



# Farm & Garden

WOMAN'S NATIONAL FARM & GARDEN ASSOCIATION, INC.

*“Welcome  
to my  
garden.”*

President Faith Tiberio.  
Annual Meeting 2009, Boston

SPRING 2009

# WNF&GA MEMBERS IN THE GARDENS AT AMBLER (MEMORIES OF THE 2008 ANNUAL MEETING)



# Farm & Garden

THE MAGAZINE OF THE WOMAN'S NATIONAL FARM & GARDEN ASSOCIATION, INC.  
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**Members:** Send your accomplishments, tips, and updates for the next issue of *Farm & Garden*. Submissions must be received by August 1, 2009. Electronic format is preferred. Send to Editor at the above e-mail address.

**On the Cover:** WNF&GA President Faith Tiberio's garden in Sherborn, Massachusetts will be the site of a Yankee Clam Bake for Annual Meeting participants on Friday, June 12, 2009. Don't miss it!

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# FAITH IN FARM & GARDEN: A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



In medieval times people celebrated bleak, cold, dark seasons with hope and confidence in the future by welcoming “The Green Man” [see Sir Gawain and the Green Knight]. In churches and ancient buildings one can see today the artfully carved faces of this mythical figure peering down with stony sightless eyes, yet instilling confidence in the coming spring and summer and the harvest to follow. A mighty comfort, that.

The recent election brings to our country our own “Green Man...” green in thinking about our environment and green in thinking about agriculture. We of the WNF&GA must heed, must answer the call to renewed awareness. For the “Green Man” is no longer superstition and no longer myth. Green is vital if we expect to survive. The concept of green lives on as a challenge. We members are the Gawains of 2009.

Thank you to all executives and council members for electing to

save money and time by conducting our budget process electronically with the loyal and experienced guidance of Kay Englehart, Peggy Campbell, Carol Leonard, and Margaret Latham. They continue to keep us apprised of things that need our attention. Hazel Herring is working diligently on the “Greenhouse Fund.” We thank you for your wonderful response to our need for funds to finish our one time only project for this permanent home where we began so long ago. Please see the donations listed in the budget. You’ll be very proud. Also included in this issue is an update on our “bricks.”

And I was thinking, besides our bricks, we might ask each Division President to consider mailing or shipping a modest stone native to her area to be included in the final design for the greenhouse-headhouse center. Linda Lowe of Temple Ambler will keep us informed about the date and time to celebrate the dedicatory plaque.

I can’t say enough about the work done by our Editor, Kathy Beveridge. She has put forth a request for articles and stories. We have several but each of you has a fascinating story that ought to be shared.

Both Susan Yeager and Audrey Ehrler are in touch with ideas for our hankies and we should note that regarding our Dogwood Garden intern we remain grateful and thankful for the continued support of the former New England Division. And so, then, remember to use your focus groups and partici-

pate in the various activities in which we are engaged. What are we then...you and I...if we do not leave something good and green behind for all to see in the times to come? Our work is being recorded thus: a hundred years from now there will be no Green Woman staring down from high with sightless eyes—for our eyes are open. We’ve always had a vision and those unborn descendants of you and me will know that dedicated women met, made, and loved the WFN&GA.

That makes the difference.

Yours in WNF&GA,

## *Faith*



A green man looks down on the Christians at Christ Church Cathedral in Oxford.

[www.cwrl.utexas.edu/~bump/oxford/Gawain/Gawain.html](http://www.cwrl.utexas.edu/~bump/oxford/Gawain/Gawain.html)

## IN FOCUS: WHAT ARE OUR FOCUSES?

By Barbara Hochstettler  
National President 2004-2006

It was 1998, the first year of Jean Ehlinger's presidency, when the Executive Committee and Chairmen were called to Pittsburgh for a very important meeting. It seemed WNF&GA needed to re-group: Focus on our future—which at the time looked unclear.

Peggy Campbell was a driving force. The emphasis was to streamline, decide what was still important to the organization, and regroup. It was a beginning. The underlying mood was that whatever we came up with then was right for the time at hand. Nothing was in concrete. It would reflect the current thinking of the organization. It was a stop-gap, which could be revisited as needed.

What emerged that weekend was not a lot different from what the founding "mothers" of our organization had come up with many years prior:

**Education/Scholarship;**  
**Civic Service;**  
**International Cooperation;**  
**Floral Arts;**  
**Horticultural Therapy;**  
**Gardening; and**  
**Environmental Concerns.**

We added **Promotion and Growth** in light of our then current crisis of dwindling membership.

The actions of the weekend were refined over the next few years and added to our Standing Rules.

It was decided that each focus would have a coordinator who would:

1. Oversee the organizational structure of the focus, to protect its health and success; and to help facilitate its activities.
2. Implement any changes necessary to keep the focus running smoothly and efficiently.
3. Accept the Awards Applications for the focus, make decisions, and present awards.

4. Communicate the names of the award recipients to the National Awards Chairperson, communicate and meet with the Chairpersons in her focus, and, finally, inspire and enable her Chairpersons to do their duties.

The focuses were to reflect who we are and our purposes for existing. It was never thought that the organizational outline of the focuses was perfect, but rather, a "work in progress." There seemed to have been a loss of direction at the time.

The driving force was to never lose our direction. It was believed that if we stayed focused on the primary aims of our organization, they would keep us from becoming mundane in our endeavors. Let's learn from our past and continue to protect our aims and purposes.

Articles on these subjects are featured in this space in every edition of Farm & Garden. Submit information about your focus-related activities. Let's keep WNF&GA "In Focus."

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## EDUCATION FOCUS: TYSON FELLOW SAYS THANK YOU

Sarah E. (Arnold) Braun sent the following letter of thanks to WNF&GA:

I would like to express my gratitude to the Woman's National Farm & Garden Association as well as the Tyson Fellowship Committee for awarding me the Sarah Bradley Tyson Memorial Fellowship. This award has been instrumental in supporting my studies and research.

Last summer I had the opportunity to present some of my research at the American Phytopathological Society's centennial meeting. The title

of my presentation was "Effect of fungus gnat *Bradysia impatiens* feeding on subsequent *Pythium aphanidermatum* infection of geranium seedlings."

The Entomological Society of America accepted another paper of mine, and I traveled to Reno, Nevada in November to present it at the society's annual meeting. I presented on the "Lack of *Pythium aphanidermatum* transmission by adult fungus gnats (*Bradysia impatiens*)."

Last semester I served as Secretary

of the Entomology Graduate Student Association and as the graduate student representative on the Entomology Department's Curriculum and Teaching Committee. Outside of the classroom, I participated in a Nature Explorers Outreach Program for elementary school students run by the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research at Cornell University.

Overall I feel honored that the WNF&GA is supporting me in my academic pursuits.

By Betty Monahan

## Environmental Concerns Focus Coordinator

### Bees and the Environment

In keeping with our President Faith Tiberio's concern about the future of the honeybee, the Environmental Concern awards for the 2009 year will include extra points for those branches that have incorporated a honeybee theme into their programs and activities. Here are a few ideas:

Learn about the value of the honeybee to the agricultural industry and to our food supply. What do we know about the life cycle of the honey bee? What are the stresses facing the honey bee? Invite a bee keeper as a speaker to your branch meeting.

Collect examples of commercial products advertising the use of honey—make a collage of the packaging. Apply your arts and crafts skills to incorporate the honeybee theme into shopping bags, pot holders, place mats, etc. Use them as fund raisers. Bring some to the National Meeting for the market table or to display them as an environmental project. Photographers and artists can produce great pictures of bees going about their daily life and bring them to the National Meeting for all of us to enjoy. Be a busy bee and learn about one of our greatest allies.

Remember, insecticides and pesticides are enemies of the honeybee and all pollinators. If you have a lawn care service provider, tell them you only want organic, environmentally friendly products used on your lawn and gardens. If you belong to a homeowners' association that takes care of the grounds, convince the members that this is the responsible way to go.

This information comes from an article in the March/April 2009 issue of *Grit Magazine*: The honeybee that is having problems is an import from Europe. However, we do have a native bee that has been pollinating fruit trees and



The honey bee (*Apis Mellifera*) has tremendous agricultural value. Photo by Jamie Stanek.

flowers for thousands of years, though it does not produce honey—the Orchard Mason bee. Said to be less aggressive, it spends its days pollinating and laying eggs. For more information, check out *The Orchard Mason Bee* by Brian Griffin, 1999.

### Cowpots

Trust the American farmer to come up with more and more ingenious ways to be productive and to cut down on waste! Two Connecticut dairy farmers were looking for an environmentally responsible way to dispose of excess cow manure. (There is a limit to how much you should spread back on the fields.) After capturing the methane—which is burned to provide energy for the farm—the manure is dried, composted, mixed with natural fibers and pressed into pots—"Cowpots". They last for months in the nursery or on the windowsill; seedlings in them can be transplanted "pots and all" into the ground. Pots will dissolve within weeks, providing essential organic nutrients. They have no odor and no plastic.

Source: Gardeners Supply Company, an employee owned firm in Vermont (800-427-3363 or

[www.gardeners.com/green](http://www.gardeners.com/green)).

