership Meeting
 - June 16, Board Meeting
 - July 10, General Membership Meeting
 - July 21, Board Meeting
 - June 20, Garden Walk
 - August 14, General Membership Meeting

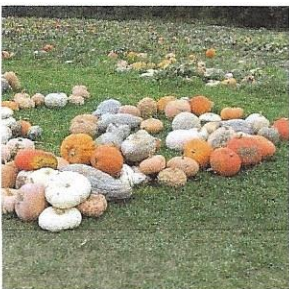


2023 - 2024 Committees

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

Pumpkins at a roadside stand

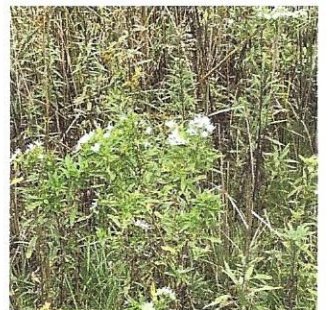


Along the Vine

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

Celebrate Sweetest Day at Red Oaks Nature Center!

This adults-only program **Sweetheart Stroll & Bonfire** from 6-7:30 pm on October 18. Start off learning about animal mating and courtship around a bonfire, then take a romantic nature walk around Friendship Woods. This program is suitable for ages 16+. Cost is \$5/per person. Red Oaks Nature Center is located at 30300 Hales St. Madison Heights, MI 48071 Preregistration with payment required by calling 248-858-0916 weekdays or 248-585-0100 during nature centers or register online anytime OCParks@oakgov.com



Usually this time of year I'm looking at the beautiful trees - but lowering my line of sight brought these lovely wildflowers into sight. Along a short stretch of Duck Lake Road just south of M59

Around Town And Beyond



Oakland Conservation District

Fall Seedling Ore-order: September 13th - October 14th, 2024 Native species evergreen seedlings (White Pine, Black Spruce & Eastern Red Cedar) Pickup October 23

oaklandcd.myshopify.com

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Extension

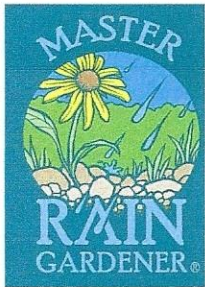
Tollgate Farm and Education Center

Lamb and Learn - Come Meet our Newborn Lambs!

October 9th - November 2nd on select days Pre-registration mandatory - No exceptions \$10 per person. More information - <https://www.canr.msu.edu/tollgate/farm-store>

Pumpkinfest 2024 October 5th-6th (11am - 5pm) \$15 per person (at the gate) \$12 per person—early bird tickets.

You are invited to a native plant swap - bring or take! Sunday, October 6, 1-2:00 Ypsilanti District Library, 5577 Whitaker Rd., Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Bring a rain garden plant to share. Take one home to put in your rain garden! Bring rain garden plants, native plants, and non-native plants (that are not invasive). All are welcome! OK to come empty-handed - bring cookies to share instead! ;)



goldner walsh
GARDEN & HOME

Wood Flower Dyeing Workshop October 12th 8am - 6pm, \$30 per person or register 2 for \$25 each. Register @

<https://bit.ly/3Xnfq4f>



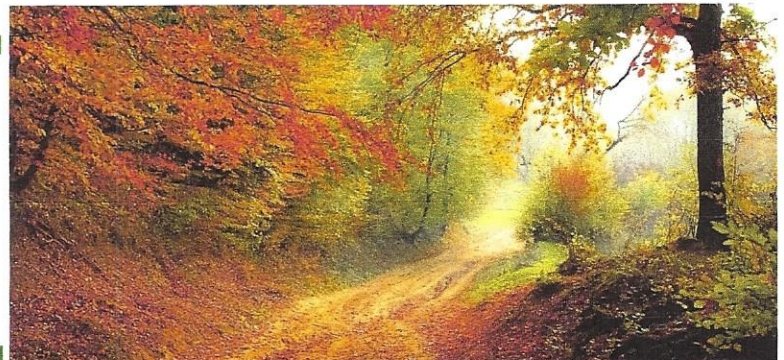
Winterize the Garden

October 12 10 am - 11 am

Free RSVP

Family Fall Fest October 19 Free RSVP

www.englishgardens.com



WHAT A TEAM!!

It was almost a year ago that I first met Susan Abshner, Diane DeVincent and Barb Amey as they were preparing for the 2024 Garden Walk. Since then, I've had the pleasure of getting to know many more members of this wonderful club by doing things together.

