



## 2024-2025 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:

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

ReLeaf Michigan



**When:** March 13, @6:30PM Social time & Treats, 7:00 Business Meeting/  
Program follows

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

**Speaker:** Bill Lawrence

**Program:** Bill is the president of ReLeaf Michigan and the retired manager of forestry and horticulture for the city of Ann Arbor. Bill is also the current president and owner of Urban Forestry Consultants, LLC of Ann Arbor.

**Milford Garden Club Established 1948**

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

# March 2025 Newsletter



## President's Report

### Susan Absher

I know some of you are anxious for spring to arrive, but I really don't mind if the snow hangs around a bit longer.

I'm not so anxious to get into the garden this year since I worked so hard last year removing 2 layers of garden cloth, 1 layer of plastic and 1 layer of tar paper in my back garden that the previous owners left behind. Even though I was on the garden walk two years ago, my landscape has changed dramatically. The removal of weed blockers was a necessity when it came to planting natives. "A garden is not a place it is a journey" *Monty Don*

Speaking of natives, Isabel and I are attending classes towards a Backyard Habitat Certification, a program through the Oakland Conservation District. We will share information with you. Hope everyone is staying active and enjoying what each day brings.

If you are planning on attending Daffodil Days on Wednesday, April 16, and want to sit as a group from the Milford Garden Club, let me know. Otherwise, our members will be scattered about. If you are planning to attend the lecture on gathering seeds/the Seed Library Kickoff at our library on March 18, remember to sign up with the library as you would if attending any of their lectures. Sue Grifor has envelopes for any members who have gathered seeds and want to donate them to Milford's Seed Library.

Looking forward to seeing you in March.

# grow

## 2024 - 2025 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](http://www.wnfga.org)



**Judy Vincent**, long time Garden Club member has moved to a Senior Living Apartment in Traverse City to be near her daughter and son-in-law. Judy would love to hear from MGC members.

## Herbal Thyme

Herbal Thyme will meet Monday March 10 from 12:30-2:00 pm. **THE ROOM HAS BEEN CHANGED FOR THIS MEETING ONLY.** We will be in Group Study A. Unfortunately no food is allowed in this study room. Topic: Peppers. (Ground and whole).



Shelley Dale



Bobbi Kuschel



## Tea Time

The March Tea Time will be hosted by Terri Hardick on March 19 at noon. The location will be Billy's Tippin Inn,

6707 Highland Rd., in White Lake. It is directly across M59 from the Highland House. Terri would appreciate a call or text to



## 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?





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: [jacqlyn.swenson@gmail.com](mailto:jacqlyn.swenson@gmail.com)

## Dates to Remember

2025

- March 10, Herbal Thyme
- March 13, General Membership Meeting
- March 17, Board Meeting
- March 18, Seed Library Kick off
- March 19, Tea Time
- March 26, Deadline for April Newsletter
- April 10, General Membership Meeting
- April 16, Daffodil Day at Belle Isle
- April 21, Board Meeting
- May 8, General Membership Meeting
- May 19, Board Meeting
- May 21, Spring Council 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
- July 10, General Membership Meeting
- July 21, Board Meeting
- September 11, General Membership Meeting



The snow has been on the ground for awhile and the tracks in my yard have caught my attention. Here we have deer wandering across the yard.

Rabbits. So fun to watch in the winter, not so welcome when they eat my plants!



It's fun to watch the squirrels play in the snow

I sometimes see tracks of birds who have sheltered in the bushes.



A stray cat sometimes spends the night on my porch.

## Nominating Committee proposes slate of 2025-2026 Officers

The nominating committee for officers for the 2025-2026 year has met. We are presenting the following candidates for officer positions:

President: Nancy Nordin

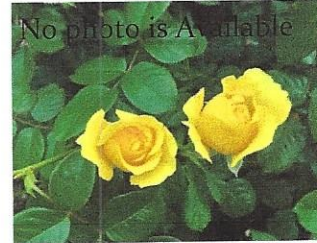


Vice President of Publicity: Lisa Hill



Vice President of Programs:

Bek Franchock



Treasurer: Diane DeVincent



Secretary: Lee Doyle



Past President: Susan Absher



If anyone is interested in any of the above positions, please contact Linda Smith. We will accept additional nominations from the floor at our May meeting. Thank you to Bethany Brdarske, Lee Doyle, and Brook Qualman for serving on the nomination committee. Linda Smith

## Mini Grant Checks were presented to the recipient teachers by Linda Sturgeon &

Third grade teacher Brittany Stamboulion received the grant for her third grade class at Johnson Elementary School. The class will transform an unused lot into a pollinator friendly garden. Students will learn the importance of native plants and sustainable garden practices.