### The Hand Electric Mower

I have a new toy that I absolutely love. Last spring, my yard man—at least twenty years younger than I am—told me he was retiring; so I started thinking of alternatives. I get so exasperated trying to start a gas lawn mower that by the time I finally get it started, I don't even want to mow.

I didn't want the maintenance, the gas and oil, or the smell and storage of either a hand or a ride on mower; so I started looking at a hand electric. What a great choice! It is not self-propelled, but that's no problem. We're supposed to walk an hour a day, and one charge of the lawn mower lasts for about an hour; so I'm getting my exercise and my lawn done at the same time. I've got about an acre of lawn, so it works out well. And no gasoline stink! And no maintenance or preparation for winter storage. It does a marvelous job shredding my leaf pile—pieces smaller than a penny. The charge probably lasts about three quarters of an hour when I'm composting.

## IN FOCUS: ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

### A New Use for Corn

Many of our corn farmers are hurting as the use of corn as a biofuel dried up because of the expense. Now there is another use for corn. This information comes courtesy of Audrey Ehrler (New York Division President and National Arboretum representative) and her niece. There are products made of corn that will entirely disintegrate when it is time to dispose of them. Some are for repeated use (pens, travel mugs, etc.); some are for one time use (so-called paper cups, etc.) I hope the company has a substitute for plastic silverware. There will be more on this at the National Meeting.

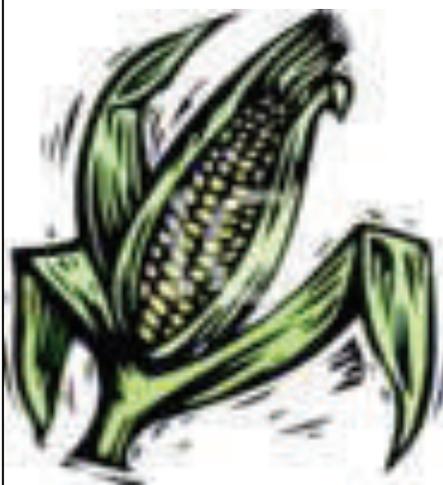
### Obama and Environment

There is so much good news coming out about efforts to help our environment, and—hooray, hooray!— a lot of it is finally coming from Washington. The administration's commitment to alternative sources of energy—wind, solar, biofuels, etc.— and to use our energy in more efficient ways is like a breath of fresh air!

Some of this was already being done in our area with experimental wind turbines (individually and on wind farms) and houses built with solar panels and/or sited to take advantage of passive solar energy through windows. One farmer said he had been trying for years to get rid of a certain weed; now he is being paid to plant and harvest an experimental plot of the weed for an experiment in use as biofuel. The good news is that—unlike corn—many of these experimental crops will grow on marginal land.

### Environmental Workshop at National

There is going to be a hands-on exchange and sharing of experiences and ideas about what companies, universities, municipalities, and states are doing in your area; problems; and what works and what doesn't. Has anyone done something like recycling broken china, glass, or tile into decorative objects? How can we reuse something we normally throw away? Bring samples and



Corn— it's not just for picnics anymore. New bio-degradable products abound.

pictures of anything and everything that can be useful, educational, artistic, fun, etc.

Don't forget to bring your reusable bag for shopping in Boston so we're not adding to the plastic bag problem.

### Washington's Not-So-Secret Garden

[Excerpted from *The New York Times*, *Room for Debate*, March 29, 2009.]

Michelle Obama announced that she would be planting a vegetable garden on the South Lawn, and digging began in earnest on March 19th.

This is the first vegetable garden at the White House since Eleanor Roosevelt's



Much news of note to gardeners and environmentalists is coming out of Washington D.C. this spring.

victory garden during World War II. Though there are 18 acres to play with, no White House resident since has had the urge to dig into the dirt and, with a little hard work, enjoy the delight of harvesting peas and tomatoes off the vine.

Why are the Obamas the first in more than 60 years to put in a vegetable garden?

*Roger Doiron is the founder of Kitchen Gardeners International, a nonprofit network of 10,000 gardeners from 100 countries and leader of the "Eat the View" campaign which collected over 100,000 signatures on a petition to re-plant a kitchen garden at the White House.*

As much as we'd like to think otherwise, presidents and first ladies are not superheroes. They are humans and shaped by popular culture which for the better part of the past 50 years in America has looked at kitchen gardening as a pleasant enough form of recreation, but not fundamental to the human condition and certainly not worthy of a new president's attention "on day one."

When I started up the campaign in early 2008 to push for a White House vegetable garden, the goal was not only to alter the White House grounds, but our broader social and cultural landscape. As a patient gardener myself, I was bracing myself for a long germination period for this change (gardeners: think parsley), but I'm encouraged at how quickly things are moving.

The pace of change speaks to the power of the first family to shift people's views and the public's sense of urgency about environmental issues. I don't think previous presidents were able to connect the dots between food, health, economics, and sustainability as we can now. The important and wonderful news about the new White House garden is that those connections are being made in a visible and lasting way on our country's most emblematic patch of ground.

## MORE BUZZ ABOUT BEES...

### A Bee in Her Bonnet

By Caroline Ludovici Jones

Having just returned from the UK, I decided to pay a visit on my dear friend Brigida Michopulos, as I usually do to upon my return from my trips home, to fill her in on all the latest family dramas and happenings across the pond.

I found her in her studio, busy and pre-occupied with her artwork as usual. But this time I immediately noticed that there was something very different going on in the room. Something of a serious, scholarly nature seemed to fill the air. Heavy, old biology books with detailed illustrations lay open on her desk, papers in Latin and Swedish were strewn about, and notes that she had printed out had quick sketches scribbled beside some of the lines. There was a magnifying glass and a couple of serious looking metal rulers lying beside the paints and brushes. The white coat she wore to paint her mystical landscapes and detailed story pictures now looked like a lab coat on her; she had somehow morphed from an artist into a biologist.

"What's all this, Brig? What on earth are you up to?"

She grinned at me, taking me by the arm, and said, "Bees! Look! I have become an expert while you have been away!"

And she was right! All around us was her artwork showing her latest passion, bees. But not just bees, it was bees and their complete bee world. Laid out as a work in progress were preliminary sketches and beautiful detailed drawings of specific flowers and the pollination process. She had painted intricate watercolor diagrams depicting the different types of bees, the role they played within their community, and their whole life cycle, even to the different types of honey they produced, and how it was produced within the anatomy of the insect itself. Then she showed me another section, which depicted everything about hives, including the history of the hive and the differ-

ences in shape and form as they varied from country to country. Brigida had even studied intricate geometric patterns of the honeycombs and drawn them in great detail, taking advantage of her architectural background. It must have taken her days! It seemed she had been stung, and got the bug!

"It was all Stefania Binnick's fault!" she told me. "I love bees now that I know their world!"

I knew Stefania from tennis, and being a fellow artist, she had introduced Brigida in early January to the Ambler branch of WNF&GA, where there had been a fascinating talk on bees.

Brigida is including all the work she has done on bees in a notebook she is creating for the association, and it will be available to anyone interested. Her email is [bmichopulos@verizon.net](mailto:bmichopulos@verizon.net). If you are interested, she would love to hear from you.



A sample of the artwork created by Brigida Michopulos following her introduction to the world of bees. This image features Lu Lu Bee. See story on page 9.

## MORE BUZZ ABOUT BEES...

### Lu Lu Bee Odyssey — By Stefania Luciani Binnick

It was around the 20<sup>th</sup> of December when I read about how the honeybees bat their wings for hours until the temperature inside the hive is warm enough for the queen to resume laying her eggs on the winter solstice. Outside it had been freezing so the honeybees had their work cut out.

As I approached the front door step of my parents' porch, I saw a bee dragging itself along the tile floor. Feeling sorry for the bee, I thought to keep it warm, thinking it was probably a drone kicked out of its hive. My cousin visiting from Italy answered the door and went to find a jar in the recycle bin. The lid needed to be punctured to let air in until we could come up with a plan.

The jar had to be cleaned and it took a while because it was a Polaner brand glass jelly container with many angles in its octagon shape. The delay made time for the bee and me to make our acquaintances. He or she did not hesitate to step upon the book marker quickly slipped out from *Robbing the Bees*, by Holly Bishop, in my purse.

The jar was cleaned, the bee went into its space, and off we went to the destination of the day: Benton, Pennsylvania. Our little farmstead is a beautiful place the bee might adopt as his/her new home. An abandoned hive that had once occupied the outside lantern was salvaged for my studies. Perhaps the bee would find it comfortable. It was warm and ready on the laundry room countertop.

I had a two and a half hour drive ahead, enough time to make a plan. Lady or Mr. Bee was doing fine on the front passenger seat. Brigida was called first on speaker and would be so excited to know about the little, hairy winged friend traveling with me. She and I had to check in about our findings on the temperature of the hive in order for queen bees to start laying eggs during the winter cold. As artists doing re-

search on bee anatomy, behavior, and culture, we researched many resources and shared information so that the bee book would be rendered with imagination and logic.

One of the interior hive scenes would look like a warm and cuddly nursery and maternity ward where the queen delivers her eggs. It was also possible to make the interior hive look and feel like the inside of an oven. Brigida said upon my return she'd like to visit the bee and provide it a honeycomb. It could not yet be determined if the bee was a drone or female so Bri suggested naming it Lu Li – (pronounced "Lew- Lee"); my preference was Lu Lu.

