



Farm & Garden

WOMAN'S NATIONAL FARM & GARDEN ASSOCIATION, INC.

FALL 2011



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Farm & Garden

THE MAGAZINE OF THE WOMAN'S NATIONAL FARM & GARDEN ASSOCIATION, INC.
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JOIN US/GET INVOLVED

For information about how to join a branch of Woman's National Farm & Garden Association or form your own branch, please contact Susan Yeager, 505 E. Willow Grove Ave., Wyndmoor, PA 19038, call 215-247-4739, or e-mail yeagerrisue@yahoo.com.

Members: Send your accomplishments, tips, and updates for the next issue of *Farm & Garden*. Submissions must be received by March 1, 2012. Electronic format is preferred. Images must be jpeg format, 300 dpi. Send to Kathy Beveridge, Editor at 1195 Dager Rd., Warminster, PA 18974, call 215-441-4827, or e-mail kathleen.beveridge@comcast.net.

On the Front Cover: Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*).

On the Back Cover: Members in vintage hats at the 2011 National Meeting in Grand Rapids. Photos by Jenny Rose Carey.

IN TOUCH

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A WORD FROM WNF&GA PRESIDENT MARY BERTOLINI



At last the summer of 2011 is in the record books! Mother Nature gave us all she had, and then some. We suffered through severe drought, flooding, searing heat and extreme humidity. Our southern members are still in the hurricane season, in danger of more damage.

Our gardens have withstood the entire onslaught, in some areas flourishing better than ever with the sun and rain. We have tended, nourished, watered and fed our plants and trees, weeded and pruned, dead headed and divided all through this difficult season.

Now that fall approaches, we continue our quest for beauty in the bulbs we plant and the additional shrubs and trees that are tucked into our landscape. As gardeners our work is never completed. There are leaves to rake, make into mulch or compost. The lawn equipment needs to be cleaned and stored. Our garden tools should be washed and oiled. It is time for tender tubers and bulbs to be dug and held over the winter for next year. Just as we are ready to rest, it's Holiday Time! We are busy, busy, busy.

Be assured that the Officers of Farm & Garden are busy too! A thank you

goes to President Elect, Julia Siefker for our meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan which was productive. We shared ideas from the Strategic Vision Planning Committee, discussed finances, and so much more. Our new web site is a wonderful communication tool, as is our magazine. Through the efforts of Susan Hunt, Mayflower Branch, we are on Face Book. If you are too, add us to your list of groups that you support. These are just the beginning of a new look for our organization.

We have changed through the years to meet the needs of our members and the times. Our national meetings were gala events; there were two or three speakers and presenters each day! Attendance numbers were much greater than we encounter, upwards of 300. Total membership was in excess of 5,000. There were Divisions from Alaska to Florida, California to Maine! Farm & Garden had an office in Washington D.C. and Chicago.

How times have changed for our organization. Our current membership is nearly 1600. We have 4 Divisions, and 2 individual Branches. We have members-at-large in many areas. But the biggest question of all: Are we meeting the needs of our members, while supporting the aims and goals of Farm & Garden? Change is in the wind.

Every member of this organization is vital to its survival. The very name, Woman's National Farm & Garden, *of one woman*, speaks to the individuality and necessity of each one of us. The Strategic Vision Planning Committee has met and suggested guidelines for discussion among the general membership.

As your President, I encourage each of you to take part in the discussion regarding our future. These workshops and meetings will be held in September and October at your Branch. (For more information about planning a session for your branch, see page #.) The findings will be sent to the committee for consideration.

In January, the Board of Directors will meet to review the findings of the committee and make recommendations to the membership for our future. The recommendations will be discussed at our next National Meeting in Pittsburgh, PA in June, 2012.

This is **YOUR** rare opportunity to help choose the course of this prestigious and historic group. This is **YOUR** organization. Let us know what **YOU** like, want changed, or suggest new ideas. Communication is the key, only **YOUR** ideas can unlock the Future of Farm & Garden.

"I encourage each of you to take part in the discussion regarding our future. These workshops and meetings will be held in September and October at your Branch. The findings will be sent to the committee for consideration."

*- Mary Bertolini,
President*

IN FOCUS: Floral Arts Bloom in New York Division

By Davene Brown, Tri-County Flower Show Chair

It was an excellent year for the Tri-County Flower Show! We had a bumper crop of horticulture specimens and the table looked fabulous overflowing with veggies, branches, leaves, blooms and grasses.

One reason the designs were so dynamic was the backdrops that RuthE (and husband Bruce) Ricketson provided. Instead of the abstract assemblages in front of the old iron railing of the Masonic Hall, there was a neutral cloth draped behind the designs. And inside, in front of the windows for our large designs there was a gathered white curtain.

Our independent judges awarded the creativity award to Marge Shostak, a member of the Federated Garden Club in Schuylerville whose design received a point score of 98! A total of 17 designs claimed a blue award and five a red award...out of 24 design entries. In the horticulture division, 47 received the top blue award, 4 received red and 2 yellow.

Our Kiddie Korner is always a popular place for the younger visitors to stop by. Since Audrey Ehrler took chairman of this Education/Conservation Division many years ago, it has been an important part of our show. Now that Claudia Elkins and Alice Meager are in charge of it, it continues its excellence.

Audrey is still an important part. Now that she lives in Florida, she sends a box of appropriate books just to give to the children at our show. Recipes and information on WNF&GA were also handed out.

Our plant and food tables brought in added revenue for our scholarship



“Stop Your Monkey Business” design by Betty Churchill won a blue ribbon.

fund and the greeters, chaired by Rachel Quackenbush, welcomed visitors and thanked them for their donations. A lovely floral tribute to Jean Getty was placed in the entry.

The show couldn't have happened without our independent judges. Master judge Gwen Swertfager stated, in the critique to our show, “Design exhibitors depicted sayings of what mother taught us thru the interpretation of design elements and principles, not an easy task to do. Many laughs and chuckles reflected what most of us grew up with. What fun as one read the comment cards and viewed the design!...Congratulations to all the chairs and committees for their industrious hard work and teamwork. Many thanks to all for bringing a fun and enjoyable show to the community.”

Mother Knows Best: One of Tri-County's Best Flower Shows Yet!

