



December 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

Email:

mifordgardenclubmi@outlook.com



Milford Garden Club

Christmas Party 2024

When: Thursday, December 12, 2024

Time: 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Place: Milford Senior Center

President's Report

Susan Absher



Hoping to see many of you at the Holiday Party on December 12th at the Senior Center. The Sirens, a female rock band, will be providing the entertainment. The food is being provided by the Highland House restaurant. Six members have signed up to bring a centerpiece that complements the theme of *Childhood Memories*. Five members have signed up to bring a dessert. Time will tell if any more volunteers are needed, depending on how many register for the event. If I don't see you then, I'm wishing you and your family a wonderful holiday no matter where you are.

If you would like to personally donate to the Lee House, please bring your contribution to the Holiday Party. Money for the Lee House that comes out of the MGC budget or through a grant from WNF&GA will be used towards a garden as part of the horticultural therapy directive that was established and promoted by National decades ago. Last year a thank you note from the Lee House was sent to our club indicating they wanted to create a garden, so we are hoping we are successful in acquiring some of the money that is offered by either the Bess Muller Floral Education Grant or Herring Civic Improvement Grant. Bethany Brdarski is willing to help secure a grant.

It was decided sometime ago that the MGC would collaborate with our library on a project for children. Sue Grifor attended an event hosted by the Rochester Garden Club for children that has been successfully attended for the past five years. She indicated that over time, children have been hunting for "fairies, gnomes, and dragons" at the historic Van Heusen Farm. The Rochester Garden Club was gracious enough to share their information on the event. Grace, the Children's Librarian from Milford, is excited about hosting this event. The venue will extend beyond the library and will include our Historical Museum and the Log Cabin. This collaboration of the Library, the Historical Society, and the MGC will be a fun and educational event that will reach out to our community. The Library will take the lead and decide on a date in early October so as not to interfere with the Home Tour, an important fundraiser for the Museum.

Isabel Davis, our Crafts Chairperson, is enthusiastic about this children's
Continued on Page 2

Milford Garden Club Established 1948

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

Presidents Report Continued

Program and already has creative ideas she wants to explore. She is hoping to host some sessions whereby our crafty members can come up with ideas for this event. Besides, it would be a nice way to escape the cold days that are ahead of us.



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

Herbal Thyme

Happy December! Seeing the lovely snow and colder weather takes us into the winter holidays of celebration. So once again we turn to cooking new recipes and trying new herbs and spices. Even using them for decorating at times. Let's look at GINGER our herb/spice for December. We'll be meeting on Monday December 9 at 12:30—2:00 pm in the community room at the Milford Library. Bring anything to share if you like. Now what can be with GINGER? Come visit and find out. Food and drink allowed. Please call or text and let us know you'll be attending.



Shelley Dale _____

Bobbi Kuschel _____



Tea Time

The December Tea Time is cancelled, but we will meet again in January. Nancy Nordin will host

the gathering on January 22nd at Czapski's restaurant in Milford at noon. Mark your 2025 calendar now and come join the group and wind down after the busy holidays. You may call or text Nancy at _____

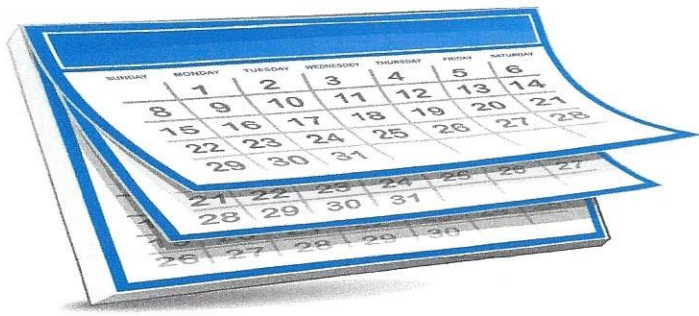


Linda Becker

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? _____





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: _____

How do you great Friends and Family to your home at the Holidays? I drove around looking for welcoming entries and these are a few I found.