The next speaker phone call in the car was a question session with Jenny Rose Carey of the Ambler Keystone Branch. She explained that on warmer days in winter a bee leaves the hive to find some nectar. Whether our companion was a drone kicked out of the hive or a lethargic lady honey bee looking for some nectar, we knew our journey together would be a memorable one, complete with plenty of pictures. By the time my husband arrived with his macro lens, Lu Lu was walking around the wasp hive on the countertop. Lu Lu posed on my finger tip for Steve and never attempted to sting me. For the rest of the afternoon Lu Lu posed for his portraits. A couple of times he put his head over his crossed arms resting on top of a cloth for the photographs. At night time, Lu Lu rested in the hive with a blanket above him.

The next morning we drove back to Norristown. It was a warmer winter day with lots of sun shining that afternoon. On the front wall of the house, close to the ground and porch, my parents indicated where the hive was hidden. Lu Lu and I said our goodbyes. Still too weak to fly, Lu Lu slowly walked away into the earth. I said a little prayer for him, and "Thank you, Lu Lu. It was a pleasure to meet you."

### Bee Book Report By Jorie Nailor, President Ambler Keystone Branch

Recently our branch read two books pertaining to bees. In January we met to discuss them at our general meeting which included a pot luck dinner. Many types of honey were available to sample. My preferred read was *Robbing the Bees* by Holly Bishop.

The author (a hobbyist bee keeper) describes the operation of a professional apiarist and her mentor Donald Smiley. Along with describing his operation in the Florida panhandle, she reveals all aspects of bees and bee keeping from the social history of honey collection; the workings of the bee hive; the importance of pollination; the fruits of the bees such as honey and wax; and even old and new honey recipes. All is entertaining and informative.

One member in our branch, while reading this book, became so engaged that she made drawings of all aspects of bees. She delighted us with her enthusiasm and drawings. This is the third year that we have reserved our January meeting for a book discussion. Each year's discussion is better, but this was the sweetest. [jorienailor@gmail.com](mailto:jorienailor@gmail.com)



"Lu Lu Bee Souvenir" is a digital art creation by Stefania Luciani Binnick in remembrance of Lu Lu and the WNF&GA's 2009 theme of bees. Stefania is creating Lu Lu prints. If you are interested in learning more about the prints her e-mail is [sbinnick@comcast.net](mailto:sbinnick@comcast.net). She would love to hear from you.

# DAFFODILS FOR DETROIT: A STORY OF CIVIC SERVICE

By Cecily O'Connor  
Bloomfield Hills Branch

Detroit has a terrible reputation. According to the national media, Detroit is the poster child for all that is wrong with modern cities.

## Enter the Daffodils

But Detroit is also the first city outside of Manhattan to be enrolled in The Daffodil Project. The Daffodil Project began in the terrible days after 9/11 when the Dutch bulb supplier to Central Park contacted Lynden B. Miller and offered her 1 million free daffodil bulbs as a living memorial to those who died, if she could find volunteers to plant them.

## Who is Lynden B. Miller?

Lynden B. Miller, a garden crusader, is the president of her own company, Public Garden Design, Inc., and the force behind the restoration of Central Park's Conservatory Garden and most of the public gardens in New York. Lynden contacted the volunteer organization New Yorkers for Parks, and that October they planted the million daffodil bulbs in all five boroughs of Manhattan. To date, volunteers have planted 3 million bulbs.

Our garden club, the Bloomfield Hills branch of WNF&GA, learned of The Daffodil Project through one of our members who knows Lynden and asked to be enrolled. Our bulbs were heavily discounted, but not free. We teamed up with the Belle Isle Women's Committee to raise the money. In the fall of 2008, volunteers from The Friends of Belle Isle, The Belle Isle Botanical Society, the Master Gardeners Association of Wayne County and The Belle Isle Women's Committee planted 10,000 daffodil bulbs at the entrance to Belle Isle and the area around the restored Sunset Point. Our plan is to plant more bulbs every fall until all of Belle Isle glows with daffodils each spring.



Daffodils have brightened the landscape in Manhattan since 9/11 and, with help from the Bloomfield Hills branch, will soon assist in restoring Belle Isle in Michigan.

## What is Belle Isle?

Belle Isle is the only island park designed by Frederick Law Olmsted's firm in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is connected to the city by a bridge. Since the 1960s, its 980 acres (100 acres larger than Central Park) have suffered from neglect and lack of funding. Most of its gardens are gone. Many of its Victorian buildings have been torn down. The Conservatory, designed by world-famous architect Albert Kahn, and The Dairy Barn, designed by George Mason, one of Kahn's associates, are in serious disrepair.



Now, powerful forces are at work to restore this jewel. The Belle Isle Women's Committee, under the leadership of its visionary founder, Sarah Earley, has raised \$1.4 million to restore Sunset Point, the westernmost tip of the island, which has a spectacular view of the Detroit skyline. Current plans include restoration of the historic Horse Stables.

## Lynden Miller Comes to Detroit

On October 13, 2009, Lynden Miller is coming to Detroit to speak on the theme of her new book, "Parks, Plants, and People: Beautifying the Urban Landscape." She will speak at a luncheon at the Detroit Yacht Club co-sponsored by The Bloomfield Hills branch of the WNF&GA and The Belle Isle Women's Committee. Patron tickets are \$85 and Lynden will autograph her book. For additional information, please contact Cecily O'Connor at [lnghtr@att.net](mailto:lnghtr@att.net).

# NATIONAL MEETING: NATICK, MA (JUNE 11-14, 2009)

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Our next annual National Meeting will be held at the Natick Crowne Plaza, Natick, MA. This is a small town, just west of Boston, MA. An energetic agenda has been prepared by our President, Faith Tiberio, with much to see and learn.

We will begin our conference on the evening of Wednesday, June 10. Members will arrive at the hotel, making their own room arrangements through the web site link or direct phone reservations. Registration tables will be open from 4 PM to 9 PM. The members arriving from Michigan on the bus will be greeted at the door. Comfortable guest rooms will await our road weary travelers.

Thursday morning, June 11, we will discover historical Boston with a Duck Tour. Learn about the sights and sounds of one of our most important cities both past and present while riding a most interesting vehicle. We will quack our way to the prestigious Harvard Faculty Club for a sumptuous buffet lunch and a presentation by noted author, Allyson Hayward. Her recent publication, *Nora Lindsey*, traces the life of this intriguing socialite and garden designer. After lunch, we will make our way back to the hotel for an afternoon of Committee meetings as called. We will meet for dinner at the hotel followed by an evening workshop, "Getting To Know Farm & Garden." This workshop will give members the information needed to fully participate at the General Sessions of our meetings. We will define the terms used at the meetings, explain how Farm & Garden fits into a larger picture of organizations, and answer the age-old question: Why National?

Friday, June 12, is the first session of our General Annual Meeting. We will breakfast bright and early, to be ready for the Call to Order at 8:45 AM. There is much business to address, as our meetings have been pared down to one per year. A buffet lunch will be served at the hotel.

At 1:15 we will begin our afternoon workshops. Members will choose two of the three subjects offered: **A Book, A Book!** Hosted by Faith Tiberio, we will begin to write a short essay about our experiences regarding Farm & Garden. Faith is an accomplished author and has the gift of storytelling. She will gently prompt our minds and fingers to turn out stories of our past. Faith hopes to compile these remembrances into a book for all to share. If you enjoy sharing experiences with others, this is the spot for you!

Our second workshop is entitled: **Bee Keeping: Keep the Buzz Going.** A local bee keeper will explain the work and need for bees. He will discuss Hive Collapse, describe the social network and necessity of each type of bee, and offer honey-based products to sell. Bees are responsible for nearly all of our plant-based agriculture. Find out how you can help keep the bees buzzing.

The third workshop will be **Brainstorming: Green and Clean, Helping our Plant.** Betty Monahan, Environmental Concerns Chairman, will lead a discussion about ways to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. Studies have shown our efforts to clean our air have increased life expectancy. So many things, large and small, have a direct result on our environment. With Betty's energy and talents, this workshop will be fun and exciting.

After the workshops, we will have a chance to rest and relax at the hotel. This is a wonderful time to get to know each other, catch up with friends, or informally discuss the business of the meeting. We will board our bus or car pool to Faith & Joe Tiberio's home for a Yankee Clam Bake in their beautiful garden. The Ipswich Clam Bake Company will be on hand to serve up our delicious meal. The grounds of Faith's home make a perfect setting for a Massachusetts summer evening. We will return to our hotel, sated both in body and soul.

Saturday, June 13, we will continue with an early morning breakfast and the second session of our General Meeting. If the past meetings are a barometer, the discussions will be spirited. Lunch will be a buffet at the hotel. At 1:30, we will travel to a local hot spot: Garden in the Woods. This is the home of the New England Wildflower Society and native plant garden. There are wildflowers, ferns, shrubs, and trees, all in their native habitats. The garden is a prime example of successful landscaping with native plants. Many endangered and rare plants thrive under the loving care of the garden curators and volunteers. We will tour rain or shine, be prepared. [www.newfs.org](http://www.newfs.org)

In the evening we will meet for a cocktail hour and a silent auction at the hotel. The auction is a wonderful conclusion to our meetings. The unusual array of items and lively bidding wars are such fun. After our dinner the joy of victory for the highest bidders carries us to our next meeting.