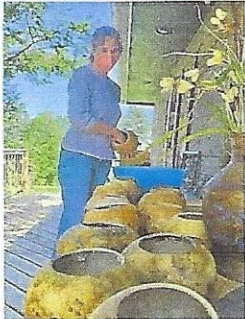
It was an honor to be a part of this collaborative effort.

Isabel Davis

Getting Ready.....



Gourd Selection in the Fall of 2023:
SUSAN ABSHER
DIANE DeVINCENT
BARB AMEY



Cleaning and Cutting:
MELISSA ABOOD



First round of staining:
SUSAN ABSHER / DIANE DeVINCENT
BETH SCIBERRAS / NOREEN KOZLOWSKI



Leaf Donations:

- DIANE DeVINCENT
- SUSAN ABSHER
- JACKIE SWENSON
- GAIL COOPER
- LISA WILLARD
- LINDA BECKER
- LINDA SMITH
- SHARON SARKISIAN
- ISABEL DAVIS



Second round of staining / waxing / polishing:
BETH SCIBERRAS / JANET KINNEY
BECKI FRANCOCK / LEE DOYLE



Transportation:
JANET KINNEY



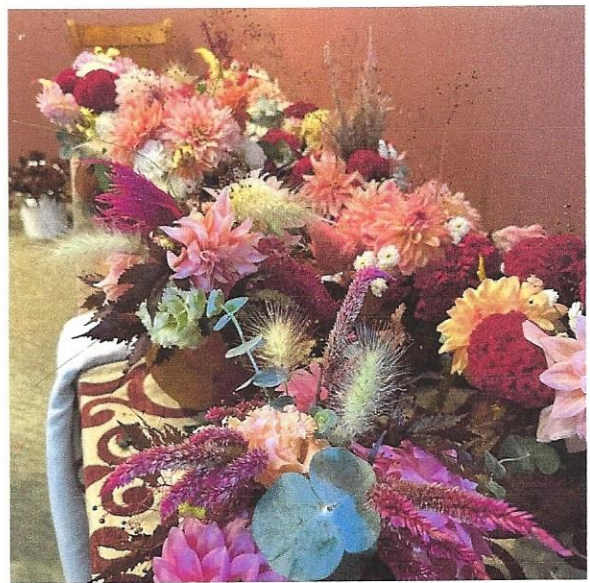
Cutting the flowers:

- BETH SCIBERRAS / JANET KINNEY / BECKI FRANCOCK



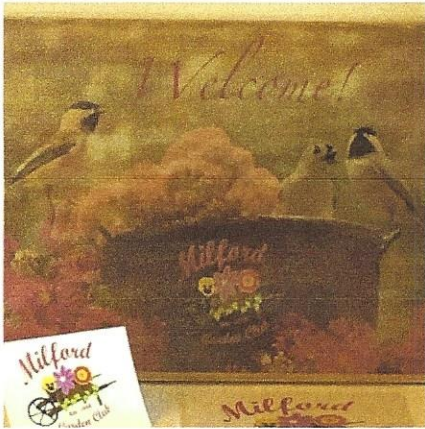
Arranging the flowers:

- BETH SCIBERRAS / BOBBI KUSCHEL / PAT COPPERSMITH
LEE DOYLE / BARB AMEY / JACKIE SEITZ



Transportation:
JANET KINNEY

This is the result of a lot of planning and hard work of a great group of people!!



The Vendors had a varied selection of treasures to tempt us.



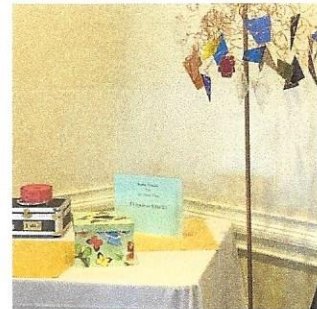
Lots of Prizes!!



Centerpiece & Information packet



Donated Items



Raffle

Brunch was Plentiful and Delicious



Then the Meeting



Sue Malone & Susan Absher



Sue Malone

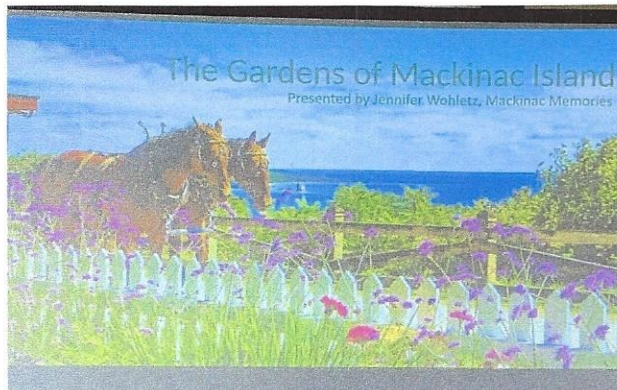


Mary Bertolini



Attendees

And the Program - The Gardens of Mackinac Island



General Membership Meeting Milford Garden Club

Date: September 12, 2024: Call to Order at 7:03 pm

Board Members in Attendance: Susan Absher, Nancy Nordin, Lee Doyle, Gail Cooper, Diane DeVincent