Dates to Remember

December 9, Herbal Thyme

December 12, Holiday Party

December 27, January Newsletter Deadline

2025

January 22, Tea Time

January 22, Guy Time

February 17 Board Meeting

March 13, General Membership Meeting

March 17, Board Meeting

March 18, Seed Library Kick off

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 18, Garden Walk Preview & Potluck

June 19, Rain Date for Garden Walk Preview

June 16, Board Meeting

June 20 & 21, Garden Walk

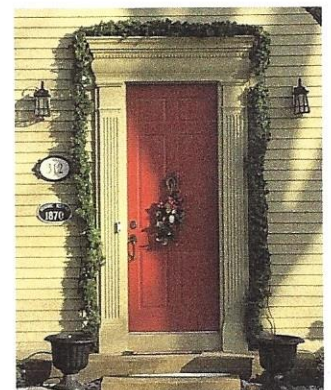
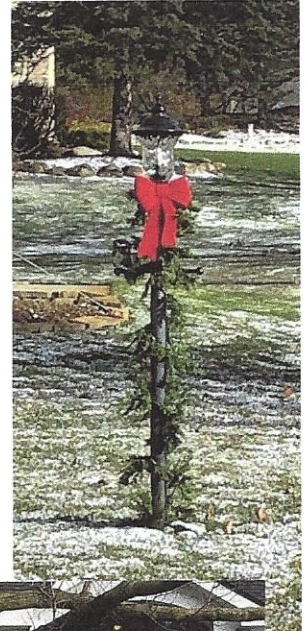
July 10, General Membership Meeting

July 21, Board Meeting

June 20, Garden Walk

August 14, General Membership Meeting

August 18, Board Meeting



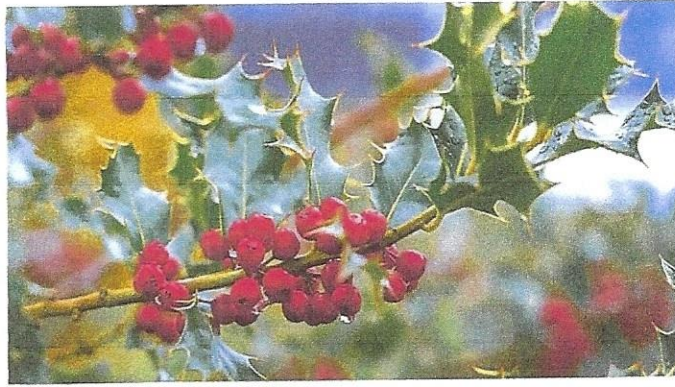
We are so glad you have joined the Garden Club

Janet Plant

Holly Bush

Article by : Elizabeth Will

The holly bush (*ilex aquifolium*) is a great addition to the Michigan garden, particularly if you are looking for something with year-round interest.



With their glossy green leaves and bright red berries, hollies provide seasonal beauty while being easy to grow and attracting a variety of birds.

Types of Holly: When choosing holly, there are two types to consider: evergreen and deciduous. Evergreen hollies are your classic, year-round green holly bush. They have bright red berries paired with shiny green leaves, making them perfect for winter interest in the garden. They're also great for privacy hedges and their berries provide food for birds in winter. Deciduous hollies, such as the Michigan native variety Winterberry (*ilex verticillata*) lose their leaves in fall. Later in the season, the bare branches become packed with bright red berries that stand out beautifully in the snowy landscape.

How To Grow and Care for Holly:

Holly bushes are relatively easy to care for, making them an excellent choice for beginner and seasoned gardeners alike.

Sunlight: Holly grows best in full sun to part shade.

Soil: They prefer acidic soil that drains well. Winterberry likes soil that stays a bit moist.

Watering: Water regularly until your plant is established. Mulching helps to keep the soil moist.

