

Spring  
2021

# Farm & Garden

The Woman's National  
Farm & Garden Association, Inc.  
Established 1914



## WNF&GA ~ Sharpening our Image

How many two-word phrases can you think of which contain the word “sharp”? (*answers on page 23*)

Does “sharp” have the same meaning throughout the examples below?

1-handheld paper-cutting device:  
sharp \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ r \_

2-well turned-out in clothes; he’s a  
sharp \_ \_ e \_ \_ \_ \_

3-strong tasting yellow dairy product:  
sharp \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ a \_

4-smart young lady; she’s a  
sharp \_ \_ \_ k \_ \_

5-exhibits clarity & vision; has a  
sharp m \_ \_ \_ and a  
sharp \_ \_ e

6-very quick & clever; has a  
sharp \_ \_ t

7-accurate with a weapon; is a  
sharp \_ h \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

8-laser vision; has a  
sharp \_ \_ \_ \_ s

9-high-quality lens; it produces a  
sharp \_ \_ \_ g \_

10-speaks nastily; has a  
sharp \_ \_ \_ \_ u

11-efficient blade; it’s a  
sharp \_ \_ \_ f \_

12-sudden stabbing ache; it’s a  
sharp \_ \_ \_ n

What do you know about the founding and the history of the WNF&GA?

How can you sharpen your own image of the organization?

Which example above aligns best with the goal of sharpening our own & others’ images of the WNF&GA?

### Sharpening our Image with WNF&GA Fashion

Led by the dedicated efforts of WNF&GA Vice President Patty Burnside, the WNF&GA Executive Committee has created an opportunity for all members to sharpen their own and their branch members’ images. See page 21 for the fun - and fashionable! - details.

### Sharpening our Image of the WNF&GA Emblem

Created just over 90 years ago, the WNF&GA emblem – also known as the organization’s insignia – was introduced by WNF&GA president, Clara (Mrs. Henry) Ford at the 16<sup>th</sup> annual National Meeting in Detroit in November 1930. *It was originally used to acknowledge WNF&GA-approved farmstands.*

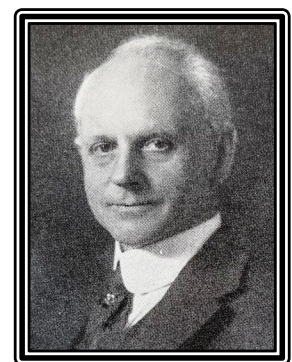
The emblem, or insignia, represents the faith of the WNF&GA in its mission and its willingness to defend its ideals.

The spade, left, represents outdoor activity on farms and in gardens.

The distaff, right, represents indoor activity, such as spinning, which was typically practiced by women.

The shield, center, represents self-defense, protection and security.

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Above left: WNF&GA emblem

Above right: Emblem designer Dr. Henry Turner Bailey, a Massachusetts native and eminent proponent of art education in U.S. schools

- from *A CHRONICLE: HISTORY OF WNF&GA*

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# Farm & Garden

the spring and fall biannual magazine of the  
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Front cover photo by Mary Schwark: the Goldsteins' Cutting Garden, Troy, MI;  
Back cover photos: *Mixed Annuals* by Nancy Sutherland, Trailwood Garden Club,  
MI; *Holstein Cow with Robo-milker Transponder* by Joette Kunse, Clarkston Garden  
Club, MI; *Rain Garden*, courtesy of the internet

## President's Message

### *WHY SHOULD I REJOIN?*

I was asked that question in a recent email from a longtime member of WNF&GA. "Tell me why," she said.

While one's instinct may be to stay away during times such as we have experienced over the last year, is staying away *virtually* a good idea?

Fear of the virus is understandable, especially for certain demographics, but here's the thing. Total social separation leads to its own unhappy conclusion. We should face it, address it and overcome it.



Mary Schwark, 2020-2022  
WNF&GA president  
- photo by Christina Whan

Maintaining social connections – phone calls, personal notes, real greeting cards, electronic greeting cards, photos, Instagram, Facebook, Zoom, text messages, emails, newsletters, newspapers, magazines, chatting with neighbors while standing on either side of the street – can be essential in overcoming the inherent difficulties associated with isolation and social distancing.

Regarding the continuation of memberships during difficult times, doesn't being connected seem even more critical when the going gets tough than it does during good times? Let's be part of the solution instead of being part of the problem.

Shouldn't each of us try - even if it's a stretch - to support our favorite organizations' needs while the world is off-track?

Another issue, however, may be more important.

Any group – including the three tiers of WNF&GA – provides an anchor in a stormy sea. Many of us now realize how much better off we are when in port than while adrift.

Stay connected and everyone benefits, Now is not the time to leave the dock. Reach out to members you think are lost, and explain the importance of allowing themselves to be found.

### *LOOKING SPIFFY & FEELING GROOVY*

Spiffy. Groovy. Does anyone actually still use those words?

I hope that you will consider looking spiffier and feeling groovier by sharpening your own image, as well as that of your branch members. Small profits will go directly to the funding of WNF&GA scholarships.

Last fall, Patty Burnside, vice president of the WNF&GA's executive committee, suggested a fundraiser that aligns with the current goal of "Sharpening our Image." With the committee's support and encouragement, Patty shepherded the project from idea to reality in only a few short months.

Now you and your members can share the results of Patty's creativity and dedication. Please see her full-page message on page 21 about the products that are available. Then visit the website: <https://farm-garden2021.itemorder.com> to select and pay for your own well-priced apparel and accessories, just in time for spring gardening, either at home or with your fellow WNF&GA members. All purchases will be custom orders, made especially for you. The order deadline is April 15, 2021. Thank you, Patty Burnside, for helping us to "sharpen our image."

## *THE SWAP STRATEGY*

I'm a fan of Josh Linkner. I anticipate his "visit" every Sunday, and he doesn't disappoint. According to the *DETROIT FREE PRESS*, guest columnist Linkner "is a tech entrepreneur, *NEW YORK TIMES* best-selling author and keynote speaker. For information, visit: [joshlinkner.com](http://joshlinkner.com)."

Linkner is also an excellent storyteller. His topics vary from week to week; he consistently challenges his readers to think.

His January 24, 2021, column, "*A simple swap could help you create something new*," is about concrete, whose production "is responsible for 8% of the world's emissions." He adds that "the water needed to make concrete each year is enough to fill a million Olympic-sized swimming pools."

According to Linkner, "an everyday innovator named Vahit Atakan [drank a beer one day and] was mesmerized by the fizzy beverage . . . If CO2 works in beer and soda, what if it could be used in place of water in the concrete manufacturing process?"

Fast forward: Atakan cofounded a company which perfected a substitution process. Linkner: "Atakan used one of my favorite approaches: swapping. . . *Physical* or *procedural*, swapping one component for another is a simple way to open your mind to fresh possibilities."

Two years ago, your executive committee members began to discuss a swapping strategy: distributing our biannual magazine in a different, but still effective, manner. Change is difficult, but practicality and economics often dictate difficult decisions.

A Josh Linkner-inspired SWAP can be achieved by foregoing most snail mail. Instead, let's distribute future magazines via email or through the WNF&GA website. (See green box, page 5.) A limited number of printed magazines can be provided to branches for sharing with members who do not have access to the internet.

A swap will allow us to reprioritize funding and to direct savings toward education and programming.

## *EXPERT ADVICE*

I tend to pay attention when two highly successful leaders offer the same words of wisdom.

Some years ago, Frederik Meijer (1919-2011), the cofounder and chairman of the board of the Michigan-based Meijer supermarket chain, spoke with a recent Oakland University graduate and incoming Meijer employee. His advice: "Show up. Lead. Make it better than how you found it."

Joy Falotico, the current president of The Lincoln Motor Company and the previous chairman and CEO of Ford Motor Credit Company, as well as group VP of Ford Motor Company, was interviewed in 2020 by *SEEN* magazine. In a May 4 article, Falotico summarized her perspective. "The work is hard and there's more disruption in it than ever. I always think, in every role I go into, 'How do I transform a business and leave it in a better place than when I started?'"

We WNF&GA volunteers may not have the responsibilities of CEOs or VPs, but we can look to the pros as good role models.

*Honoring our History ~ Sharpening our Image*

*Envisioning our Future ~ Doing the Right Thing*

**“THE AIR IS HUMMING & SOMETHING GREAT IS COMING!”**

from *West Side Story*. music by Leonard Bernstein and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

*Farm & Garden*, the WNF&GA magazine, is posted on the website ([www.wnfga.org](http://www.wnfga.org)).

You're invited to access the magazine online instead of receiving a paper copy. All magazine issues since 2009 are posted there. Just click on the heading *Magazine*. Beginning with the fall 2021 issue, you will receive the WNF&GA magazine via your email address, unless you notify registrar Cheryl Malin in advance that you wish to continue to receive the publication via regular mail.

Some members have already elected to “GO GREEN.” Just think, by joining them, you will help the WNF&GA *save resources, which can then be used to help fund the programs our organization supports!* Wouldn't that be “something great”? Let's “GO GREEN” together!

Contact: *Cheryl Malin, WNF&GA registrar*, [cmalin09@gmail.com](mailto:cmalin09@gmail.com)

### Honoring Nora Tebben, 1924 - 2021



- Mrs. Tebben's Tea at the Huntsman Hunt Club,

June 1, 2017 – photo by Barbara Reehl

Seated : Nora Mae Tebben

Standing L – R: Cecilia Montgomery, member of Lapeer Wildflowers, and Rita Urbanski, 2016-2018 president of the Woman's National Farm & Garden Association

Members of the Lapeer Wildflowers branch were saddened to learn of Nora Tebben's passing on January 29. She passed away peacefully at her home, with her son Henry and his wife Cherisse at her bedside.

