

Farm & Garden

WOMAN'S NATIONAL FARM & GARDEN ASSOCIATION, INC.

Stoney Creek School Two
2007

SPRING 2012



Coming Soon!

WNF&GA's 100th Anniversary Celebration

The Centennial Planning Committee welcomes volunteers for assignment to a variety of projects and orchestrating the annual meeting in 2014. If you want to be on our call list, please contact Susan Yeager. If you have ideas to make the time special, please send them to Susan Yeager via e-mail or regular mail.

Susan R. Yeager, Chair, Centennial Planning Committee

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Farm & Garden

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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 yeagerssue@yahoo.com.

Members: Send your accomplishments, tips, and updates for the next issue of *Farm & Garden*. Submissions must be received by August 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: Wagon Wheel Garden at Van Hoosen Farm, a project of the Rochester, Michigan Branch.

On the Back Cover: Pittsburgh skyline. Photo by Stephen D'Andrea/D'Sign.

IN TOUCH

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A WORD FROM WNF&GA PRESIDENT MARY BERTOLINI

Spring is in the air, in the ground, and in our steps as we move toward a Brave New Farm & Garden. This season of rebirth is the best time to consider the changes we urgently need for the continuation of this organization we hold so dearly. Over the last two years, the Vision and Planning Steering Committee has met and examined the purpose, goals and future of WNF&GA. These members delved into the history, sustainability, and vision to arrive at a long-range plan suitable for the next 10 years and beyond. These visionary women should be commended for their efforts, time, research, and ideas.

We have a permanent home for our collected memorabilia at the Hilda Justice Building on the Ambler Campus of Temple University in Pennsylvania. Our Head House Project is moving forward. New windows have been installed, the structure is sound, a memorial plaque has been purchased, and the Visitors Center is becoming a reality. The college is working with our representatives to finish by the Centennial Celebration in 2014.

Other members have stepped up, too, at National Meetings, at the Division and Branch levels. Two years ago, your President encouraged everyone to share ideas and concerns. It is not surprising that Farm & Garden members are intelligent, vocal and innovative. We have revisited our historical roots to revise the current structure of WNF&GA. The Executive Committee meeting in St. Augustine,



Florida in January resulted in a leaner, more workable model to use for years to come.

Our web site is working quite well, reaching both members and the general public. A fundraising campaign (see related article on page 20) will complete the second portion for members' use. Everyone will benefit from this addition, particularly those who attend national meetings, travel around the country, search for local connections, and more. The possibilities are limited only by our imaginations.

Our new organization will need new bylaws. A revision committee will oversee these changes. The bylaws will be concise and easy to read, leaving no room for misinterpretation. Our Standing Rules are in desperate need of review. These, too, will be changed under the new organization.

Every outgoing President is grateful for support during her term of office. She knows it is the members that make this organization possible; the members make the final decisions. For the past 15 years, I have listened to your suggestions, creative ideas and criticisms. Each one has been noted and carefully

logged for future use. It is through these communications that these past two years have been successful. You have walked with me through the maze of misunderstanding, kept pace with the changes needed to survive, and seen the future through the eyes of the VPSC.

I extend my deepest gratitude to everyone who stepped up to help. The journey has just begun. Together we have laid the foundation for our future. The next two Presidents will complete the vision.

The responsibility for the perpetuation of Farm and Garden lies on the shoulders of every member. It is amazing how one organization, born of like-minded women with a single purpose, can survive nearly one hundred years. One quote from *The Chronicle* says it all:

In the beginning, it was spring- that singular season within the gardener's year when earth's warmth bursts seed into seedling, bud into blossom, and promise into reality...All things seem possible in May.

Now is the second spring for WNF&GA. Let us have a fruitful growing season!

IN FOCUS: EDUCATION — SCHOLARSHIPS 1914-2014

By Louisa King (aka Claudia Scioly, Ann Arbor Branch, MI Division)

As we approach our 100th Anniversary, Jane Bowne Haines and I are pleased to note our scholarship programs continue to be a priority. Branches are generous in their support and often support specific scholarships annually.

Today, as in 1914, supporting students is still important and vital to ensuring they have the opportunities we envisioned. Scholarships at the national level include:

Temple Ambler Scholarship: Our oldest scholarship supports undergraduate study in landscape design and/or horticulture. This scholarship dates back to 1911, when Faith Tiberio's great grandmother, Emma Lukens Hall, Jane Haines' first cousin and earliest Trustee, gave \$5 to establish the scholarship for women to attend Ambler (then the Pennsylvania School of Horticulture for Women). The Tiberio Foundation matches our annual dollars, and the recipient is chosen by faculty at Temple Ambler.

National Arboretum Internship: Donations are used to support a student intern to maintain the WNF&GA Dogwood Garden.



Burlingame-Gerrity Horticulture Therapy Scholarship: Supports full-time students in Horticulture Therapy at universities with accredited Horticulture Therapy programs which are almost non-existent.

Hazel Herring Civic Improvement Grant: Gifts supplement earnings from the gift Hazel Herring's husband made in her honor many years ago. Typically, annual earnings fund grants to Branches who have invested in civic improvement projects. Awards are made upon annual application to the chairman.

Frances Plate Fund: Supports scholarships for interns on behalf of the Student Conservation Association, based in New Hampshire, providing students with summer internships at over 400 parks in the U.S.

Sarah B. Tyson Fellowship: Sponsors a graduate student scholarship in agriculture, horticulture or natural resources.

The Grace E. Frysinger Fellowship
This program promoting international exchanges is currently on hold, not only due to lack of funds but because of ongoing discussions regarding its relevancy today.

The Warren, Saunders, McNaughton Oceanographic Scholarship: Founded by the New England Division, this scholarship has continued

to be supported by them and, occasionally, WNF&GA members.

We recognize that each branch has specialized interests and wants to maintain them. However, perhaps you could think of providing 10% (or 5% percent) of your scholarship dollars for national scholarships in areas that complement or hold special interest for your branch.

Discuss this with your branch; get in touch with national leadership; align your goals with National to bring greater value to your membership, enriching and extending your reach.

Remember the words of Gertrude Warren, Mother of 4H Clubs, and national president in 1951,

"Make no little plans, they have no magic to stir one's blood and spirit; make big plans, aim high in hope and work; long after we are gone will be a living thing."

Scholarships are life-sustaining gifts. The students who receive them perpetuate our message and enable us to grow in new and unexpected ways. Please consider a donation.

Temple Ambler Scholars (clockwise from top) Kelsey Stanton, Chelsea Mahaffey, and Carlo Morelli.



IN FOCUS: FLORAL ARTS REVIVED

By **Nora Tebben, Floral Arts Focus Chairman**

Our organization has many areas of interest. Some are more popular than others, but each addresses a need for individual branches.

Floral Arts is no exception. While showcased by some, it is unexplored by others. In recent years, Farm & Garden has focused on other disciplines, leaving Floral Arts to the creative designers and horticulturalists.

The time has come to push this focus to the forefront. When one asks members why they joined their current branch, many will respond "to learn to arrange flowers". Yet, as a national organization, we have let this opportunity slip through our fingers.

There has been a lack of Flower Show Judges in WNF&GA for many years. The last Judge's School was held in the 90's. Over twenty years have passed; certified Judges have been lost through attrition and relocation.

Without sufficient numbers of qualified judges for our Merit Flower Shows, our organization has voted to accept Floral Arts Judges from the National Garden Clubs. It was met with much discussion, but the decision was inevitable.

The awarding of ribbons is the biggest discrepancy between the two types of judging. A Standard Flower Show, judged by the National Garden Clubs Judges, awards ribbons based on the highest score achieved in each design class. Designs are competing against each other within a design class. Only one ribbon of each color can be awarded in each design category.

In a WNF&GA Standard Merit Flower Show, designs are judged on an individual level, regardless of other entries in the class. Any design meriting the correct number of points may be awarded a ribbon correlating to the earned score. This can result in giving more than one

ribbon of each color.