Pruning: Prune in late winter when the plant is dormant. Prune to control shape and remove any dead or dying branches, but never more than 1/3 of the plant at a time.

Pollination: In order to produce an abundance of berries, hollies require both a male and female plant. Be sure to plant a male plant within 30 feet of a female plant.

Using Holly in the Landscape:

Holly works well in many garden settings. Evergreen Holly is great for privacy hedges or background plants. Deciduous Holly, such as Winterberry, is perfect for adding color and interest to your winter garden. Holly also attracts birds, making them a great addition to a wildlife-friendly garden.

Final Thoughts:

Holly bushes are an easy way to add color and interest to your garden all year long. Winterberry, in particular, is a fantastic choice for Michigan gardens. With its

Around Town And Beyond



December 21, Christmas Floral Arrangement 10-11 am
\$70.00

Register at: www.englishgardens.com



December 5 Craft & Sip Circle 6pm Introducing monthly Craft & Sip Circle! Each month explore a different theme or medium to inspire creativity, but feel free to bring any craft

project you are working on. Join us for a relaxed fun time with fellow Crafters as we create together BYOB \$5.00

December 7 Holiday Makers Market 9am - 6 pm. Free admission

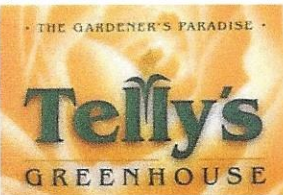
December 19 Holiday Centerpiece Workshop 6-8 pm

Register @ 248-332-6430



December 8 Holiday Gnome Workshop 2 pm \$75.00

Register at 248-437-7219



December 7 Outdoor Holiday Greens Arrangement Workshop 10 am \$40.00
Register at 248-689-8735



Holiday at The Farm
December 7th

- Great Holiday Photo Opportunities
- Hayrides
- Adorable Farm Animals
- Visit with Santa

Michigan State University Extension
Tollgate Farm and Education Center



FRIDAY
DEC 6
9AM - 5PM

YOU'RE INVITED
TO OUR
**HOLIDAY
FIBER ARTS
SALE**

Bogie Lake Greenhouse
1525 Bogie Lake Rd
White Lake, MI 48383



SATURDAY
DEC 7
9AM - 4PM



BLACK SHEEP WEAVERS FIBER GUILD
WWW.BLACKSHEEPWEAVERS.COM

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Extension



Foundations of GARDENING

Go **GREEN** this winter
Learn gardening from MSU experts

- 10 weeks
- Flexible online format
- Weekly live lectures
- Cost: \$350.00

Registration opens December 4th

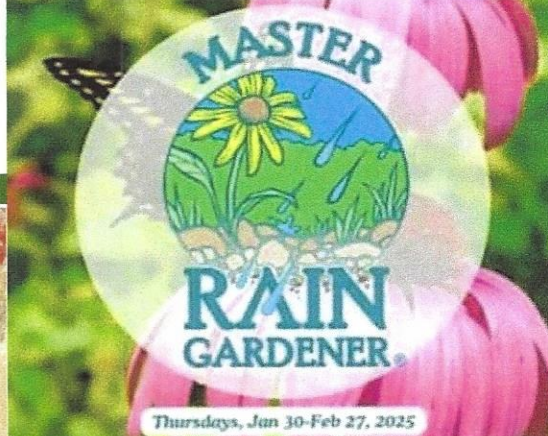
Classes run from Feb 13- April 17, 2025

Want to learn more?

canr.msu.edu/courses/foundations-of-gardening



Class Registration Open!



5 Thursdays—Jan 30, Feb 6, 13, 20 & 27 10:am - noon
Virtual learning
\$89 early Bird
\$150 Regular pricing after Jan 15, 2025
Huron River Watershed Council
734-769-5123

Gardening is a Sacred Act

Fran Sorin (1953-)

General Membership Meeting Milford Garden Club

November 14, 2024

Call to Order: 7:03 p.m.