The Lakeland High Garden Club will transform the school's courtyard to create and nurture a calming environment, in which students can relax and enjoy the space. The Architecture class is also being involved in the design process.



Milford Harbor High - a Mental Health Seminar is offered at MHS. Each enrolled student will have their own container mini-garden. They will learn how to nurture it. This will be

related to practices with their own self care and well-being.

At Muir Middle School Michelle Doggett works with the 47 member student council. Her goal is to bring them together to educate, plan, and clean up Muir's front "curb appeal". Along the way, they will learn the importance, benefits and care of plants.



## Around Town And Beyond



March 15, Seed Starting Workshop 11 am - 12 pm \$15.00

March 20, Tulip Giveaway 9 am - 6 pm

March 22, Planning your Spring Garden 11 am-12

Register at: [www.englishgardens.com](http://www.englishgardens.com)



March 8, Tie Dye Workshop 10 am - 11 am \$35.00

March 15, Floral Dyed Fabrics Workshop 10 am - 11 am \$35.00

March 22, Kids Bird Feeder Building 10 am - 11 am \$10.00

March 29, Aquatic Plant Growing & Care 10 am - 11 am \$15.00

Get more information/register at 248-970-1916



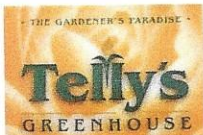
March 5, Succulent Planter Workshop @ 7 pm \$35.00

March 8, Macramé Hanging Planter @ 2 pm \$50.00

March 19, Macramé Hanging Planter @ 6 pm \$50.00

March 26, Houseplant Hanging Basket Workshop @ 6 pm \$35.00

Buy tickets online @ [willowgreenhouse.com](http://willowgreenhouse.com)



March 8, Terrarium Workshop @ 10 am \$50.00

March 15, Succulent Container Workshop @ 10 am \$50.00

March 22, Macramé Plant Hanger 10 am \$25.00

March 29, Mounted Staghorn Fern Workshop @ 10 am \$30.00

April 5, Salad School @ 10 am \$10.00

Register at 248-689-8735 or [www.tellys.com](http://www.tellys.com)



Bogie Lake Greenhouse will reopen March 1



March 4, Growing Herbs With Ellen Zimmerman 6:30 - 7:30 pm



Join the Oakland County Farmers Market for the 2025 Cooking with *edibleWOW demonstration series* from 10 - 11 am



March 8, Chefs Jeremy Abby & John Piazza, Detroit Institute of Gastronomy

March 22, Executive Chef Terence Taver, The Inn at St. James



March 8, Growing Raspberries 10 - 11:30 am

March 22, Seed Starting Workshop 10 - 11:30 am

For more information: 248-341-6475 or [www.schoolfarm.org/classworkshop](http://www.schoolfarm.org/classworkshop)

Having trouble viewing this email? View it as a Web page.



OaklandCountyParks.com  
1-888-OCPARKS  
OCParks@oakgov.com



## Attend nest box volunteer training

Learn to be a nest box volunteer at an upcoming training session from noon-2 p.m. Sunday, March 9 at Waterford Oaks Event Center.

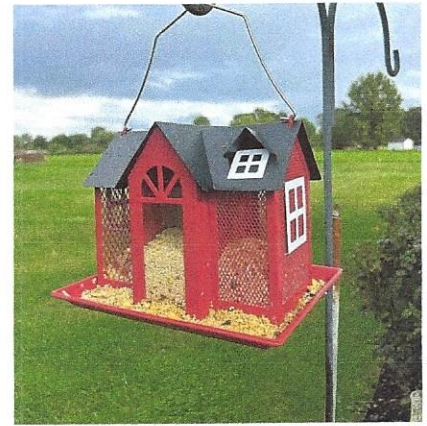
Oakland County Parks manages 175 nest boxes at seven parks for Eastern Bluebirds, Tree Swallows, House Wrens and Black-Capped Chickadees. Nest boxes are monitored by trained volunteers through the Oakland County Parks Citizen Science Program. This training will provide information about the birds, monitoring techniques and other volunteer requirements.