Nora was a dedicated gardener and she influenced so many members of WNF&GA over so many years. Nora was an early member of the Bloomfield Hills Branch and, from 1958-1960, served as one of its youngest presidents ever. The family moved from suburban Bloomfield Hills, Michigan to rural Dryden, Michigan where she later founded the Lapeer Wildflowers branch in 2004. Having marked 70 years, she was the longest-standing member of the Michigan Division of the Woman's National Farm & Garden Association.

Nora's passion was floral arts, and her influence in that area went beyond her local clubs. She promoted a floral arts program which incorporated a school for judges, in addition to flower shows on local, state and national levels. Her knowledge and skills impacted many members who participated in workshops. For her contributions to floral arts, Nora was honored as a National Floral Arts Judge Emeritus.

In addition to her early and extensive participation in one WNF&GA branch, her involvement in establishing a second branch, and her development of floral arts programs, in 1979 Nora established the Huntsman Hunt Club in Dryden, Michigan. Nora was very proud of the Hunt Club and considered it one of her best accomplishments. Appropriately, the Huntsman Hunt Club has been the lovely setting of the Lapeer Wildflowers' annual Mrs. Tebben's Tea. We shall be forever grateful to Nora for her inspiration and contributions to our branch and to the entire WNF&GA. - submitted by Barbara Reehl, Lapeer Wildflowers secretary

### EXCERPTS FROM NORA MAE TEBBEN'S OBITUARY IN *THE COUNTY PRESS*, FEBRUARY 3, 2021:

“Nora's life began on a kitchen table high on a mountainside overlooking Pine Creek in Pennsylvania's Grand Canyon near the tiny village of Cedar Run. She was the descendant of a Revolutionary War veteran who was granted the land in 1784.

“As a child, her first job was to carry water from the spring-fed run which flowed just fifty feet from their front porch and tumbled into the creek below. As she grew older, her chores included most everything one would expect for a young girl raised on a small farm with minimal open and tillable acreage. This required her father and brothers to do a lot of hunting and fishing, while her mother and sisters took care of preserving the game, tending the garden, and other household chores.

“After her grade-school years she went to live with a family in Wellsboro where she worked for her room and board in order to attend high school. From there she worked in a munitions factory to support the war effort prior to entering nursing school. It was there that she cared for John, a young Air Force colonel, and in 1945 they were married. Two years later they moved to Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, where she gave birth to five children, and then to Pine Valley Farms in Dryden, Michigan.”

## WNF&GA Past National Presidents

1914 – 2020

(The list was updated September 2020. Please note several changes from previous fall magazine lists.)

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Louisa (Mrs. Francis) King*              | 1914 – 21   |
| Sarah B. (Mrs. Russell) Tyson*           | 1921 – 24   |
| Miss Gertrude Copeland*                  | 1924 – 27   |
| Miss Marian Roby Case*                   | 1927        |
| Clara B. (Mrs. Henry) Ford*              | 1927 – 34   |
| Mabel (Mrs. Howard W.) Lewis*            | 1934 – 37   |
| Miriam (Mrs. Murray) Boocock             | 1937 – 41   |
| Martha L. (Mrs. F. Wayland) Ayer*        | 1941 – 44   |
| Eva (Mrs. Paul) Burrage*                 | 1944 – 46   |
| Margaret (Mrs. Truman F.) Barbier*       | 1946 – 48   |
| (later known as Mrs. Margaret B. Carey*) |             |
| Edith (Mrs. Hubert) Carter*              | 1948 – 50   |
| Elma (Mrs. Henry P.) Williams*           | 1950 – 52   |
| Miss Gertrude Warren*                    | 1952 – 54   |
| Beatrice (Mrs. F. B.) Llewellyn*         | 1954 – 56   |
| Elizabeth (Mrs. Homer N.) Sweet*         | 1956 – 58   |
| Helen (Mrs. Ian) MacDonald*              | 1958 – 60   |
| (later known as Mrs. Helen M. Sanders*)  |             |
| Miss Elizabeth C. Miller*                | 1960 – 62   |
| Anne (Mrs. Benjamin D.) Holt*            | 1962 – 64   |
| Matilda (Mrs. Alfred G.) Wilson*         | 1964 – 66   |
| Elizabeth (Mrs. Nelson B.) Sackett*      | 1966 – 68   |
| Anne (Mrs. David) Buerger*               | 1968 – 70   |
| Anne (Mrs. Fred G.) Garrison*            | 1970 – 72   |
| Carolyn (Mrs. Miles N.) Clair*           | 1972 – 74   |
| Donalda (Mrs. Richard D.) Latham*        | 1974 – 76   |
| Mae Louise (Mrs. Robert K.) Hanson*      | 1976 – 78   |
| Kay (Mrs. Parker P.) Rockwell*           | 1978 – 80   |
| Miss Ruth Gray*                          | 1980 – 82   |
| Hazel (Mrs. Jack H.) Herring*            | 1982 – 84   |
| Susan (Mrs. Paul E.) Herbert             | 1984 – 86   |
| (later known as Mrs. Susan Celentano)    |             |
| Marian (Mrs. H. James) Renaud*           | 1986 – 88   |
| Rita (Mrs. C.F.) Kirschler, Jr.*         | 1988 – 90   |
| Martha (Mrs. William M.) Nolan*          | 1990 – 92   |
| Phyllis (Mrs. William) Slattey*          | 1992 – 94   |
| Beatrice (Mrs. Charles) Peterson         | 1994 – 96   |
| Blodwyn (Mrs. Julius P.) Zeigler*        | 1996 – 98   |
| Jean (Mrs. Jack) Ehlinger                | 1998 – 2000 |
| Kay (Mrs. Neil) Engelhart                | 2000 – 02   |
| Sylvia (Mrs. Webster) Anderson           | 2002 – 04   |
| Barbara (Mrs. James) Hochstettler        | 2004 – 06   |
| Marla (Mrs. James) Diamond               | 2006 – 08   |
| Faith (Mrs. Joseph) Tiberio*             | 2008 – 10   |
| Mary Bertolini                           | 2010 – 12   |
| Julia Siefker                            | 2012 – 14   |
| Molly Hammerle                           | 2014 – 16   |
| Rita Urbanski                            | 2016 – 18   |
| Mary Pat Ford                            | 2018 – 20   |

\* deceased



A note from Margaret Latham . . .

Dear Mary,

*I don't know who informed the WNF&GA membership that my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday was December 29, but I have received all forms of greetings from 6 states: MI, OH, PA, NY, NH and FL.*

*What a lovely birthday surprise!*

*I want everyone to know how appreciative I am of their thoughtfulness.*

*The expressions of love and friendship were so meaningful to me in this year of isolation.*

*Hopefully this health crisis will soon be under control and we can meet again in person.*

*Sincerely,*

*Margaret Latham*



Thank you for the photos & please send **MORE**.

Reprinted from *Farm & Garden*, fall 2020

Do you ever take a photo – accidentally or on purpose – and then wonder, “Wow! How did I get so lucky?”

About five years ago I attended an annual garden symposium in Michigan. There were four well-known speakers, one of whom was a garden photographer from Washington State. For your magazine editor, his was the most significant and memorable presentation that year. Many sophisticated cell phones of that era, he said, were already capable of taking extremely high-quality images, often better than those taken with 35 mm cameras. We saw beautiful magazine covers whose photos – his! – were captured by a sophisticated cell phone. Imagine how much more photographic capability has been added in the last five years!

When you're out and about, if you capture truly “Wow!” **high-resolution** images that you're willing to share with WNF&GA members, please send them for possible inclusion in a future WNF&GA magazine. Be sure to include your name, the subject, plus where and when the photo was taken. **Equally important:** Please provide your written permission for photo publication in *Farm & Garden*. Type “Photo for *Farm & Garden*” in the subject line and email to: [schwark@aol.com](mailto:schwark@aol.com)

## Have You Heard? Matilda Dodge Wilson, 19<sup>th</sup> President of the WNF&GA, Has Returned!

Aesop, ancient fabulist and storyteller, said that “good things come in small packages.” Matilda Dodge Wilson, president of the Woman’s National Farm & Garden Association, Inc., from 1964-1966, and tiny in stature, was a giant in terms of her accomplishments. In the late 1950s, along with her husband Alfred G. Wilson, Matilda founded Oakland University (OU) in Rochester, Michigan. To launch the school, the Wilsons donated nearly 1500 acres of rural land, two substantial homes and \$2,000,000.00.

At their 50-year reunions, members of the university’s first three graduating classes were asked to contribute financial support for the creation of a life-sized statue of Matilda Wilson. Many other generous contributors helped to make the statue a reality. Full funding took several years.

Lou Cella, a prominent Chicago-based sculptor, was commissioned to create the statue, which was unveiled on campus in October 2018. Attendees included the sculptor, OU president Dr. Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, Wilson family members, students, faculty, alumni, and WNF&GA members.

Five months before the statue’s October 2018 unveiling, Michigan Division of the WNF&GA was asked by Oakland University staff - aware of Matilda’s connection to the WNF&GA - about the possibility of providing funding for landscaping surrounding Matilda’s statue. Then WNF&GA president Rita Urbanski was aware that partial funding was still available through the 2018 Hazel Herring Civic Improvement Fund (HHCIF). Michigan Division applied for funds and received a check for \$2,200.00 from the WNF&GA at the June 2018 National Meeting in Ithaca, New York. Because Matilda Wilson (1964-1966) and Hazel Herring (1982-1984) had been national presidents within a 20-year period, the funding seemed both appropriate and fortuitous.

Michigan Division placed the \$2,200.00 in a restricted fund. Preliminary landscape planning began. As the statue was nearing completion in Chicago, landscape planning continued on campus. OU provided planting area dimensions. Planting materials were discussed. A design draft was created.

