

Farm & Garden

THE WOMAN'S NATIONAL FARM & GARDEN ASSOCIATION, INC.



Spring 2013

WNF&GA's 100th ANNIVERSITY 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, and if you have ideas to make the time special, please send them to :

Susan R. Yeager, Chair, Centennial Planning Committee

505 E. Willow Grove Avenue

**Wyndmoor, PA 19038
yeagerr sue@yahoo.com**

215-205-1117

WELCOME

There is something magical in the small details of practicing gardening and photography. We practice until we get it right, so in effect we keep practicing because nature never lets us get it just right. I love photography and I love to garden. I have college degrees in both, and so far I have been practicing the art of getting them both right. So now I have a new venue in which to practice my skills. I am the new editor of our NWF&GA magazine; I would like to learn more about how you practice gardening and photography.

I would love it if you send me your photos, articles, drawings, recipes or anything else you want to share. This is a great way of communicating in our association of like-minded individuals. It is better for the magazine to have too much information than not enough. Even the smallest details are of interest – a seed that becomes a story. We could start with a new name for Members-at-Large, or maybe a photo contest? What direction do you want this magazine to go? It is up to you. Perhaps together we can



Spider Lily opening
on my deck

keep practicing until we get it just right. Please let me hear from you ,

1322 Kirks Lane
Dresher Pa 19025
mpf6@hotmail.com

I am already looking forward to the next issue.

Mary Pat Ford, Editor
Ambler Keystone Branch

Farm & Garden

THE MAGAZINE OF
THE WOMAN'S NATIONAL FARM & GARDEN ASSOCIATION, INC.
Volume 98 No 1 - Spring 2013

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JOIN US & GET INVOLVED

For information about how to join or form a branch of Woman's National Farm & Garden Association, please contact Susan Yeager 505 E. Willow Grove Ave., Wyndmoor, PA 19038 215-205-1117 yeagerrrsue@yahoo.com

Send your accomplishments, tips, and updates for the next issue of *Farm & Garden* by **September 1, 2013**

Electronic format is preferred. Images must be jpeg format, 300 dpi. Send to Mary Pat Ford Editor 1322 Kirks Lane Dresher, PA 19025 215-237-3983 mpf6@hotmail.com

On the Front Cover: Sunflower - Hugh Weldon

On the Back Cover: New York Skyline - Mary Pat Ford

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FIELD NOTES FROM WNF&GA PRESIDENT JULIA SIEFKER



Dear Members,

A flock of robins has already taken up residence in my backyard feasting off of the last of the crabapples that survived the snow and ice. Some mornings I leave my bedroom window cracked open ever so slightly so I can hear their cheerful chirps in the early mornings.

You will recall the Fall issue of the Magazine contained a survey for those members who wished to participate in the selection of activities offered for the Annual Meeting in June in New Jersey/New York City. I want to thank those members who took the time to do the survey and have their input included. Farm & Garden will offer these surveys again as they apply to a variety of upcoming events so that everyone can be included at the National level.

Kathy Beveridge, President Elect and Annual Meeting Planner for June 5-9, has been working diligently to plan an awesome time. Please refer to pages 11-14 for Registration and Hotel Info. In addition, the chartered coach is filling up fast so please get your reservation to Rita Urbanski. Charter Coach

information is also on page 12.

This Annual Meeting will be packed with business activity as we review and approve the updated WNF&GA Bylaws. Check the website for a summary of changes and review of current bylaws, it contains important information in regards to the upcoming changes. The proposed strategic plan agreed upon by your executive members is on pages 16&17. Review that, send comments to Kathy Beveridge and be prepared to vote to accept a strategic plan at our June meeting. Please take the time to read both prior to our meeting in June. In addition, the Visionary and Planning Steering Committee members have continued work via conference calls in order to finalize our strategic plan for final acceptance by the membership during the business meeting in June.

I am pleased to inform you that the WNF&GA Executive Committee has met a total of 6 times via conference calls to address current and upcoming matters for our Organization. This excellent technology has allowed us to spend numerous hours serving you, the membership, without the added expense of travel and lodging. (still

plenty of personal time!) It has helped us be careful stewards of our finances both for the organization and personally!