By Mary Kellogg, Tri-County Hort Entry Chairman

I first learned about Horticulture judging in 1989 when I sat next to Louise Brayton. She asked me to watch as she examined each entry, turning away some and praising others. I was in total awe as to her expertise in knowing all the names, proper and common. I thought to myself, "I could never learn all those names."

That flower show was in the Hartford Museum building and we only used a portion of the facility. Well, I have learned some over the years but I still turn to the books for the proper spellings.

This year our horticulture entries numbered 53. We all felt this was great as we sometimes have to scrounge around to make the proper number for our club. Almost all were blue ribbon quality and gave us some new varieties to display: the Rain Lily with its delicate blossoms; one stem of Papyrus-Cyperus; Pineapple Lily; Bright Eyes Phlox; Herbs; Hosta Leaves; cherry tomatoes and beans green and yellow; Hibiscus; Echinacea pink and white to name a few. All seemed to smile with delight as Annabelle's magnificent blossom nodded approval.

We had a wonderful time together learning and displaying the best from our gardens and we look forward to the challenge of next year's show.

IN FOCUS: Horticultural Therapy Happenings

By Marla Diamond, Horticultural Therapy Focus Coordinator

The goals of the Horticultural Therapy focus continue to be met through the work of Horticultural Therapy committees within branches. Programs offered in Special Education classes in some schools engage volunteers in working with students, ages three to twenty-six. Projects are adaptable to different age groups from the very young to teenage and young adults in alternative vocational services.

Working with visually-impaired classes has proven very good. **Trenton Branch of Michigan Division** worked with a classroom of visually-impaired students and their blind teacher with very good results. They also taught horticultural therapy to hearing-impaired students with hearing devices who were mainstreamed into grade and middle school classes.

Many branches sponsor indoor programs in local nursing homes using horticultural crafts, flower arranging, herbs, house plants, and dried flowers. Some nursing homes have raised flower beds built into their indoor facilities for resident gardeners. Outdoor raised bed gardening programs are held during the summer months where patios are available for wheel chair and ambulatory residents. The residents are happy to go outside and so proud of their "own" raised bed garden.

Congratulations to the Berkeley Hills Branch, Pennsylvania Division, for starting their 25th year of monthly Horticultural Therapy programs with residents of Vincentian Regency Nursing Home.

Other branches have beautiful

teaching flower and herb gardens for children and adults of all ages and abilities. Greenhouse work and education in caring for plants are other programs for future employment of young adults which will give them a lifetime of independence.

A First Place Award winner for 2010 was the **Rochester Branch, Michigan Division**. The committee works with 15-20 seniors at Sanctuary at Bellbrook Assisted Living facility twice a month. They also work with 8-10 mentally challenged adults ages 26 and older at Starting Point Life Skills Center once a month. A committee of fifteen members works four or five times a year. At the Assisted Living facility, four members take turns preparing the project each time. At Life Skills Center two people do the programs once a month. The committee meets each June to plan programs for the year.

A few of their programs include: pinecone peanut butter bird feed-

ers; decorated topiary in clay pot; pressed flower bookmarks; seeds planted in plastic six packs; and paper plate hats made with silk flowers for a Tea Party. The committee donates garden cuttings for the therapy gardens. Families also donate plants and enjoy seeing the gardens when visiting.

Their goal is to engage people in horticulture related activities that stimulate their bodies, minds and hearts. Cheerfully, the committee brings flowers and plants, fun activities, laughter and fellowship. The horticultural activities give them much needed mental stimulation, socialization, and a taste of past skills and encourages them to try something new. The residents look forward to the visits and take pride in their creations.

Branches can share project ideas by getting in touch with other branches working in Horticultural Therapy and at Division and National meetings.



Participants enjoy a garden party wearing paper plate hats they decorated.

Essentially Herbal—Herbs in the Landscape

By Louise Shoksyder
Gardening Focus Coordinator

A formal herb garden, like those you would see at Williamsburg, may be what you see in your mind's eye when you think of an herb garden. How many of us have the space, time or energy to keep up a garden of that caliber? Not many, although I know there are members of WNF&GA who have enviable herb gardens! Common alternatives to this fantasy garden are small herbal plots, herbs in the vegetable garden, and herbs in pots. Another option, however, is to incorporate herbs into your existing landscape.

I would like to suggest that herbs may be, and should be, a part of our landscapes. Intermingled with more traditional perennial and annual plantings, herbs can offer a lot of interest to a garden. Many herbs have attractive form, foliage, flowers, and scent. Among these plants are culinary herbs and medicinal



Thyme edging stones in a garden walkway.

herbs. Let us not forget that herb flowers provide plenty of nectar for bees, butterflies and hummingbirds.

A good place to start with herbs in the landscape is the edge of your beds. Edging plants should be used to soften a hard line or angle in the garden. In my experience, thyme has made a great edging plant. Low and long blooming, thyme comes either as a culinary plant (*Thymus vulgaris*) or an ornamental variety. The ornamentals have variance in leaf and flower color. The culinary herbs tend to be woodier as they age, growing taller and wider.

Although most thymes are hardy to Zone 4, harsh winters can be deadly. Always wait well in to spring for Thyme to green up before cutting out what you think is dead material. One good note here is that Thyme often reseeds itself, providing fresh plants for older ones that have died. Thyme can also be used in crevices between walkway stones and patio blocks. As a fairly “walkable” plant, an added bonus is the scent that rises up when the plants are disturbed.

Another of my favorite edgers, repeated throughout my gardens, is Lady's Mantle, or Alchemilla. I consider this plant an herb, as it was used for medicinal purposes in medieval times, hence its name. Alchemilla, however, has a mystical quality. Its leaves, round, slightly hairy and scalloped, have the ability of holding a droplet of water, look-



Ladies Mantle (*Alchemilla*) edging a perennial bed.

ing diamond like. The flowers, lime green sprays, show up in early summer. Alchemilla is very hardy and self seeds if kept moist. Lady's Mantle will tolerate both sun and partial shade. Remove the flowers when they age and cut back any ratty looking foliage. This will rejuvenate the plant for the rest of the growing season.

Tucked between a Lady's Mantle and a colorfully leaved Heuchera in my garden is a Lavender plant. My lavenders are the cultivars Hidcot and Munstead. They have been very hardy and reliable for me. The foliage, silver grey, stands out in the landscape. Of course, the scent can't be beat for aroma.