The statue was to be located adjacent to the university’s student center, where a major addition was in its final stages. The original plan called for a planting area of 16’ – 20’ in diameter, with Matilda in the center, surrounded by low-maintenance native plants. Plans changed suddenly and unexpectedly! The overall size was reduced, and the proposed soil-filled planting area became a much smaller paved circle. Matilda’s statue – with a shovel in her hands – would be surrounded by hardscape rather than by plants that she loved.

A new landscape plan was finally approved. Meanwhile, temporary containers were stationed around the statue for Matilda’s reveal. They were replaced in mid-2019 by five very fine and durable containers – consistent with the fine quality of the statue. The containers were temporarily planted in mid-2019 at OU’s expense. In mid-2020, appropriate plants - ‘Koster’ compact Hinoki false cypress, AKA *Chamaecyparis obtusa* ‘Kosteri,’ were re-researched, and then purchased and planted by a professional OU landscape crew. In October 2020, Michigan Division reimbursed OU for planting materials.



According to Michigan Division’s principal contacts at Oakland University, the Matilda Wilson statue – surrounded by the plantings made possible by the HHCIF – has become a very prominent location at OU, where thousands of campus denizens pass by or gather for photos each week. The site has awakened those on campus to the extraordinary woman who, along with her husband, had an extraordinary vision.

Although completed later than expected, the Matilda Wilson statue planting project, with generous funding from a Hazel Herring Civic Improvement Fund grant, has proved itself to be, as Geoffrey Chaucer said in *The Canterbury Tales*, “better late than never.” Michigan Division heartily thanks the WNF&GA!

– article and photo by Mary Schwark

**NICK'S TONIC & TIPS – Go for the Roses!** PLEASE NOTE: *WNF&GA does not endorse any brand names.*

Nick and Vergie Conti's garden, including more than 80 hybrid tea roses, was one of seven venues on the Troy (Michigan) Garden Club's 45<sup>th</sup> annual July garden walk in 2019. A flyer called *Rose Care Tips* was available to garden walkers at the Conti garden. When asked recently if he might be willing to share his rose care expertise with WNF&GA members, Nick readily accepted, with the following caveat: "My tonic is, in large part, a result of watching Jerry Baker on *America's Master Gardener* on PBS. I have tweaked the recipe here and there, but it is basically his tonic." Following is Jerry and Nick's tonic recipe and, as long as your garden has the same perfect growing conditions as Nick's, you too can go for the roses as he does!

Mix in **ROUGHLY EQUAL AMOUNTS** of:

- 1 can of beer – activator for the entire tonic
- ammonia – provides nitrogen (lemon-scented is pleasant)
- liquid dish soap – softens the soil; helps wash the plants
- plant food – provides vitamins (any kind: Miracle Grow, etc.)
- soda pop (NOT sugar free) – sugar feeds bacteria in the soil which, in turn, feed the plants
- apple juice – provides ethylene gas from apples, which may increase the number of plant blooms
- Epsom salts – magnesium sulfate: makes everything greener and improves root development
- sport drink – provides potassium (any kind: Gatorade, etc.) and promotes bloom production
- Neptune's Fish & Seaweed Emulsion – it may be the best single thing you can feed all the plants in your garden



*Double Delight* rose in Nick & Vergie Conti's garden

**DIRECTIONS:** In the morning, once every two weeks, spray each entire rose bush with a good quality hose and sprayer. Once or twice per season, give the soil a generous feeding of either *Rosetone* or *Hollytone* – essential for great soil. For issues like black spot and powdery mildew, Nick recommends *Bayer* products.

**HONORING DR. JOHN REED, Preeminent Daffodil Hybridizer & Friend to Daffodil Lovers Everywhere**



Daffodil: Big Red Honker  
Hybridizer: Dr. John R. Reed  
Oakwood Farms  
Niles, Michigan

Registered: 2017  
Photo: Tom Stettner, April 2017  
Photo used with permission.

Thank you to Saginaw (Michigan) Garden Club members for sharing information about the passing of Dr. John Reed. Saginaw members Cinda Schantz, Sue Sonntag, Patty Burnside, Ann Herm and Kathy Meinschein drove to Niles, Michigan in September 2020, to pick up 2,200 daffodil bulbs and bulblets from Dr. Reed at Oakwood Farms, his 10-acre daffodil farm. In early October, Saginaw Branch members planted the bulbs on a sunny knoll at Saginaw's historic Cushway House (p. 19), the first location of the branch's new project: *Daffodils4Saginaw*, an offshoot of *Daffodils4Detroit* and *Daffodils4Communities*.

A communication sent to the Saginaw Branch by Dr. Reed's loved ones states that he was a "preeminent daffodil hybridizer and a good friend." He died from complications of the COVID virus on November 22, 2020. According to the communication, "John was the best friend a daffodil society in the Midwest could have had. His digging day [annually for 24 years] gave us a reason to get together on Memorial Day and his bulbs padded our show beds and our societies' treasuries. We all owe him a great deal, yet there is not a way to say a final goodbye or thank you since funerals have been all but banned and he won't be having one.

"John started in daffodils in 1977 while still in Med School because he just loved daffodils and had since childhood. It is not stretching the truth to say that until the last few years his favorite topics of conversation were either about daffodils or about daffodil people. His goal had always been to breed hardy, healthy bulbs for the Midwest with the rich, pure colors

only found in daffodils grown in Oregon and England. He succeeded beyond his goal with reds from pink breeding, and red and orange trumpets, and he has many more seedlings in the pipeline which will likely be named and introduced in the future.

"John had achieved the most prestigious accolades of the daffodil world, being awarded the Peter Barr Cup in 2019 and the American Daffodil Society gold medal in 2010. His most long-term achievement, though, will be the daffodil bulbs he has shared, both here and overseas, and the people he has mentored and left behind who will no doubt move on to further his work. He will be sorely missed."

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Dr. Reed hybridized and registered many daffodils. Information about his and others' hybridizing efforts may be found at [dafflibrary.org](http://dafflibrary.org), at [daffseek.org](http://daffseek.org), and at other daffodil-centric websites. Thank you to Suzy Wert, American Daffodil Society Director-at-Large, for her helpful information.



## Contact Information for WNF&GA Directors & Chairpersons

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Agriculture Director</b><br>Joette Kunse – 248-620-2984<br>jkhorses@comcast.net                                    | <b>Finance Chairperson</b><br>Lenore Treba – 248-362-3738<br>leetreba@att.net                                     | <b>Magazine Editor</b><br>Mary Schwark – 248-593-6182<br>schwark@aol.com  |
| <b>Bess Mueller Floral Arts Fund<br/>AND Floral Arts</b><br>Nancy Matthews – 215-542-6932<br>fancynancy25@verizon.net | <b>Frances Plate Bequest AND<br/>Sarah B. Tyson Fellowship</b><br>Cindy Nuss – 215-576-6524<br>Nussci56@gmail.com | <b>National Awards</b><br>Pat Brown – 586-268-0975<br>Patb501946@comcast.net  |
| <b>Burlingame/Gerrity Hrt.Thr. Sch.</b><br>JoAnn Preston – 248-528-2647<br>Jakpre24@msn.com                           | <b>Fryinger International Project</b><br>Kay Engelhart – 989-790-1546<br>kengelhart@hotmail.com                   | <b>Registrar - National</b><br>Cheryl Malin – 248-421-6093<br>Cmalin09@gmail.com  |
| <b>Charitable Affairs</b><br>Karol Carter – 248-641-9331<br>karolvet@aol.com  | <b>Gardening Director</b><br>Louise Shoksnyder - 989-469-4089<br>louise446@aol.com                                | <b>Renaud Peterson Nat. Arb. Intrn.</b><br>Natasha Cunningham – 410-271-7083<br>Natasha44490405@yahoo.com                   |
| <b>Civic Improvement</b><br>Gerry Howard – 248-634-3766<br>Gerryhoward323@yahoo.com                                   | <b>Hazel Herring Civ. Imprv. Grant</b><br>Gerry Howard – 248-634-3766<br>Gerryhoward323@yahoo.com                 | <b>Schlesinger Library Liaison</b><br>Carole Jackson Dilley – 518-677-7095<br>cjdilley@nycap.rr.com                         |
| <b>Environmental Director</b><br>Suzanne Smith-Oscilowski<br>215-740-7264<br>suzgarden416@gmail.com                   | <b>Historian</b><br>Janet Leingang – 419-523-5 932<br>djeingang@bright.net  | <b>Temple Ambler Arboretum<br/>Intern Program</b><br>Mary Pat Ford – 215-654-1486<br>mpf6@hotmail.com                       |
| <b>Facebook AND Website</b><br>Leslie Morris-Smith<br>215-805-2591<br>leslm5791@gmail.com                             | <b>Horticultural Therapy</b><br>JoAnn Preston – 248-528-2647<br>Jakpre24@msn.com                                  | <b>Warren Sanders McNaughton<br/>Oceanographic Scholarship</b><br>Leslie Morris-Smith – 215-805-2591<br>leslm5791@gmail.com |