Volunteers are asked to check nest boxes routinely from March through August. Nests are tracked in NestWatch through the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. The training is free and open to anyone interested in learning about nest box monitoring.

Waterford Oaks Event Center is located at Waterford Oaks County Park, 2800 Watkins Lake Road in Waterford. For more information, contact Theresa Celusta at [celustat@oakgov.com](mailto:celustat@oakgov.com)



## Avian Influenza Outbreak: Should you take Down your Bird Feeders?



I have struggled this winter whether I should be feeding the birds that visit my yard. I have finally found what I think is good guidance. I am sharing parts of an article I found on the Cornell University site updated February 17, 2025 (for the full article please see <https://www.birds.cornell.edu>).

Many people are concerned about the outbreak of avian influenza, or bird flu, that began in 2022 and has affected domestic poultry, waterfowl, raptors, shorebirds, and other species of birds, and some mammals in many parts of the world. Because the current strain (H5N1) causes heavy losses to poultry, it is referred to as highly pathogenic avian influenza, or HPAI.

Transmission of avian influenza from birds to humans is rare, according to Centers for Disease Control's summary of current avian influenza testing and infection statistics. This H5N1 strain of avian influenza virus affects a wide variety of wild birds, including hawks, eagles, falcons, owls, crows, vultures, shorebirds, game birds, seabirds, and especially waterfowl such as Canada Geese and Mallards. The virus is shed in the saliva, mucus, and feces of infected birds and is transmitted to other birds via ingestion or inhalation.

Because of the duration of this outbreak, its recent spread to mammal species, and widespread mortalities in some types of wild birds, there has been concern about whether it's safe for people to feed wild birds. In January 2025, March 2023, and April 2022, we checked in with Dr Sarah Bevins and Dr. Julianna Lenocho, who lead the USDA APHIS National Wildlife Disease Program to compile some key points regarding HPAI in songbirds and other feeder visitors.

### Low Risk Of Avian Flu To Songbirds



There has been widespread transmission of avian flu to wild bird species. However, there have been relatively few documented cases of HPAI in songbirds and other typical feeder visitors to date, although this may change with increased testing or changes in the virus. That means there is currently a **low risk of an outbreak among wild songbirds, and no official recommendation to take down feeders unless you also keep domestic poultry**, according to the National Wildlife Disease Program. We do always recommend that you Clean bird feeders and birdbaths regularly as a way to keep many kinds of diseases at bay. We also always recommend that you follow any recommendations put out by your state government, even in cases where that advice conflicts with ours. The CDC's page on avian influenza in birds com-

piles additional helpful information and resources.

## If You Keep Nest Boxes

Avian Influenza is only rarely transmitted to humans, according to the USDA. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention considers the general public health risk from avian flue to be low. Never the less, our Nest-Watch project always advises good hygiene and highly recommends that people wear disposable gloves and/or wash their hands thoroughly after checking nest boxes. Most birds that use nest boxes are songbirds, which are at low risk for contracting or transmitting avian influenza **If you monitor waterfowl or raptor nests** (e.g., Wood Duck, Common Merganser,



Canada Goose, American Kestrel, Barred Owl), we suggest you wear gloves, change or wash gloves and disinfect equipment between nest boxes, wear a mask when cleaning out nest and change cloths and footwear before visiting any domestic poultry.

