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Inside this issue:

Division meeting info	1
President's message	2
Branch articles	1-3
Upcoming events	2
Scholarships	5



NY Division welcomes National President Mary Bertolini to Spring Annual Meeting

The New York Division Annual Meeting is hosted by the Tri-County Branch this year. On May 18, members and friends of WNF&GA are invited to The B&B on the Green, 89 County Route 41, Hudson Falls, NY. We are welcoming our National President, Mary Bertolini, who will address our body about the changes being considered to bring our organization into the 21st century.



Penny Sandora is attending and bringing her herbs and dips for sale. Local honey will also be found on the market table. All members are asked to bring an item for the market table. Something home made or a house plant make especially good items to bring.

Lunch is prepared by Rainier's Gourmet Inspirations. You have a choice of grilled turkey and cheddar wrap, crab asparagus quiche or Albacore tuna salad with toasted pita wedges. All sandwiches are served with side salad and pickle. Meals include dessert, coffee and tea. Cost is \$15.25. The reservation is inside the back cover of this newsletter and must be returned with payment by May 1.

Market Table returns to Division meeting

Returning to our roots of when WNF&GA helped the farm women by providing a marketplace for their produce and baked goods, we are having a market table at this meeting. A percentage of the monies collected go to NY Division and the rest goes to members.

Bring an item or two to fill our market table.

WNFGA Moving forward into the future

By Alice Meager, Tri-County Branch President

Under the leadership of our new National President, Mary Bertolini, WNF&GA has appointed a Vision and Planning Steering Committee to examine our Mission and Goals as they relate to today's world. The Vision and Planning Committee will recommend future direction of the WNF&GA using a five year plan with intermediated phases and annual action plans. This committee is comprised of members from all Divisions that wish to participate. Committee members are giving of their time because they believe in the relevance of WNF&GA. They believe that it will have an important role to play in the future, as it has played an important role in the past. I am privileged to serve on this Committee as is our former member and President, Audrey Ehrler.

The world is changing rapidly and so must our organization in order to remain on track and be meaningful. Throughout our History from time to time, we have paused, stepped back, and examined our place in the world. This is what we are doing now. The Steering Committee may find that all is well and nothing needs to be changed or they may conclude that there are many changes that need to be made on National and local levels. If changes are needed, they will be implemented by a committed membership knowing that we are assuring our future by doing so.

Continued on page 2...see Moving forward

**NY Division President
Janine Thomas'
message**



As the year begins I look forward to a new chapter

As our new year begins, I must report on the continuing saga of the honey bees in my backyard. As you may remember, I had the good fortune of meeting Mr. Meyer and having him place 24 hives on the property.

My husband and I saw the bee people remove the honey late in the fall. The beekeepers hoped the young bees had a successful summer. Fall turned into winter. The snow came and came and came and came! No honey (our payment for their use of our land) arrived. I just assumed it had been a poor yield.

One afternoon, I noticed what I thought were very large animal tracks in the snow. They looked alarmingly large. I spoke to my husband, tracker and protector extraordinaire! Well he followed those big tracks to the screen house which rests completely empty all winter. There smack in the middle of the floor was a case of pure gold, nectar of the gods. Sweet....as the kids would say!



As so many good things introduced to me year after year through WNF&GA, the bees are a blessing. As we begin again, I look forward to a new chapter in my bee book. Most of all, I look forward to our renewed associations and all the exciting things we will share and learn from one another.

Gratefully, Janine

Upcoming dates to remember

May 8 - Standard Merit Flower Show, Michigan Division

May 14 - Cambridge Branch Plant Sale, 10 AM Embury Methodist Church, Broadway, Cambridge, NY

June 15-19—International Flower Show, ***This Glorious Earth***, World Association of Flower Arrangers, Seaport World Trade Convention Center, Boston, MA. Website: www.wafausa.org

June 1-5 - WNF&GA Annual Meeting, Amway Grand, Grand Rapids, MI

August 13 - Tri-County Flower Show: ***Mother Knows Best***- Masonic Hall, Main St., Hartford, NY