Lavender flowers have many uses. Cut the flowers in the early morning to use fresh or to dry. If you are drying them, group a handful of spikes

Essentially Herbal—Herbs in the Landscape

together loosely, with a rubber band or string. Hang these bundles upside down in a warm, dry place.

Lavender plants love the sun. An interesting idea I ran across was to lay a small stone next to the root base of a lavender plant so that the rock will absorb heat from the sun. The transferred heat will keep the roots from freezing. In my Zone 4 (maybe Zone 5B) garden, with Michigan drab winters, I doubt this would work, but it might be worth a try.

Do not cut lavender back in the fall. Like thyme, it is woody. New growth appears on the old wood in the spring. Any pruning can be done then.

I think a list is in order for the rest of herbs which I have found to be good candidates for the flower garden: Agastache, Allium (Chives), Nepeta (Catmint), Feverfew, Echinacea, Sweet Woodruff, Mints (only in pots), Monarda, Sage, Parsley, and Lamb's Ear.

Of course, there are many more that would lend themselves to the landscape, but these are ones that I have had the best luck growing in amongst my perennials.

Happy gardening!

Sources

Landscaping with Herbs, Jim Wilson, Houghton Mifflin, 1994

Growing & Using Herbs in the Midwest, Rosemary Divock, Amherst Press, 1996

Rodale's Illustrated Encyclopedia of Herbs, Rodale Press, 1987



Lavender's foliage, silver grey, stands out in the landscape.

Herb Gardens to Visit

Massachusetts

Elm Bank
Wellesley

Hancock Shaker Village
Pittsfield

Michigan

Matthaei Botanical Gardens
Ann Arbor

Heaven Scent Herb Farm
Fenton

Grand Oak Herb Farm
Bancroft

Cranbrook Gardens
Bloomfield Hills

Frankenmuth Historical Museum
Frankenmuth

New Jersey

Well-Sweep Herb Farm
Port Murray

Pennsylvania

The Rosemary House
Mechanicsburg

New York

New York Botanical Garden
Bronx

Wave Hill
Bronx

Robison York State Herb Garden
Cornell University
Ithaca

Ohio

Western Reserve Herb Society Garden
Cleveland Botanical Gardens
Cleveland

Inniswood Gardens
Columbus

Washington DC

National Herb Garden
National Arboretum

Bishop's Herb Garden
National Cathedral

Essentially Herbal — Herb Branch Activities

The Herbinites of Cambridge Branch, New York

By Gail S. Turi, Cambridge Branch, NY Division

The Cambridge Area Branch of the New York Division of WNF&GA started an herb group within the branch about twenty years ago.

The “Herbinites” meet four times a year, in April, June, August, and October at various members’ homes. We are a group of dirt gardeners, sixteen of us currently, who are especially interested in growing and using herbs in cooking, baking, preserves, pickles, vinegars, and fresh and dried wreaths and decorations for our homes.

We are divided into three sub-groups of five or six members. Each small group takes a turn at hosting and preparing a luncheon for all. At the last meeting in October, one group does the entrée, one does the soup/salad, and one does the dessert and beverage.

We meet at 11:30 a.m., discuss and share articles, books, and experiences growing, serving, or other aspects of herbal usage. We have a delectable luncheon at noon. Then we share and discuss the recipes and the results of the cooks’ endeavors.

Several years ago, a member involved in taking produce to the local farmers’ markets, Sylvia Wilson, was approached by an official of the Washington County Fair. She asked if our group would be interested in doing a booth at the fair. We accepted and put together a very nice exhibit. We were asked back, and have done this for several years, with help from a few members of the branch who are not in the herb group. We chose our focus for the exhibit, planned, installed, and tended the booth for the week of the fair. It has been a lot of work, but the effort has been rewarding and well-received by the public.

We cover a lot of ground in our meetings: growing herbs from seeds and cuttings in garden or pots; pot-pourri and sachets for fragrance and insect repellents; tips on drying and freezing herbs for later use, etc. This year we will have an herb swap of seedlings and cuttings at the June meeting.

We always have a delicious meal and great fellowship. The exchange of knowledge, ideas and tips on growing and using herbs in so many ways is rewarding. We have a wonderful time in our herb group.



Does Your Branch Have an Herb Committee?

Starting an herb committee in your branch is a fun way to learn more about herbs. Monthly meetings can include an herb study, herb cook, or herb craft. Sometimes all three can be combined. Trips to local herb farms or gardens add to the fun.

As a long time member and also past Chairman of the Rochester Branch Herb Committee (Michigan), I can attest to the fun to be had! As part of Rochester’s Greens Market, the Herb Committee makes tons of items to be sold at the Market. Pot-pourri, herb mixes, arrangements using dried herbs, pomander balls and sachets are among the items that have traditionally been made. Also, this group maintains an herb garden at the Van Hoosen Farm Museum in Rochester.

The Troy Branch, also in Michigan, has a very active herb committee and they too maintain herb gardens at the Troy Historical Museum.

If you don’t have an herb committee, investigate the interest in your Branch and get one going this fall.



Essentially Herbal — Herb Branch Activities



Rochester Branch member Carole DeLater shows a group the vegetable garden at the Van Hoosen Farm Museum Children's Garden.

An Evening in the Garden With Herbs

By Nancy Walton
Rochester Branch, MI Division

The Rochester Branch presented *An Evening in the Garden* at the Van Hoosen Farm Museum Children's Garden in July for the enjoyment of the public. The idea of the event was to encourage more families to visit the garden for enjoyment as well as education.

A short program, *Gardening with Deer*, presented by Pat Hambleton and Jane Giblin introduced the attendees to some of the flowering plants that most deer avoid. A bouquet of flowers that survived the deer as well as a hand-out listing these plants were both helpful. In addition, the ladies discussed products such as Liquid Fence and Deer-Skydd that have proved to be successful deer repellants.

Following the program, the attendees were invited to enjoy some herbal refreshments and stroll through the garden. Each garden had a Rochester Branch member available to explain the activity for the children as well as identify any plant material that was of interest.

A similar event was held in August with the program, *Butterflies, Bees and Beneficials* presented by member Helen Jositas.

The herbal refreshments were delicious and well received. The selection included Basil Lemonade with a basil ice ring, Lavender Brownies, Lemon-Thyme Cookies, Lemon-Dill-Pistachio Sharing Cookie, and Michigan Cherry Cookies. In addition, plates of orange slices with cloves were placed around the food and program areas to help repel bugs.