The rules for judging design entries regarding color, form, rhythm, symmetry are the same. The Horticulture and Conservation portions do not have different judging practices. It is in the awards only that the two sets of judges differ.

Flower shows educate the public and our members in floral design, horticulture and conservation, or environmental concerns. New design techniques, new introductions in horticulture and new practices to preserve our resources are showcased in the best possible settings.

Flower Shows, whether Standard or Merit, serve as an important tool to communicate within our organization and the public at large. It is time for a new crop of judges, designers and proponents of this area of interest. There are branches and divisions who actively search out new and exciting topics for their annual shows. The participants eagerly await the theme, growing horticulture to use at each new show.

Our Judges Council, those few who have earned the credentials to become flower show judges, has come to terms with the shortage of qualified individuals. As a result, at the St. Augustine meeting in January 2012, it was decided the National Judges Council would seek a way to rectify this problem.



The Flower Show manual was revised by Past President Barbara Hochstettler in 2003. It lists guidelines for Judges Schools, giving suggestions for future use. It also allows the Judges Council autonomy in setting up schools to suit the needs of members.

The Council has met and recommended the following procedure to qualify current Farm & Garden members as Flower Show Judges based on completion of the following criteria:

1. A current Master Gardener Certificate to indicate completion of the requirements for certification would suffice for class participation in the Horticulture Classes.
2. Design workshops, open to all members, to demonstrate knowledge in design classes necessary for certification as a judge. These classes can be taken for personal enrichment, or to qualify as a judge. Intent must be indicated on the registration form, a written test may be required if class is to be used as certification.
3. Any design classes taken from an outside organization would be accepted, if proper documentation was supplied.
4. Having met the above requirements, anyone wishing to become a WNF&GA flower show judge, would only need to pass a final test covering the one thing that is unique to WNF&GA flower show judges: the testing and point scoring of a Merit Flower Show.

It is the fervent hope of the Judges Council, the National Organization, and the participating branches that our interest in Floral Arts can be revived for our Centennial celebration.

Anyone interested in becoming a flower show judge should participate in the floral arts workshop offered at the Pittsburgh meeting in June of 2012. (Registration form on page 14.) Our current qualified judges will be there to answer your questions and guide you to the path of Floral Arts.

IN FOCUS: GARDENING — SPRUCE UP YOUR CIVIC PLANTINGS

By Louise Shoksnnyder, Gardening Focus Chair, Rochester Branch, MI Division

Many WNF&GA branches provide yearly civic plantings around libraries, city parks, historic buildings, and civic buildings. The plant material used may be determined by your local municipality, department of public works, or business owners associations.

As a former Civic Improvement Committee Chairman for Rochester Branch, I know it is all too easy to repeat from year to year what is planted. You already know how many flats of each type of plant to get and the best sources for purchasing these annuals. You know that your budget will cover those choices. But a change is possible if you have the time to plan ahead.

One way to garner ideas for new plantings is to check out the All American Selection Winners. Each year, hundreds of new annuals are planted in trial gardens across North America. These plants are critiqued for their various traits, and those that meet the highest qualifications are named as selections by the judges. Search for options in nursery and seed catalogs. Growers often display their new material on their web sites too.

When you make choices of bedding plants, you want to achieve your desired effect. Take into consideration how the bed will be viewed, the amount of sunshine it will receive, water requirements and soil conditions.

Is your community celebrating anything special this year? Centennials? 4th of July Celebrations? An annual fair? A well planned civic planting can add visual interest to these events.

One plant that might be of interest is *Osteospermum* 'Asti White.' It has pure white, daisy-like flowers with a purple center. The blooms are large



Osteospermum 'Asti White'

and the plant has thick fleshy leaves that make it drought tolerant. Growing to 17" to 20," 'Asti White' makes a great plant for the center of a bed. The white flowers stand out for the evening or morning when light is low.

Many new types of petunias have been introduced over the last decade. The Wave Petunia, although a great plant, can sometimes be a thug in the garden. Some new varieties include Supertunia 'White Russian' from Proven Winners. It is an antique-white with chocolate veining — a unique color combination. 'Limbo Violet', an AAS Award Winner back in 2004, is a single Grandiflora petunia with very large flowers and a compact plant. The dark violet blooms are a stand out and recover quickly from severe weather. The plants are virtually maintenance free, as no pinching is required. Another petunia of note is a 2003 AAS Winner, 'Merlin Blue Morn'. It has a two toned, purple and white flower that pop out from a distance.

For height at the back of a bed, consider *Salvia*, 'Summer Jewel Pink', a 2012 AAS Award Winner which grows to 24." Pink and red varieties attract and provide nectar for hummingbirds.

Consider an annual grass in your plantings. There are several millets on the market that have excellent leaf color and interesting seed heads.

If any of your members have the time, space and inclination, growing plants from seed can be very rewarding and much cheaper than buying grown plants. Some of the shorter sunflowers are fun to grow from seed, as are zinnias. If started early enough, the seedlings should be of good size by the time your branch is ready to plant in May. 'Pop Art' zinnia is a new introduction that sports 2" wide, fully double, orange-yellow flowers that are streaked with red. They were developed by Burpee Seeds.

Dwarf Canna Lilies are an option too. Many sport very interesting leaves and brilliant colored flowers. They would be a standout at the back of a planting.

I hope that these suggestions gave you some food for thought. Speaking of food, some vegetable plants make for great plantings too. There are many decorative peppers available, as well as beautiful kale that lasts beyond frost. Herbs intermingled in flower beds are also lovely and add the extra sensory factor of scent.

Again, do not forget to think of bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds when you are choosing plants for you projects. If you feel you have to stay with the same geraniums, there are so many colors to choose from — even a yellow geranium by Burpee, available this year!

Try something new this year and get those members out there this summer to maintain the beds so lovingly planted in the spring.

Sources:

www.provenwinners.com

www.aaswinners.com

www.burpee.com

Civic Improvement and Beautification

By Suzanne Smith-Oscilowski
Ambler Keystone Branch,
Pennsylvania Division

*"It's the flock, the grove,
that matters. Our
responsibility is to species,
not to specimens;
to communities,
not to individuals."*

- Sara Stein, Noah's Garden

Civic improvement is an integral part of the *Aims and Purposes* of the Woman's National Farm & Garden Association. From its earliest days, the association was concerned with protecting "civic beauty" and improving "conditions affecting home and community life."

This commitment to civic improvement has resulted in WNF&GA branch involvement in many and varied civic projects that improve public spaces in our communities. Our branches participate in numerous civic ventures including the establishment of community gardens, landscaping of historic landmarks and community properties, and horticultural and educational activities which improve the well being of community members.

To further these civic improvements, the Hazel Herring Civic Improvement Grant was established. The grant was instituted by Hazel and Jack Herring and was originally awarded to worthy projects upon successful completion. Currently grants are awarded to proposed projects allowing branches to acquire funding in advance of the project's commencement. Over the years, many worthwhile endeavors have been funded through this civic improvement grant.

The Rochester, Michigan Branch has been actively involved in designing, installing, and maintaining the children's garden at the Van Hoosen Farm in Stony Creek Village. The 16-acre museum complex and farmhouse was home to the Taylor and Van Hoosen families dating back to 1823. The ½ acre garden was initiated in 2004 from farm fields.

The children's garden features a disability accessible Wagon Wheel Garden that reflects the history of the region interpreted through design and plant selection. Other garden elements include a windmill, an old-fashioned schoolhouse, a yellow brick road and Billy Goats Gruff bridge with a resident troll, and a tool shed with old-fashioned toys including wooden stilts and wooden hoops. Flower pot characters live happily amongst the plants.

This spring, a newly installed interactive sundial garden will allow children to tell time by standing on the current month stepping stone and raising their arm up where numbered stepping stones have been placed to tell time. There are many other themed gardens- an alphabet

garden, a five-senses garden, a pizza garden, a maze garden, a native plant garden, a storybook garden, a tops and bottoms garden emphasizing plants that grow above and below ground, a fragrance garden, a dairy garden, and herb and vegetable gardens. Summer 2012 will bring a new water feature allowing children to experience an old-fashioned hand pump.