September 15 - NY Division Founder's Day, *Albies*, Cambridge Area Branch hosting

Spring 2012 - NY Division Annual Meeting - Sandy Hill Branch hosting

Fall 2012 - NY Founders Day - Tri-County Branch hosting

Moving forward...continued from page 1:

The Steering Committee was formed in the fall of 2010. Teleconferences are held on a monthly basis. Many issues have been brought forth for discussion. Some existing aspects have been found not to work in today's world and the need to discard or change these must be examined. New directions and ideas are being presented and the value of each discussed. It is an exciting time. It is a time to look back at the origin of WNF&GA and ahead into the possibilities that are there.

The immediate goal of the committee is to have a progress report ready for the Spring Conference. National President Mary Bertolini will be the guest speaker at the NY Division Annual Meeting in May. She will have much to share with us concerning our future. I would encourage everyone to attend. This will be an important meeting.

Please feel free to contact me with any ideas or suggestions you might have concerning WNF&GA's role in going into the future.

Ed. Note: Alice can be reached at 518-744-0555 or ameager@nycap.rr.com

Meet Janet Spielberger the newly elected president of Sandy Hill

By Janet Spielberger, Branch President

QUEENSBURY, NY - I was deeply honored to be elected president at the December meeting of the Sandy Hill Branch of the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association. I'll be taking the reigns from Judith Bronk. After 25 years of great leadership, Judith has set a great example for me to follow.

As the granddaughter of a farmer, I came by my farmer genes quite honestly. After my first attempt at gardening produced a bumper crop of zinnias, I was hooked. As an Air Force wife, I was always inheriting someone's garden as we moved around the country. Making each new garden my own became a lovely challenge. I learned about plants I would not have chosen to plant and learned quickly what I wasn't so good at.

My years at Sandy Hill Branch have added greatly to my gardening skills. The warmth and camaraderie I have found with the members in this group is unparalleled. I look forward to learning new things along with our membership as Irene Burns, Garnett Haanen and I plan and execute yet another year for Sandy Hill Branch. Although there is still snow on the garden, if I listen carefully, I can hear "sprouting". Just like those sprouts, I hope to grow into my new role and bloom where I'm planted.

Cambridge Area's newest president is Joan Smith

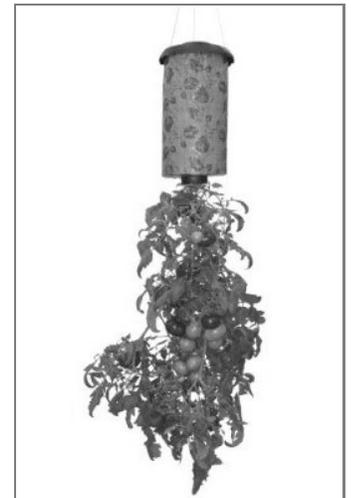
By Joan Ann Smith, Branch President

CAMBRIDGE, NY - I have been a member of Cambridge Area Branch for four years, and served as vice president last year. I love to do topsy-turvy gardening and have many potted flowering plants.

We had our planning meeting in late January. Our first meeting was in March and we had an Irish theme. We have two Cornell Cooperative Extension

representatives coming in April and May to speak on herb gardening and shady gardens. Also in May we have our annual plant sale.

Several field trips are planned during the warmer months and our annual picnic is in August. We are hosting Founders Day on September 15 at "Albies" in Cambridge. There is a membership tea and a flower show in November. Our Christmas celebration will close out the year.



Herbinites sprouts out from Cambridge to cook with & study herbs

by Gail Turi, Chair of Herbinites

The "Herbinites" formed about 20 years ago. We meet 4 times a year on the first Tuesday of April, June, August, and October at members' homes. We are a group of gardeners, 16 of us, from the Cambridge Branch, especially interested in growing and using herbs. We are divided into 3 groups of 5 or 6. Each group takes a turn at providing a luncheon for all. The last meeting in October, one group does the entree, one the soup or salad, and one group the desert.