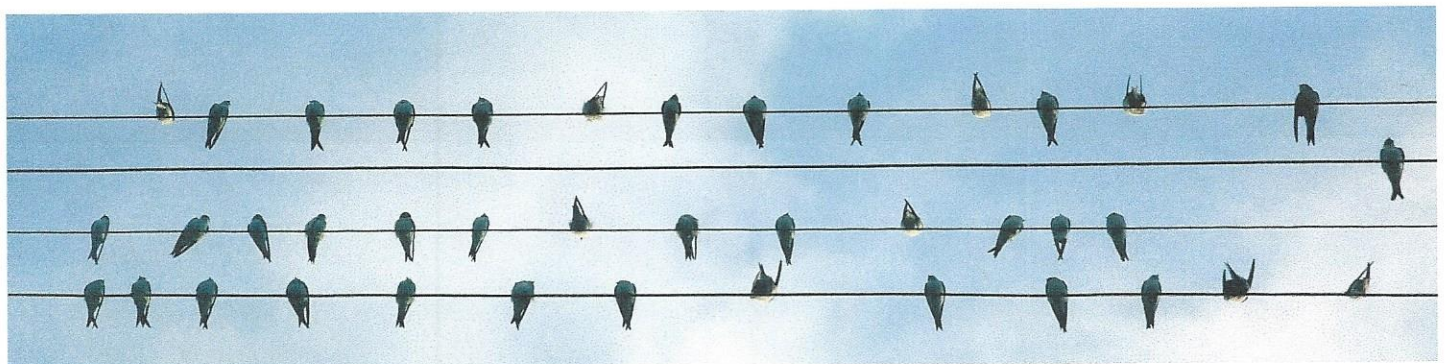
## What To Do If You Find A Sick or Dead Bird

Avoid handling sick or dead birds. Instead, call your state wildlife health agency; they can determine cause of death and send the bird to the appropriate lab for testing. Additionally, keep pets (including pet birds) away from sick or dead wild birds.

- Avoid contact with birds that appear sick or have died
- Avoid contact with surfaces that have bird feces
- If you must touch sick or dead birds:
  - ◊ Wear gloves and face mask
  - ◊ Place dead birds in a double bagged garbage bag
  - ◊ Throw away your gloves and facemask after use
  - ◊ Wash your hands well with soap and warm water

Bird flu is generally not a risk to food safety. Poultry, meat, and eggs that are safely handled and cooked to an internal temperature of 165°F are safe to eat. Pasturized milk is also safe; however the avian flu has been found in raw milk and this should not be consumed by people or fed to cats.

If you feel sick after having contact with sick or dead birds contact your health care provider.



## 2026 Daffodil Day Luncheon Registration Form

Hosted by the Michigan Division of the Woman's National Farm & Garden Association  
 Wednesday, April 16, 2025 – Detroit Yacht Club, Belle Isle

- 10 – 11:30 am: Tour the renovated Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservancy
- 11:00 am: Luncheon check-in begins; pop-up shopping featuring Jewelry by Rebel Nell, The Peacock Room, Laurie Tennent Botanicals, and Megan Swoyer.
- Noon: Lunch is served. MENU: embellished chicken salad, breadbasket, lemon dessert, and Daffodil Delight.
- 1:00 pm: Keynote speaker, Ryan Sullivan, CEO of the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy.

**Register for Daffodil Day online  
 or on paper form below.**  
 \$55 through March 31  
 \$65 – April 1 - 6  
**Registration deadline: April 6**



Make check payable to: **Michigan Division WNF&GA**  
 Mail check & registration to:

Pat Brown, 31616 Lexington, Warren, MI 48092

Questions: [Patb501946@gmail.com](mailto:Patb501946@gmail.com) or 586-530-7922

Registration and payment using PayPal or with a credit card will be available online. Purchase online at:  
<https://www.michiganwnfga.org/daffodils4detroit.html>

The Michigan Farm & Garden Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

Maximum of **8 people** per table. Please check ONE OPTION below:

1.  I am reserving an entire table of 8. A check is enclosed, **all 8 names are listed below, and meals selected.**
2.  Please seat me with other members of my branch.
3.  **NO SEATING PREFERENCE.** Seat me at any open table.
4.  \*I would like to sit with the 7 attendees listed below. They will register separately.

\*NOTE: All 7 additional registrations & payments must arrive by April 6 to reserve the full table.

Circle **C** (chicken salad) or **V** (vegetarian) after each name.