### OPEN POSITIONS: Communication, Parliamentarian

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <p><b>Division &amp; Single Branch Presidents</b></p> <p>MI Division President – Sheila Kneeshaw<br/>kshaw2474@yahoo.com</p> <p><b>MICHIGAN DIVISION BRANCHES</b></p> <p>Bloomfield Hills – Julie Beals<br/>Julie_beals@hotmail.com</p> <p>Clarkston Farm &amp; Garden Club – Diane Putvin<br/>dputvin@ymail.com</p> <p>Country Garden Club of Northville – Aleta Lee<br/>aletalee@gmail.com</p> <p>County Downs – Pamela Haxton (co-pres.)<br/>phaxton6@gmail.com</p> <p>County Downs – Justina Misuraca (co-pres.)<br/>jmisuraca@gmail.com</p> <p>Franklin Branch – Cindy Juliano (co-pres.)<br/>cindyjuliano@gmail.com</p> <p>Franklin Branch – Kathy Lorencz (co-pres.)<br/>Kathleenlorenz@yahoo.com</p> <p>Grosse Pte. F. &amp; G.C. – Kate French Peabody<br/>Missk8@sbcglobal.net</p> <p>Grosse Pte. Pk. G.C. – Sandra Jackson<br/>grossepointejazz@yahoo.com</p> <p>Grosse Pte. Shores Branch – Shirley Hartert<br/>shirleyhartertpta@comcast.net</p> <p>Indian Village Branch – Renata Miller<br/>miller.renata@yahoo.com</p> | <p>Lapeer Wildflowers – Patty Bradshaw<br/>pattybshaw@charter.net</p> <p>Milford Branch – Linda Smith<br/>lsmith26mi@gmail.com</p> <p>Moonglow Branch – Ginger Dean<br/>gingerdean25197@outlook.com</p> <p>Northville Branch – Kathy Galarneau<br/>kchmura@aol.com</p> <p>Plymouth Branch – Marilyn Norgrove<br/>garden-gall@comcast.net</p> <p>Pontiac Branch – Gerry Howard<br/>gerryhoward323@yahoo.com</p> <p>Port Huron Garden Club – Sandy Sharpe<br/>sndysharp@yahoo.com</p> <p>Rochester Branch – Robin McGrath<br/>rmmcgrath6@gmail.com</p> <p>Romeo &amp; Juliet Branch – Kathy Bruggeman<br/>kathysellsfast@gmail.com</p> <p>Saginaw Branch – Stella Thelen<br/>thelen.205@gmail.com</p> <p>Springfield Branch – Carol Pinkos<br/>cpinkos6@gmail.com</p> <p>Trailwood Gdn. Club – Georgia Randinitis<br/>randine@comcast.net</p> <p>Trenton Branch – Fran Mokrenski<br/>fmokrens39@wowway.com</p> | <p>Troy Garden Club – Linda Forrester<br/>linozfor@att.net</p> <p>Warren Branch – April Everett<br/>april@the-everetts.com</p> <p>Waterford Branch – Sue Malone<br/>smalnewgc@gmail.com</p> <p><b>NEW YORK, OHIO &amp;<br/>PENNSYLVANIA BRANCHES</b></p> <p>NY Cambridge Br. President – Bea Peterson<br/>beapeterson@gmail.com</p> <p>NY Tri-County Br. President – Joanna Prouty<br/>joannaprouty@aol.com</p> <p>OH Dooryard Br. President – Phyllis Macke<br/>pjmacke@gmail.com</p> <p>OH TAWA Br. President – Rhonda Rainey<br/>Rainey45881@gmail.com</p> <p>PA Ambler-Keystone Br. Pres. – Jo Ambrose<br/>jo_ambrose@hotmail.com</p> <p>PA Bucks County Br. President – Alice Marcy<br/>Alice.marcy2@gmail.com</p> <p>PA West Deer Br. President – Marion Temple<br/>Temple1940@comcast.net</p> |
|--|--|--|

## CHARITABLE AFFAIRS 2021 AWARDS

Karol Carter, Charitable Affairs chairperson

The following scholarships, internships and sponsorships have been funded by the WNF&GA in 2021 and are available.

### SCHOLARSHIPS / INTERNSHIPS

Burlingame/Gerrity

Horticultural Therapy Scholarship - RJEE&AD

Chairperson - JoAnn Preston

Funded - \$500.00

Francis Plate Bequest - RJEE&AD

Chairperson - Cindy Nuss

Funded - \$2,000.00

Renaud-Peterson U.S. National  
Arboretum Internship - RJEE&AD

Chairperson - Natasha Cunningham

Funded - \$7,300.00

Sarah Bradley Tyson Fellowship - BNYMEE&AD

Chairperson - Cindy Nuss

Co-Trustees - Louise Shoknsnyder & Davene Brown

Funded - \$4,000.00

Warren Sanders McNaughton

Oceanographic Scholarship - RJEE&AD

Chairperson - Leslie Morris-Smith

Funded - \$1,000.00

WNF&GA Temple University

Ambler Campus Internship - RJEE&AD; TF

Chairperson - Mary Pat Ford

Funded - \$2,000.00

### SPONSORSHIPS

Bess Mueller Fund - RJEE&AD

Chairperson - Nancy Matthews

Funded - \$1,000.00

Fryinger International Project Fund - RJEE&AD

Chairperson - Kay Engelhart

Funded - \$2,000.00

Hazel Herring Civic Improvement Grant - AEPSSE

Chairperson - Gerry Howard

Funded - \$3,000.00

Schlesinger Library - RJEE

Liaison - Carole Jackson Dilley (Mrs. James E.)

Funded - \$500.00 given for storage of WNF&GA documents

See green  
box below  
for key to  
FUNDING  
SOURCE  
CODES.

E & AD - Earnings & Annual Donations

RJEE&AD - Raymond James Endowment E&AD

BNYMEE&AD - BNY Mellon Endowment E&AD

AEPSSE - American Electric Power Stock Share Earnings

TF - Tiberio Foundation

RJEE - Raymond James Endowment Earnings

... Rochester Garden Club continued from page 19

no problem with waiting until December to pick up their orders. Part II took place for two weeks in November with a new catalogue featuring fresh holiday arrangements, herbal baskets, spa items, dog and cat treats and toys and other hand-made creations. Customers would email their shopping list to our sales contact and purchases were confirmed when a check or PayPal payment was received.

Publicity consisted of using our website, Facebook, our local community newspapers and the *Detroit News & Free Press Homestyle* section to spread the word about the Market, plus emailed messages to our members and previous customers. Sales for both parts of the online Market were better than we had hoped. The process went extremely well with the coordinated efforts of our website manager, treasurers, Market chairs and the creative ladies who made items up until the last minute. The final part of the equation - pickup - was amazing. Customers had two days in early December to drive to the Rochester Fire House for curbside pickup of their items. (See photos, page 19.) Kudos to our volunteers. While wearing masks and keeping a safe distance, they loaded gifts and greens into vehicles out in the cold December weather.

As wonderful as this experience was, we are hoping that in 2021 we can continue our tradition of an in-person sale and that we will see many of you at the Gifts and Greens Market at the Rochester Administration Building in downtown Rochester next December!

-photos courtesy of  
Rochester Garden Club

- submitted by Robin McGrath, president, and  
Sally Edwards, Gifts & Greens Market co-chair

... Saginaw Garden Club continued from page 19

As a form of education, our branch joined the American Daffodil Society. Our membership includes a quarterly journal, information on distributors, shows, conventions, planting and caring for narcissi, access to speakers and world-renowned specialists.

We were surprised to learn we had access to the award-winning expertise of the late Dr. John Reed, of Niles, Michigan. (See article on page 8.) On his Oakwood Farms, he has been growing, breeding and selling daffodils since the 1980s. He and his assistant, Julie Martin, worked with us to select three different varieties of hardy daffodils and bulblets for our fall planting. We learned that mature bulbs have a nickel-size base. A "bulblet" is not developed and will take 1-3 years to bloom and multiply.

By design, the *big surprise* will come this spring, for we do not know all the varieties and colors that will bloom, then or in the ensuing years.

The daffodil symbolizes rebirth and new beginnings. We all can use a little renewal this spring.

- submitted by Cinda Schantz



## WNF&GA Annual National Meeting *Call to Meeting Notice*

Please allow this announcement to serve as notice to all registered members of the  
Woman's National Farm & Garden Association

that the 2021 Annual National Meeting will be held

**VIRTUALLY**

via webinar on Saturday, June 5, 2021, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Additional details, including the agenda, all business, and the program,  
will be forthcoming via email and other communications in April and May.

Thank you to Kathy Welsh-Beveridge!  
Kathy has once again agreed to be our webinar host.

Sincerely, Mary Schwark  
WNF&GA National President, 2020 - 2021

## Annual National Meeting Information – Something NEW !

We may not be able to *physically* travel and tour in 2021, but we can still participate *virtually*. We are counting on you and your branch to help. With your input, meeting attendees will “travel” to your branch and will “tour” with you. If enough branches participate, we will divide the material into separate “travelogues” of approximately 20 – 30 minutes.

Please let me know by March 20 (schwark@aol.com) if your branch will participate in one of the ways mentioned below. Utilize this “Something NEW” project to learn, share and have fun!

- **SEND A 3-5 MINUTE VIDEO** (1) about your branch history, or (2) of your branch members engaged in a branch activity, or (3) about a branch project, or (4) of a special garden nearby.
- **OR SEND 20 – 30 HI-RES DIGITAL PHOTOS** of your branch members (1) in a branch activity, or (2) in a branch project, or (3) of a special garden in your area.
- **REQUIRED: A 100 – 200-word WHO – WHAT – WHERE – WHEN – WHY – HOW EXPLANATION OR LIST** that identifies and explains your VIDEO or PHOTOS.

Your materials may feature past events. Search your branch archives for photos. Or feature new activities if you're able. Given our current “moving away from the pandemic” status, please do not feel that you must feature new events and activities unless you have, or can acquire, the material.

What will others enjoy seeing? **WHAT WOULD YOU ENJOY SEEING?** Think of the project as both educational and entertaining – perhaps with an emphasis on entertaining!

**DEADLINE FOR MATERIALS:** May 3 - 5, 2021      **SEND:** via email or snail-mailed flashdrive.

**PLEASE DO NOT ADD MUSIC OR VOICE-OVERS. THEY WILL BE ADDED IN THE PRODUCTION PHASE.**

**QUESTIONS?** schwark@aol.com      **NEED HELP?** Ask a techie grandchild!

## International Cooperation Committee & Frysinger International Project Fund

As we move forward into 2021, we reflect on the challenges and heartbreaks of the past year and hope to return to a calmer and more normal life. We have met these challenges with resilience, love and by reaching out to friends, family and complete strangers who not only needed to receive our love but to return it many times over. That's who we are, and that's what we do: love and support others.