Lemon-Thyme Cookies

½ cup butter, softened
¼ cup granulated sugar
1 Tbs. Snipped fresh thyme (regular or lemon)
1 tsp. Lemon zest
1 Tbs. Lemon juice
¼ tsp cardamom
1 ¼ cups all purpose flour

Coarse sugar or granulated sugar

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Beat butter with electric mixer on medium for 30 seconds. Beat in thyme, lemon zest, lemon juice, and cardamom. Beat in as much flour as you can with the mixer and stir in the remainder by hand. Knead until smooth.

Divide dough into 3 equal portions. Roll each into a 6 x 4 ½ inch rectangle (about ¼ inch thick) on lightly floured surface. Cut dough into 1 ½ inch squares with scalloped edge pastry wheel and sprinkle with coarse sugar. Place on ungreased cookie sheet and bake for 12-15 minutes or until edges are just lightly brown. Transfer to wire racks to cool. Makes 36.



Lemon-thyme cookies served at *An Evening in the Garden* at the Van Hoosen Farm Museum Children's Garden.

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2011-2012 DIRECTORY CONTINUED

HISTORY OF WNF&GA NATIONAL PRESIDENTS

Mrs. Francis King* 1914-21
Mrs. Russell Tyson* 1921-24
Miss Gertrude Copeland* 1924-27
Miss Marion Roby Case* 1927
Mrs. Henry Ford* 1927-34
Mrs. Howard W. Lewis* 1934-37
Mrs. Murray Boocock* 1937-41
Mrs. F. Wayland Ayer* 1941-44
Mrs. Paul Burrage* 1944-46
Mrs. Margaret B. Carey* 1946-48
Mrs. Hubert Carter* 1948-50
Mrs. Henry P. Williams* 1950-52
Miss Gertrude Warren* 1952-54
Mrs. F.B. Llewellyn* 1954-56
Mrs. Homer N. Sweet* 1956-58
Mrs. Helen M. Sanders* 1958-60
Miss Elizabeth C. Miller* 1960-62
Mrs. Benjamin D. Hold* 1962-64
Mrs. Alfred G. Wilson* 1964-66
Mrs. Nelson B. Sackett* 1966-68
Mrs. David Burger* 1968-70
Mrs. Fred G. Garrison* 1970-72
Mrs. Miles N. Clair* 1972-74
Mrs. Richard D. Latham* 1974-76
Mrs. Robert K. Hanson* 1976-78
Mrs. Parker P. Rockwell* 1978-80
Miss Ruth Gray 1980-82
Mrs. Jack H. Herring 1982-84
Mrs. Paul E. Herbert 1984-86
Mrs. H. James Renaud 1986-88
Mrs. C.F. Kirschler, Jr. 1988-90
Mrs. William M. Nolan* 1990-92
Mrs. William Slattery* 1992-94
Mrs. Charles Peterson 1994-96
Mrs. Julius P. Zeigler* 1996-98
Mrs. Jack Ehlinger 1998-2000
Mrs. Neil Engelhart 2000-02
Mrs. Webster Anderson 2002-04
Mrs. James Hochstettler 2004-06
Mrs. James Diamond 2006-08
Mrs. Joseph Tiberio 2008-2010
* Deceased

Heaven Has a New Helper: Remembering Jean Getty

**By Janine Thomas, NY Division
President**

Heaven has a new helper. With Jean Getty's arrival "the place", as the saying goes, "will never be the same." Jean will greet every newcomer in that higher place exactly as she did here, on earth, in her community, her church, and her Woman's National Farm & Garden Association branch and division.

Jean left this earth on July 4, 2011. Her legacy remains to remind us of the goodness one person can do toward others. The country life of a farm girl, the eldest of five children, raised in Hartford, New York, prepared her well to be a farmer's wife.

Jean and her husband, Ralph, raised three children on their family farm. Her lifelong activities began and continued in the same town. She belonged to the West Hebron United Presbyterian Church for more than fifty years. She was a member of the Tri County Branch for more than 45 years. She was the longest standing member of the New York Division. In June of 2011 she was awarded "Woman of the Year."

Jean Getty was descended from Revolutionary Private John Churchill and Mr. James Chilton, a Mayflower passenger. She participated in the local Hebron Historical Society, D.A.R., Vermont Mayflower Descendants, Washington County Republican Club, and the Hebron Fire Company Ladies' Auxiliary with equal dedication and enthusiasm.

Most importantly, Jean Getty contributed to the quality of life of all the Tri County members, New York

Division members, and many National members with those same intangible qualities of joy, friendship, enthusiasm, dedication, sensitivity, kindness, co-operation and care. Her sincerity of purpose was unquestionable. A distinguished woman grown from rural simplicity, she will be missed at every monthly and annual meeting of our Woman's National Farm & Garden Association.



Jean Francis Churchill Getty was the longest standing member of the New York Division.

IN MEMORIAM

We were saddened to learn of the passing of the following members in 2011:

Gloria Faitoute
Jean Getty
Marian Renaud
Mildred "Millie" Rose
Joan Sankovich

2012 National Meeting Destination: Pittsburgh, PA

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania—aka “the ‘Burgh,” “Steeltown USA,” “Iron City,” and the “City of Bridges”—will be the destination for the 2012 National Meeting of Woman’s National Farm & Garden Association.

Known as the “Green Heart of Pittsburgh” the Phipps Conservatory is one Pittsburgh destination you

SAVE THE DATE:

Thursday, June 7, 2012—
Sunday, June 10, 2012

won’t want to miss. A great steel and glass Victorian greenhouse showcases 17 distinct botanical experiences.

Details are still being “ironed” out, but we hope you will join us from June 7—10, 2012 for some Farm & Garden fun—Pittsburgh style!

Mark your calendars and line up your transportation (see below). More information will be shared in the spring magazine and at www.wnfga.org.

Pittsburgh Bound: Take the Bus to the 2012 National Meeting

Our past three trips with Bianco Tours have been so successful that we decided to try it again!

Our deluxe motor coach will start the journey in the northern suburbs of the Metro Detroit area. One stop will be made in western Wayne County before our final pick up point in Ohio for Ohio Division members.

This trip will include rest stops and a stop for lunch.