_____	C V	_____	C V	_____	C V	_____	C V
Name _____		Lunch @ \$55 (till 3/31)		\$ _____			
Address: _____		Lunch @ \$65 (4/1-4/6)		\$ _____			
City, State, Zip _____		Lunch @ \$100 (inclu. Program listing)		\$ _____			
Email _____		Additional Donation (for daffodils)		\$ _____			
Branch name/Title _____		Daffodil tile @ \$50 each		\$ _____			
Check <b>ONE</b> : Chicken salad _____ or Vegetarian _____		Notecards, pack of 12 @ \$20 each		\$ _____			
Additional dietary restrictions _____		(notecards also available for purchase at luncheon)		\$ _____			
Telephone _____		<b>Total Purchase</b>		\$ _____			

- No Confirmation will be sent. Please make a copy of your registration form and check. -





## Planting Trees, Growing Communities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact:** Melinda Jones, Executive Director Nancy Nordin  
ReLeaf Michigan Milford Garden Club  
(734) 718-2702 (716) 570-4896  
[mjones@relafmichigan.org](mailto:mjones@relafmichigan.org) [nnordin@outlook.com](mailto:nnordin@outlook.com)

### Free Presentation: Benefits of an Urban Tree Canopy In Milford Township on Thursday, March 13

**[Release Date], 2025 – Milford Township, MI.** – Join ReLeaf Michigan and the Milford Garden Club at the Milford Senior Center for a free presentation on “Benefits of an Urban Tree Canopy” on Thursday, March 13, 2025, from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The presentation will be led by Bill Lawrence, who is the president of ReLeaf Michigan and the retired manager of forestry and horticulture for the city of Ann Arbor. Bill is also the current president and owner of Urban Forestry Consultants, LLC of Ann Arbor.

Bill will cover the basics of why a tree canopy is so important and will also discuss the different types of tree canopies, the quantifiable benefits of community forests, problems facing communities without substantial tree cover, and what communities can do to help their trees thrive.

ReLeaf Michigan offers educational presentations and workshops for homeowners throughout Michigan, each one tailored to the needs of the community. This in-person educational session is a valuable opportunity for residents to hear expert advice, ask questions, and gain an understanding of how we can each do our part to help our trees stay healthy for many years into the future.

**Where:** Milford Senior Center, 1050 Atlantic St, Milford, MI 48381

**When:** Thursday, March 13, 2025, from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**Sponsors:** ReLeaf Michigan ([www.ReLeafMichigan.org](http://www.ReLeafMichigan.org))  
Milford Garden Club  
Milford Senior Center

**Cost:** This event is free! RSVPs are appreciated. RSVP at [www.releafmichigan.org/RSVP](http://www.releafmichigan.org/RSVP).  
Questions should be directed to Nancy Nordin at [nnordin@outlook.com](mailto:nnordin@outlook.com) or 716-570-4896





# Benefits of an Urban Tree Canopy

FREE HOMEOWNER PRESENTATION



## What Does Your Tree Canopy Do for You?

Bill will cover the basics of why a tree canopy is so important and will also discuss the following:

- Types of tree canopies
- Quantifiable benefits of community forests
- Problems facing communities without substantial tree cover
- What can communities do to help their trees thrive

Bill Lawrence, is the president of ReLeaf Michigan and the retired manager of forestry and horticulture for the city of Ann Arbor. Bill is also the current president and owner of Urban Forestry Consultants, LLC of Ann Arbor.

All are welcome.

Please join us for this free opportunity!

---

## FREE HOMEOWNER PRESENTATION!

---



Reserve a spot at  
[www.ReLeafMichigan.org/RSVP](http://www.ReLeafMichigan.org/RSVP)



Thursday,  
March 13th  
7:30 PM - 8:30 PM



Milford Senior Center,  
1050 Atlantic St, Milford, MI  
48381

---

Thank You  
to Our  
Partners



# 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 13<sup>th</sup>.
- 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 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**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 9<sup>th</sup>) at the Milford library to study ginger.

**Tea Time:** Linda Becker hosted on the 21<sup>st</sup>, noon at her house for a potluck.

**Community Outreach:** Sue Grifor

- The Seed Library Spring Kick-Off will be on March 18<sup>th</sup> 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.