



April 2026 Newsletter

A Note from your President...

Nancy Nordin



I'm anxious to start working in my gardens but am waiting a little longer so the critters hiding in the leaves spread through my gardens can provide food for the birds that are returning or the larva living in my host stocks of deceased flowers have a chance to develop

and survive. My poppies are starting to pop through the soil as are my snowdrops and daffodils. Everything is starting to wake up! Spring is here!

We kicked off Spring with our March meeting. The turnout was excellent even though many of our snowbirds have not returned yet. Sheryl Schroeder's daughter made some delicious cupcakes for our members. Each cupcake was decorated with a beautiful sugar flower. The other treats were equally delicious. Thank you to all who contributed!

As you may have noticed, we changed the agenda for the meeting. The speaker will now start their presentation a 7:00 pm, prior to our business meeting. Ideally, the presentation will be 45 minutes with a 15 minute Q & A. This month we had a substitute speaker because our original speaker, Gail Morrell, was under the weather. At the last minute, Gal Morrell arranged for Janet Macunovich to take her place at our meeting. I think we all agree, Janet is a very interesting and informative speaker and provided information on insects—Good, Bad, and Ugly. We will reschedule Gail Morell for a later date.

At our meeting, Susan Absher presented the slate of officers for the 2026 Calendar year. Many members cast their vote with Susan via email prior to our meeting. All members present at the March meeting voted in favor of the slate of officers as presented. For the calendar year of 2026, here are your officers: President-Nancy Nordin, First Vice President (advertising/marketing)-Lisa Hill, Second Vice President (meetings/programs)-Sheryl Schroeder, Secretary-Lee Doyle, Treasurer-Rebecca Franchak. The term of their appointments expire on December 31, 2026. A new slate of officers will be presented at our September meeting, a vote will be held in October with the installation in November. The Milford Garden Club Association is on a calendar year which began January 1, 2026 and will end on December 31, 2026. This is a change as the prior Club kept a fiscal year from September 1st to August 31st.

As a reminder, our members voted last November to leave National, which we were told would be the surviving entity. I hope you have read my emails I have provided the steps we have taken to exit National (and Division through their dissolution by National) and form a new garden club, Milford Garden Club Association. We are recognized by both Michigan and the IRS as a not-for-profit entity (501c3) and we have our new EIN number which confirms we are a charitable organization and exempt from taxation. We are not the only Club to end our

Continued on Page 4

2025-2026 Executive Board

President: Nancy Nordin

VP Publicity: Lisa Hill

VP Programs: Sheryl Schroeder

Treasurer: Rebecca Franchak

Secretary: Lee Doyle

Past President: Susan Absher

Website:

www.themilfordgardenclub.org

Email: milfordgardenclub-mi@outlook.com



April Meeting

When: April 9 @ 6:00 pm for social time & treats, 7 pm for program and business meeting

Where: Milford Senior Center, 1050 Atlantic, Milford MI

Speaker: Angela from East Michigan Natives

Program: Natives For The Birds

grow

2025 - 2026 Committees

- Community Outreach: Sue Grifor
Devine Raffle: Sheila Myers
Email Distribution: Lisa Willard
Facebook: Lisa Willard
Field Trip Coordinator: General Membership
Garden Maintenance: Kathy Blackburn & Janet Kinney
Garden Walk: Diane DeVincent & Janet Kinney
Greeters: Beth Sciberras & Linda Becker
Herbal Thyme: Shelley Dale & Bobbi Kuschel
Historian: Anna VanHyfte
Holiday Party: Sheryl Schroeder & Beth Sciberras
Hospitality Coordinator: Sheryl Schroeder
Membership/Welcome Packet: Terri Hardick
Name Tags: Diane Craft
Newsletter: Jackie Swenson
Plant Sale: Deb and Rick Kollar
Scholarship: Linda Sturgeon & Teresa Smith
Sunshine: Kathy Barker
Teacher Mini Grants: Linda Sturgeon & Teresa Smith
Tea Time Group: Barb Amey
Website: Sue Tompkins
Yearbook: Brook Qualman
WNF&GA (National): www.wnfga.org

Herbal Thyme

Meetings are typically held the 2nd Monday of every month at 12 noon in the community room at the Milford Public Library unless otherwise posted. The April meeting topic is Mustard and will be held on Monday April 13th, with a slight change in time due to a scheduling hiccup. Meeting time will be 11:30 am - 1 pm.



Tea Time

The April Tea Time will be hosted by Mary McFarland at her home



on Thursday, April 23rd. You may call or text Mary at 248-520-7186. Mary would like all response by Monday April 20. Mary's home is located at 126 Pleasant Vally Road, Milford



Mary McFarland

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



****NEW**NEW**NEW****

Grab a friend and join us for a little
Laughter, lively garden chatter, and a
Refreshing mid-week pick-me-up at our new

****Wildflower Happy Hour****

We meet every third Wednesday at any one of several local hang-outs.