Thank you to Hospitality: Linda Becker and Kathy Blackburn

Thank you to Greeters: Linda Smith and Millie Hulewicz

Introduction of New Members and Guests:

Guests were Bethany and Samuel Bdarski.

Diane DeVincent introduced new Members Cher Flaherty and Sharon Sarkisian.

General Membership Meeting Minutes dated July 11, 2024 were approved.

President's Report:

- Fall Division Council Meeting will be on Wednesday, September 25. Volunteers who signed up should come at 7:30 or 8:00 am.
- Bring clothing you want Quicksilver to embroider with the logo to the October meeting. Pin your name to the area that you want embroidered.
- Items donated for the Fall Division Council Meeting's drawing should be delivered to the homes of Susan Absher or Nancy Nordin.
- Recent, recognizable photos for a Pictorial directory should be brought or sent to Susan Absher. It will help us learn one another's names. Pictures will on the website section for members only.
- Sue Thompkins is willing to teach someone to work our website. The only requirement is that you must know WordPress.

Vice President of Publicity: Gail Cooper. If anyone takes pictures that might be good in the newsletter, text them to her.

Vice President of Meetings & Programs: Nancy Nordin

- Programs for the upcoming year include Jennifer Ott, tonight. Next month we will talk about bats. Nancy is still working on next May's and July 's speakers. Jennifer Wohletz will talk about the Gardens of Mackinac Island at the fall district council meeting
- Updates on Fall Division Council Meeting. Twice a year have a meeting for our garden club district. This year is our turn to host. The meeting is on September 25 at Beacon Hill Country Club. \$35 includes breakfast.

Treasurer: Diane DeVincent

- 95 people have registered for the Fall Council Meeting and the number is likely to hit 100.
- Financial Report: Our balance is \$16,842.62
- Our income goal is \$21,600. We removed a \$14,570 item from the budget since it represents a zero balance of money donated in and spent. This project funds things like Mothers in Africa who want to plant fruit trees, but don't have access to water. The money allows river water to be diverted.
- We fund scholarships and a project mini grant for applicants selected, for example a woman who wanted to start a home garden.
- The 2024-25 budget was voted on and approved.

- Linda Sturgeon oversees mini grants for 4 teachers. Let her know if you want to be on a committee to read applications and award the grants.

Herbal Thyme, led by Shelley Dale and Bobbi Kuschel met this month. The next meeting will be on the 2nd Monday of October to discuss anise and nutmeg.

Garden Maintenance: Kathy Blackburn talked about our scheduled maintenance of Arthur's Park and the Senior Center Garden.

- Maintenance is done every two weeks.
- The date(s) for Fall Clean-up is October 23rd at 9:00 (rain date on the 24th).

Teatime: Barbara Amey produced a sign-up sheet to host any month. Either host at a restaurant or a potluck at a home, either noon for lunch or 2-4 afternoon. The times and host contact will be in the newsletter.

- Teatime for September will be at Pettibone on Main Street (was Gravity) at noon on September 25th, the day after fall District Meeting.
- The men will meet at the New Hudson Inn at noon on September 26th.

Community Outreach: Sue Grifor

- Seed Library. Sue met with the three Karens at the Milford Library and got the seed library up and running. It isn't yet what Sue hoped for, but it is up. Sue proposed that we host a meeting there in the spring to introduce the seed library.
- There was a Community Sharing Sale on Saturday. She found a binder book produced by the Milford Garden Club 20 years ago. Some of our existing members had recipes in the book.

Milford Garden Club Yearbook: Brook Qualman

Printers missed a page and a corrected version will be brought next month

Milford Presbyterian church and a Catholic church will be on the home tour on Sept 21st and 22nd, starting at 11:00

Shelia Meyers presided over the 50/50 Raffle. The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 pm.