Branch members are assigned primary responsibility for a specific section of the garden. They plant seasonally and maintain regularly so that visitors, young and old, will enjoy the gardens. Over 1000 volunteer hours are annually donated to this worthwhile project. The Rochester Branch also installs and maintains potted flower arrangements, holiday decorations and historical displays at the farm.

Other annual civic improvement activities include beautification of various Rochester community buildings such as the library, Rochester Center for the Arts, the War Memorial, and neighborhood parks as well as curbside exteriors of local charitable organizations. Members also conduct



Rochester Branch members in the Sensory Garden at Van Hoosen Farm.

Civic Improvement and Beautification...continued

horticultural therapy programs and pre-kindergarten planting activities as well as craft workshops and a Green's Market.

The Troy, Michigan Branch has been actively involved in civic improvement projects at the Troy Historic Village. Visitors enter the Historic Village through the Main Building, which was the Troy Township Hall and later the City Hall. It was built in 1927.

Club members maintain the gardens through their spring planting, monthly weeding and fall clean-up efforts. A new ABC Garden has been installed next to the one room schoolhouse. Winding paths direct visitors through the garden's beds where plants correspond to the letters of the alphabet. The project was designed to integrate nature and history into the learning process while encouraging children and adults to enjoy the garden's beauty.

Education of today's youth will plant the seeds of knowledge and interest for future civic improvement and beautification. To further this ambition, the Clarkson Michigan Farm & Garden Club provides in-house education programs to local students. These programs focus on environmental conservation and civic beautification. Members also participate in March is Reading Month by reading stories depicted in the Children's Literary Gardens at the local library.

The Country Garden Club of Northville creates weekly floral bouquets for clients of Arbor Hospice of Michigan. These caring efforts are sincerely appreciated by many families during their time of greatest need and they support the WNF&GA purpose of "improving home and community life".

Communities that are clean and beautiful are delightful to visit; they improve the quality of life for all citizens. Many of our branches are active in local beautification efforts. The Milford Michigan Garden Club's Maintenance on Main Street program handles the day-to-day maintenance of Main Street gardens. The club performs a spring clean up, plants flowers, maintains the gardens and puts them to bed for the winter. Branch members commit to a series of three maintenance dates throughout the summer and early fall. This beautification effort creates a Main Street the entire community can enjoy!

The Beacon Hill Branch of New Jersey has an ongoing horticultural therapy program. The program addresses the needs of five young men with disabilities who live in a group home. This past year the branch purchased two large decorative planters and two large baskets. The "guys" filled them with soil and then planted assorted summer plants.

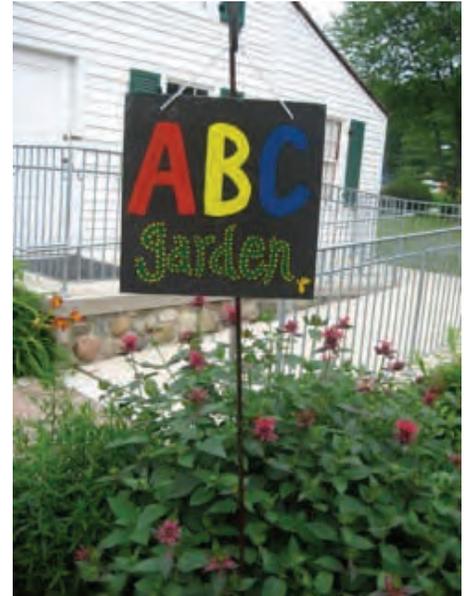
The flowers beautified their home and the young men learned the basics of plant maintenance as they were responsible for watering and weeding their planters. Nine branch members participated in this project including three new members!

The Moonglow Garden Club planted the Moonglow Sanctuary Garden in May 2001. It is located on the grounds of the Trenton Cultural Center in Trenton, Michigan. This is a rectangular garden consisting of white perennials, annuals, and shrubs.

Inside the garden is a crescent moon-shaped garden outlined with rocks. Since 2001 this garden has been maintained by garden club mem-

bers. There are spring and fall clean-ups where several members get together to work on the garden. Throughout the summer, members take turns maintaining the garden. A garden committee gets together

(continued on page 10)



ABC Garden at Troy Historic Village

Benefits of Volunteering for Civic Improvement Projects:

1. Learn or develop a new skill.
2. Be part of your community.
3. Express a sense of achievement and motivation generated from your desire to help.
4. Boost your career options.
5. Develop new interests and hobbies.
6. Get new experiences.
7. Meet a diverse range of people.
8. Send a signal to your friends and family that reflects a complete picture of you and your commitment, dedication and interests.

Civic Improvement and Beautification

(continued from page 9)

throughout the summer to make major decisions about changes or additions to the garden plantings.

The branches' civic activities are ultimately about helping others and having an impact on people's well being. Whether creating and maintaining public gardens, working with community members in need or educating future generations, our local branches are connecting with their communities and providing essential services that help to make our society a better place in which to live.

Louisa King would be proud!



Moonglow Sanctuary Garden at Trenton Cultural Center in Trenton, Michigan

HAZEL J. HERRING CIVIC IMPROVEMENT GRANT

The Hazel Herring Civic Improvement Grant was established by Jack Herring to honor his wife, Hazel, and her efforts for Civic Improvement while serving as National President of WNF&GA. Through the generosity of Mr. Herring, we are able to fund the projects of our branches and brighten our communities.

The Grant is available to any branch. Funds are used to start a project, put the project into use, or finish the last few details necessary to bring the project to completion. It is neither intended nor awarded to complete the entire project.

Money may be awarded only once for each project submitted. Adding to an existing project that has received an award in the past is not allowed. Projects should be located in public areas of a community where the general public will benefit from the improvements provided by the project.

All Branches are encouraged to apply.

HAZEL J. HERRING CIVIC IMPROVEMENT GRANT APPLICATION

Applications must be received by Gerry Howard by April 15, 2012.

Branch: _____

Division: _____

Number of Members: _____

Project Title: _____

Project Cost: _____

Person Submitting Application: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

FAX/e-mail: _____

APPLICATION MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

1. Completed application form;
2. Written description, **no more than three pages** in length, describing the project, the goal, the sweat equity (who will be involved), and the total cost of the project.
3. A copy of this Application and Project Description must be sent to the Branch President or Division President for their records.

Please mail to: Gerry Howard; 12735 Scott Rd.; Davisburg, MI 48350. Phone: 248-634-3766; gerryhoward323@yahoo.com

National Meeting Overview: June 6-10, 2012

Hats Off to Pittsburgh!

Join us as we travel to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania for the Woman's National Farm & Garden Association's Annual Meeting scheduled for June 6-10, 2012. Everyone had such a great time wearing their vintage hats, garments, and accessories last year in Grand Rapids that this year's theme, "Hats Off To Pittsburgh" was selected so that we can tap into our inner child and play dress-up once again! Read on for daily 'hat hints' in the itinerary described below. Please feel free to unleash your imagination and creativity and not just limit yourself to only a hat or two!

Wednesday, June 6 we will arrive wearing our 'traveling' hats and check in at our hotel – the luxurious Sheraton Station Square. Located on the "South Shore," it is the only riverfront hotel in town and the perfect place to view the point where the Monongahela & Allegheny Rivers join to create the Ohio River. We are on our own for dinner Wednesday evening.

On Thursday we will don 'garden headgear' as we travel by motor coach to tour the world famous Phipps Conservatory and then enjoy lunch. The afternoon will allow free time to explore on your own (sun hats & explorer gear suggested!).

Or perhaps you'll be interested in attending the Floral Arts & Judges School workshop, pre-

sented by Nora Tebben & members of the Pennsylvania Division. 'Thinking caps' optional! This exciting workshop is being offered to build interest in more members becoming WNF&GA Flower Show judges and to remember how much fun it is to work "hands-on" with flowers. To sign up, please refer to the Floral Arts registration form (separate from the meeting registration form) on page 14.