Join us; you will be glad you did!

## Boston Bound!

Mark your calendars! From June 10 to 14 we will meet in Natick, MA, just west of Boston. The Mayflower Branch has graciously agreed to assist with details. They will give us a memorable New England welcome. Arrangements have been made with the Natick, MA Crowne Plaza Hotel. This recently renovated property will be home to the 2009 WNF&GA National Meeting. Our tours include, but are not limited to, a Duck Tour of Boston, lunch at the prestigious Harvard Club with author, Allyson Hayward, and other exciting events. Our President, Faith Tiberio, has opened her home for a lovely dinner on Friday, June 12. Join us to catch up with the friends you made at Am- bler, find out what is new with Farm & Garden, and share your ideas about the organization. Our bus will bring at- tendees from Michigan through Ontario, Canada. If you enjoyed our time at Plymouth Meeting, PA in June of 2008, you will continue with the fun and merriment in Natick, MA. Watch for details, registration forms, and more on the WNF&GA website.

Detroit, MI to Natick, MA  
June 10 Depart Michigan arrive MA  
June 11-13, meeting/tour Natick, MA  
June 14 Depart Natick, MA to Detroit, MI



Once again, we will travel with Bianco Tours to our National Meeting site. A deluxe motor coach with restroom, foot rests and all amenities has been chartered for our trip. We will travel through Ontario, Canada from Detroit, Michigan. One pick point will be in Wayne County, the other in Oakland County. Effective January 1, 2009, pass- ports or a travel card will be needed for entry to Canada and reentry to the USA. Anyone, member or guest, is invited to travel on the bus with us. Cost is \$195.00, round trip, taxes and tip included, balance of \$120.00 due May 5, 2009. Space is limited, reserve early!

### Bus Reservation Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Member \_\_\_\_\_ Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Branch \_\_\_\_\_ Division \_\_\_\_\_

**Make \$75.00 deposit check Payable to National Meeting Fund, Bus Deposit on Memo line  
Balance of \$120.00 due by May 5, 2009**

**Send Check and a copy of this form to:**

**Aileen LaBret, 674 South Sheldon Road, Plymouth, MI 48170  
734-459-3914 e-mail: [alabret@aol.com](mailto:alabret@aol.com)**

**Questions: Mary A. Bertolini 248-620-9281 e-mail: [mgbertolini@aol.com](mailto:mgbertolini@aol.com)**

**WNF&GA Annual Meeting**  
**June 11 – 14, 2009**  
**Natick Crowne Plaza, Natick MA**  
**Meeting Registration Form**  
One registration form for each person attending

**NO REFUNDS**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Member \_\_\_\_\_ Guest \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ E Mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Division/Branch \_\_\_\_\_ Office Held \_\_\_\_\_  
 Riding the bus? \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated time of arrival (non bus riders) \_\_\_\_\_ Car \_\_\_\_\_ Plane \_\_\_\_\_  
 Is this your first National Meeting? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ (If yes, Thurs. evening workshop suggested)

**Food Allergies/Concerns:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: Registration is all inclusive: Meals, tours, and meeting materials**

**Thursday June 11:** Duck Tour of Boston, Lunch at the Harvard Club, Dinner at the Hotel \$Included  
 Evening Workshop: **Getting to know Farm & Garden.** Learn about the structure of  
 Farm & Garden, answers to: A&O, E&C, ACWW, Why National? Attending? Yes No

**Friday June 12:** First session, 2009 National Meeting, lunch at the hotel  
 Afternoon workshops: Choose 2 (two) Mark first and second choice  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **A Book, A BOOK!** Story writing Seminar with Faith Tiberio  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **Bee Keeping: Keep the Buzz Going** Discussion with a local Bee Keeper  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **"Brainstorming": Green and Clean, Helping our Planet** an interactive workshop  
 Dinner: A Yankee Clam Bake, Ipswich Clam Bake Co. at the Tiberio Garden \$Included  
 Choose ONE \_\_\_\_\_ One pound Lobster \_\_\_\_\_ Grilled Chicken Breast  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian Dinner \_\_\_\_\_ Vegan dinner

**Saturday June 13:** Second Session, National Meeting, lunch at hotel \$Included  
 Tour of Garden in the Woods  
 Dinner at the hotel

<b>Total Registration Fee:</b>	<b><u>\$240.00</u></b>
Angel Fund Contribution:	_____
<b>Late Fee (Registration after 5/12):</b>	<b><u>\$15.00</u></b>
<b>Total Amount:</b>	<b><u>\$ _____</u></b>

**Registration Deadline: May 12, 2009. Late fees apply after this date, NO EXCEPTIONS**

Check payable to **WNF&GA National Meeting Fund**. Send completed registration form & check to:

**Aileen La Bret**  
**674 South Sheldon Road**  
**Plymouth, MI 48170**  
 734-459-3914  
[alabret@aol.com](mailto:alabret@aol.com)

Questions?  
 Mary Bertolini 248-620-9281  
[mgbertolini@aol.com](mailto:mgbertolini@aol.com)  
 (write WNF&GA in subject line)

Make hotel reservations with: Natick Crowne Plaza, Natick, MA  
 888-233-9527 Code: Woman's National Farm & Garden

# MEETING DIRECTIONS AND ACCOMMODATIONS

**Crowne Plaza Hotel BOSTON-NATICK**  
**1360 WORCESTER STREET**  
**NATICK, MA 01760 UNITED STATES**  
**Hotel Front Desk: 508-653-8800**  
**Hotel Fax: 508-653-1708**

We will be staying at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Natick, MA. This recently renovated property has all the amenities we would expect. Please make your reservations directly with the hotel, using the above reservation number for the front desk, or on line with the link from our website, [www.wnfga.org](http://www.wnfga.org).

When phoning reservations, mention you are part of Woman's National Farm & Garden to get the rate of \$127.00 per night, including taxes. Room sharers will be charged an additional \$10.00 per night, for breakfast. Upon check-in, you will receive vouchers for breakfast each morning at the hotel. These vouchers will not be replaced if lost. Below are directions to the hotel and map for your reference.

From Logan International Airport: Follow signs to the Massachusetts Turnpike/I-90 West, Ted Williams Tunnel. Take the Massachusetts Turnpike [I-90 to exit 13 (Route 30 Framingham/

Natick)]. Bear right after toll booth. At the second traffic light turn left and follow signs to Route 9 East. Hotel will be on the right on Route 9 eastbound.

From the Massachusetts Turnpike: Take the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90) to exit 12, Framingham. Bear right after toll booth, following signs for Framingham, Route 9 East. Hotel is located on Route 9 eastbound, just past Circuit City.

From Route 495: Take Route 495 to exit 23A (Route 9 East). Follow Route 9 East approximately 8 miles. Hotel is on right-hand side, 1/4 mile after Loews Cinema.

From New York / Connecticut: Take New England Thruway (Route 95 North) to New Haven. In New Haven, take Route 91 North to Hartford. In Hartford, take Route 84 (marked as Route 86 East) to the Massachusetts Turnpike. Take the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90) to exit 12, Framingham. Bear right after toll booth, following signs for Framingham, Route 9 East. Hotel is located on Route 9 eastbound, just past Circuit City.

## **Logan International Airport (BOS)**

Distance: 17 MI / 27.36 KM West to Hotel.

Shuttle Charge (one way) \$12.00 (USD)

Taxi Charge (one way) \$65.00 (USD)