Bus Captains, Linda Coughlin and JoAnn Harreld have volunteered to lead the troops on their way.

The cost per person is \$140.00, round trip, including all tips. Snacks and lunch are on your own, as in years past.

Plan to jump aboard the bus to the Pittsburgh, PA area. Games, treats, movies, jokes, and LOTS of laughs await those who choose to let some else drive. Anyone, member or guest, is welcome to Ride in Style.

Deposit can be sent any time. **Total payment is due by April 28, 2012.** Seats sell out early, so don’t delay! No refunds, please.



Depart: June 6, 2012
Return: June 10, 2012

Pittsburgh Bound! Bus Registration Form

Name _____	Branch _____	Division _____
Address _____	City _____	St _____ Zip _____
Phone _____	Cell Phone _____	
Email _____	Member _____	Guest _____

Make \$70.00 deposit check Payable to: National Meeting Fund with “bus deposit” on the memo line.

Balance of \$70.00 due by April 28, 2012. Send check and a copy of this form to:

Rita Urbanski, 2729 Red Fox Trail, Troy, MI 48098.

Questions: Contact Rita Urbanski by telephone (248-540-4249) or e-mail (rurbanski@wowway.com).

Farm to Table...and Office...and Library...and School

By Kathy Beveridge, Bucks County Branch, PA Division

From the earliest beginnings of Woman's National Farm & Garden Association, nearly 100 years ago, members were interested in the well being of farming families. They considered how they could help farmers get their produce to market, share new horticultural knowledge with them, and keep farming families from feeling isolated.

Getting local farmers' produce to market is still a challenge today. We talk about the benefits of buying from local sources (freshness, environmental sustainability), but we often still buy whatever's convenient and cheapest at the grocery store. But some of this is changing as local farmers work with consumers to bring the produce to them.

Farm collaboratives, sometimes composed entirely of organic farms, are selling vegetable and fruit shares and trucking pre-packaged boxes to community locations within a certain mile radius. Shareholders pick up their shares once a week in the local growing season.

For the first time this year, I bought a half vegetable share and a fruit share and it has been great fun. The mystery box of vegetables is both exciting and challenging as I try to figure out what each item is and how I will use it while it's still fresh. When there's something I know I really can't use, then there's the magic of the swap box where you look to see if there's something for which you can trade.

My shares have included such unusual items as garlic scapes, pea tendrils, and tatsoi, as well as kale, onions, potatoes, beets, squashes,



peppers, tomatoes, lettuces, mushrooms, and on and on. All of this was delivered fresh from organic farms in Lancaster, about 90 miles away, to a library pick up location one town over.

It's like Christmas every week! Then, when I get my veggies home, it's like an episode of Iron Chef as I'm trying to figure out what to make with each of these special (sometimes bizarre) ingredients. Not only is it fun and tasty, but it feels good to support local organic farmers as they get their produce to market. I imagine I can feel our founding mothers smiling down on me.

Another ingenious development is the "Farm to Office" approach I read about in the newspaper this summer. Employees of large companies are able to shop at a weekly farmer's market setup in their own office building. The companies arrange with local farmers to provide produce each week. Employees interviewed for the story said how

thrilled they were to have the opportunity to bring home farm fresh produce from their workplace. As the word spread about the quality and convenience of the market, more and more people were dropping by to see it for themselves and becoming participants.

There are also urban farms that grow their produce in vacant lots in the city and sell it to local residents who would otherwise not have access to fresh vegetables and fruits.

One such urban garden based in West Philadelphia gets a great response from the neighborhood. Neighbors participate in growing and buying the fresh veggies. These gardens reduce urban blight, reduce the heat island effect, increase biodiversity, and address nutritional deficits among poorer city dwellers at the same time. What could be better?

(Continued on Page 17)

Farm to Table...and Office...and Library...and School

(Continued from Page 16)

A focus on supporting local farming is still part of who we are today in WNF&GA. We still want to help farmers access good markets, help people access fresh local produce, and help families learn about and value farms and gardens. Luckily, there are many opportunities to help accomplish these goals in our communities today.

Here's a great resource to help you find farmers' markets and community supported agriculture in your area: www.localharvest.org. The Local Harvest website allows you enter your zip code and find farms, CSAs, farmers markets, and grocery store/co-ops near you. The site also has links to a handful of popular local harvest blogs and thousands of stores where you can purchase everything from Christmas wreaths to honey to seeds. Check it out.



Agrarian Adventure Volunteer in the garden at Tappan Middle School

Agrarian Adventure and Ann Arbor Branch Celebrate Milestone Victory

By Claudia Scioly, Michigan Division

The Agrarian Adventure at Tappan Middle School in Ann Arbor is a unique program teaching students about the responsibilities that protect, preserve and celebrate life and food. The program uses the tools of an organic garden as a laboratory, and encourages creativity, exploration and self-expression while promoting the health of the natural habitats we live in and the vibrancy of the community.

The Ann Arbor Branch has been involved since day one: Alice Waters of Chez Panisse and the Edible Schoolyard in Berkeley, California, spoke at a community event and asked for volunteers and supporters. The Ann Arbor Branch jumped in and pledged the funds from the upcoming Garden Walk in 2005.

That fall students, parents, faculty, and volunteers from the Ann Arbor Branch, helped (and watched) while MSU Agriculture students led the effort to build the hoop house.

Since then the Ann Arbor Branch has made further investments in the program: resources and tools to expand the curriculum; a garden shed; improved access to the garden; and fruit trees, as well as an outdoor prep and eating area. And, although the produce is staggered to yield in the fall, and the hoop house is active all year – produce is sent home with volunteers and students, served at the Fall Harvest Dinner, and used for cooking demonstrations – it is not served in the cafeteria.

As you can imagine growing enough of any crop sufficient for a student

body would be a challenge, but the Chartwells Food Service contract did not allow for home grown food to be served.

Ongoing discussion for the past five years yielded “Farm Fresh Fridays,” where local produce was served in the cafeteria, and later expanded to the balance of the Ann Arbor schools, and other communities. Some progress is good.

Recently, Chartwells announced that it would serve student-grown, school garden-grown salad greens at Tappan Middle School on Thursday, June 9, and other Ann Arbor Middle Schools on Friday, June 10.