April 15, 3 pm to 6 pm we will be at Sparkies Kitchen & Bar, 2868 E. Highland Rd.

Drop in when you can, stay as long as you like, and enjoy the simple joy of good friends and growing things. No agenda - just good vibes and great company!

Join in and let your social side bloom!



Dates to Remember

2026

- April 9, General Membership Meeting
- April 13, Herbal Thyme
- April 15, Wildflower Happy Hour
- April 20, Executive Board Meeting
- April 23, Tea Time
- April 26, Newsletter Deadline
- May 5, Spring Clean up
- May 6, Alternate Spring Clean up date
- May 14, General Membership Meeting
- May 18, Executive Board Meeting
- June 6, Plant Sale
- June 11, Member Garden Tours and Potluck
- June 17, Garden Walk Preview & Potluck
- June 19 & 20, Garden Walk
- September 10, General Membership Meeting
- September 21, Executive Board Meeting
- October 8, General Membership Meeting
- October 19, Executive Board Meeting



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 a description to me at: jacquelyn.swenson@gmail.com



A couple of weeks ago I was shopping at Meijers and bought a bundle of Pussy Willows. I put them in a vase of water and low and behold they have sprouted leaves. Now the question is will I be able to plant them in the garden and actually have them grow?



Can Spring be here? The Daffodils are starting to grow



A firm resolution should be made to Purchase only a plant for a place, and never to come home wondering where to place a plant.

Graham Stuart Thomas (1909- 2003)

A Note From Your President - continued from page 1

connection with National and Division.

A few of our members are concerned about losing the identity of Milford Garden Club and the history of the Club. As we make changes, which are required legally, such as establishing new Bylaws, obtaining new insurance policies; and as we move forward to invigorate our Club and make sure, we stay relevant, we need to be forward thinkers.

At our Board meeting this past Monday, we discussed the manner in which we can recognize the prior Club's history and the members who did or will reach the milestone of 25 years of membership. Although we are all new members of the Milford Garden Club Association, we bring the history, relationships, memories, and some traditions to this Club as we start the new chapter of Milford Garden Club. We are all still the same people and we will continue with the scholarship and teacher grant program, gathering for garden clean-ups, and our monthly lunches, but we also are brainstorming on ways to better promote our Club so we can attract new, younger people to become members of our Club. We will have discussions on this topic at our General Membership meetings in April and May and look forward to your input/comments/thoughts.

As you know, we recently joined the Huron Valley Chamber of Commerce. Lisa Hill, Lee Doyle and I recently went to a Chamber luncheon at Czapski's Kitchen. We had the opportunity to meet many business and community leaders and introduce the Milford Garden Club. We also have several of our members join in for a trivia night at the Milford Theatre which was hosted by Huron Valley State Bank (the Club's bank). It was another opportunity to meet and talk to business people in the community. Josh, who handled the sound and video at the Michigan Division meeting we hosted in the Fall of 2024 and is a member of the Chamber was at the theatre that evening with his team. We had a nice conversation about his membership and had very positive comments about his membership in the Chamber. The monthly Chamber calendar will be shared with our members so if you would like to attend a Chamber event you can reserve a space at the event.

I am inspired by the enthusiasm of our new and long-term members as we collaborate on how we can grow our Club going forward.

Thank you for your patience as we go through this process. I will not be chairing the April meeting since I will be getting a new knee that day. You will be in the good hands of Lisa Hill, 1st VP.

Happy Spring!

Nancy Nordin

Spring Clean up of Arthur's Park and the Senior Center

Tuesday May 5th 9:30 am

Rain day Wednesday May 6th 9:30 am

We need at least 8 volunteers for Arthur's Park and 4 to 5 for the Senior Center

It's a fun day working together to get the gardens looking beautiful for the season.

Thank you so much for volunteering your time!

Janet Kinney

Kathy Blackburn



Hospitality Time

Join us for our next General Membership Meeting on April 9! Our Hospitality Time will begin at 6:30 PM, featuring a delightful assortment of snacks to enjoy while we connect and catch up.

A special thank-you to Gail Cooper and Brooke Qualman for graciously hosting this month by providing the treats. We truly appreciate your support!

Hosting is a fun and easy way to get involved in your Garden Club. We currently are seeking a **NEW Hospitality Chairperson and volunteers** to host hospitality for our upcoming 2026 meetings.

Volunteer responsibilities would include either bringing your favorite delicious treat and or greeting our lovely members and newcomers at the door.

-Greeters will be responsible for saying "Hello" to everyone and having all new guests sign our guest book.