Time by taxi: 30 Minutes

Time by train: 25/50 Minutes Express

## **T.F. Green, Providence (PVD)**

Distance: 65 MI / 104.6 KM North to Hotel

## **Manchester Int'l Airport (MHT)**

Distance: 67 MI / 107.82 KM North East to Hotel

## **Train**

Station Name: South Sta., Bos to West Natick Commuter

Distance: 1 MI / 1.61 KM West to Hotel Complimentary Train Station Shuttle

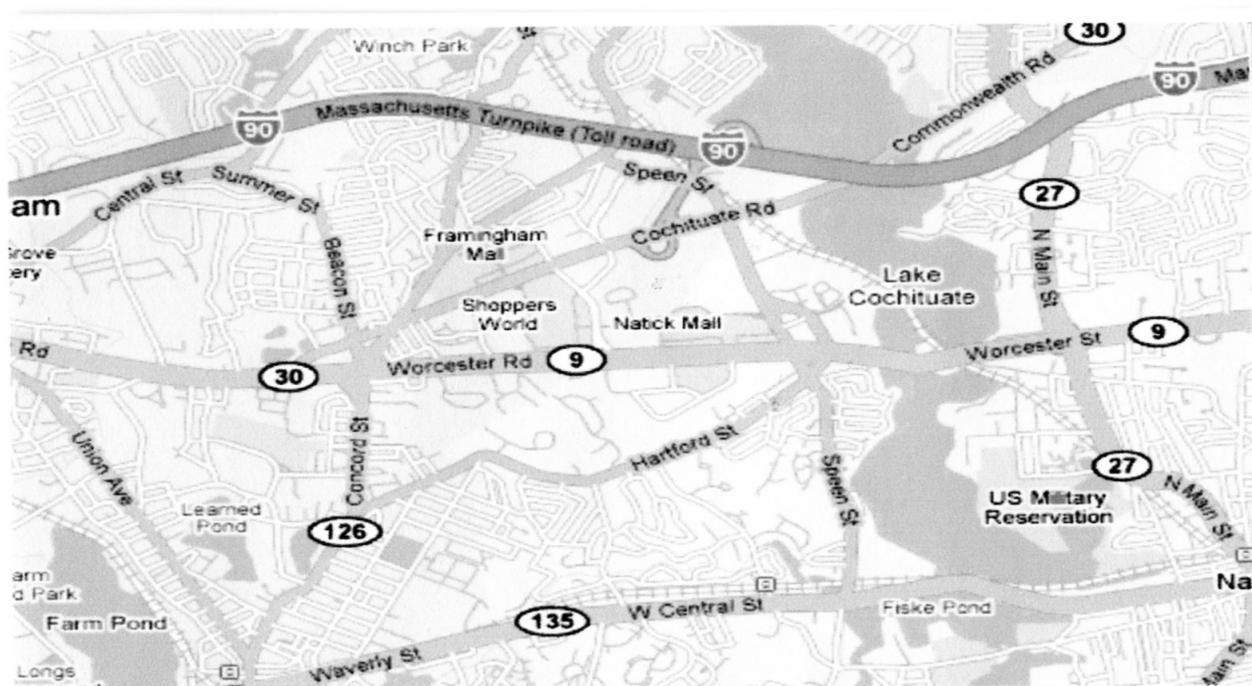
Taxi Fee From Train Station: \$4.50 (USD)

## **Subway**

Subway Station Name: Riverside T Station. Distance: 9 MI / 14.48 KM West to Hotel

## **Complimentary Local Area Shuttle**

Radius 1.0 MI



# GARDEN IN THE WOODS, FRAMINGHAM, MA, IS WORTH A VISIT

By Chris Eirschele, Garden Writer

While visiting botanical gardens in Massachusetts, see Garden In The Woods. It is a living museum with walking trails and native plants.

Garden In The Woods is located approximately 20 miles west of Boston, on 45 acres of land, in Framingham, MA. This botanical garden is home to more than 1500 native plants of North America.

## Walking Trails

The main walking trail is approximately one mile of rustic paths interrupted by rolling hills and, sometimes, slippery rock. There are benches to rest on while taking in the view and observing plants and wildlife.

The trails will take walkers past the Lily pond full of frogs and turtles found in wetlands. The Meadow is planted with grasses and wildflowers attracting birds and butterflies. It is a good place to get ideas for the home garden. Along the way are a series of habitats to see: Tufa Rock Garden, New England Bog, and Pine Barrens.

## Native Plants

The Garden In The Woods collection includes 200 rare and endangered native plants. The garden displays are meant to instill the value of native plant conservation.

Gardeners may use many meanings for the term *native*. The New England Wild Flower Society's meaning of native plant is stated as, "these species were growing in the forests, marshes, prairies, and mountains in North America before the European colonists arrived."

There are two native plant nurseries open to the public. One is Garden In The Woods; the other is located at Nasami Farm in Whately, Massachusetts. Visitors are able to purchase



From the *Rock On Stone* sculpture exhibit . Fox Face by J. Wheelwright with Rudbeckia. Photo by Chuck Eirschele.

native plants from the Visitor Center without fear of damaging precious species in the wild. Wildflower seeds are ecologically collected and prepared for sale during the year, as well.

## Garden and Volunteer Programs

Each year displays and programs are offered that will further educate and encourage native plant appreciation. The Rock On Stone sculptures exhibit combined the earthly elements of stone pieces and native plants. Program schedules are available for adults and children, held in spring, summer and fall.

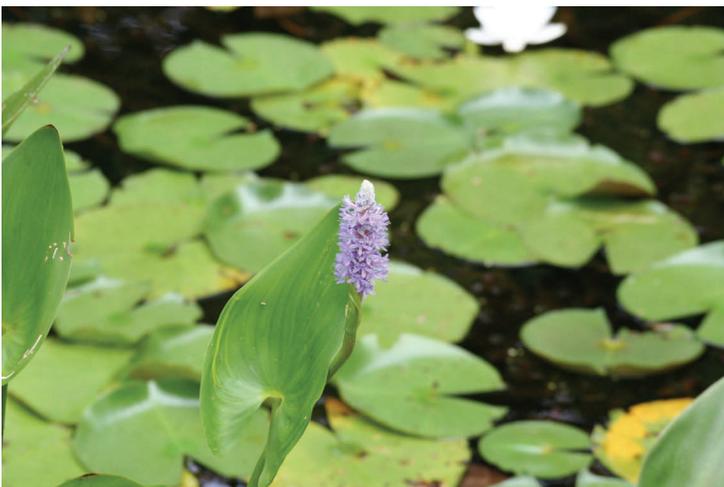
The New England Wild Flower Society offers a wide variety of learning opportunities. Field trips and symposiums and a Certificate in Native Plant Studies are just a few of the educational options.

## History of New England Wild Flower Society

Garden In The Woods is a native plant botanical garden. It is also home to the New England Wild Flower Society started, in 1900, by a group of Boston women. The Society is the oldest plant conservation organization in the United States and has almost 1500 volunteers.

In 2007, a rain garden was installed at Garden In The Woods to take advantage of rainwater running off the gutters on the education building. The rain garden further demonstrates the organization's conviction to encourage using sustainable garden practices and plants.

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Pond life at Garden in the Woods. Photo by Chuck Eirschele

# “THE TROUBLE WITH LOOKING FOR TROUBLE” - A STORY

An Excerpt.

By Faith Tiberio, President,  
WNF&GA

So often we speak glibly of trust. And just as often we are surprised when solidly confronted with the need to do just that — to trust when common sense dictates otherwise. Grandmother always made it clear that she was on the side of common sense. Grandfather seemed to be just the opposite. Who could tell?

Of such a time I now write...years and years after the event and yet that seemingly small conflict changed my own outlook and is still fresh in my mind. So fresh, in fact, that I can almost see the bright blue cloudless September sky overhead; I can almost hear the crunch of the iron-rimmed wagon wheels grinding on the tiny stones of the dirt road along with the sturdy plod-plod of the team. Again, I can almost smell the lush ripening perfume of the 1929 crop of Concord grapes from the vineyards that stretched out on either side.

A sweet memory, that, from my childhood on the farm.

Grandfather and I sat on the wagon in silence. Even now, Grandfather seems to be an almost reclusive, mysterious figure. He seldom spoke, but when he did, in spite of the fact that he had immigrated to this country from Denmark through Schleswig-Holstein, he spoke without any accent. His English was flawless, and only once did I ever hear him speak his native tongue, which I will share with you, later on. He had been recruited from university graduate engineering studies to work on heating systems for the Pullman Sleeping Car Company, retiring later to farm on the shores of Lake Erie below Arkwright Hills.

He stood 6 feet 3 inches, thin almost

to the point of being gaunt, but erect with deep sunk pale blue eyes that seemed always to be observing something very far away. By contrast, Grandmother’s merry eyes of iris color twinkled when she spoke, which was constant. She laughed easily. No matter how many unexpected folk sat down to table, she always had enough. Grandmother walked, talked and distrusted. She watched every penny and Grandfather’s every move as a cat might monitor a door mouse.

On this morning, she called after Grandfather, “When you trade the eggs for the sugar, mind that he doesn’t take advantage. Watch out.” “Watch out” was always her parting counsel.

Grandfather made no reply. He tipped his cap to her and clucked to the team.

Presently, we arrived at the blacksmith’s shop, which stood in the back of the general store. The blacksmith’s

was a warm, oily place, open doored. To my little girl’s eyes, it seemed like a big, black cave with a one-eyed beast — that one eye a glowing red that suffused the space around the furnace. Grandfather eased the rattling wagon with its loose rim down the short tree lined driveway beside the general store. No chestnuts grew there, just sugar maples, and when we drew up to the smithy, Grandfather jumped down, tethered the team and spoke to Herman Davis, the smith, whose brother Ed ran the general store. “Need shoes?” the smithy asked. “You could have called the truck to come by your place.”

Grandfather said, “I need a rim fixed on one of the wheels.”

Herman Davis allowed that he could fix it, and with that, Grandfather motioned me to follow him with the eggs into the store. There the local farmers could buy or trade; they could find anything from harness, sugar, yard



Faith K. Tiberio at age 15. “This is the kind of ‘horseback’ I did in my hay-day. One Christmas Dad and I spread twenty tons of manure. Or so he says. I didn’t weigh it!”

# FOR THE FARM & GARDEN BOOK OF REMINISCENCES

goods, and tea.

Grandfather handed Ed Davis, the storekeeper, a list—but Ed, looking up at Grandfather (who was considerably taller), said, “Will, before I put up your order, I want you to take a look at this offer from the New World Spreader Works. It’s a beauty, all right and I’ll be selling a lot of them when you boys get your grape money.”