Jennifer Ott: speaker on Designing an Ecosystem Garden

The east side of Detroit has a lot of sod, and not many ecosystem gardens. Jennifer wants to change this and create designs that include relationships, such as between the Monarch Butterfly and Milkweed, or pollen-producers for bees. Worms and caterpillars are important for bird food.

To be successful, it is important to understand the hardiness zone for a plant as well as optimum soil, nutrients, sun or shade, water drainage.

Allow for native plant roots to go deep and bring up water.

It's best to fill space with plant material not mulch.

A list of Jennifer's top garden performers in sun and shade is attached.

There are different design styles, such as naturalistic, or formal gardens, ground beds or raised beds.

It's best to plant in waves of color and in odd numbers. Naturalistic gardeners plant in waves rather than rows.

Look at nature for patterns. Look at shapes of mountains and how they flow, for example.

For garden ideas, look at:

- Brie Arthur – *Gardening with Grains*
- Kelly Norris – *Plants with Style*
- Roy Diblik – *The Know Maintenance Perennial Garden*
- Piet Oudolf's designs on Belle Isle

How to start a design.:

- Cover the sod with cardboard.
- Put 4 inches of mulch on top of the cardboard.
- Make a well in the mulch but don't dig through the cardboard. Don't use plastic or yard cloth. The design will take three years to look full.

Maintenance

Jennifer likes the Diamond Hoe from Netherlands. Use the flat surface to cut and lift small weeds.

The best compost is to keep leaves in the garden bed over winter. It creates a microclimate that feeds worms and is the best way to amend clay soil. Oak leaves don't break down so mulch them first. Put in a light layer or they will mold.

Sticks and twigs should be the 1st layer

Then coffee grounds provide nitrogen to get the compost going.

Then layer vegetable matter.

Use banana peels and coffee grounds around roses. They keep disease away.

If you use compost bins, you must keep the right amount of moisture in the bin for it to work.

Some notes:

Milkweed gets caterpillars and tiny beetles that look like aphids. They don't hurt the plant but instead create a balance and are food for birds. Don't take Milkweed out of the garden in the fall. The stems are hollow and allow insects to overwinter inside.

To follow the Monarchs' migration, tune into journeynorth.org where sightings are reported by observers. The monarchs will leave our area in late September – early October.

To learn more, get involved with community gardens:

- Oudolf Garden Detroit's Belle Isle.
- Pitchford Park local garden in Macomb County
- Design workshops by a garden coach
- Contact Jennifer for coaching at Mythymegardens.com or 586-255-4386

What's New at National?

The very name, Woman's National Farm and Garden Association, Inc. speaks to the necessity and uniqueness of each member. Woman's: of ONE WOMAN. We are a collective of members, now both men and women, who are committed to Education through Gardening. Whether it is the public, or our own members, we strive to inform, support and spread the message of Horticulture and Agriculture. It is a great legacy and nod to our wonderful leaders in the past, a recognition for our current leadership and members, and a hope for those who follow in our footsteps.

Like any Non-profit, we are struggling within our ranks. Membership numbers are low, volunteerism is failing, finances are tight, free time is at a premium, and interest in Farm & Garden nationally is fading fast. I understand these problems, as many of you have expressed them so eloquently to me, and I share your concern. Let's examine some of the problems:

Everyone wonders what the National (or Division in Michigan) can do for them. Why should we support such a level of leadership when we get nothing in return? A fair question with a number of answers. The National level of the organization provides scholarship opportunities for many students. We sponsor an Intern at the Louisa King Dogwood Garden at the National Arboretum in Washington, DC. At Springtime, brides from the DC area reserve dates to have wedding photos in this magnificent setting. It is breathtaking! We meet once a year to review the finances, conduct the business of the organization, (i.e. Bylaw/Standing rule changes). In the recent past, the National level also published a paper magazine. This communication tool kept members informed of changes within Farm & Garden, featured informative articles about our areas of interest, contained a directory of officers and important personnel. Branches were encouraged to submit a short article with details about projects, milestones, celebrations and local events. The magazine was both a communication link between National and members, and a tangible benefit of members' dues. It contained a Call to the Meeting, Agenda, and registration information. Everyone misses that special publication. Why is it not available? Two very important reasons: financial and editorial. National dues are currently \$6.00 per member per year. No publication's distribution could endure those costs. If the Magazine is published, annual dues must be increased. No options. Many members spend well into the hundreds of dollars on annual plants and everyone loves to try new perennials. We enjoy a lunch with friends, with a bill of twenty dollars or more. Yet, any dues increase for Farm & Garden is met with cries of financial distress. Postage and printing costs cannot be met with such a paltry donation from members.