Thursday evening, our hats will definitely have a 'rock & roll' flair as we enjoy dinner together at the Hard Rock Café, located next to the hotel.

On Friday morning it's up early as we apply our 'sense of adventure' hats and travel by motor coach to Fallingwater, the world renowned Frank Lloyd Wright architectural design. We will stop first for lunch and a stimulating lecture at the restored barn at Fallingwater.

Later that afternoon, we return to the hotel for the Executive Board meeting, Farm & Garden 101, and other committee meetings as called. Saturday morning is a 'working' day as we host Session I of the business meeting, lunch, and Session II – all at the hotel. 'Thinking caps' required! Din-

ner on Saturday evening will feature 'cocktail attire' with cash bar, the famous Silent Auction, and installation of Officers for 2012-2014.

The riverfront location of the Sheraton Station Square hotel provides easy access to over 30 restaurants and nightclubs. Enjoy the Fountain at Bessemer Court as it magically & colorfully dances to music. Discover and ride the Duquesne Incline located just a brisk walk from the hotel. The hotel itself boasts a full time restaurant, lounge, 24 hour business center with high speed Internet, stylish suites, heated pool, and exercise room, and comfortable meeting rooms.

Information about making a reservation at the Sheraton Station Square is on page 12.

The meeting registration form and fees can be found on page



Fancy hats were the order of the day at the 2011 National Meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

National Meeting Details

WNF&GA National Annual Meeting Pittsburgh, PA Agenda – June 9, 2012

- 8:45 a.m. – Business Session #1
1. Call to Order
 2. Invocation
 3. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the USA
 4. Welcome
 5. Roll Call
 6. Quorum
 7. Agenda Review
 8. Corrections/Additions 2011 National Meeting Minutes
 9. Officers' Reports
 10. Committee Chairman Reports as requested (See page 19.)
- 10:00 a.m. - Recess
- 10:15 a.m. - Floral Arts Demo.
- 10:35 a.m. – Business Session #2
11. Committee Reports (cont.)
 - 12. Report of Vision and Strategy Planning Committee (See p.18)**
 - 13. Vote on WNF&GA Final Vision**
 14. Unfinished Business
- 11:45 a.m. – Lunch Recess
- 12:45 p.m. – Business Session #3
15. New Business:
- A. Bylaw addition (See article p.19.)
 - B. Floral Arts Judges School (See p.6.)
 - C. Restructuring (See p.16.)
 - D. Website Funding (See p.20.)
- 2:15 p.m. – Recess
- 2:30 p.m. – Call to Order
16. Nominating Committee Report
 17. Election of Officers
 18. Comments
 19. Announcements
 20. Adjourn

Sheraton Station Square Hotel—Pittsburgh, PA

The Sheraton Station Square Hotel will be a wonderful location for the 2012 National Meeting of WNF&GA. Kick back and relax at Pittsburgh's only riverfront hotel.

Just steps away from downtown, corporate and retail centers and adjacent to over 30 shops, restaurants, and nightclubs, it's never been easier to connect with your Farm & Garden friends at the renowned Station Square.

The Dock of the Gateway Clipper Fleet is only a short walk from the hotel. This collection of America's premier riverboats offers sightseeing, dining and dancing cruises along Pittsburgh's three rivers.

Also just a brisk walk away, ride the Duquesne Incline up to the top of Mount Washington for a look at Pittsburgh's gorgeous skyline.

Relaxation comes easy in our indoor pool and bubbling whirlpool. Recharge at our fitness center, soak in the sun on our sundeck, or enjoy a

little you-time in our soothing sauna after a full day of touring.

The Sheraton Station Square is renowned for its many successes in the Hotel Industry and was honored to participate in the G20 Summit in 2009. Many Presidents and Ambassadors from various nations stayed at the Sheraton during this momentous event.

The Sheraton Station Square prides itself on recognizing that all of our guests deserve the same comfort, caring and respect that was shown to the G20 participants. We look forward to hosting the Woman's National Farm & Garden Association in the same manner as the G20 Summit.

Sheraton Station Square
300 W. Station Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15212
412-261-2000

Mention WNF&GA for a special rate on your reservation.

Transportation and Directions

The Sheraton Station Square Hotel is Pittsburgh's only riverfront hotel, located just steps away from downtown Pittsburgh.

The hotel is 30 miles (40 minute ride depending on traffic) from Pittsburgh International Airport. All of the downtown hotels are serviced by SuperShuttle. Round-trip to the airport costs \$24. Call 800-258-3826 to schedule service or schedule online at www.supershuttle.com.

Union Station (railway) and the

Greyhound Bus Station are located one mile from the hotel. A taxi ride from either of these stations to the hotel takes about 15 minutes and costs \$15. Contact 412-321-8100 for taxi service.

To access driving directions on MapQuest or GPS, use the following address: 300 W. Station Square Drive; Pittsburgh, PA 15219.

The hotel is connected to a self-parking facility with in and out privileges for \$20 per day.

NATIONAL MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

(Please fill out a separate form for each guest. Non-refundable registration fee.)

Sheraton Station Square Hotel; 300 West Station Drive; Pittsburgh, PA 15212-1122; 412-261-2000

Pittsburgh, PA — June 6-10, 2012

Name _____ Member _____ or Guest _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Phone _____ E-mail _____
 Division _____ Division Office Held _____ Branch _____
 Branch Office Held _____ National Office Held _____
 Arriving by: Plane _____ Bus _____ Car _____ Expected time of arrival _____
 Rooming with _____ or Need a Roommate? _____
 Regular Diet: _____ or Vegetarian Diet _____

Please note that you may select individual days you wish to participate in meals/tours/programs to adapt to your budget. Breakfasts are on your own.

Wednesday June 6	Arrive and check-in (3-6p.m.)	N/A
Thursday June 7	Motor Coach to Phipps Conservatory Tour & Luncheon Executive Board Meeting Dinner at Hard Rock Café	\$ 70 _____
Friday June 8	Motor Coach to Fallingwater Lunch & Program at The Barn @ Fallingwater Docent led tours of Fallingwater Dinner at Hotel and Program	\$ 80 _____
Saturday June 9	Session I Annual Meeting Lunch Session II Annual Meeting Silent Auction/Dinner Installation of Officers	\$ 90 _____
Sunday June 10	Committee Meetings as Called/Depart	N/A
Guest for Saturday Night Dinner (\$50 members, \$60 nonmembers) (Does not apply to registrants for all Saturday events – above.)		\$ _____
Total Registration (Add up all of the above.)		\$ _____
Angel Fund Donation		\$ _____
Late Fee(After May 1) \$ 25		\$ _____
Total Enclosed		\$ _____

Make checks payable to: *WNF&GA National Meeting Fund*
 Send completed registration form and check to: Leslie Morris-Smith; 8818 Duveen Dr.; Wyndmoor, PA 19038;
 215-233-3532. E-mail Lmsmith233@comcast.net (put Pittsburgh in the subject line).
 Questions: call Kathy Beveridge 215-262-1372; kathleen.beveridge@comcast.net
 or Julia Siefker 1-419-538-6739; jverhoff@bright.net.
No refunds. Late fees apply after May 1, 2012. No Exceptions.
 Call hotel directly to make room reservations 412-261-2000 Mention WNF&GA for group rate.

Visit Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater During the 2012 National Meeting

The WNF&GA annual meeting in Pittsburgh will have as one of its highlights a visit to Fallingwater. This Frank Lloyd Wright designed home is a registered National Historic Landmark that has recently completed significant renovations. If you have already been for a visit, you will be amazed by its restoration and delighted by changes that make it accessible to anyone.

If you have never been to see it, you will welcome this chance to visit with our members. We will have motor coach transportation from our hotel in Pittsburgh to this location, and enjoy a catered lunch nearby in an historic, well appointed barn. Julia Siefker has scouted it all out, and we are in highly capable hands following in the magnificent footprints of our President-elect.