While we've been restricted in our social contacts, in-person meetings and everyday lives, let us step back and remember those who have not had access to the same types of support. A phone call, email, a text message, or even snail mail is a luxury in many countries. Many of our Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) sisters around the world have no access to those forms of contact. Many are trying to keep their families fed, clothed and healthy without the help of government programs such as those we have access to in this country.

With many of our in-person meetings cancelled, our fund-raising activities curtailed or at least reduced to on-line functions, let us not forget our commitments to support the needs of International programs: Pennies for Friendship, which is the life blood of the ACWW organization; the WNF&GA Frysinger International Project Fund, from which we provide funds for the WE FUND (Women Empowerment Fund) of ACWW.

In the Fall 2020 issue of the *Farm and Garden* magazine, we suggested a very simple program each of our members could participate in ... "WHAT IF?" We're wondering, did you discuss this at a meeting? Did you implement it? Did you come up with another plan to fund the Frysinger International Project Fund? How creative have you been in making fundraising fun, interesting and a challenge for your members? Fill a teacup with your change earmarked for Pennies for Friendship? Fill a 20-ounce juice bottle with dimes! What's your branch challenge?

ACWW has a great website that explains programs that are shared around the world. We could be a part of those programs, even with social distancing. One example is each year's *Women Walk the World Day* on April 29. Walking with friends, families and community members who pledge to support your walk with donations for Pennies for Friendship, makes this a fun, healthy activity for all. See the ACWW website [www.acww.org.uk](http://www.acww.org.uk) for printable flyers, and details on how to submit your photos for the possibility of becoming *The Countrywomen* magazine cover photo. It's a great way to spread the word.

It's never too late to donate to ACWW funds. Our WNF&GA treasurers will be happy to add your donations to our coffers in order to show our support for others.

Please let us know if we can help your branch understand more about International Cooperation and the Frysinger International Project Fund.

Yours in International Cooperation,

Kay and Sylvia

Kay: 989-327-3331

Sylvia: 617-232-1342



P.S. A reminder that you are encouraged to become an individual ACWW member. See the membership form on the ACWW website. Membership is one more way to support ACWW.

## Women Walk the World 2021 - #WillWalkforFood

Each year, on or around the 29<sup>th</sup> of April, women worldwide celebrate ACWW's international network by joining together to Walk the World.

In 2021, we want to help you raise awareness of the vital work of ACWW in your communities. As ACWW embarks on the Decade of Family Farming in support of



... continued from page 12

the FAO, it is vital that people understand where their food comes from, and the crucial role played by women in food systems. Your *Women Walk the World* event is the perfect time to educate your community about the importance of the roles played by women in food systems, and why ACWW is vital for the empowerment of rural women. The event is also a key fundraising opportunity. Explaining ACWW's Pennies for Friendship model can show supporters that little donations spread over our vast network can ensure that ACWW continues its vital work. As we get closer to the event, the website will be updated with resources you can use to plan an event that will make a big impact in your community and to rural women globally.

## How is 2021 Different?

This year, ACWW and its members have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Because member societies are rightly following WHO and government guidelines and not having meetings, we have seen a decrease in donations to the enabling fund of ACWW: Pennies for Friendship. You will know that our projects' donations (The Women Empowered Fund) are restricted to funding only projects and their direct associated costs, so all the other work of ACWW is reliant on Pennies for Friendship. This includes UN representation and participation, promotional and educational materials like the magazine and leaflets, research, board members' outreach, board and committee meetings, and staffing. While ACWW has financial security because of our reserves, we need our members to help ensure that ACWW is able to continue all of its vital work, this year and beyond. So, as you plan your event, we will provide you with resources that explain how ACWW uses your donations to help rural women around the world.

Excerpts from: ACWW website, with updates: [www.acww.org.uk](http://www.acww.org.uk)

Report provided by Kay Engelhart & Sylvia Anderson



**RURAL  
WOMEN  
IN ACTION**



**ACWW's Board of Trustees  
are pleased and proud to announce the  
Triennial Theme for 2019-2022:**

***"Our Diversity is Our Strength"***

**We look forward to working with you  
over the next three years to further the  
empowerment of rural women worldwide.**

Associated Country Women of the World  
A04 Parkhall 40 Martell Road London SE21 8EN  
info@acww.org.uk www.acww.org.uk +44 (0)207 799 3875  
CIO N° 1174798



**THE GLOBAL GOALS  
for Sustainable Development**

### WNF&GA Membership - January 2021 - submitted by Cheryl Malin, national registrar

#### SINGLE BRANCH MEMBERSHIP

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Members-at-Large +Comp + Emeritae         | 19         |
| 7 Single Branch Garden Clubs (NY, OH, PA) | <u>180</u> |

**SINGLE BRANCH TOTAL 199**

#### MICHIGAN DIVISION MEMBERSHIP

|                                    |             |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Members-at-large                   | 6           |
| 25 Individual Branches in Michigan | <u>1169</u> |

**MICHIGAN DIVISION TOTAL 1175**

#### WNF&GA TOTAL

**MEMBERSHIP 1374**

## COWS & ROBOTS: The Future of the Dairy Industry - text & photos by Joette Kunse, WNF&GA Agriculture Director

From huge corporate dairy farms to smaller family farms, cows are being milked differently in the twenty-first century. Historically, having a dairy cow has meant that the farmer, a family member or a worker has to be in the barn morning and evening to milk the cows. The work is labor-intensive, thus making it expensive.

So how did the conversion from hand-milking to milking machines to robotic milkers happen? In 1948, the Lely Company in The Netherlands was founded to find solutions to farming, especially with dairy cattle, and they were one of the first companies to invent the robotic milker. Today, Lely is one of the top manufacturers of robotic milking machines worldwide. According to local farmer Quinton Cook of Cook's Dairy Farm, approximately 50% of dairy farms are using robotic milkers.

So how does the robotic milker work? The 55 Holstein cows which make up the Cook herd live inside a large barn at Cook's during the winter. In the summer they will be on pasture. As you walk down the aisle of the barn, you will see the cows lying down, munching on feed, resting or looking at the people in the aisle.

Each cow wears a transponder, which looks like a collar, and each transponder has a number for the cow. The transponder is like a Fitbit and communicates with the robot and also with the farmer's cell phone or computer. When Cow 332 feels she needs to be milked, she will walk up the path to the robotic milking station. The gate will close behind her, and her udder and teats will be washed and stimulated by the robot. Then a laser that is measured precisely to Cow 332 will move in and hook up to her teats automatically and milk the cow. The cow is also given food while she is standing at the robotic milker station. The dairy cows at Cook's Farm have a nutritionist.



The milking robot measures milk production and quality of milk of the cow and the cow's temperature. If a cow fails to show up to be milked or if there is a stoppage in the milk sanction, the robot will notify the farmer's phone. Cook says, "The goal is to have the cows milked three times a day. Currently the herd is averaging 2.7 times of milking per day. Some cows are milked five times a day if they are near calving. The cows took an average of seven times to learn to get in line to visit the milking robot before they were doing it on their own."

The Cook family put in the Lely milking robot A-3 in June of 2019. Cook says the milking robot has helped increase milk production with the dairy herd which is currently producing about 400 to 425 gallons a day. "The investment in the robot, continues to save labor costs as time goes on," says Cook. According to Cook, the milking robot needs a 20-minute cleaning three times a day to clear the airline and otherwise sanitize it. Cook says the milking robot is more beneficial for the cows. The cows are the stars of the dairy.

Cook shares that the barn has waterbeds for the cows to lie or rest on during the winter months. Living in the barn keeps the cows cleaner and warmer and allows the pasture to be restored.

Quinton Cook and his father Clark Cook are the third and fourth generation farmers on the farm built by their grandfather and great-grandfather in Brandon Township, Michigan, approximately 50 miles north of Detroit. Cook's Dairy is one of five dairy farms in Michigan that process their herds' milk by pasteurizing and homogenizing and selling the milk at the farm store. Cook's farm has 200 acres of land and rents 200 acres for hay and corn production for their cows and hogs.

Cook's Dairy is known throughout northern Oakland County for their ice cream and milk products. They make buttermilk, chocolate milk, ice cream and eggnog in season. People drive to the farm in the warmer months to eat ice cream on the farm and visit the calves, cows and hogs. The Cooks have built a room for visitors to see the cows being milked by the robot. School field trips, church group outings and family groups can be found at the farm during the day and evenings during summer months.

While speaking with Cook about milk production, he said that Americans are drinking less milk than a few decades ago. He shared that, through the pandemic, the Farm Store sold more milk in 2020 than in 2019, and he attributes it to children and families eating at home more in 2020.

Quinton's father Clark added ice cream to Cook's Farm Store when he had more milk than could be sold. Quinton and Clark are considering the addition of cheese-making to their farm store. Cook's Dairy is truly a farm that features "Moo to You" directly. Stop by Cook's or your local dairy or farm store for some of the freshest milk around and support your local family dairies. And remember, today's cows may be milked by robots to give better milk and increase the health of the cow.

Right: Cook's Dairy  
Holstein cow attached  
to robotic milker



Far right: Cook's  
Farm Dairy, north of  
Clarkston, Michigan



## LITTLE THINGS MAKE BIG THINGS HAPPEN

- text, photo and graphics provided by Suzanne Smith-Oscilowski,  
WNF&GA Environmental Director

***“Little things make big things happen.”*** John Wooden - UCLA men’s basketball coach for 27 years. He coached legends such as Bill Walton and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar to 10 NCAA national championships.

What does John Wooden’s statement have to do with WNF&GA and Environmental Concerns? Everything!

WNF&GA is the sum of 32 different branches plus 25 members (at-large, comp and emeritae), totaling 1,374 individual members. Each branch and individual is a cog in the WNF&GA wheel. We all have contributions to make, and all of our contributions *together* make WNF&GA an impactful organization.