In addition, selected items were provided for student sampling (radishes). In preparation, students harvested over 150 pounds of lettuce and 50 bunches of radishes.

Chartwells is the first managed contract food service provider to serve school garden produce in the state and, quite possibly, as far as we can determine, the country! The Agrarian Adventure and Ann Arbor Farm & Garden Branch will continue to work on this issue, planning for continued progress.

We hope to schedule a follow-up workshop, sharing with other school gardeners and interested organizations, parents, and volunteers the lessons we have learned in the past six years. Policy has been effected by our involvement in this milestone program, our investment has been returned multiple times, this is a great victory!

Strategy Committee Reviews Mission, Vision, Values

Discussions, drafts, more discussions, and voting were all the order of the day at the 2011 National Meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan. We were talking about the purpose – the reason for being – of the Woman’s National Farm & Garden Association.

Why are we thinking about our mission, vision, and values? These conversations help keep the organization on track and relevant in a changing world. And a review of these beliefs can guide the organization through necessary changes, keeping it true to its core purpose.

The role of the national organization must come from the mission (why we exist), must be in line with the vision (what we’re trying to accomplish next), and must never be in conflict with our values.

As we closed the session on strategy, Vice President Kathy Beveridge asked everyone present to go back to their branches and have one conversation with branch members about the national mission, vision, and values.

In response to requests for help with this conversation, Kathy pledged to create a discussion guide and a handout to be used at the branch meetings. These documents were shared with each meeting attendee via e-mail following the meeting and with Division and National leaders.

Every branch is encouraged to have one discussion focused on the national mission, vision, and values and to send participants reflections (or the minutes of the meeting) to Kathy Beveridge for the Vision and Planning Strategy Committee (VPSC) to review. (For a copy of the discussion guide and handout, e-mail Kathy at kathleen.beveridge@comcast.net.)

In this conversation, branch members review and react to the mission statements, values, and vision statements that were most attractive to participants in Grand Rapids in search of any consensus in the branches and an understanding of why they believe certain statements should be preferred over others. From this, we will understand what WNF&GA members think is important about the national organization and what they hope it will accomplish in the next five years.

Ask your branch president to place this discussion on the agenda of your next meeting or call a brief special meeting for this purpose.

If you’re a member at large, please request a copy of the guide and handout and send your individual responses. The VPSC will review feedback from the national meeting, the branch discussions, and individual responses and make strategic recommendations for approval at the 2012 national meeting in Pittsburgh.

A relevant national mission and vision can help lead our organization in exciting and appropriate ways.

We hope you and your branch will be part of the discussion and the future of Woman’s National Farm & Garden Association.

Preferred mission statements from the 2011 National Meeting:

- *Improving our communities and the world through education and activities in support of farming, gardening, and environmental sustainability.
- *Stewarding the land, farms & gardens
- *Acting as stewards of the land we have inherited and training those who are the next generation.
- *Promoting the agricultural and horticultural interests of city and country women throughout the U.S.

*Educating and beautifying our community and stimulating an active interest in conserving natural resources, horticulture and agriculture through education, participation, and fellowship.

*Improving our communities and the world by promoting the arts of farm and garden and protecting the resources that make them possible.

Preferred values from the 2011 National Meeting:

- *Education
- *Stewardship of the earth’s resources and natural systems
- *Preservation of the history of WNF&GA
- *Friendships/fellowship
- *Community improvement through gardening
- *Preservation of the arts of farm & garden
- *Connecting with like-minded women/persons
- *Member enrichment
- *Exchange of ideas among branches and divisions

Preferred vision statements from the 2011 National Meeting:

- *WNF&GA is recognized for building awareness of key farming and environmental issues (including watersheds) through a national communication program. (Strategies include you-tube, spokesperson, advocacy, etc.)
- *WNF&GA is recognized as a national leader among nonprofit organizations in demonstrating environmental stewardship and recycling.
- *WNF&GA is recognized for national efforts to promote partnerships (with master gardeners, schools, etc.) in support of agriculture, horticulture, and environmental sustainability.
- *WNF&GA is winner of the MacArthur Foundation “Genius Award” for exceptional creativity and impact in their efforts to promote home and community gardening and support local farming and farm markets.

FARM & GARDEN NEWS

New York Division Report

By Janine Thomas, NY Division President

The New York Division is busy with its annual program calendar. Our branches are in full bloom.

The Cambridge branch had a successful plant sale in May. Lead by President Joan Ann Smith, shade gardens, field trips to nurseries, a speaker from Robert Todd Lincoln's home "Hildene," a picnic, a Chinese auction and membership tea fill their calendar. On September 15 they will host our annual Founder's Day. Adding to the list, they are having their third annual flower show. I am personally proud of their intense efforts.

Our Sandy Hill branch has entered a new era. After 25 years as branch president, Judith Bronk has retired. Her successor, Janet Spielberger ambitiously is trying to fill those shoes! She and her members started the year with a photo show of Australia, a native plant program and a color throughout the seasons lecture. The summer months include "Herbs for Health", a luncheon and a garden tour. The fall brings new ideas, "Plants for Winter Interest", gardens of Holland and an annual Christmas party.

Lastly, Tri County began an engaging year with its annual membership tea followed by an outstanding and delicious annual division meeting with our very own Mary Bertolini as our guest! A native plant farm trip preceded our flower show preparations. The annual flower show grows in popularity and will be presenting "Mother Knows Best." A picnic on Lake Neshoebe Island, Founder's Day, craft meeting, Chinese auction and annual holiday party make busy lives even busier.

All three branches continue to do community beautification and projects to benefit their communities. I am exhausting just reporting their activities.

Our division was delighted to have shared our annual meeting with Mary Bertolini. Her message was heartfelt, wise and encouraging. Her engaging personality charmed the New York Division ladies. Thank you Mary, you are an inspiration.

As always, I remain a grateful president of the New York Division. The wonderful women of New York continue to amaze, inspire and achieve.

Ohio Division Report

By Tracy Koehler, OH Division President

On April 7, 2011, the Ohio Division held their annual meeting at the University of Findlay campus. The Dooryard branch from Ottawa, Ohio hosted the meeting. The agenda included a short business meeting, followed by lunch, awards, and a guest speaker who shared knowledge about growing and using herbs. New officers were sworn in by National President, Mary Bertolini.