We meet at 11:30 a.m. and discuss articles or experiences with growing, serving, or other aspects of herb usage. We have a great luncheon, then we discuss the recipes and the results of the cooks' endeavors. We always have great meals and fellowship.

Several years ago, a member who is involved in taking produce to farmers' markets, was approached by an official of the Washington County Fair and asked if the Cambridge Branch would be interested in setting up an exhibit at the fair. We accepted and put in a very nice exhibit of the various uses and growth of herbs. There was a very positive response to our efforts and we were asked to do another exhibit. We have continued this exhibit for 4 years and have had a good response. We had fun setting up, although it was a lot of work for us, but the response makes it all worth the effort.

The exchange of knowledge, ideas, and tips on growing and using herbs in so many ways is rewarding and we have a great time doing this.

Making friends with your garden intruders

by Messina Wildlife

As the warm weather moves in for good and you make your way outside to enjoy your yard this spring, you may find that you're not the first one to get your hands, or paws in the dirt. It seems as if every year, more and more animals are finding their way into backyards, flower beds and gardens than ever before, causing homeowners more problems than ever.

For some of us, the occasional deer that decides to pass by our decks on a spring day or the rabbit that quietly hops through our grass is nothing more than a pleasant reminder of the flora and fauna that spring brings each year with its arrival. However, if you're one of the many that sees these animals as unwanted intruders prying on your beloved tulips and roses, their arrival can most certainly be met with equal parts of fear and disdain.

Before you throw up your hands in defeat or take drastic measures in defense of your pansies by erecting a high fence at the cost of natural aesthetics, there are a few things you should probably know to help send a message to these unwanted guests who've chosen your yard as a preferred buffet stop, that the party is over.

Most likely, the deer you see this spring is the same deer that you saw last fall though they may have brought company with them. As the number of predators has fallen in recent years, the rise of healthy offspring has grown from the occasional fawn to twins or triplets in some cases, and they stick by mom's side until they can learn to survive on their own, which means as she teaches them the best spots on the block to fill up. They'll be sure to remember to come back when they're on their own.

The unfortunate fact for all of us that spend so much time planning the perfect back yard oasis is that female deer do not migrate, instead they will seek haven in the familiar settings of the same neighborhood year after year. The same will go for any female offspring that successfully learn to forage and survive the harsh winter. The bucks, however, will migrate for miles in search of habitat and a mate, which, unfortunately, leads to more deer to deal with next year.

The best moves you can make to stop the damage caused by these animals is to consult with your local extension service or university to find out what native plants are the most deer resistant. After all, one deer can consume more than ten pounds of foliage a day, and as you have probably already figured out, there's no such thing as a deer-proof plant, no matter what your local garden center tells you. There is simply what a deer will eat first, and what a deer will eat later. Even harsh plant material such as Andromeda, barberry, boxwood and holly are, at best, least preferred to deer browsing, and selecting plants like these is a great way to start your defense against their voracious appetite.

As for the rabbits and other nesting animals that have begun their exploration of your yard and ground attack on your newly emerging flowers, consider their size and use it against them. Small decorative fences and walls can be a great way to hide your true intention: protection. If you're able to find out where these animals tunnel and make their nests, you should consider decorative ways to close and cover them up. A large potted flower pot can take up the space that they've been using in a way that provides some color to a spot you may have neglected, while freshly mulched beds can disrupt a familiar nesting spot just enough to relocate your unwanted guests.

And when all else fails, there are plenty of homemade remedies and commercially available products to help. For years, Irish Spring's soap has been shaved and sprinkled in flower beds to keep animals away, but you need to keep an eye on the area as rain and watering will wash it away quickly. If you want something a little more professional, try your local garden center or hardware store for commercial products such as Messina Wildlife's Animal Stopper line (www.MessinaWildlife.com).

No matter how you decide to defend your turf this spring, remember that while the expression may be that good fences may make good neighbors, learning to live with nature makes for a good life. By being able to coexist with the animals that pose a threat to your garden, you may find new joy in seeing how wonderfully they can surprise you just by being there.