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

Thank you to Greeters: Brook Qualman, Gail Cooper

Thank you to Hospitality: Barb Amey and new member Cher Flaherty, Linda Sturgeon and Diane Craft.

Introduction of New Members and Guests: Welcome to Joanne Plant, April Switala, Noreen Koslowski, John and Carolyn Schairer, Ron and Becky Wilson, and guest Sue Malone, Division President.

Approved: General Membership Meeting Minutes dated October 10, 2024 found in Newsletter.

President's Report:

- Nancy Nordin had surgery on November 13th.
- Shelley Dale's surgery was successful and is progressing.
- The status of the WNF&GA was in our newsletter. There will be money still available from endowments and grants available for projects.
- There is a Philadelphia Flower Show & Gardens Tour on March 3 – 7, 2025 for people interested. There are no business meetings, just a fun trip
- The Holiday Party will be on December 12th. The theme is *Childhood Memories*. Sign-up sheets are on the table. To contribute, think about how things were decorated in your past, bring vintage items and centerpieces to contribute. Food will be provided by The Highland House. We pick it up and set it up with helpers.
- There is a new password to access "Members Only" section of the MGC website The new password is in the replacement Year Book.
- Remember to send a picture for the pictorial directory.
- Take home your nice nametag from the division meeting (on table).
- An Email was sent out to members about seed saving. Sue Grifor brought envelopes to put your garden seeds in. Save them for now.
- The Lee House is a place for women who are developmentally disabled. It was established by a woman with a daughter who had nowhere to go and is partially funded by the state. We provide support from our general funding we receive from member's personal contributions for any use Lee House decides. In addition, the club would like to apply for an endowment to fund "Horticultural Therapy". The Board suggests that members who wish to donate at Christmas time for the Lee House can do so at the Holiday Party. Bethany Brdarski has volunteered to prepare and apply for the grant. In the future we also will need volunteers to visit residents to give advice for their garden.
- **Treasurer:** Diane DeVincent

Financial Report \$15,750.31

Mini Teacher Grants & Scholarships: High schools are contacting Linda Sturgeon about the two \$2,000 scholarships for students or four \$500 mini grants we offer teachers in the Huron Valley School System for environmental or landscaping topics. They have until Jan 13, 2025 to apply and Linda has received five applications already. We let them know of our awards on Feb 3rd.

Herbal Thyme: Shelley Dale/Bobbi Kuschel organize this group. The last meeting studied fennel, used for medicinal and culinary purposes. It can be grown wild, native to the Mediterranean region. Sweet fennel and bulb fennel can be found in grocery stores. This group will meet again on the second Monday in December (December 9th) at the Milford library to study ginger.

Tea Time: Linda Becker hosted on the 21st, noon at her house for a potluck.

Community Outreach: Sue Grifor

- The Seed Library Spring Kick-Off will be on March 18th with a program in the evening at the Milford Library.
- Save your seeds/ Packets were available at the November meeting or contact Sue.
- We are working with the Children's Librarian on a project: Fairies & Gnomes in the Garden. The event, aimed at 4 to 10-year olds, would be held in early October 2025. At the event children will look for and find the fairies and gnomes. It could be on the grounds of the Milford Historic Museum, or the South Side Park log cabin. Children could make bracelets and crafts, and receive bags for goodies. After children search, they could visit the Milford Historical Museum to get their fairy wings or gnome heads. We will work with the library and Milford Historical Museum. We also could provide supplies to make their own fairy gardens.
- John and Carolyn Schairer will be liaisons from the Milford Historic Society and Isabel Davis who chairs our Craft Club would like to be involved.

Nominating Committee for 2025-2026 Officers: We will be electing a new President, Vice President of Publicity, Vice President of Meetings & Programs and need a nominating committee to put forward those members to run. Lee Doyle will serve as the Board member on the committee and Brook Qualman and Bethany Brdarski agreed to serve.