The WNF&GA website has some changes in process to make it more informative and to keep it up to date for our members. We have a password protected Members Only section. Contact any officer for the password and check it out at

www.wnfga.org

If we all check it regularly, we will be more connected. We will use it more and more for important updates and information of interest to our membership. You can also find archived copies of the Magazine for reference.

So for now, at least take the time to savor a cup of tea, sit back, relax, and enjoy reading this issue of the National Magazine!

Yours in Farm & Gardening,

Julia Siefker



INTEREST AREA: GARDENING

GROWING FOOD AT HOME

Louise Shoksnnyder

Gardening Interest Area Chair
New York Division

Growing vegetables can be one of the most gratifying experiences in gardening. Nurturing plants grown from seed or purchased plants into food for the dinner table is wonderful. However, things sometimes do not go as planned. That is why it is best to take a few precautions before beginning a vegetable garden. Consider your site, your soil, what you want to grow and eat, as well as possible pests you might encounter.

Most vegetable plants are going to need a sunny location. Count on at least six hours of sunlight for plants to do their best. Another consideration is a water source. Do you have a faucet nearby? You cannot count on rain to keep your garden watered, especially when the plants or seedlings are newly planted. If you are new to vegetable gardening, have a busy life, or physical limitations, try to keep the garden to a reasonable size so that you can adequately care for it. One can even limit a garden to containers. (More on that later!) Finally, your garden should be easily accessible from your home. If it is too far away, you will not keep up with it. That's just human nature.

It would be best to have a soil test done before you begin. By obtaining a soil test kit from your local Extension Office, you will be given a scientific account of the needs of your soil. At any rate, tilling the area and adding soil amendments will greatly add to the successful outcome of your work! Adding manure, peat or compost will really make your soil rich and loose. Remove as many rocks as possible, especially if growing root crops like carrots or radishes. Of course, all weeds should be gone

as well. Remember, your yield will only be as good as the soil that holds the roots of your plants. If your soil is truly terrible, consider creating raised beds. These are easily created and can be filled with perfect soil.

Choosing what to grow is up to you! Think about what your family likes to eat. Growing Brussels sprouts might seem like fun, but if you are the only person who will eat them, you will be trying to find others who enjoy them when the crop comes in. Some plants, like cherry tomatoes for example, have a habit of over producing if they are happy. Limit the number of plants of these varieties that you plant. Zucchini is another over producer, as you probably know. A friend or neighbor has probably left them on your door step in the middle of the night!

Sometimes, when purchasing tomato plants, they come in packs of four. Find another gardener with whom you can share. Hopefully, you can share the cost as well. Choose varieties that are easy to grow. I prefer bush beans to those that vine. I don't need to supply support for bush beans. They come in green, yellow

and other interesting varieties. Last summer I grew the small cucumbers used for pickles. One plant provided me with pickling cucumbers all summer. I didn't have to trellis the plant as I would have had to do for a traditional cucumber. Next summer, I will try for the real cucumbers too.

Tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, beans, peas, lettuces, squash, watermelon, herbs and even flowers are traditional vegetables grown in the summer vegetable garden. Choose some flowers that will attract possible pollinators for your vegetable plants. Herb plants often are very attractive to pollinators as well.

Pests can really put a damper on your enthusiasm for vegetable gardening. First of all, keep an eye on your plants and watch for problems before they get out of hand. Use organic methods for an outbreak of fungal or insect damage. Remember you are going to eat these plants or their fruit, so anything that you spray or dust on them will be ingested by you. Consult with fellow gardeners, your Extension Service, or go online to find an answer to your problem. For

(continued on page 6)



Cucumber tendril

INTEREST AREA: ENVIRONMENT

four legged pests — deer, raccoons, rabbits and the like — a good fence is the best deterrent! After several years of trying to grow vegetables in a home garden, I now garden at our local community garden. Deer invaded my unfenced garden so often that I nearly threw in the trowel!

Containers are a perfect way to grow many vegetables. Choose a container that is appropriate to the type of vegetable you want to grow. Make sure the container has drainage and fill with a light, soilless mix. Add fertilizer, such as Osmocote and soil moistener. Place the container where it will get enough sunlight. Lettuce is particularly easy to grow in containers. Of course, herbs may be grown this way too.

Tomatoes can be grown in really large containers that will provide adequate room for a large root system. I do not care for the Topsy-Turvy grow systems. Tomatoes demand a lot of water and nutrients, and I think those containers are difficult to keep watered. Some may have success with them, but I doubt most people could keep up with their needs.