The gardening activities of *each and every* branch and of *each and every* individual member make the entire WNF&GA organization stronger and greater. While a simple native plant garden installed at the local library may not seem too important, the accumulation of numerous branch activities has a sizeable impact on critical environmental concerns such as pollinators, stormwater runoff and biodiversity loss.

While each branch focuses on its locality, the collection of all branch-installed gardens makes a significant improvement in our world. Just ask the local insects and wildlife! . . . And community members who enjoy the beautiful flowers!

Similarly, addressing one of the most significant environmental conditions affecting many communities today - managing stormwater runoff and flooding - can be accomplished through a series of smaller steps taken by individuals, municipalities and community organizations such as our local WNF&GA branches.

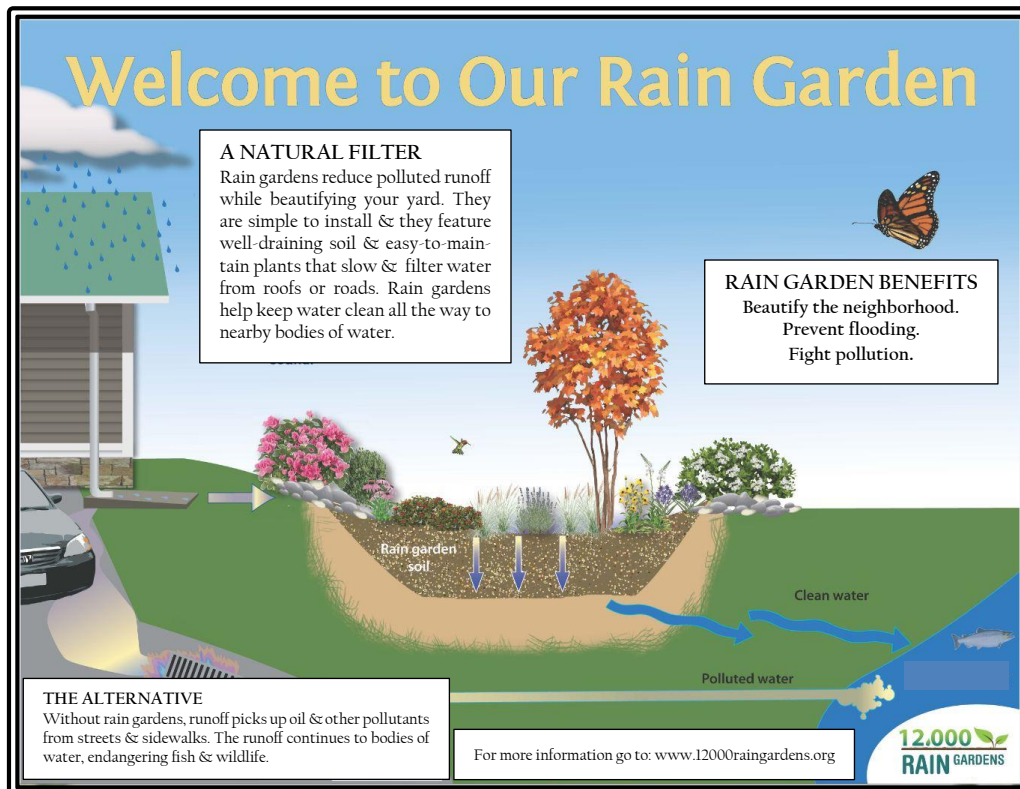
Let’s look at a sample of these “small” practices:

1. Rain barrels: Collect water from your downspouts to use for gardening and other non-potable uses.
2. Rain gardens: Create a garden in a shallow depression, using native plants to soak up runoff from downspouts and other impervious surfaces.
3. Native plant landscaping: Use native plants, reduce lawn size and promote groundwater recharge.
4. No-mow zones: Establish a zone where mowing does not occur and where native plants’ roots allow for storm water infiltration.

Just think, if all 1,374 WNF&GA members collected 50 gallons of stormwater from each rainstorm, the cumulative impact will remove over 73,000 gallons of runoff from our local creeks during *each and every* rain event!



That action represents the power of . . . . . little things making big things happen!



## BRING YOUR GARDEN PHOTOS INTO FOCUS

- by Louise Shoksnnyder,  
WNF&GA Gardening Director

Those who garden have a penchant for trying to capture their prized flowers in photography. Most gardeners have cameras in their pockets these days as part of their cell phones. With each new cell phone introduction, the internal cameras are becoming more and more sophisticated. But no matter the type and age of your cell phone camera, you can improve the photos you take. If you have a fancy camera, you are probably already taking great photos, but some of the tips that follow may help you too.

First of all, make sure your camera lens is clean. Use a microfiber cloth, like the one you may use to clean eyeglasses, to wipe off the lens. We touch our phones so much there are bound to be smudges on the lens.

In the settings of your phone's camera, you can select to use a grid. The grid applied to the view in the camera lens helps to compose your image. The grid also helps to keep unwanted objects or subjects out of your shot. Keeping your shot parallel to the vertical or horizontal lines in the grid is very helpful to composition.

Our phone cameras have digital zoom features. Avoid using them! A digital zoom causes a grainy image, reduces the resolution of the photo and emphasizes any vibration from your hand. It is better to use the editing capabilities of your phone to resize and crop a photo.

The flash on your camera, an LED light, is unflattering. Light coming from different sources will create a better outcome. Your results will have truer colors and be less harsh. The best choices for light are waning sunlight, some indoor lights, candlelight and even the flash from another cell phone used at the same time as yours. No wonder the grandkids' birthday cake photos come out so well. It's all those cell phones flashing together!

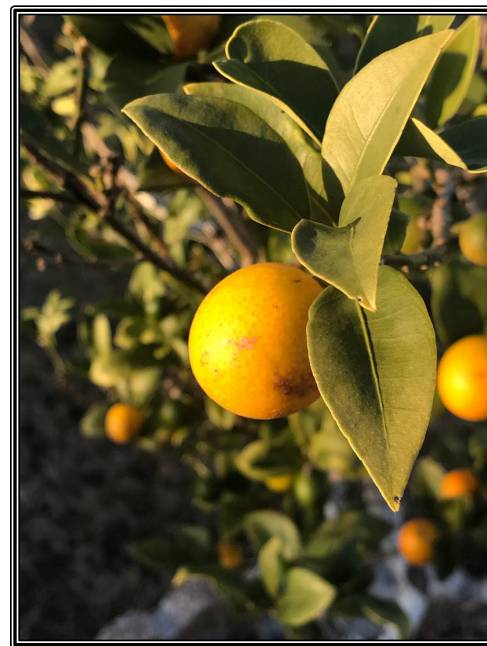
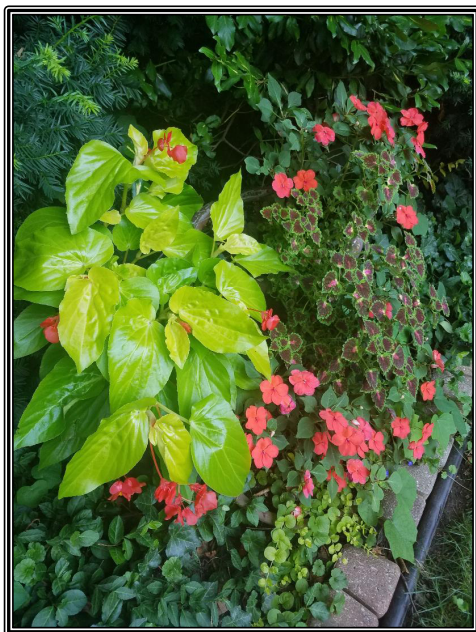
A steady hand is very important. The use of a small tripod is highly suggested. If you are photographing a prized bloom, a tripod is a must. Any photo meant to be time-lapse, a long exposure or in low light, needs a steady mount. Do you know that photos may be taken with your volume control? Having two hands on the phone while shooting is certain to make it steadier.

Focus is important. Tap your phone screen to sharpen the view of your subject. One subject - say one bloom - is the best image. If you allow two-thirds of the view to be negative space, your subject will really stand out.

There are apps available to make your photo more vivid. Brightness, contrast and saturation, however, can all be adjusted by using the editing feature on your camera.

There are specific tips for flower photography. Let me share a few.

- ❖ Choose an overcast day, or shoot your photo late in the day, when the sun is low on the horizon. Making those choices will help lessen shadows and avoid harsh bright spots.
- ❖ Backlighting - with the sun in front of you, but behind the subject - creates a lovely backdrop for flower photos.
- ❖ Wind is the photographer's enemy. Early morning or evening may prove to have less wind.
- ❖ You could also cut a flower, take it indoors and take your photo there. Create a white or plain backdrop to highlight the bloom.
- ❖ Get close to your subject; avoid a cluttered background; use a shallow depth of field. Your image will be sharp and the rest of the photo will be soft. (See photo on far right.)
- ❖ Finally, you can alter your point of view. Take a photo from below the flower, straight down at it, or from another angle. Changing your point of view can create a very artsy outcome.



- photo taken in Florida by Louise Shoksnnyder,  
January 2021

Taking photos of your garden creates a memory of each growing year. Since our cell phone photos are always there for us, stored in a cloud perhaps, we can see how our gardens grew and changed from year to year. We can preserve the composition of a beautiful container, see what annuals did well, or what needs to be changed the next year.

I hope anything I passed along in this article will help you make your photos better.