Oh, if Grandmother had only been there!

Now, the main Concord Grape crop went to Welch. Grandfather shipped some of his crop by rail to New York City in beautifully made wooden baskets with copper wire handles, but the big money from the harvest came much later in mid-winter.

Grandfather’s pale blue eyes shifted with interest to the black and white dimensions of the spreader’s machinery. About this time, three of the farmers from nearby our vineyards came in and they too, studied that material, after exchanging greetings and some local gossip. A new farmer named Plogget had bought a place that had poor vines and the rumor was that he himself seemed questionable.

In the end Davis sold five spreaders that day, including one later in the morning to the “questionable” Plogget. All five of them did it with a simple handshake. Once at home, Grandfather told grandmother about the spreaders.

“Watch out, she said. “That’s fine for you, Will. You need a new spreader and if push comes to shove, you have some money put by, but how about the others? How about that new Fellow, Plogget? I tell you, Davis is in for trouble.”

A shadow passed over Grandfather’s face. But he said nothing.

By the time the spreaders arrived the following April, the economy deteriorated, but half with hope and half as if in defiance, the farmers walked their teams to the back of the general store, lined themselves up in a row atop the new spreaders and had Ed Davis take a photograph of them—that same photograph a prize possession in their descendants’ families, now.

As it happened, Davis had not been paid, but he remained unconcerned. “I’ll bill you boys after the next grape crop. I know things are tight and I trust you.”

In due time, bills did arrive. Grandfather, on his next trip for supplies, settled up in cash, shook Davis’ hand and went his silent way. Grape crops came and went, times got worse and then one awful day, the smithy and the store went up in flames, due to a careless toss into the oil at the smithy. Grandfather said, “I ought to see how Ed Davis is fixed.”

For once, Grandmother said nothing.

Grandfather said, “He sent all of us bills, except the Plogget fellow. He moved somewhere after he lost his farm, and Davis couldn’t find an address.”

“But,” Grandmother said, “I thought you paid right after you got the spreader.”

Grandfather answered, “I’m sure I did, but Ed’s books went up in flames with the buildings, and he thinks one of us didn’t pay.”

Grandfather called on each of the farmers and let them know how things stood. All of them had received bills and all of them felt sure they had paid quite soon after the spreaders arrived, but the thought of Davis and his trusting them as he always had, made a sticking point. Secretly, all

four of them thought that the bankrupt Plogget was the man who hadn’t paid, but no one except Grandmother said so. “Watch out” she said.

That summer, a new general store rose up like a Phoenix, but the smithy was never rebuilt. Instead, a Davis Blacksmith truck went from farm to farm as needed. And as it turned out, every farmer, no matter how cash-strapped, paid again for his spreader. A letter and mail order draft came from Plogett post marked Canton, Ohio.

Grandfather said to Grandmother late one evening as they were sharing some tea, “Davis called us all to the store. He said he knew he could trust us...then he began to cry. But for you boys to take responsibility for each other...by golly, that’s something. Then he returned our money.”

Grandmother said in a soft voice, “I guess if one works with the land, a special sense of right and wrong comes with it.”

Grandfather, from across the table, rolled up a tiny white ball of white bread and with a gesture that was not meant for us children to see, he said in his native tongue, “Watch out.” And playfully tossed it her way.

She laughed. “You watch out, Will.” And tossed it back.

# FARM & GARDEN NEWS

## **New York Division Report**

**By Audrey E. Ehrler**

### **President, New York Division**

Plans are underway for another great year here in Upstate New York. And what a year it will be! One word can sum up the year 2009—Celebrations.

The Cambridge Branch will be starting its 50th year. Lois Sheaff, Branch President, reports that many exciting programs are planned to celebrate this historic event, including a special anniversary tea in June. The entire Division will be welcome to help celebrate this wonderful occasion. The Cambridge Branch will continue to serve their community with its educational and beautification projects.

The Sandy Hill Branch is now 23 years young. Judith Bronk has been President of this Branch for all 23 years. That is surely something to celebrate, indeed! The Branch is noted for its superior educational programs and its civic service to the region. This Branch meets in the evening and most meetings are open to the public. It attracts educators and career people from all walks of life to come and be a part of the WNF&GA experience.

The Tri-County Branch was founded in Hartford, New York 80 years ago by Louisa King. Janine Thomas, Branch President, reports special plans are in the works to celebrate its 80th year. This Branch will host our 2009 Founder's Day in the autumn. The Branch has voted to increase its scholarship budget in 2009. Quite an impressive thought considering the tough economic times our nation is enduring.

When I think of each one of our

## **WWW.WNFGA.ORG**

Have you been there lately? Have you clicked through all the links? Have you registered for updates as they happen?

Questions? Suggestions? Use the "contact us" page.

We hope you are sharing this site with everyone you know. We're receiving inquiries about scholarship opportunities from other than members... one of the purposes of the site. We're receiving Member At Large registrations from across the country...another reason for the site. We're educating everyone who visits our site – who, what and why we are WNF&GA?

The Annual Meeting information is easily available with printable forms... early registration made easy. Monthly blogs by our President are posted to keep you in the loop. Division updates are also posted for your continual review.

Share the site – learn what's there and help others learn more about WNF&GA.

Welcome to [www.wnfga.org](http://www.wnfga.org).

members here in New York, I think of the word commitment. Each person believes in the aims and goals of WNF&GA. Each and every one of our members works hard to continue on. They truly should be celebrating all past and present accomplishments in the year 2009! I am proud to be a part of this wonderful group of citizens.

## **Pennsylvania Division Report**

**By Dorothy Zippel**

### **President, Pennsylvania Division**

There's a buzz going around town and it's not the "Flight of the Bumblebee," but the "Plight of the Honeybee." Recently, magazines, newspapers and other publications have published articles relating to this subject. President Faith Tiberio is on

the bandwagon encouraging us to become concerned about this disappearing act of the honeybees.

At the October general meeting of the Pennsylvania Division, Kevin Parsons, owner of the Stoney Lane Bee Farm, was our speaker. He enlightened us on the care of the bees, their hives, and also what might be causing the decline of hives. His demonstration also included in a bee hive enclosed in glass which was interesting to observe. In May when the bees become more active, he invited us to visit his farm and observe first hand his operation on beekeeping.

For the second year, the Pennsylvania Division is selling Divine Chocolate as a fund raiser for their scholarship program at Penn State University and Temple University. Not only has it been a good seller for the Division, but it also supports the farmers in Ghana and the recipients of the scholarships at the two universities. Besides that—it's delicious!

## **Michigan Division Report**

**By Louise Mattick Shoksnyder**

### **President, Michigan Division**

#### **Branch Meetings**

Michigan, like most of the United States, has been in the throes of a horrible winter, with bad weather and a bad economy. However, the 33 Branches of Michigan Division have not been daunted by the snow, wind, ice and the failing automotive industry. Branch meetings have been the place to be! Great speakers have been provided on topics ranging from hydrangea to bees! Yes, Michigan Division is joining in on the bee frenzy. Plymouth Branch hosted a tea party for their members and Warren Branch had a

# FARM & GARDEN NEWS

flower arranging seminar. Troy Branch had a well known speaker in the Detroit area, George Papadelis, speak at their February meeting. He spoke on what will be new this year in annuals and perennials.

## Interest Groups

But beyond Branch meetings, there are knitting groups, arts and crafts groups, herb groups, tea groups and book clubs. There is something for everyone to help pass the time before we can get back to the garden. Flower arranging is still alive in some of the Branches. Rochester, for instance, will be doing table arrangements for the Rochester School's Authors In April dinner. Branches are also organizing field trips. Troy is planning a bus tour to Cleveland to visit the Cleveland Botanical Garden and other area sites. Trips to the Detroit Zoo have been planned by several Branches, especially to see the wonderful gardens maintained

there by Master Gardeners and our own County Downs Branch, a long time supporter of the Zoo. Branches take tours of nurseries, nature centers, and art museums. There is something for everyone's interest.

## Planning

Despite all of the fun, there is serious planning going on. The business of planning 2009's Garden Walks, plant and bake sales, style shows, greens markets and other fund raisers is under way. Planning for Civic Improvement projects is also under way. Committees have been meeting since the first of the new year to make sure every "T" is crossed and "I" dotted. I also want to thank our Ann Arbor and Rochester branches for taking on the task of hosting the Annual Meeting and the International Tea.

## Fund Raising

Some branches have new ideas in fund raising. Chocolate sales, raffles at Branch Meetings, and even old gold sales have been done, as well as promoting paid ads in branch newsletters. We are an ingenious group of women who aren't reluctant to try something new.

## Congratulations

Congratulations are in order for two of our branches. Bloomfield Hills and Saginaw will both celebrate their 80th birthdays! They are both still strong, healthy branches. Great work, ladies! Also, our Springfield Branch won an award from Keep Michigan Beautiful. Way to go, ladies!

## Finally

Our branches are raising money for scholarships and civic service projects. From planting seeds with preschoolers in Rochester to hoophouse building in Ann Arbor, our funds are used for the betterment of our community, state, and nation. Our communities in Michigan are currently in great need. Students need financial help more than ever. Our 4-H Endowment still needs funding. We got off to a great start and need to finish the job. Michigan Division is a dynamic group!