Adjournment: 7:45 p.m.

Speaker: Jan Bills from Two Women and a Hoe. Author of *Late Bloomer*.

Jan@twowomenandahoe.com 248.891.0548

Jan's slides were emailed to members. Her main points were as follows:

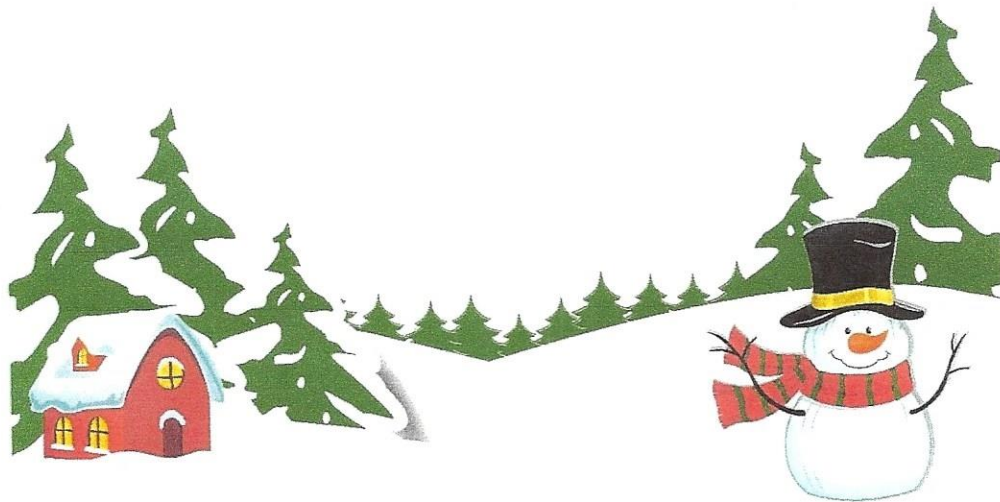
Things to do in a garden:

- Shoot for comfort, ease and simplicity in the garden.
- Plant what can comfortably tend.
- Don't worry about perfection.
- Design starts it all. Start with a plan. Think about maintenance that allows you to be off your knees and on your feet.
- Think foliage first, flowers second.
- Leave a "maintenance alley" two feet behind your plantings so they are not up against your house.

- Plant in odd numbers. More attractive because the eye separates things that are in even numbers.
- Zig zag. Don't line things up. Curve them and pop some back and forward.
- Give yourself a room with a view so you can be inside looking out.
- Create winter interest with bark, hydrangea blooms.
- Remember different textures. Boulders. Grass, roses. Soft, with hard.
- Put art in the garden.
- Use stepping stones. Leave easy access to hose outlet.
- Always carry a tape measure.
- Think deer resistance needs.
- Scale is important. Think of the size of shrubs compared with house. Create height but don't place in front of windows that block view.
- Cover perennials with buckets when mulching.
- Allow leaves in garden beds over winter to provide shelter for wildlife and bugs over the winter.

Sins and things to avoid in the garden:

- Obsessive weeding disorder
- Don't bare root a plant before planting. Leave soil around it.
- Bind weed is not morning glory.
- Thistle
- Chameleon grass
- Bishops weed
- Horsetail
- To kill weeds in an area over the winter:
 - Put plastic over weeds in a sunny location and then mulch over it.
 - Get cardboard, someplace like Costco, and then mulch over it. Don't use landscape fabric.
- Don't put small stones in the garden
- Don't plant a tree deep.



MILFORD GARDEN CLUB

Christmas Party 2024

When: Thursday, December 12, 2024

Time: 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Place: Milford Senior Center

Ticket

Price: \$28/person

RSVP: No Later Than Thursday, December 5, 2024 to:

Nancy Nordin, _____
Susan Absher, _____

Check To: Milford Garden Club

Mail To: Diane DeVincent
3932 Lakes Edge Dr.
Commerce Township, MI 48382