Secondly, Editorial problems. No one has stepped forward to be the editor of said publication. Within our 1100 membership, surely there is ONE member who has the time and acumen to reinstate the magazine. If not, this may be the last publication of any kind from National. I cannot and will not continue to compile, format and send the National newsletter to members. My computer skills are negligible, I have neither the time nor patience to continue this task. As President, it is my job to PRESIDE. Not to personally fill in all the empty slots necessary to keep Farm & Garden afloat.

We refer to our organization as Farm & Garden. As of this publication, we do not have a Gardening Director. Do you enjoy gardening? Do you share your successes and failures with your friends? Can you write a few paragraphs about your efforts this year? There is no need for a college degree in Horticulture or Botany, we are not looking for Latin names of plants. Merely a love of planting and sharing gardens will serve us well.

It is the responsibility of the membership to continue the legacy our founders gave to us. Just as your local library, civic organization or worship center depends on volunteers to teach those who follow in the future, so do we at Farm & Garden. Unfortunately, in the past, the "torch" has not been passed. Leaders have taken on too much responsibility, thus precluding membership from learning the necessary steps to guide our organization into the future. That changes now.

This is a member driven organization. It is YOUR choice that will shape our future. Neither the President, nor the Executive Committee can continue to serve your needs unless YOU, as a member, choose to safeguard the future of Farm & Garden. We will gladly help in any way possible, but without volunteers, we must make difficult choices for the coming months. Will you step aside, hoping someone else will volunteer, or will you step up to the challenge to ensure the legacy given to us over 100 years ago? Your choice will be our future.

Call to the Meeting

The Woman's National Farm & Garden Association, Inc. will hold a general membership meeting on Saturday, October 19, 2024 at the Hampton Inn & Suites, 31700 Smith Road, Romulus, MI 48174. Call to order will be 9:00AM, adjournment will be no later than 5:00pm. We will discuss the business of the National Organization, including Finances, Officer and Committee reports. An orientation session is planned, which will acquaint members with the structure and Officers of the National level. Registration will include a lunch and beverages. A breakout session will be held in the afternoon to discuss the future of our organization. At least one member from every branch is encouraged to attend this very important meeting. We ask that representative to bring viable ideas for the National level to continue serving our membership. Hotel accommodation information, if needed, is posted on the registration page. The proposed Agenda is posted in this newsletter.

Proposed Agenda

National Meeting

October 19, 2024

Hampton Inn & Suites, Romulus, MI

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America
3. Invocation
4. Orientation
5. Officers Reports
6. Committee Reports
7. Lunch
8. Breakout Session
9. Future Planning

Registration for National Meeting October 19, 2024

Name _____ First Meeting? Yes ___ No ___
Address _____ City _____
State _____ Zip code _____ Phone number _____ Cell Phone? Yes ___ No ___
Branch/Club Name _____ Office held _____

Registration Fee of \$30.00 will cover the cost of meeting materials, beverages and lunch
Special Diet needs: _____ Choice of Salad ___ Sandwich ___

Make a copy of your registration, no refunds. Registration deadline: October 9, 2024 No Exceptions

Make Checks payable to: **WNF&GA**

Mail check with registration form to:

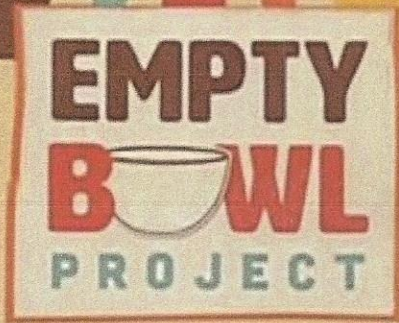
**Mary Bertolini
6616 Wabash Lane
Troy, MI 48085**

Hotel reservations:

Hampton Inn & Suites, 31700 Smith Road, Romulus, MI 48174 1-800-426-7866 Code: FGA
<https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/dttrmhx-fga-e27f9997-8d38-49ac-aa02-d5c7e91a6d7d/>

Rooms are King size, non smoking, book before 9/19/2024

A shuttle is available from the airport (DTW) to the hotel



MAIN EVENT

LET'S FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER



**Please join us for Soup, Bread,
Silent Auction, Raffles and more!**

SUN. OCT. 6, 2024 | 12PM - 3PM | BAKERS OF MILFORD | \$20

Empty Bowl Project is a volunteer run program with all proceeds going to Community Sharing Outreach center, a 501(c)(3) organization.