## Saginaw, MI Branch Celebrates 80 Years By Vicki Engel

This is the 80th year of the Saginaw, Michigan branch of the Women's Farm and Garden Association!

Margaret Mead, the noted anthropologist once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed persons can change the world; it's the only thing that ever has."

(Continued on page 20)



Rochester Branch members, Sarah Homant, Susan Ingermann, Pat Hambleton, Sally Edwards and Judy Struski standing with "Holly Berry," their entry in the Rochester Hills

(Continued from page 19)

In 1913 a small group of women, along with their daily task of keeping things running smoothly at home, gathered with the idea of forming a new association. They wanted to promote agricultural and horticultural interests of country and city women living in the United States.

This was not a new idea. On the continent of Europe "The Agricultural Women's Organization of Finland" had formed in 1797 with this idea of women promoting agriculture and horticulture for rural women. The city women had formed a similar group; the International Council of Women (ICW) in 1888. Eleven years later at ICW in London the Women's Agricultural and Horticultural International Union was founded. Among those delegates was Mrs. Emma Shafter-Howard, a rancher and landowner from California. She proposed forming a society so that the 17 counties in the group might keep in touch. These women were very interested in trying to give women opportunities to participate in roles formerly limited to men: opportunities in law, medicine, accounting, agriculture, and horticulture. Knowing that women had strong interest in horticulture and agriculture, a union was formed. Gardening schools were formed. It was a daring thing to think of women employed as gardeners. At that time eyebrows would be raised!

The Union eventually began holding shows, markets, and exhibitions. They became so popular that in 1914 they were asked to organize a women's produce booth for a very prestigious show "The Exhibition of Olympia." Two American women, Mrs. Francis (Louisa) King and Mrs.

Jane B. Haines visited England and, seeing the success of this group, came home and played a big role in promoting the Woman's National Farm & Garden Association in the U.S. The seed is constantly being passed....

Here we are, the Saginaw Branch of this group. We are 80 years old this year—a long way from the beginning, but still thriving. We manage to raise money at our Annual Greens Sale to donate to scholarships, plant a lot of beauty in our city, better our kids with help to the 4H groups in our area, help disabled children with friendship and caring, give to our local Underground R.R. for abused families, promote people to garden with our plant exchange in the spring, and plant a herb garden at the oldest home in Saginaw, once a part of Fort Saginaw.

There is a lot to do—things to be learned. We have had the most interesting speakers at our monthly meetings! We heard about the new energy promise of wind power; a very interesting woman teaching ways to use herbs; a tale of a trip to Iceland where the countries hospitals are run mostly by women, and much of the country still believes in Leprechauns; a report on our local film festival; and another on moving 4H into the next 100 years.

Never doubt what a small group of women can do....

## Thirty Six

By Faith Tiberio, President

In June, if you travel to the national meeting of WNF&GA, you will be coming to #36 Ash Lane by bus, but had you traveled this very short twisting stretch of road in the time of George Washington, you could have taken the twice daily stage and passed by the

old Leland property just as our first president did twice in his lifetime. Unfortunately Washington never slept here, but having halted at the foot of Russet's hill for rare lemonade proffered by a farmer-veteran, his entourage swept by toward Mendon on his first trip. On his second trip he was mistaken for the President of Harvard which, in those days, cut more homage than the President of the new United States.

#36 belonged to the Leland family. 13 members of Leland family answered the call to Lexington, dropping their farm tools where they were working, as many other patriots did on that fatal day. The Leland name is still prominent today in this small rural town.

Early in the 1900's one of the many Leland farms was purchased by a famous landscape architect, James Frederick Dawson, head of Olmstead Brothers firm in Brookline, MA. Dawson worked on several projects with Frank Lloyd Wright and Wright's influence can be seen in the summer cottage retreat that Dawson added to the 200 acre Leland property. Dawson kept the original 1649 farmhouse and it is the farm house the Tiberio's purchased in 1950. The old apple orchard on the property, long since uprooted, is the location Faith chose to design and plant her Italian garden. The area of the Italian garden covers seven acres.

Plans are being moved about to see if a quick stop can be made at Elm Bank, headquarters of the MA Horticultural Society, 1829, which vies with the PA Horticultural Society as "The First." The grounds around the mansion of the American Express founder and daughter are extensive. The mansion had 26 bedrooms, 22 of which were occupied by the daughter's gardeners.

# FARM & GARDEN NEWS

## **Punica granatum L.** **(Pomegranate)- Lythraceae**

By K.S. Sury Sastry, Advanced Master Gardner and WNF&GA Horticulture Chairman

The **Pomegranate** is a subtropical plant that grows as a very hardy shrub or a small tree 20 to 25 feet high. A native of Persia, North Africa and the Mediterranean region, the pomegranate also spreads from Iran to the Himalayas in northern India. In India, the pomegranate grows in variety of climate conditions, from sea level to 5,000 feet. In the United States, the drought resistant plant is grown mainly in the drier areas of California and Arizona, produced mainly for its fruits. Domestically, pomegranate can be planted close to one another and maintained by consistent trimming, providing a bordering hedge, 6 to 8 feet tall with pretty foliage, attractive flowers and colorful fruit. The thorns help to protect the plant by itself from humans and intruding animals.

### **Medicinal Uses**

Certain varieties of pomegranate juice yield citric and sodium citrate used in pharmaceutical preparations, for treatment in dyspepsia and leprosy. The skin and root are the sources of several alkaloids, one of which is isopelletierine, which is used to treat tapeworms. In addition, the



Pomegranate plants grow as a shrub or small tree with pretty foliage, attractive flowers, and colorful fruit.

pomegranate plant's historical roots date back in India to a time when the medicinal and dietetic value was prominent. The roots, seeds, and rind of the fruits are used in medicine for cough and bowel complaints. The juicy arils or pulp surrounding the thick seeds is sweet with a delightful sub-acid flavor. Individuals use pomegranate to make cool and refreshing beverages, squash, syrup for use as a sauce and even wine. However, overdoses have some adverse reactions, like emetic, purgative dilatation of pupila, sight and muscular weakness, and potential paralysis.

The pomegranate trees bark and leaves content has been used for astringents in diarrhea, dysentery and hemorrhage, and treating bronchitis. A flower decoction is also used to relieve oral and throat inflammation. Leaves, seeds, roots, and bark have displayed hypotensive characteristics (Systolic BP lowered by inhibiting serum angiogenesis-converting enzyme ACE). Antispasmodic and anti helminthic. Researchers have suggested juice consumption may be good on parameters of prostate cancer, prostatic hyperplasia, diabetes, or lymphoma. Further, it may act as an antiviral and antibacterial agent against dental plaque. Professor Mukhtar at The University of Wisconsin, Madison suggests that based on some of his studies, pomegranate may stop prostate cancer in mice. The mechanism studied may be due to apoptosis—programmed cell death.

### **Nutritional Value**

Pomegranate is one of the most nutritious fruits, as it is rich in vitamin C and potassium, is a good source of fiber, and is low in calories. The pomegranate juice is also rich in the three types of potent antioxidants: tannins, anthocyanins, and ellagic acid. Fresh pomegranate seeds can be used to garnish salads for an ele-

gant look. The juice can be used to make a cocktail. In Iran, pomegranate juice is a very popular beverage. In parts of South Carolina, individuals make pomegranate jelly by adding 7.5 cups of sugar and one bottle of liquid pectin to 4 cups of pomegranate juice. Fresh firm and hard fruits can be stored in a cooler up to three months. Although these fruits are fantastic to consume in a variety of ways, watch out! If the juice spills on clothing, it can stain the fabric considerably!

The Nutritional value of 100 g edible portions; Calories 63-78; moisture 72.6-86.4g; protein 0.05-1.6g; fat trace only to 0.9g; carbohydrates 15.4-19.6g; fiber 3.4-5.0g; ash 0.36-0.73g; calcium 3-12 mg; phosphorus 8-37mg; iron 0.3-1.2mg; sodium 3mg; potassium 259mg; carotene trace; thiamine 0.003mg; riboflavin 0.012-0.03mg; niacin 0.180-0.3mg; ascorbic acid 4-4.2mg; citric acid 0.46-3.6mg; boric acid 0.005mg.

All parts of the tree are utilized as a source of tannins, used for curing leather. The trunk bark has 10-20% tannin, root bark 28% tannin, leaves 11% tannin and the fruit rind 26% tannins. Rind and flowers yield dyes for textiles. The bark is used as a pesticide. Due to the nature and characteristics of this hard wood, the tree is used in the manufacturing of walking sticks and in woodcrafts.



Pomegranates are a nutritious fruit, rich in vitamin C and potassium.

# FARM & GARDEN NEWS

## Marla Diamond Master Gardener Grant

The Marla Diamond Master Gardener Grant was established in June 2006 to encourage WNF&GA members to pursue preparation as a "master gardener." Training is offered in each state through the state university extension services. Typically, it includes 10 weeks of training in all areas of gardening and requires that participants pass weekly quizzes and a final exam and complete at least 40 hours of volunteer work educating others in the horticulture field.