-If you are bringing snacks, you're responsible for setting them up and cleaning up afterwards.

-All hospitality volunteers will arrive by 6PM to help set up chairs and tables needed for our general membership meeting.

Whether you love to smile and say hi, bake, cook, or simply enjoy selecting delicious treats to share, a sign-up sheet is available at each monthly meeting.

If you love to host parties and organize events, then we want **YOU** to be our next Hospitality Chairperson. Feel free to reach out by call, text, or email with any questions you may have about this fun and exciting position.

Sheryl Schroeder

fiveschroeders@comcast.net



Sheryl Schroeder

Noreen Pappas recommends this MSU Bulletin if deer are a problem in your your garden

EXTENSION BULLETIN E-3042

NEW • JULY 2008

**"DEER-RESISTANT" PLANTS
FOR HOMEOWNERS**

Herbal Thyme

Submitted by Sheryl Schroeder

Our March Herbal Thyme Meeting Summary

The group met at Americus Coney to discuss and share information on **caraway seed/plant**.

What is caraway?

The caraway plant (*carum carvi*) is a biennial herb in the parsley family (the same family as carrots, dill, and fennel). It is grown mainly for its flavorful seeds, which are commonly used in cooking.

Caraway being a biennial means it takes two years to complete its life cycle. The first year it grows leafy foliage close to the ground and the second year it sends up tall stems, flowers, and produces seeds.

Health benefits (traditionally known for):

- Aids digestion and helps reduce bloating
- Adds small amount of fiber and minerals
- Contains antioxidants

Common Uses:

- Bread-especially rye bread
- Cabbage dishes-like sauerkraut or sautéed cabbage
- Soups and stews, roasted potatoes or root vegetables
- Cheese spreads and dips

Easy recipe ideas:

- Toss 1 ½ lbs. potatoes cut into chunks with 2 Tbsp olive oil, 1 tsp salt, 1/2 tsp pepper, and ½ tsp toasted caraway seeds before roasting at 400°F for 35-40 minutes. It adds a subtle, slightly nutty flavor.
- Slice 1 small head of cabbage and 1 onion. Sauté onion and 1 tsp caraway seeds in butter cook 2-3 minutes. Add cabbage and sauté 8-10 min until tender. Season with salt, pepper and a dash of vinegar.

AROUND TOWN AND BEYOND



April 11, Workshop/ Pansy Porch Pot 11:30 - 12:30 \$60.00

April 18, Seminar/Perfect Pairings: Combining Perennials for Season-

Long Color 10:00 am - 11:00 am Free

April 25, Spring Open House 9:00 am - 6:00 pm

Register at: www.englishgardens.com



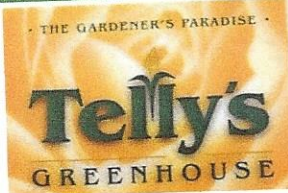
April 18, Bloom & Brouse Market 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Free, check out amazing goods from over 20 local vendors RSVP

April 26, DIY Soap Making Workshop! 10:00 - 11:00 am. \$50.

April 26, Chunky Kokedama Workshop, 2:00 - 3:00 pm, \$50.



April 24 & 26, Kick off the Season with Us! Great Sprint Sales, Informative Seminars, Vendor Booths.



April 11, Planning a Successful Vegetable Garden, 10:00 am, \$10.

April 11, Make & Take Dahlia Class, 1: pm, \$10.00

For information or register 248-689-8735



Farmers Market

April 23 or 30, Craft, Create & Consume - Learning to grow fresh herbs 6:00 pm - 7:30 \$20.00 Online registra-

tion required. Call 248-858-0916 or go to events@oakgov.com



April 11, Create Your Own Herb Garden 12:00 - 4:00 pm

April 18, Container Gardening Workshop, 11:00 am, Instruction, planting and then leave your planter until the weather warms up. No charge for the class.

April 19, Container Gardening Workshop: Pollinators, 1:00 pm. The discussion is free, Leave your creation until the weather warms up.

April 25 & 26 Open Planting for Spring Planters, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm



April 5, Spotlight On: Sandhill Cranes. Learn about Sandhill Cranes &

then take a walk to find some in the park. 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm, \$3.00 per child, \$5.00 per Adult. Meet at the Nature Center. Preregistration is required 810-227-8917

MSU Extension

April 18, Pruning Workshop, 10:00 am - 12:30, at MSU Tollgate Farm Education Center \$30.00, registration closes 4/11 register at

Oakland County's

Native Plants in your Neighborhood

6 BENEFITS OF NATIVE PLANTS

SAVE YOU TIME AND MONEY

Native plants require less water, less maintenance, and they need little to no fertilizer, pesticides, or herbicides.



NO NEED TO REPLACE ANNUALLY

They are easier to establish, maintain, and do not need to be replaced annually.