Fallingwater, a home designed by the renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright, inspires visitors from around the world. Farm & Garden members will tour the site in June.

Floral Arts Workshop—June 7th at the National Meeting

A great opportunity will be available at the National Meeting in Pittsburgh. If you are interested in Floral Arts and arranging and, perhaps, aspire to one day be a judge, then be sure to attend the Floral Arts Workshop presented by Nora Tebben in the afternoon of Thursday, June 7. Use this form to register. This workshop is intended for the novice and the serious flower arranger in us all! The \$5 fee includes hands-on designing action!

Yes! I am interested in attending the Floral Arts Workshop on June 7, 2012 at the National Meeting. My registration fee of \$5 is enclosed.

Name: _____

Branch/Division: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Mail to: Nora Tebben; 3077 Lake George Road; Dryden, MI 48428

WANTED: FLORAL ARTS JUDGES MANUALS!

If you have a WNF&GA Judges manual that isn't being used, please contact Nora Tebben at noratebben@hotmail.com.

Return of a WNF&GA Tradition: The National Meeting Silent Auction

Anyone who has ever attended the Silent Auction at the WNF&GA National Meeting knows what a delightful opportunity it is to raise money for the National Meeting Fund!

Traditionally held on the last evening, members donate a variety of whimsical items from the inexpensive to the extravagant thus making it affordable for anyone to be a successful bidder. Examples of donated items include jewelry, artwork, garden books & garden related items, pottery, decorative household items, candles, and honey.

So put your thinking caps on, wrap yourself in imagination, then stroll through your home and gardens to search for that perfect item or two to bring to the 2012 Silent Auction in Pittsburgh, PA – Saturday, June 9th.

Meet Julia Siefker –Incoming President WNF&GA (2012 – 2014)

Julia grew up in Northwest Ohio near Glandorf, a strong agricultural community. She became involved in WNF&GA in 1986 as a member of the Dooryard Garden Branch in Ottawa, OH, becoming great friends with Rosemary Lammers, branch founder.

In 1989, Julia went on hiatus from WNF&GA to raise her children and work as full time Camp Manager at Camp Libbey in Defiance, OH, developing the camp to be the #3 Girl Scout Camp in the United States.

In 1999, Julia married a farmer and love-of-her-life, Ron Siefker, and returned to her roots in Glandorf. In a few short years as a farmers' wife, she learned what running a farm was all about. Ron raised beef cattle and farmed the "big three" – wheat, corn, and soybeans.

Julia returned to WNF&GA and, with Rosemary's encouragement, became deeply involved at the Branch, Division, and National levels. She has served as VP and President of Door-yard Branch.

On the Division level, Julia chairs Geranium Sales and "Take a Girl to Garden" Day. She is past Ohio Division VP

and President, and currently serves as Advisor.

Julia served two terms as a Council member representing her Division on the National level, as well as VP and, currently, President -Elect.

Although widowed in 2001, she continues to run the farm, along with a hardware store and grain elevator. Committed to conservation, Ron and Julia received the Lake Erie Buffer Farmers of the Year in 2002. In 2005, Julia received the OH Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Achievement Award. The farm has over 30 acres of grass waterways, riparian buffers, wetlands, and pheasant and quail habitats.

In her spare time, Julie enjoys vegetable gardening, fishing, gourmet cooking, and spending special time with her granddaughter.

"I am extremely honored and pleased to serve as the President of such a wonderful organization. As a member of Farm & Garden, I meet many wonderful people who become good friends" says Julia. "One of the highlights of my year is connecting with members at the National Meeting."

Pittsburgh Bound: Take the Bus to the 2012 National Meeting

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

When you take the bus to the national meeting in Pittsburgh this year, getting there really is half the fun. 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. 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.

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 someone else drive. Members and guests are welcome.

Total payment is due by April 28, 2012. Seats sell out early, so don't delay! No refunds, please.

Pittsburgh Bound! Bus Registration Form

<u>Name</u>	<u>Branch</u>	<u>Division</u>
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<u>Address</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>St</u> <u>Zip</u>
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<u>Phone</u>	<u>Cell Phone</u>	
<hr/>	<hr/>	
<u>Email</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>or Guest</u>
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Total payment of \$140 is due by April 28, 2012.
Make check payable to: National Meeting Fund with "bus payment" on the memo line.

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).

Proposed Reorganization of WNF&GA

By Mary Bertolini, National President

Over the years, Farm & Garden has adapted to many changes. We are proud of our heritage and accomplishments.

At the Board Meeting in St. Augustine, Florida in January 2012, many crucial decisions were made. Those present understood the necessity of change to foster the continuance of WNF&GA.

Under the current structure, the Executive Committee and Council are responsible for the running of the organization. These consist of elected officials, Division and Individual Branch Presidents and elected council members. They work together to make decisions that will affect every dues-paying member.

The proposed reorganization continues this theme and preserves the aims and goals we hold so dearly. Every Focus area that we currently espouse is evident in the new structure. The names and number of appointees have changed.

According to our Articles of Incorporation, Farm & Garden must have an Executive Committee (Board) and Council of thirty (30) members. At recent National Meetings, a total of

60 members represent our total membership of 1,600.

Most of the attendees are neither council members nor Division Presidents, merely members attending the meeting. It has become customary to appoint all present at the meeting as council members to ensure a quorum. This is not a representation of our membership nor was it the intent of our Founders.

The Board of Directors convened into a committee of the whole to discuss the changes and how these would impact our future. They considered the current structure, the attendance and absence of Division Presidents and Council Members. They thought about the division of work, the importance of each interest, the number of volunteers necessary to fill all positions.

The group quickly reached agreement. There are too many slots to fill and not enough willing participants. The only solution seemed to be fewer jobs at the national level.

Under the proposed reorganization, the Executive Committee would no longer include the Division and Individual Branch Presidents. These representatives would become Council

members representing their membership. Additional Council members would be elected to fill the quota of thirty (30).

The Council would consist of these Presidents, the Directors of five Interest Areas, and elected Council Members. The Finance Chairman, Parliamentarian, and Directors would be appointed by the President. The Directors of each Interest would ap-

point the Associate Directors as needed or the Director might choose to complete the job alone. By seeding the Council with these representatives, the number of additional Council Members needed is reduced.

Our membership numbers continue to decline. In recognition of this fact, the National hierarchy must be reduced accordingly.

This reorganization addresses future needs of Farm & Garden as well. Additional Associate Directors can be included if necessary, but the Directors, as proposed, will cover any unforeseen needs.

For many members, this is the first time an organization chart has been presented for consideration. Others are familiar with our structure and need time to consider the changes.

This structure will be presented for ratification at the Annual General Membership meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in June of 2012. The Board of Directors recommends adoption. All comments are encouraged and welcomed.