The Ohio Division hosted a Take a Girl to Garden day at Litzenberg Park in Findlay, Ohio. This was the second annual event. Tickets were presold, and girls from all ages were encouraged to join their garden club friends in a fun-filled gardening day. Those who attended enjoyed making small tussy mussy arrangements from live cuttings members brought to share as well as refreshments and park exhibits.

In conjunction with this event, a geranium sale was organized to help support the Ohio Division's scholarship fund.

The Ohio Division is currently busy organizing their annual Holiday Gathering which is scheduled for Thursday, November 17 at 5:30 at the Lodge at Riverbend in Findlay, Ohio. This year the event will include a sit-down dinner and style show. Tickets will be presold and proceeds will once again help support the division's scholarship fund.

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Members enjoy the sites inside the conservatory at the Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park

FARM & GARDEN NEWS

Continued from Page 19.)

The Ohio Division uses these events to enlighten the community about our organization and to support continued growth for the clubs. Orders for fresh greens, wreaths and roping, are being taken by the Ohio Division for members to use when decorating for the holidays.

The fresh greens' sale is another fundraiser the Ohio Division has provided to its members and the community for several years.

For more information about the Ohio Division, please contact president, Tracy Koehler at 419-306-7512 or jck2@aol.com.

Michigan Division Update By Rita Urbanski, MI Division President

The Branches of Michigan Division had a very busy summer. We began in late spring with the second annual "Daffodil Day" at Belle Isle. 320 members of 25 Michigan Branches and three Ohio Branches joined us for lunch. Enough money was raised to buy 10,500 more bulbs for beautifying Belle Isle.

The first standard flower show held in Michigan in many years was dedicated to WNF&GA Presidents. The setting was the beautiful Meadowbrook Hall, home of Matilda Dodge Wilson, National President from 1964-1966. The flower show was held in conjunction with the Michigan Division Spring Council Meeting. It was a huge success.

The summer brought many Garden Walks featuring artists, musicians, quilts and, of course, gardens. These events enable us to raise funds to support our many civic projects and charities.

We regret that we loss one of our branches. Harbor Beach organized in 1966 was forced to dissolve due to aging membership. The Romeo and Juliet Branches are going to try to operate as one on a trial basis this year. If it works they will combine into one.

We look forward to a fall full of many



Farmerettes labored at the registration table to ensure that members attending the 2011 National Meeting in Grand Rapids were all checked in.

events. Our annual International Tea for 4-H IFYE program will be held September 21. The Bloomfield Hills Branch is presenting "Katie Brown," Domestic Diva for a fun and friendly workshop. Our Fall Council Meeting hosted by the Milford and Springfield Branches will be

held in October.

We have already chartered a bus to carry our Michigan Members to the National Meeting in Pittsburgh and we again invite our fellow Ohio Members to join us at a stop in Toledo. See you then.



Saginaw Branch members journey into the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge. First row: Dave and Amy Morley, Susan Sonntag, Marilyn Karpicke. Second row: Vicki Engel, Thilaka Chandrasri, Kathy Morley. Third row: Mickey Hall and her mother Peg Hall, Sally Purcell and Paul Purcell.

FARM & GARDEN NEWS

Saginaw Branch Enjoys Wildlife Adventure

By Vicki Engel

Last April the guest speaker for the Saginaw Branch, Michigan Division, was a local explorer – Will Hufton III of "Johnny Quest Adventures." For the last 15 years he has taken people from all over the world through the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge by boat.

His trips are rated a "Gem" attraction of Michigan by AAA. Will is such an interesting person and speaker. He's lived in this area all his life. He seems to know every nook and cranny of the flats and the history of them. After our meeting some of our members were sold on the trip! We scheduled a sunset trip into

the flats with Will for June 6. After a cool, wet spring we were lucky it turned out to be a beautiful, warm June day.

If you are looking for some "get away from it all" time, and you love anything nature-oriented, this is the trip to take. This is one of the richest wildlife habitats in Michigan. Shiawassee flats is designated as a United States Important Bird area for its global significance to migratory waterfowl.

You are sure to see LOTS of birds. We spotted bald eagles, blue heron, a pileated woodpecker and its huge nest, shore birds, a hawk, ducks and too much to recall. We also spotted lots of deer. They seem to be unafraid of us and stood on the shore watching us pass by. One scene that will forever be stuck in my mind was a deer standing on a high hill overlooking our boat with the sunset behind him, serenely watching us pass.

Right: Members of Trailwood Garden Club participated in a Michigan Division Standard Flower Show at the estate of Matilda Dodge Wilson.

Writers Committee Forming

Do you like writing, researching, and seeing your work in print?

WNF&GA has several time-limited and ongoing projects that require the talents of writers, photographers, researchers, and publication designers. Projects include the Heirloom Project (a book of farm and garden memories), the website (www.wnfga.org), and Farm & Garden Magazine. Much of what we do becomes part of the collection of WNF&GA papers that are held at the Schlessinger Library.

We hope you will consider joining the newly forming Writers Committee to get involved in one or more of these projects.

Today so much can be done using technology from home that it is possible to have a committee of members working together from branches in different states. We will meet via conference call to plan and execute regular publications, books, and special writing projects.

If you know members of your branch who enjoy this kind of activity, please show them this article and encourage them to get involved in this fun and rewarding way. Contact Kathy Beveridge at 215-441-4827 or kathleen.beveridge@comcast.net

Saginaw Branch Honors Six Deceased Members

The Saginaw Branch of the Michigan Division of WNF&GA honored six members deceased in the 2010-2011 year. A memorial Service was held at Saginaw's oldest residence, Cushway Home, to honor the lives of Shirley Iler, Dorothy Boyd, Marcelle vanBenschoten, Cosby Watson, Mary Patricia Vawter and Chrystal Toft.

A 15-foot high multiple martin bird-house was donated in their honor to Hartley Nature Center.

Trailwood Garden Club Engages Members in Flower Show

By Barbara Bray

Last May, the magnificent estate of the late Matilda Dodge Wilson, Meadowbrook Hall, opened its doors to a Michigan Division Standard Flower Show. Although a long drive from Trailwood Garden Club's home of Plymouth, MI, this venue, and the prospect of a new challenge for our club enticed a few of us to muster our creativity, green thumbs, and adventuresome spirit to submit entries in two categories, Table Design (Div I) and Horticulture (Div II).