The Marla Diamond Master Gardener Grant offers \$250 individual scholarships to offset the cost of enrolling in locally-offered training programs. Up to four scholarships are awarded each year. Applicants must be 21 and will be asked to sign a contract stating that they will pay back the total award amount if they do not complete the class and the 40 volunteer hours for certification. Only one grant will be given per family.

## Hazel J. Herring Civic Improvement Grant Application

Application being made by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Division: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Project title: \_\_\_\_\_ Project cost: \_\_\_\_\_  
Person submitting application: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
FAX/e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### Application must include the following:

1. A completed application form
2. A written description, no more than three pages in length describing the Project, the Goal, the Sweat Equity (who will be involved), the Total Cost of the project.
3. A copy of this application must be sent to the Branch or Division President for their records.

### Please mail to:

**Hazel Herring Grant**  
**PO Box 1175**  
**Midland, MI 48641-1175**

Please check with the extension office in your State or County for more information about your local master gardener program, and then apply for a Diamond Grant. Send your name, branch name, division, mailing address, e-mail address, and phone number to Carol Leonard; WNF&GA A&O Treasurer; 1660 Fox Knoll Road; Leonard, MI 48367.

## Hazel Herring Civic Improvement Grant By Marla Diamond, Chairman

This year I have become the Hazel Herring Civic Improvement Grant Chairman. This Grant is available to any Branch for work under the Civic Improvement Focus.

The Grant Application may be found on our website, [www.wnfga.org](http://www.wnfga.org) under Education. The Grant guidelines are listed on that page. Please scroll down the page and click on the Hazel Herring Civic Improvement Grant. This will bring up the application form. Print that page for each application submitted.

Please mail your completed application to: Marla Diamond, 22878 East River Road, Grosse Ile, MI 48138, 1-734-676-6993 or [marlajdiamond@comcast.net](mailto:marlajdiamond@comcast.net). Deadline: March 15, 2009. (This was not listed in the Fall Magazine. If a time extension is needed to complete your application, please let me know.)

Last year we asked for a **representative** from each Division/National Branch to serve on this committee to help judge the applications. At this point we have two representatives, one from Michigan and one from New York. We would like to have all represented. **Please let me know if a volunteer in your area will serve.**

## Woman's National Farm & Garden Association, Inc. MASTER GARDENER GRANT APPLICATION FORM

The Master Gardener Program has two goals:

1. To provide gardeners with up-to-date horticulture information and knowledge.
2. To furnish an opportunity for extending that knowledge to others in the community through volunteer activities.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
WNF&GA Branch \_\_\_\_\_ Division \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Complete and mail your application to:

Carol Leonard  
WNF&GA A&O Treasurer  
1660 Fox Knoll Road  
Leonard, MI 48367

# FARM & GARDEN NEWS

## Thanks from Temple Ambler By Marla Diamond, Advisor

Following the National Meeting at Ambler in June 2008, the WNF&GA made its first payment toward the Visitors Center that will carry our association's name on the site of the historic greenhouse at the Temple University Ambler Campus. We received several letters of thanks from our friends at Temple Ambler, portions of which are excerpted here because the thanks belongs to you.

"We'd like to extend a heartfelt 'thank you' for your very generous gifts in support of the Woman's National Farm & Garden Association Visitor's Center at Temple University Ambler. All of us are very grateful. Thank you for sharing in our vision and our goals to enhance and expand the outstanding educational opportunities that Temple University Ambler and the Landscape Arboretum offer to students of today and for those of the future."

The letter was signed by Dean James W. Hilty, who wrote, "Thank you so much for spending so much time with us back in June. We loved having you here and hope you will return often."

It was also signed by Linda Lowe, Director of Development at Ambler, who wrote, "It was a great pleasure to meet you and so many wonderful members



In June, 2008 WNF&GA members visited the site of the historic greenhouse that will become a home for Farm & Garden history and a Visitor's Center for the Landscape Arboretum at Temple Ambler. Past President Marla Diamond and Dolores Krystyan of Moon Glow Branch, MI pose for a photo with a sign honoring the founding of WNF&GA at the site in 1914.

from the WNF&GA in June. We sincerely appreciate your generous support and interest in helping us re-create the 'old potting shed' into a new and beautiful Visitor's Center. Please accept my heartfelt thanks."

## Ambler Greenhouse Project By Hazel Herring

Congratulations! WNF&GA members have raised the \$50,000 payment for our pledge that was due June 30, 2008, and now, we must raise another and final pledge of \$50,000 that is due June 30, 2009.

The Project Committee met in Philadelphia and discussed many projects that the branches could develop in funding the greenhouse. It is really the "headhouse" of the former ancient

greenhouse which had become an unsafe hazard; luckily, the headhouse is the original, historic space which is both roomy, sound, and safe and will serve our purposes well, where we can have our WNF&GA history, books and treasures displayed in a useful Visitors Center.

Individuals and branches can still make contributions to the project. All help will be appreciated. \$50,000 is a lot of money to raise in one year, but we must contribute just as generously as we did the first year.

Mail this year's contributions to Margaret Latham, WNF&GA E&C Treasurer by the time of our 2009 Annual Meeting.

Good luck in your fund raising and contributions of your members!

## SUPPORT THE AMBLER GREENHOUSE PROJECT (WNF&GA TAX ID #52-6073829)

Name of Donor (Individual or Branch)

Address

City

State

Zip Code

Amount of Donation (Made payable to WNF&GA w/memo "Ambler Greenhouse Project")

If this is an individual donation of \$100 or more, include inscription for brick:

Line 1 - \_\_\_\_\_ (up to 14 characters per line including spaces)

Line 2 - \_\_\_\_\_ (up to 14 characters per line including spaces)

Line 3 - \_\_\_\_\_ (up to 14 characters per line including spaces)

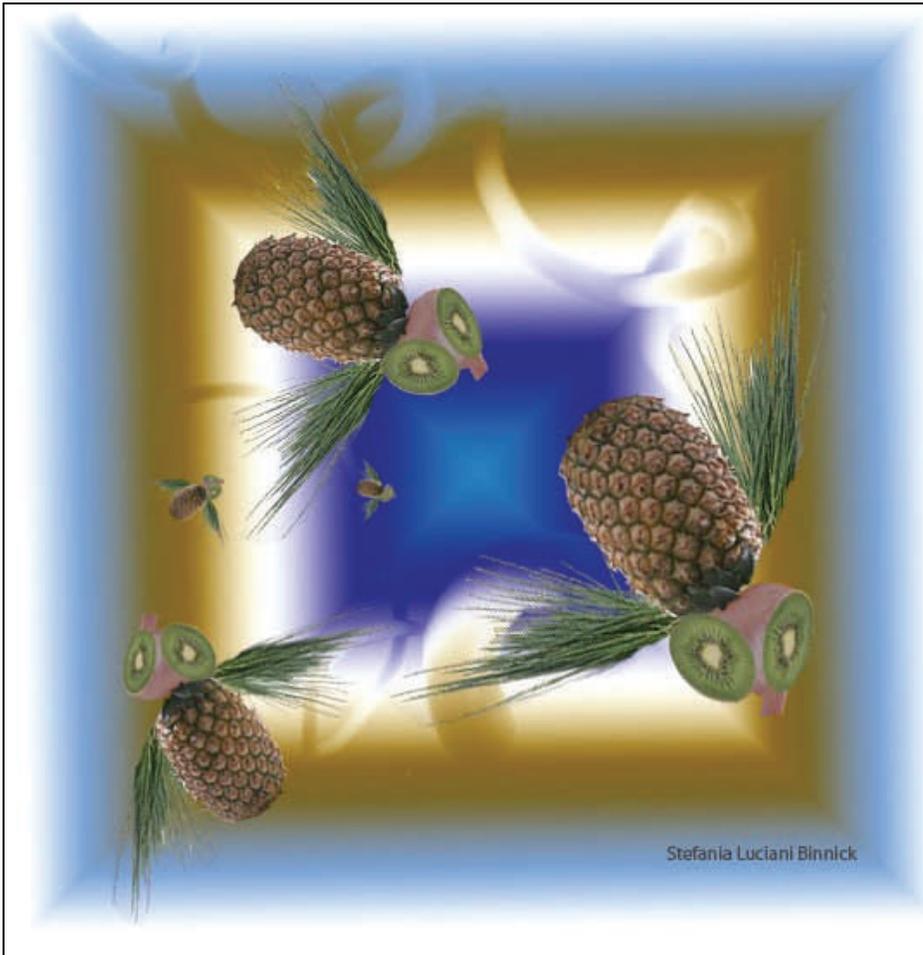
Contributions are tax deductible.

Mail to: Margaret Latham, Box 325, Rawson, OH 45881

## More Buzz About Bees

This image, entitled “Lu Lu Bee Souvenir,” is a digital art creation by Stefania Luciani Binnick. Stefania is a member of the Ambler Keystone Branch, Pennsylvania Division. The image was created in remembrance of Lu Lu (See page 9) and the WNF&GA’s 2009 bee theme.

Stefania is creating Lu Lu prints on paper and on kerchiefs that will be available to anyone interested. She welcomes you to contact her at [sbinnick@comcast.net](mailto:sbinnick@comcast.net).



# www.wnfga.org

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