*Louise*

### SOURCES

*10 Tips for Taking Stunning iPhone Photos of Flowers*, by Rob Dunsford

*10 iPhone Photography Tips to Quickly Improve Your Photos*, by Emile Pakarkis

### WEBSITES:

[iphonephotoschool.com/flowers/](http://iphonephotoschool.com/flowers/)

[iphonephotoschool.com/iphone-photography-tips/](http://iphonephotoschool.com/iphone-photography-tips/)

- Above: photo by Nancy Sutherland, Trailwood Garden Club



## Ambler-Keystone Branch

Hello from Ambler-Keystone in Pennsylvania! It's been a quiet time for us. We've been Zooming meetings: sharing our gardens and sharing presentations with our sister branch, Bucks County. We had a small fundraiser selling bulbs to support our grants, and members continue to quietly restore a local park with new native plantings and design.

We have not, however, been able to enjoy the pleasures of our close connection to Temple Ambler Arboretum in our usual way. As a university campus, the Arboretum was closed to visitors. We have missed our meetings, teas and talks in the historic Visitor Center, as well as the glory of 187 acres of gardens, buzzing horticultural education and research, and women's history accumulated in the soil. The work of our WNF&GA-supported summer intern awaits another year.

Yet, in times of challenge, we garden women are known to get creative and connective! The Arboretum's awesomely "green" director, and Ambler Keystone member, Kathy Salisbury, made the Arboretum come alive for us online. Beautiful photos and videos of the Arboretum's dance of nature and ever-changing garb were captured weekly.

In September, the Arboretum "BLOOMED" online, continuing to connect through its annual fundraising event and auction. Ambler Keystone members helped in the planning and enjoyed the moment while Zooming from their home garden parties.

The most meaningful connections are deep-rooted and find creative ways of being sustained. Ambler campus has a special place in our hearts and history. The students of the 1911 Pennsylvania School of Horticulture for Women no longer till the soil, raise cattle, or plant victory gardens. The 1914 wise, visionary founders of WNF&GA no longer linger there. Yet their vision and energy endure at Ambler in its dedication to sustainability, environmental design, progressive connectivity to the environment and the community, and many amazing women. Ambler's guardianship of our archives at Hilde Justice both preserves our history and nurtures the livelihood of our Ambler Keystone branch. Carry on ladies!

– submitted by MJ Kirkpatrick, VP



Above: Ambler Conifer Garden

Below: Ambler "Big Red Barn"



## Cambridge Area Branch



A Cambridge Branch visit to a nearby lily farm resulted in floral memories above and the nibbling caterpillar below.

– photos by Bea Peterson



There was no way the Cambridge Area Branch in New York State could meet at the small Cambridge Town Hall in 2020. It would have been impossible to space our members six feet apart. Plus, as our branch has many older members, meeting at all did not seem to be a good idea. Several of our members have computers, but many do not. Therefore, Zoom, etc. was not even considered. We did, however, brave an outdoor get-together in July and an outdoor luncheon with New York's Tri-County Branch in September. At both events we were so happy to see each other!

Now it's 2021, and we're ready to pick up the pieces. Obviously, it will be many months before we meet again, but that doesn't stop the planning. Our treasurer Edna Schumacher wrote notes to members, reminding them to pay their dues for the new year. Long, longtime member Gail Turi sent a lovely note to every member reminding her, in part, to "finish uncompleted projects, start a bird list, write memoirs, label all those old photos, start a family tree and connect back with cousins. Appreciate the muted colors of the landscape in winter," she wrote. "Be glad for the blue of the sky."

Yearbook committee member Lois Sheaff noted that programming will be much easier this year because we can contact all the folks we didn't get to see in 2020! The programs included composting, inspirational gardens, a visit to a dairy farm, another to a beekeeping business, a talk on a new nature trail and a workshop to make holiday trees for nursing homes. We were all to take friends to our first meeting last year so they could learn about our organization. And setting up a Facebook page sounds like an excellent idea to be discussed with our members. We need to make improvements to our scholarship program as well. It will be an exciting year ... whenever it begins!

– submitted by Bea Peterson, president

*"When you find yourself cocooned in isolation and you cannot find your way out of darkness... remember, this is similar to the place where caterpillars go to grow their wings." - Intuitive Life Coach Necole Stephens*

## Franklin Garden Club . . . . . from 1953 - 2021

The Franklin Garden Club is adapting to a pandemic interference. Since our founding in 1953, we have adjusted to our members' needs while maintaining our core purpose in supporting our communities in our relationships with nature.

Gardens and nature have weathered catastrophes over millennia. This year, adapting in our tiny microcosm, we moved outside for a picnic on Franklin's Village Green in September. A mostly outdoor orchard tour was another enjoyable gathering. Winter conditions were not a problem with a fascinating program by *Hortulus Gardens* to begin 2021. Ed Blondin, scholar and gardener, spoke on Monastic Gardens, sharing the historical relevance in today's gardens, as he highlighted evidence since 3,000 years BCE. His insights will surely continue to influence how we view landscapes – from farmhouse gardens and pastures, to urban enclosed micro gardens. Over the years we've had many field trips that, in hindsight, affirm his thesis.



- St. Sabbas photo courtesy of the internet

Back in 2012 we visited St Sabbas Orthodox Monastery and Garden in Harper Woods where we enjoyed Russian High Tea and were awed by icons and artifacts. (See photo above.)

We toured another property adapted to current needs yet reminiscent of medieval communities. Detroit's Cass Community Social Services serves homeless and those working towards self-sufficiency, with training, work programs and a hydroponic vertical garden, near their "tiny houses" neighborhood. Everyone works to provide essential community services.

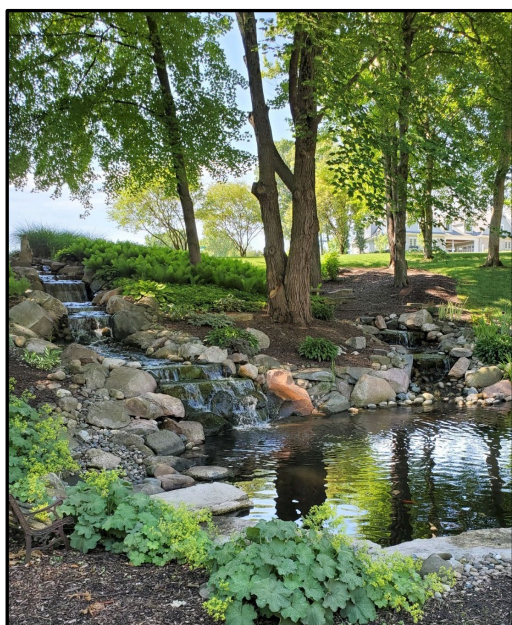
Other Garden Club activities over decades include our annual Franklin Garden Walks, and Labor Day Plant Sales. Holiday luncheons included a fashion show by a longtime member. We've continued caring for the Village Broughton House Garden, which members designed to reflect our local historical roots. For many years we've set up informal member garden tours, enjoying social and gardening ideas. And we always donate to charities and scholarships. Change continues as we adapt to historical, climate, and life-stage changes. Like Mother Nature, it comes quite naturally. - submitted by Enid Hilton Brown

## Milford Garden Club . . . . . The Quest for Great Gardens

The Milford Garden Club in Milford, Michigan holds its annual tour of local gardens each June. The tour was cancelled in 2020, but plans are on track for 2021. We are moving forward to hold it again in June when we will celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> annual Milford Garden Walk. The event is a way to showcase Milford area gardens while earning money for local student scholarships.

The most difficult task for this event is finding five or six gorgeous gardens each year. That may not seem like a lot, but the search is difficult. Gardens are tucked away on private roads, in backyards of the village or subdivisions and on country acreage and farms.

The area in and around Milford doesn't make the search easy. Our club draws members from four different townships and the Village of Milford, totaling about 140 square miles! The search is pared down a bit to look for gardens in two, maybe three, of



the townships and village. Narrowing the search area helps to reduce the distance between gardens for attendees.

The co-chairs of the 2021 garden walk, Kathy Barker and Martha Larsh, prowl the area for gorgeous and unusual gardens. They knock on doors, leave notes to see if homeowners are interested in showing their gardens and investigate tips. Sometimes, the club learns of gardens from referrals. As potential gardens are identified, Kathy and Martha visit each garden to determine if it would appeal to attendees. They look for . . .

- Variety, such as small lots in the village or acreage in the townships
- Combination of good landscaping and flowers
- Unusual characteristics, such as design, water features, and/or yard art
- Enthusiastic and involved homeowner(s)

The search is worth it. Milford Garden Walk homeowners have an opportunity to show off their hard work and share tips, while attendees have an opportunity to see gems in the community, to learn and to take away ideas. And, the garden walk generates funds for scholarships for local high school seniors. A win, win for everyone!

- submitted by Diane Pearson

## Rochester Garden Club



*Gift & Greens Market pick-up time!*



The Rochester Garden Club was in a quandary. Do we cancel the 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Gifts and Greens Market because of the pandemic, or do we figure out another way to raise funds to continue our community support? The Gifts and Greens Market is an event that is much looked forward to by our loyal customers to kick start the holiday season, and all profits are returned to the community in the form of scholarships, classroom purchases for Rochester Schools, civic beautification, donations to local environmental organizations and more.

The solution? We introduced a virtual market and sold items online from our website with curbside pick-up at the Rochester Fire House. The planning for the virtual Market was different from any other fundraiser we have done. There were so many questions! How to display our items, how to accept payments, how to stay safe with COVID infections rising? We started with a blank slate and took on the challenges one at a time.

Ideas for an online catalogue were bounced around and our talented website manager, after many hours of working and reworking, created two separate catalogues that were colorful, full of details about our products, and that showed our items off beautifully. Our Facebook page was used to entice customers with additional product photos and details about the Market. Accepting payments was a puzzle. We accepted cash, check and Square payments at our in-person Market, but this would not work online. The solution was to set up a PayPal account (and it was a true learning experience), and to also offer a drop box at a member's home for customers who preferred to pay by check.