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Spotlight on Scholarship

Scholars and dollars important tenet of WNF&GA

Division scholarships

By Judith Bronk, Chairperson

Once again the New York Division is pleased to award six \$500 scholarships to students chosen by their colleges. To quote Karin J. Carr at The College of Saint Rose: "Scholarship support is more important than ever. It provides critical financial aid to our students making it possible for them to achieve their academic goals during challenging financial times."

The other five colleges receiving \$500 scholarships are Plattsburgh, SUNY Cobleskill, Teacher's College Columbia, Cornell University Cooperative Extension NYC and Cornell University.

David Gregoire Plattsburg's Director of Advancement Service ends his letter: "We strive to provide undergraduates with a strong foundation in liberal arts and graduate students with advanced professional preparation."



Branch presidents

Send the name of anyone in your branch who has died since our last meeting to Division Memorial Chairman Marjorie Bronk, 31 Willow Street, Hudson Falls, NY 12839 (747-5943), so that person may be honored during our division meeting.

Cambridge Area Branch Plant Sale May 14

For the freshest of plants that you know will grow in our area, come to our plant sale on Saturday May 14 at 10 am ..rain or shine.

...many perennials, Booths Blend, some annuals, bushes and some surprises!

It's at the Cambridge Embury Methodist Church front lawn on Broadway just before the post office.

Registration form - due by Sunday, May 1



2011 NY Division Annual Spring Meeting

Thursday, May 18 at 11:30 AM

The B&B on the Green, 89 County Route 41, Hudson Falls, NY

Name _____ Branch _____

Number of lunches: _____ at \$15.25 each = \$ _____ TOTAL ENCLOSED

Choices:

Grilled turkey & cheddar wrap _____ Crab & asparagus quiche _____ Albacore tuna salad w/ toasted pita wedges _____

Send this registration form and your check made out to **Tri-County Branch** to:
Virginia Curran, 270 Crosier Rd., Hebron, NY 12865

The Flour Sack

by Colleen B. Huber



In that long ago time when things were saved,
When roads were graveled and barrels were
staved,
When worn-out clothing was used as rags,
And there were no plastic wrap or bags,
And the well and the pump were way out back,
A versatile item, was the flour sack.

Pillsbury's Best, Mother's and Gold Medal, too
Stamped their names proudly in purple and blue.

The string sewn on top was pulled and kept;
The flour emptied and spills were swept.
The bag was folded and stored in a sack
That durable, practical flour sack.

The sack could be filled with feathers and down,
For a pillow, or t'would make a nice sleeping gown.
It could carry a book and be a school bag,
Or become a mail sack slung over a nag.
It made a very convenient pack,
That adaptable, cotton flour sack.

Bleached and sewn, it was dutifully worn
As bibs, diapers, or kerchief adorned.
It was made into skirts, blouses and slips.
And mom braided rugs from one hundred strips
She made ruffled curtains for the house or shack
From that humble but treasured flour sack!

As a strainer for milk or apple juice,
To wave men in, it was a very good use,
As a sling for a sprained wrist or a break,
To help mother roll up a jelly cake,
As a window shade or to stuff a crack,
We used a sturdy, common flour sack!

We polished and cleaned stove and table,
Scoured and scrubbed from cellar to gable,
We dusted the bureau and oak bed post,
Made costumes for October (a scary ghost)
And a parachute for a cat named Jack.
From that lowly, useful old flour sack!

So now my friends, when they ask you
As curious youngsters often do,
"Before plastic wrap, Elmer's glue and paper towels, what
did you do?"
Tell them loudly and with pride don't lack,
"Grandmother had that wonderful flour sack!"

Ed. Note: Repair, reuse, make do and don't throw anything away...was a motto during the Great Depression. Very few farm families had enough money to buy new. This was the life style of most Americans in the 1930's.

New York Division of WNF&GA

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Address correction requested



The purpose of this newsletter is to inform NY Division members of past and upcoming events of our branches, on local, division and national levels.

WNF&GA web site: www.wnfga.org