(Continued on Page 22.)



(Continued from Page 21.)

One of our members, Elba Fillmore, submitted four impressive entries in the Horticulture Division, earning first place honors for both a spectacular rosemary tree and a lovely geranium. Second place honor went for her Mandevilla, and third place for "Hawaiian Blue Eye" (Evolvulus). Navigating these beauties over stone thresholds, up elevators and through historic hallways was worth her effort as she represented Trailwood Garden Club superbly.

Considering the Table Design, I became inspired to enter with my experience visiting the Philadelphia Flower Show in March still fresh in my mind.

Though tentative at first, the interest among our members to participate in this project blossomed. From a few telephone brainstorming sessions and sketches in a notebook, the design took shape.

The Division I Table Design required the expression of a theme, in this case, "Tea for Matilda." We submitted the following interpretation: "You have come upon a tabletop garden, where Matilda, in high-buttoned shoes, is joined by a hummingbird for a cup of floral tea. P.S. Extra sugar please!" Our floral materials were: ivy, lilac, peony, lily-of-the-valley, grasses, curly willow

Representing the presence of Matilda was a small framed photo of her in vintage white leather buttoned shoes, strands of pearls, pink gloves to reflect a favorite color in her French bedroom, and a lovely period hat adorning one side of the table. For the ever-present hummingbird suspended amid the flowers, there was a miniature teacup and hand-decorated sugar cubes.

Although our interpretation of the theme was perhaps unexpected, we received Honorable Mention for our efforts. It was definitely a treat to be a part of this event: a joyful opportunity to share our love and appreciation for what grows in the world around us!

The Renaud/Peterson Internship Program

By Audrey E. Ehrler, Liaison to the US National Arboretum

Thank you for supporting Shannon Hodapp this past summer. She has worked very hard to improve the appearance of our lovely Louisa King Memorial Dogwood Garden at the US National Arboretum.

In early Spring, I requested that Shannon be permitted to photograph her entire experience this summer. At the National Meeting in 2012, you will view a Power Point Presentation of what actually happens at the Arboretum and how the Internship Program benefits everyone involved in this marvelous opportunity to serve our Nation.

This past year Bea Peterson, Mary Bertolini and Sally Tamm have visited the National Arboretum. If you are planning a visit to our Nation's Capital, please try to get to the Arboretum. Admission and parking are free. You will be pleased that you took the time to visit this peaceful, inspiring, and beautiful place.

Thank you for your generous support year after year. If you wish to make another contribution to this project, please send a donation to our E&C Treasurer, Margaret Latham at PO Box 325 Rawson, Ohio 45881.

Dear Woman's National Farm & Garden Association,

My name is Shannon Hodapp and this year I am the Dogwoods Collection intern at the National Arboretum. I would like to tell you a little bit about my background and update you on what has been happening during my internship.

I am a rising senior at Virginia Tech, studying Horticulture with a focus in Landscape Design. I also have a part time job on campus working for the Hahn Horticulture Garden Pavilion, with the events coordinator. This part time



National Arboretum Intern Shannon Hodapp was supported by the Renaud/Peterson Internship this summer.

job has recently influenced me to lean towards a career similar to an education/events coordinator at a garden or estate.

During this internship at the National Arboretum, I have done tasks such as weed, mulch, prune shrubs, partake in our intern group project (help design and install hardscapes and plants), and take pictures for the power point that will be presented in the spring about this internship.

This experience has proven to be beneficial in that I have learned how to work with a group for the intern project, and during this project I have learned about drip irrigation installment and hardscape/pavers installment. Most of the other tasks I have done previously, or are self-explanatory.

I will be forwarding you my photos in a power point in the near future. Thank you again for giving me the opportunity of working for this internship.

Regards,

Shannon Hodapp

FARM & GARDEN NEWS

The WNF&GA Giving Tree

By Linda Lowe, Director of Development, Temple University Ambler

As the summer quickly comes to an end, Jenny Rose Carey and I, along with many others, continue to make preparations for the upcoming Hilda Justice Artifacts Dedication scheduled for Sunday, November 6, 2011 from 1:00 to 3:00pm. The Collection will highlight the history of women in horticulture, agriculture and design, including the WNF&GA.

This dedication ceremony is the culmination of our yearlong celebration of 100 years of academic excellence here at Temple Ambler. During the Dedication, we will unveil the Woman's National Farm & Garden Association's *Giving Tree*. Leaves on this beautiful tree will be carefully inscribed with the names of the WNF&GA Divisions and Branches along with individual members. (See photograph—right.)

A plaque will be adhered at the base of the tree with the inscription – The Woman's National Farm & Garden Association, Visitors Center Project. Each Division or Branch who donated money to the Visitors Center Project will be inscribed on individual green leaves, while members will be shown on one of three colors (gold, silver or copper) depending on their gift amount.

Temple University Ambler also wishes to recognize the incredible generosity of two individual members and Past Presidents, Hazel Herring and Faith Tiberio, by inscribing their names and presidential terms on two individual doves, that will sit in the tree.

The Hilda Justice building is the old

library of the Pennsylvania School of Horticulture for Women (PSHW). It is fitting that this will be the site of the artifacts from both the School and the WNF&GA. Items from the WNF&GA will include the banner from the Ambler Keystone Branch, albums from the Fryinger Exchange, photographs, and many other treasured memorabilia.

The WNF&GA's *Giving Tree* will be displayed here as well. This is Temple University Ambler's way of permanently saying thank you for the generosity of members of WNF&GA who have raised significant funds through hard work, time and effort.

Please join us for this extraordinary event. Additional leaves can be purchased for gift amounts of \$100 or

more. All proceeds will be designated for the WNF&GA Visitors' Center Project.

At the Dedication, there will be a 72 page book available for sale. Focused on the 100 years of PSHW and Temple Ambler. There will be a short section on WNF&GA's founding at Ambler in preparation for the Centennial in 2014. This book was made possible through the extraordinary efforts of a small team of alumni volunteers -- now fondly known as the 100 Year Club.

For more information, please contact me at 267-468-8440 or linda.lowe@temple.edu.

Thank you for your hard work to save one of Temple Ambler's most historic buildings, the Head House.



This Giving Tree will be displayed in the Hilda Justice building at Temple University Ambler to recognize donors to the WNF&GA Visitors Center.

WNFGA
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