Pricing considerations for our fresh greens convinced us that we should hold the Market in two stages. Part I was held in October for pre-ordered fresh greens such as roping (whole, half and quarter coils), wreaths, swags and red waterproof bows which were all shown in the online catalogue. Opening the greens sale in October allowed us to get lower prices for our items, and, happily, customers seemed to have .....continued on page 10

## Saginaw Garden Club

Motivated by our branch's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2019, inspired by the Belle Isle State Park daffodil movement, and dedicated to our mission of beautifying our community, the Saginaw, MI Branch has embarked on a five-year plan to plant daffodils in public spaces in our county.

There were many places from which to choose to begin planting! Our choice was on a knoll between the Celebration Skate Park and the historic Benjamin Cushway House.

"Built in 1844, the single-family Cushway House is the oldest surviving residence in Saginaw County. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982. The broken pediment at the roofline, the entrance with classic pilasters that flank the door and support the entablature, and the simple exterior are hallmarks of the Greek Revival Style, which was fashionable at the time."

In keeping with the 176-year history of the home, we planted 2,000+ daffodil bulbs and bulblets on Saturday, October 10, 2020. Our spirits were high, the weather was beautiful, and we were reminded often about the little things citizens do, in good and difficult times, to contribute to the health of our lives and those of our community. Such civic service has been a driving force within our branch for 91 years. ....continued on page 10



*Above, L – R:  
Sue Sonntag and Holly Furlo plant bulbs and bulblets on the grounds of Saginaw's historic Cushway House.*

*Right:  
Cushway House,  
the oldest surviving residence in Saginaw County*



*- photos courtesy of Saginaw Garden Club*

## Trailwood Garden Club



- Planting of annuals at Plymouth Township Police Department by members of the Trailwood Garden Club.  
L to R: Terry LaBeau, Ann Warren & Sally Lemus  
- photo courtesy of Trailwood Garden Club

The Club looks forward to brighter days soon!

The Trailwood Garden Club began in 1976 and was the 100<sup>th</sup> branch of the Michigan Division of the Woman's National Farm & Garden Association. For many years, members of the Garden Club kept busy selling luminaries for Christmas Eve and sponsoring an exhibit tent at the Plymouth Fall Festival. The tent included produce, flowers, and categories for children.

Since 1998, the branch has adopted a planter in downtown Plymouth, Michigan, and another at the entrance to the Plymouth Township offices. Planters were taken care of last summer. Several years ago, photos of the planter were used in a submission for a *Keep Michigan Beautiful Award* for the city of Plymouth. The Club's 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Walk was cancelled for 2020 but is planned for June 2021, with some possible restrictions.

Unable to meet indoors, the Club used the local township park for meetings. Zoom was also used to host a presentation by Advanced Master Gardener Cheryl English about native trees, shrubs and vines. The presentation was well-received and Zoom will be used for future programs.

A tribute from the State of Michigan was received on Trailwood's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It was presented by the Michigan State Representative at the preview night before the club's 11<sup>th</sup> annual *Flowers Are Forever* Garden Walk on June 26, 2006. The tribute read:

"In Special Tribute, this document is signed and dedicated to honor the Trailwood Garden Club on their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We, the people of the Plymouth area and all across the State of Michigan, extend our deepest respect and appreciation for the members of the Trailwood Garden Club and Woman's National Farm & Garden Association for their continued beautification of our community." The tribute was signed by Governor Jennifer Granholm and our State Representative, John Stewart.

- submitted by Georgia Randinitis, president

## Waterford Garden Club

The Waterford Garden Club, like most other clubs, has been staying connected via Zoom meetings. We meet monthly, mainly to socialize. In February, however, we had our first speaker, Jan Bills, owner of *Two Women and a Hoe*. Her topic was *Comfort and Simplicity* in gardening. It was wonderful to share a learning experience together again. Jan did a marvelous job in her presentation. In March we will have George Papadelis of Telly's Greenhouse, who will talk to us about what is new for 2021. All the local garden clubs know what a great job he does on that subject.

During the past summer, a handful of garden club members did their best to keep up with our gardens at the Waterford Senior Center and Drayton Plains Nature Center. We can report that one garden we created in memory

of Nancy Shorts has improved with each year. Nancy was a member of the Waterford Senior Center, and they had their own garden group. When Nancy passed away, contributions were made to the Waterford Garden Club and the club has used those funds to create a living memorial to Nancy. In 2016 we removed a dead tree and unwanted vegetation and replaced it with new plantings. To the right are before and after photos with about two years between.

It is still our intention to host the next in-person Michigan Division Council Meeting. It could possibly be this fall, but we have not yet made any plans. We are, however, planning on holding a Spring Plant Sale. After talking with Waterford

Township officials, we feel confident that we will be able to hold our sale in an empty parking lot owned by the township. We will wear masks. We can lay out our plant rows so that there is separation and we can set up a table for cashiers. We are all raring to go with some degree of "new normalcy." With the use of masks, we should be able to carry on with some of our regular activities once we can be outside in the fresh air.



# OUR PRIDE IS SHOWING !



How do you show pride in and support for the Woman's National Farm & Garden Association? How can others find out about our organization?

**Members now can buy apparel and accessories with our logo from our online store.**

Over the past 100 plus years, the WNF&GA has made a difference, yet many people are unaware of our accomplishments. Our organization is vital and dynamic! Purchase our online products for the purpose of

**honoring our history & sharpening our image!**

Become visible in our communities and start conversations, which we hope will lead to greater recognition and increased membership. Let WNF&GA continue setting and achieving goals through horticulture and agriculture over the next 100 years.

***NOTE:** All apparel is either ladies or unisex, except the 2 men's jackets which are provided for ladies who prefer a fuller cut.*

*To purchase the above WNF&GA online products and more, go to:  
<https://farm-garden2021.itemorder.com>  
for details and contact information.*

***Deadline to order: April 15, 2021***

## BESS MUELLER FLORAL ARTS FUND APPLICATION INFORMATION

Nancy Matthews, National Floral Arts Chairperson, fancynancy25@verizon.net, 215-542-6932

Following a change which was proposed, discussed and formally approved at the 2018 National Meeting, branches may use the Bess Mueller Fund in support of events as listed in paragraph 2 below. THE EVENTS MUST BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. The Fund will provide a monetary incentive to stimulate an active interest in the floral arts.

Specifically, the Bess Mueller Fund may be used to support judges' schools, flower shows, floral arts programs, workshops and guest speakers. The fund also provides podium flowers at each annual National Meeting.

Applications for funding are received by the Floral Arts Chairperson listed above. The funds are disbursed by the E & C Treasurer.

### BESS MUELLER FLORAL ARTS EDUCATION FUND *APPLICATION*

Applications must be received by the National Floral Arts Chairperson by March 1, 2021. If necessary, contact the FA Chairperson to request an extension. NOTE: The amount awarded may not fund your entire project.

Branch \_\_\_\_\_ Michigan Division YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

Project Title \_\_\_\_\_

Brief Description of Project \_\_\_\_\_

Event Date \_\_\_\_\_ Event Location \_\_\_\_\_

Estimate of Total Expenses \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Requested \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Person Submitting Application \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
# street city state zip

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

## WNF&GA Membership Application for Members-at-Large 2021

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
# street city state zip



Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

SECONDARY contact information in case we lose touch with you: \_\_\_\_\_  
name

# street city state zip phone email address

WNF&GA Member-at-Large is a designation for loyal friends who do not have the convenience of nearby branches, but who wish to be involved with the organization. Loyal friends receive all national communications, including the biannual magazine *Farm & Garden*.

2021 Dues: \$15.00  
MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: WNF&GA

Mail your \$15.00 check & this completed form to:  
Mary Lynne Moellering Phone: 248-651-7005  
1280 Seville Rd., Rochester Hills, MI 48309  
Email: emlmoellering@gmail.com

## Hazel Herring Civic Improvement Grant Application

Application made by (branch name) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of branch members \_\_\_\_\_ Michigan Division? YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

Project title \_\_\_\_\_

Total cost of project \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ✓one: Estimate? \_\_\_ OR Exact? \_\_\_ Amount requested \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Person submitting application \_\_\_\_\_

Address (#, street name, city, state, zip) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number(s) HOME \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_

Email address (Write neatly to assure accuracy.) \_\_\_\_\_

The application process must include the materials listed below, which should all be sent together, if possible.

1. Send the completed application form via regular mail or via email.

2. Send a written description – 3 *typed* pages maximum – describing the project, the goal, the sweat equity (who will be involved in the project) and the total cost of the completed project.

3. Provide copies of the completed application to the submitting member's branch &, if applicable, to the division president.

4. Send four digital photos in a .jpg format **WITH THE APPLICATION**. If the applicant is unable to send photos via email, provide the name of the person who will send or has sent the digital photos separately.

Mail completed application  
& photos to:

Gerry Howard  
12735 Scott Road  
Davisburg, MI 48350

Phone: 248-634-3766  
Email: gerryhoward323@yahoo.com

*Application  
deadline:  
May 1, 2021*

### Requirements of 2021 Grant Recipients

1. Submit a final report to Gerry Howard at the above address no later than May 1, 2022.

2. Include in the report:

- a brief description of the completed project
- four digital photos of the completed project (with identification of branch/division name, title of project and date of project completion)
- name of person who submitted the application, along with phone number, email address and mailing address

### Quiz Answers – page 2

- |              |           |           |          |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| 1.scissors   | 2.dresser | 3.cheddar | 4.cookie |
| 5.mind / eye | 6.wit     | 7.shooter | 8.focus  |
| 9.image      | 10.tongue | 11.knife  | 12.pain  |

Which example aligns best? # 5

When you see  
#1 . . .



it's time to prune  
# 2.





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Association, Inc.

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Waterford, MI 48327

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Spring 2021 Feature Articles:  
from Rain Gardens to Garden  
Photography to Robotic  
Milking of Holsteins



*Photo information, bottom of page 3.*