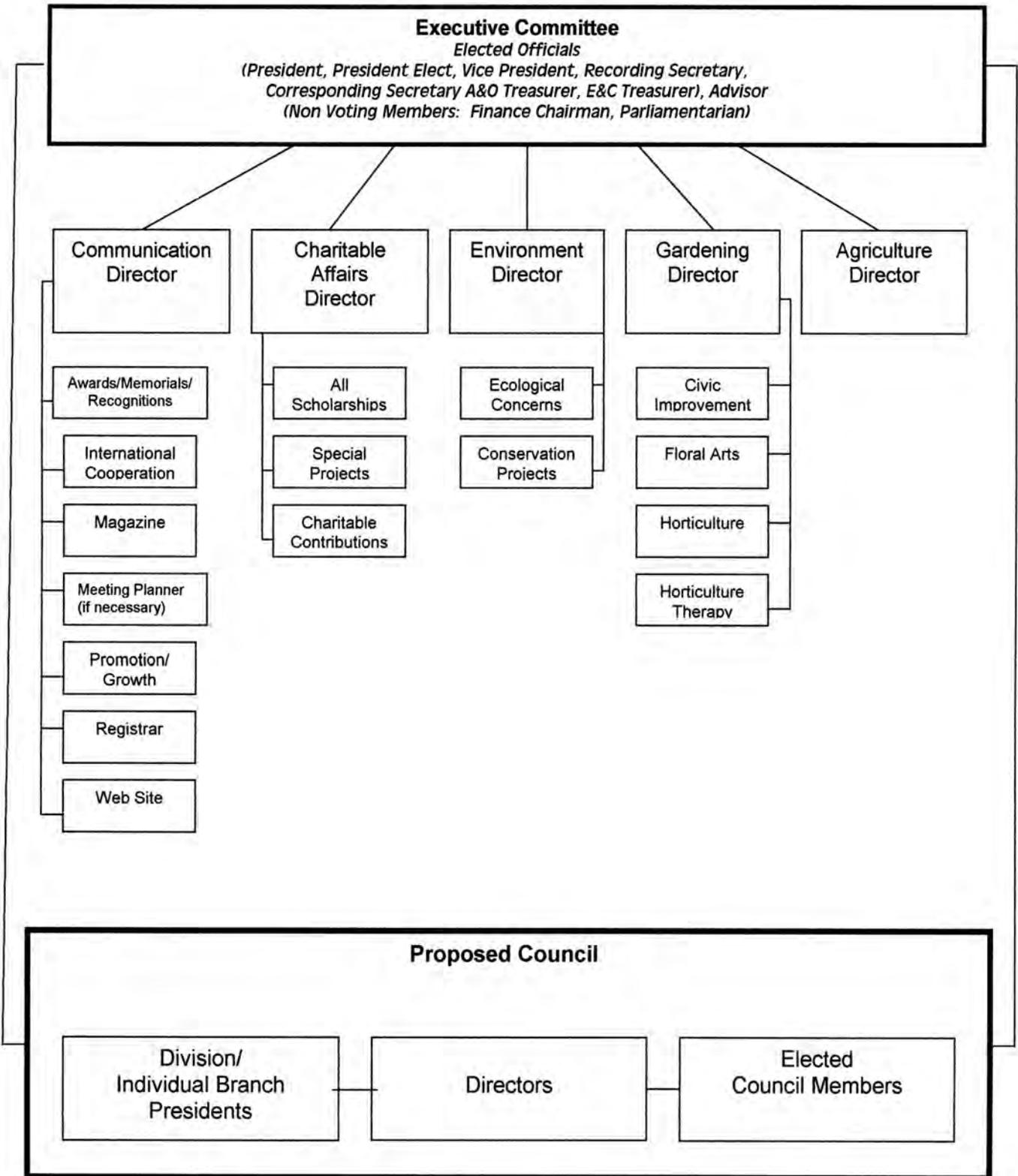
The Vision and Planning Strategy Committee reported on its findings at the January meeting as well. We are recommending a revised mission statement and a vision statement for the future of Farm & Garden that will serve as our destination on the Farm & Garden GPS. The Restructuring is the vehicle in which we will travel toward that destination. New Bylaws will serve as our route.

The future of Farm & Garden is in the hands of the passengers, or each member. Join us on the journey.



National President Mary Bertolini and Past President Faith Tiberio help cut the ribbon on the Ambler Campus Artifacts Collection that will include WNF&GA Artifacts.

WNF&GA Proposed Organization Chart



Update: Mission, Vision, and a National Project [To be voted on at the June 2012 meeting.]

By Kathleen Welsh Beveridge
VPSC Chair

Since Fall 2010, members of Woman's National Farm & Garden Association, led by the Vision and Planning Steering Committee (VPSC), have considered, discussed, and outlined statements of mission, values, and vision to lead the organization forward into the next one hundred years.

Based on input gathered from branches in every Division, the VPSC refined these statements and presented them to the WNF&GA Executive Committee in St. Augustine in January, 2012. With small adjustments, the Executive Committee moved to recommend them for Council approval at the National Meeting in Pittsburgh in June.

Here are the statements that will be voted on at the National Meeting:

Mission: The WNF&GA improves our communities through education and activities in support of agriculture, gardening, and environmental stewardship.

Values: The most deeply held values of Woman's National Farm & Garden Association are education, member enrichment, friendships, connecting with like-minded women, and community improvement through gardening and agriculture.

Vision: WNF&GA is recognized

for its national efforts to promote partnerships with other organizations in support of agriculture, horticulture, and environmental stewardship.

The discussion in St. Augustine went on to consider several potential national projects that might engage members across all branches in an effort to realize the proposed vision for Farm & Garden of promoting partnerships in support of agriculture, horticulture, and environmental stewardship.

Now, we would again like to engage branches in reacting to and providing input into these national project ideas. We have developed a branch discussion guide and handout for your use and hope that each branch will conduct a brief discussion on this subject in April or early May. The guide will be available on the national website (www.wnfga.org) or through e-mail to Kathleen.beveridge@comcast.net.

Members of the VPSC invite all members of Farm & Garden to give us your feedback on national projects. Then please join us in Pittsburgh this June to finalize these plans and successfully launch us into our next 100 years.

Thank you! We look forward to receiving your input.

National Projects for Branch Consideration:

1. Partnership with Slow Food Movement.

The Slow Food Movement espouses eating within a certain radius of your home. The WNF&GA might partner to build awareness of the benefits of eating locally, recognize groups that do so, and ask that all meeting refreshments be sourced from within 100 miles of the location.

2. Partnership to Renew Floral Arts.

To encourage participation in floral arts activity by WNF&GA branches, we might drop our own rules and align with National Garden Clubs, Garden Club of America, or another organization. Or, we might explore whether any of these partners would be willing to create a class based on our approach to making awards. (Par class – point based.)

3. Endow the National Arboretum Intern Position.

The WNF&GA raises money each year to support a summer intern at the National Arboretum in Washington DC. The intern maintains the garden that contains several structures and many trees given in recognition of WNF&GA leaders. Funds could be raised to create an endowment that would generate annual income to support the intern.

4. One hundred thousand native plants/trees planted around the 100th anniversary celebration.

The national organization could help generate local and national visibility for these joint efforts, and the benefits to the environment of planting native plants and trees.

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Important Notice—WNF&GA Recommendation of National Bylaw Amendment

By **Jeannette M. Matyn and Evelyn Olszewski; National Parliamentarians**

The following motion was made by the Beacon Hill Branch of New Jersey as an amendment to the National Bylaws. It was submitted during the Board Meeting held in Saint Augustine, FL on January 14th.

'The National Organization has the right to review the financial records of each Chartered Branch and Division of this organization.'

The motion was passed as submitted and will be presented to National Council at the National Spring Council/Annual Meeting which will be held in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania during the month of June.

Rationale: It is necessary that we include this paragraph, or something similar, in our bylaws that will address the new law that the State of Michigan and some other states have imposed on non-profit organizations that wish to hold raffles.

For any Chartered Branch or Division applying for a license to hold a raffle, a copy of their own bylaws **and** the National (Parent) Organization bylaws (reflecting the recommended WNF&GA bylaw) are now required by some states. (It seems that these copies would only be submitted once and not again unless our bylaws affecting the state's requirements change.)

The State of Michigan laws concerning raffles include: R 432.21202 qualification requirements.

Rule 202:

(4) In addition to the requirements of the act, the commissioner shall consider certain factors when determining if an applicant or licensee qualifies as a "branch", "lodge", or "chapter". These include, but are not limited to, the following:

(e) Oversight and control provided by the national or state organization over the financial affairs of the branch, lodge, or chapter, including the audit of financial records of the branch, lodge, or chapter.

(f) Standard bylaws adopted by the branch, lodge, or chapter; or bylaws submitted to the national or state organization for approval.

Please let us hear from you if you have any helpful information to add. Any amendments to the main motion should be submitted in writing and mailed to: Jeannette M. Matyn, 3801 Riverview Terrace, So., E. China, MI 48054.



The Children's Garden at Van Hoosen Farm is lovingly tended by members of the Rochester Branch of Michigan.