REDUCE CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS

Native plants absorb more stormwater runoff, mitigating climate change impacts.



SUPPORT THE ENVIRONMENT

Native species provide food and shelter for wildlife and protect water quality.



CREATE BEAUTY

Michigan offers a wide variety of beautiful and unique native plants that are available at local native plant nurseries.



BUY LOCAL
Purchasing native plants from Michigan-based suppliers helps support local businesses.

NATIVE PLANT SUGGESTIONS



Butterfly Milkweed
Asclepias tuberosa
Bloom: June-Aug.
Height: 2-3 ft
☀️ 🦋



Wild Strawberry
Fragaria virginiana
Bloom: April-May
Height: 4-7 inches
☀️ 🍓



Canada Anemone
Anemone canadensis
Bloom: April-June
Height: 16 inches
☀️ 🌸



Blazing Star
Liatris
Bloom: Aug.-Sept.
Height: 2-3 ft
☀️ 🦋 🐦



Indian Grass
Sorghastrum nutans
Bloom: Aug.-Sept.
Height: 2-7 ft
☀️ 🐦



Hazelnut
Corylus americana
Bloom: March
Height: 2-3 ft
☀️ 🍂



New England Aster
Symphoricarpos novae-angliae
Bloom: Aug.-Oct.
Height: 3-6 ft
☀️ 🐦 🌸



Little Bluestem
Schizachyrium scoparium
Bloom: July-Oct.
Height: 2-3 ft
☀️

KEY

☀️ Full sun

☔️ Partial sun

💧 Moist soil

☀️ Dry soil

🦋 Attracts butterflies

🐦 Supports pollinators

🍂 Supports birds

Herbal Thyme Recipe

This month recipe submitted by Sheryl Schroeder

Traditional Caraway Seed Tea Cake

Ingredients:

- 1 cup sugar
- ½ cup butter softened
- 2 eggs
- 1 ½ cups flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- ½ cup milk
- 1-2 tsp caraway seed
- 1 tsp vanilla
- Pinch of salt

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 350° and grease a loaf pan. Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in the eggs and vanilla. In another bowl mix flour, baking powder, salt, and caraway seeds. Add dry ingredients to the batter alternating with the milk. Pour into pan and bake 40-45 minutes until golden. Serve slices warm with butter and tea or coffee. It's a traditional afternoon treat.

Fun historical note: Caraway seed cakes were once common at social gatherings in Britain during the Victorian era, where they were served with tea.



BLUE HERON HEADWATERS PRESENTS ~

NATIVE ROOTS

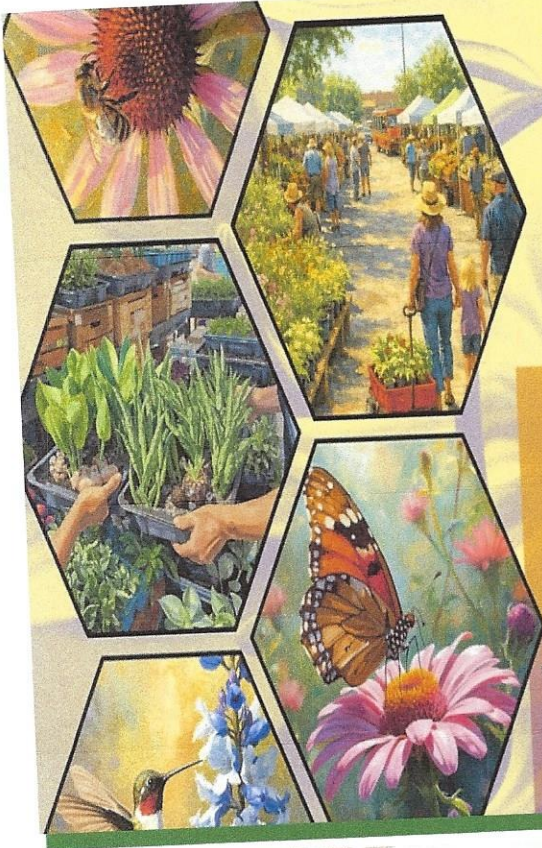
Plant Sale & Community Market

Celebrate nature and community—shop native, shop local!



Neiman's Family Market
Saturday, May 30
10am - 3pm

The native plant sale you love—now bigger and better! Local makers, growers, and partners sharing your love for nature.



20TH ANNUAL Fiber & Flowers Sale



April 11, 9am - 5pm
April 12, 11am - 3pm

Handcrafted Fiber Art, Decor & Wearables
Purses, Jewelry, Accessories, Fiber Sculpture,
Handwovens, Quilts, Baskets, Yarn

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

Black Sheep Weavers Fiber Guild
www.BlackSheepWeavers.cc