Call for Reports Deadline May 15, 2012

Everyone in Farm & Garden owes a debt of gratitude to those who have accepted the position of Focus Chairman or Special Committee Chairman. These members not only serve their Branch and Division, but have added the National Organization to their list of responsibilities.

Through their commitment, our new Farm & Garden is taking shape. We applaud their investment of money, time, and effort as we've moved ahead with our visioning, restructuring, and future goals of WNF&GA.

Communication cements the continuance of our organization. If you are a Focus Chairman, Special Committee Chairman, Division President, or National Officer, your report is vital to the maintenance of Farm & Garden. **Please compile your year-end report and submit a copy to Corresponding Secretary, Ann Whithaus, a copy to President, Mary Bertolini,** and leave one copy in the white binder you received when you took your position. The upcoming chairman will need that information to continue the work each committee has begun.

Make sure your report includes names and addresses of individuals who were helpful, topics covered, or suggestions for future workshops, pictures of projects, and, most importantly, a list of expenses—regardless of reimbursement. Our budget needs to accurately reflect the finances for the coming years.

Please send your report to the parties listed above **no later than May 15, 2012** and bring your white binder to the next Annual Meeting to be passed on to your successor.

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Telephones, Telegraphs, and Televisions

By Mary Bertolini, President,
WNF&GA

Many of you can remember hearing the cry "Hurry! It's long distance on the phone!" Feet would scurry to the hallowed place that housed the only phone in a residence. If a telephone was not available, a telegram would arrive with the news. The note was delivered by a uniformed courier. Information spread much more quickly when the telephone became commonplace. Can you remember the first television show you watched? Our long-term members probably recall "Uncle Miltie" or Jack Benny. Others smile when they think of the Mickey Mouse Club or Captain Kangaroo. Younger members remember Sesame Street, Melrose Place, and videos on MTV. Things evolve as needed, but the function remains the same: Communication.

Today, the Internet is the most up to date method of relaying information. We have gone from operator assisted calls to iPhones and Skype Video calls, from hand delivered notes to electronic mail, from gramophones to MP3 Players and You Tube. Farm & Garden joined the 21st Century with our web site. Although we have had a presence on the Internet for many years, it hasn't kept with the times until recently. Our new site is pleasing to the eye, easy to navigate and informative for the general public. Members use the site, too, for information. It is time to expand the web site for our member only area.

Not everyone is connected to the Internet, and not everyone will use our web site. However, the Internet is the most effective communication tool today. Those who are connected need to have an expanded area of information. Younger members, the

hope of our future, expect information to be available at their fingertips. There would be access to a member directory, Division and branch calendars of events, local branch information, meeting minutes, financial information, and much more.

We might also have the capability of registering and paying for meetings, accepting donations, and applying for awards online. In addition, it could be possible for our Scholarship applicants to submit applications directly to the Education Chair. All of this, of course, takes money. Currently, we do not have funding for this necessity.

This is no longer a luxury, but a much needed addition to our current web site. The supplementary portion will cost \$2,000. At the St. Augustine meeting in January, the Board started a fundraising campaign. We called it The Potato Fund, in honor of a personal story shared by Nora Tebben. (See article below.) To date, we have collected \$300 from pocket change.



Nora Tebben at 2010 Annual Meeting with one of her signature floral designs. No potatoes in sight.

As President, I am asking for donations from Divisions, branches and individuals. Communication is vital to our existence. We can move forward to complete this project. Send your check, payable to WNF&GA, to our A&O Treasurer. Please write "Web Site" on the memo line, or, if you prefer, "Potato Fund." Small donations quickly add up to large sums.

Thank you!

The Potato Story By Nora Tebben

At Christmas time, I was in the grocery store to get a forgotten item. A lady standing next to me said "You do not have very much in your basket." I replied, "I did my main shopping yesterday" and went on my way with only a bag of potatoes.

A couple of aisles later a young worker approached me saying "I am supposed to put this in your pocket." What he handed me was money. I asked, "Who gave you this?" "I don't know," said the man. "Was it a man or a woman?" "It was a woman." I placed the money in my pocket. At home, I discovered it was \$40.00 in cash. To myself I said, "Pass this on to a worthwhile cause."

For Members Only

By Rita Urbanski
Michigan Division President

WNF&GA is proposing the addition of a "members only" section to their website. Michigan Division added one a while back and members are finding it very useful. A directory of Division officers, committee heads, National officers, Branch officers, past Michigan presidents and other useful lists makes communication easily available. We are working on a complete directory of members with the option for anyone to opt out of publication.

Other Division communications on the

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site include our newsletter, minutes from all meetings, financial reports, and our by-laws. Any of these documents is easy to find without thumbing through files and boxes of paper. Some members are opting out of receiving our newsletter by mail and instead are going green and reading it online.

Also contained on the site is a Branches Resource section. Here we can post any pertinent information about how-to-do, where-to-find, and other helpful aids that we can provide our branches. The use of this site is limitless.

It is well worth the extra money that is proposed to be spent on the "members only" site. And because it is maintained by a member, all information is as safe as it can be and can be kept current.

New York Division Report **By Janine Thomas, President**

What does one do with ten decades of family heirlooms, especially when the family is the Tri County Branch of WNF&GA? Our archives were simply kept by the last person that used them. Many were forgotten or left in unsafe places. Many spent years stashed in canvas bags or boxes in the entry closets of several homes. An early copper urn awarded to us years ago needed a home.

Tri County President Alice Meager felt it imperative to preserve our history. As a century old organization dedicated to issues relevant then and now, those stacks, boxes, photos and artifacts deserved to be kept safely together. She presented her idea to the branch members and a committee was formed to find possible sites for the materials we had. The committee made a recommendation to the membership for a permanent home. The ideal location was found in the

neighboring city of Glens Falls, New York at the beautifully renovated Folk Life Center at Crandall Library. The director was approached with our plan and was happy to add our materials to the collection.

Since 2010, the committee has met once a month to sort, label, and store the materials that comprise the archives.

Our New York Division meeting will be held at the Folk Life Center at Crandall Library to introduce the Division members to the collection. Tri County members hope the other branches in the New York Division will follow our lead and secure their archival materials in the Folk Life Center.

On behalf of all members of New York WNF&GA past and present, our archives are safe and secure in a permanent home. The Folk Life Center is home to the materials that preserve the lives of those women that began and continue to make Tri County Farm & Garden the organization it is today.

Ohio Division Report **By Tracy Koehler, President**

The Ohio Division continues to support higher education in horticulture, environmental sciences, or related fields of study by providing annual scholarships to University of Findlay students. In order to continue to provide these annual scholarships, the Division has organized, promoted, and sold tickets to a Holiday Gathering every fall.

This year a committee of members led by Amy Ballinger from the Natures Housekeepers branch organized and promoted a Ladies Night Out and featured a fashion show with three stylists and a sit-down dinner for members and guests to enjoy. It was held on November 17 at the Lodge at Riverbend and the evening proved to be a success with over 170 attendees.

Those who attended enjoyed an evening of fine dining, wine tasting, fashions presented by Cabi, Doncaster, and Pattie Rae's Carriage House Gifts & Apparel. This event was open to the public and was advertised on local radio and print material, and it provided exposure for non-members to WNF&GA.

Some upcoming events for the Ohio Division include its annual spring meeting which will be held on Friday, April 13 at the Masonic Temple in Findlay. The host for this year's meeting is the TAWA branch. Included during this meeting will be a brief Ohio Division business meeting followed by lunch during which awards and the University of Findlay Scholarship will be presented and a guest speaker will provide entertainment.

On Thursday, May 17 the Ohio Division is scheduled to host its annual "Take a Girl to Garden" Day at Litzenberg Park. Traditionally tickets have been pre-sold 2-for-1 whereby ladies are encouraged to bring a family member, friend, or anyone who loves gardening to enjoy an evening of fellowship, nature walks, and gardening talks. Along with this event, the branches sell geraniums with the proceeds benefitting the Ohio Division Scholarship Fund.

Michigan Division Update **By Rita Urbanski** **Michigan Division President**

Fall began with our annual International Tea held at Wolcott Mill Metropark Farm. This working farm was a big change from our usual tea, but was a very appropriate location for this fundraiser for the International Foreign Youth Exchange since 4-H members volunteer their time here.

Our Fall Council Meeting was hosted by the Milford Branch. We learned many interesting facts about apples

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from our guest speaker, Dr. Nikki Rothwell of the Michigan State Extension, who spoke on Heirloom Fruit Trees. A few branches displayed Herb Garden projects with the hope that they can inspire others to undertake a similar garden.

The Christmas season saw many branches holding their Green Markets. This is a major fundraiser for some branches.

We are sad to report that Marian Renaud, a past National and Michigan Division president, has passed on. Another familiar face at National that we will no longer see is Jane Sturdevant, a past Michigan Division President. These ladies will be missed.

With a very mild winter behind us, members are busy planning their annual Garden Walks.

Like National, there are many changes in the mix in the Michigan Division. We are hoping to create an organization for the future. We look forward to seeing you in Pittsburgh where all can learn about the direction National plans to take. Our bus will be pulling in on Thursday, June 6. See you then.

Two Garden Projects in Saginaw Receive Beautification Awards By Janet I. Martineau

An 1800s church with 10 gardens around its exterior and a private home where grass is at a premium are the winners of the 2011 Woman's National Farm & Garden/Saginaw Branch Beautification Award.

The business/community garden category winner is First Presbyterian Church, Court at Harrison.

The church occupies an entire block. Around it are 10 garden beds

"adopted" and currently maintained by seven church members. One bed is in such a hot spot, the spring bulbs bloom in February.

Begun 25 years ago by minister of music Gregory H. Largent and two church members, Fred and June Ostler, Largent reports the gardens remain an ever-changing work in progress.

He says when he came to that church those 25 years ago, he was "deeply offended" by the existing yew-filled landscaping. Thus began a colorful transformation to perennials,

roses and flowering shrubs showcasing what he calls the beauty of God's world, of making the inviting life of the inside of the church also inviting outside.

Receiving the residential garden category award is Joy A. Walter of Saginaw Township, who apparently never met a perennial she didn't like because she counts 97 different KINDS of them flourishing in her garden -- along with a fish-stocked pond and assorted shrubs and small trees.

And when it comes to just ONE of those 97 KINDS of perennials, well, she tends to 38 clematis.

This landscape in which grass does not stand a chance was created out of nothingness when Joy and her husband moved to their home in 1982.

Joy is a retired language arts teacher, serving 30 years at Arthur Hill High School and North Intermediate. She is the current president of the Apple Country Gardeners in Freeland. This year she began work on what she calls a Fairy Garden of miniature plants.

"I can't resist new plants each time I go to a nursery," she admits.

The awards were given at the October 12 meeting of the club. Greg and Joy each received note cards with a picture of their garden, and the other seven nominees also received a packet of note cards showcasing all the nominated gardens.

National Awards By Jean DeDecker

The following National Awards for 2010 were distributed at the WNF&GA National Meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan in June, 2011.

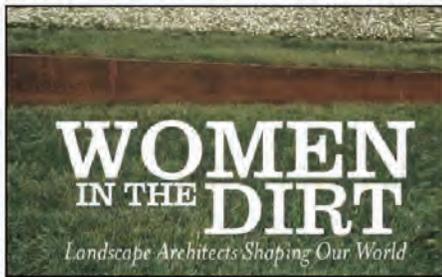
Michigan

Class C: Country Garden Club of Northville (1 first, 3 points - Civic Service)

Planning a program for your Branch? Consider screening

"Women in the Dirt"

Landscape frames our days: trees or flowers, sidewalks and walls, city parks or private gardens. But who envisions this framework for our daily lives? *Women in the Dirt* is a 70-minute documentary about seven award-winning, groundbreaking female landscape architects. Their work ranges from intimate, jewel-like gardens to vast urban projects. Artists and scientists, each woman brings awareness of sustainability, function, and beauty to her work. *Women in the Dirt* reveals how these self-described "masters of the obvious" create the sublime.



DVD available for Branch use for a donation of \$36
(includes shipping and return envelope)

Contact Claudia Scioly, Ann Arbor Farm & Garden
cscioly@hotmail.com or 734.995.8441

View the trailer at
www.womeninthedirt.com

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Class C: Trenton (2 firsts, 6 points - Horticultural Therapy and International Cooperation)

Class E: Rochester (2 firsts, 6 points Horticultural Therapy and Promotion & Growth)

New York

Class B: Cambridge Area (2 firsts, 6 points - Gardening and Civic Service)

National Orchid Award

Cambridge Area, New York Division (First in two Focus categories)

Trenton, Michigan Division (First in two Focus categories)

Rochester, Michigan Division (First in two Focus categories)

A Recognition certificate was awarded to: Jean Getty, Tri-County Branch, New York Division.

Stand Up and Be Recognized With a Personalized Name Tag By Julia Siefker, President-Elect, WNF&GA

What better way to promote our organization and identify yourself than with a beautiful, engraved name tag? These permanent name tags are logo engraved by laser with magnetic backs (rather than a pin!).

They can be ordered on an individual basis by mailing your name, phone number, and shipping address to: Kay Engelhart, P.O. Box 1175, Midland, MI, 48601. Include a check (payable to K.L. Englehart) for \$9 and make sure to put "permanent name tag" in the memo.

A name tag from the National store can be a great way to thank someone in your Branch or Division for a job well done, or as a special gift. To view a sample name tag, log onto www.wnfga.org and click on the "Store" tab. Also check out the other logo items available on the site.

2011 Temple Ambler-WNF&GA Scholarship Recipients By Linda Lowe, Ambler Keystone Branch, Pennsylvania Division

Annually, Temple University's School of Environmental Design students undergo a highly selective application process before being chosen to receive of the WNF&GA. Thanks to Farm & Garden, Temple students have received generous tuition assistance since the early 1960's and possibly before, from the WNF&GA and the Pennsylvania and New Jersey Divisions. As Temple University Ambler's Development Director, I would like to introduce you to the three 2011 scholarship recipients and express their sincere appreciation for this generous and dedicated support. (See photos on p.5.)

Chelsea Mahaffey is entering her last year as Horticulture major enrolled in the School of Environmental Design. She is the Secretary of Pi Alpha Xi, the Horticulture Honor Society. For the past year, Chelsea has worked in the Ambler Arboretum and Greenhouse focusing on maintaining the Formal Gardens for the 100th Anniversary celebrations. Chelsea also has been actively learning about food crops from an urban farm *Nice Roots Farm* where fresh vegetables are grown for the surrounding community and which offers the community the opportunity to learn how to form their own community gardens.

Carlo Morelli is a junior majoring in Horticulture. He was born in Philadelphia and remembers planting vegetables in a small alleyway with his grandparents. He has always loved wildlife and the impact of nature on a community. He has a great interest in plant breeding and enjoys working in the greenhouse. He hopes to one day create a new species of plant to better the agricultural or ornamental field.



Joy Walter and Greg Largent with their Saginaw Beautification Awards

Kelsey Stanton became interested in nature after working with her grandmother in their family garden. She joined an after-school environmental club in high school and learned more about the world's ecosystems. Kelsey decided on Landscape Architecture as a career since it combines her interest in the environment and in drawing and art. She chose the landscape architecture program at Temple Ambler because of its unique focus on environmentally-based design. She will graduate in May and plans to begin a career in ecologically-sensible landscape design.



Kelsey Stanton, Temple Ambler WNF&GA Scholarship Recipient

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An aerial photograph of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, showing the city skyline with numerous skyscrapers, the Allegheny River winding through the city, and several bridges crossing the river. The foreground shows a large parking lot and some industrial buildings.

Join us in Pittsburgh for the National Meeting
June 6-10, 2012
Photo by Stephen D'Andrea/D'Sign