Speaking of watering, container gardening of any kind requires a lot of watering. One should always water a container enough that water pours out the bottom of the drainage hole. Consider how much wind the container will get. Large top heavy plants, like tomatoes, could fall victim to a strong wind.

This article could be much longer, but I trust you will do your own reading and investigation into the art of vegetable gardening. There are many books, magazines, and Internet articles dedicated to the culture of vegetables. Most of all have fun with the outcome. Cook, can and pickle your produce. That's the best part of vegetables.

NATURAL CONCERNS: INSECTS IN THE GARDEN

Suzanne Smith-Oscilowski
Environment Chair
Ambler Keystone Branch,
Pennsylvania Division

The most numerous animals on our planet. They are everywhere! According to the Smithsonian Institute, some 900,000 different species of living insects are known. Experts suspect that there are at least 2 million more unnamed living insect species.

Trivia Fact

Scientists estimate that there are over *200 million* insects for each human on the planet! Insects are critically important in many ways:

1. They pollinate flowers, fruit and vegetables as well as make honey, beeswax, silk and other useful products.
2. They provide a food source for animals further along the food web.

3. They break down and dispose of dead plants and animals in the environment.

4. They help disperse seeds.

What is an insect?

Insects are arthropods that have 3 pairs of legs, a segmented three part body, one pair of antennae and usually wings. Some commonly observed insects include butterflies, beetles, dragonflies, cockroaches, ants, termites and bees. When we speak of insects in the garden we also include other arthropods such as sowbugs, centipedes, millipedes, ticks and spiders.

What is the difference between an insect and an insect pest?

Nearly all plants in nature are a food source to one kind of insect or another. When insects feed on plants we find ornamentally or agriculturally desirable, they are pests. When insects sting or bite us, they are pests. When insects damage homes, clothing or other



Green Lacewing Source: California Academy of Science

INTEREST AREA: ENVIRONMENT

products we use, they are pests. When insects harm our pets, they are pests. In spite of the presence of pesky insects, the vast majority of insects are “good guys” to encourage and protect in the garden.

How can we encourage “good guy” insects to take up residence in our gardens?

Simple. Plant native plants and avoid the use of pesticides synthetic or natural. Yes, even natural pesticides will non-selectively kill most insects – good and bad alike.

Why plant native plants?

Native insects co-evolved with native plants. For thousands of years these plants have supported balanced populations of native insects. Native plants will attract “good guy” insects which in turn support wildlife and help keep “bad guy” insect populations down.

What if I spot insect damage on my plants?

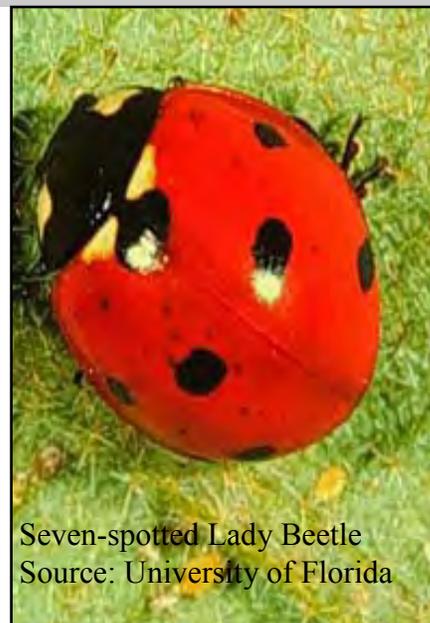
Learn to tolerate small amounts of insect damage. A little leaf chewing usually won't hurt garden plants. Frequently, some level of pest infestation must be tolerated to attract and maintain natural enemy populations. After all, if the natural pest enemies (aka “good guys”) don't have any pests to feed on, they will leave your yard and won't be available when another pest outbreak occurs.

Why does this matter? I only have a small garden.

Insect populations in our region have declined as the influence of human activity has exploded. Humans have significantly altered

the landscape and we can never recreate the ecosystem that existed before Europeans settled North America. This is why our suburban yards have become so important in restoring the ecological integrity of suburban and urban landscapes and in preventing the extinction of many of our plants and animals.

The next report of Natural Concerns will provide important information on incorporating Integrated Pest Management (IPM) into your home garden.

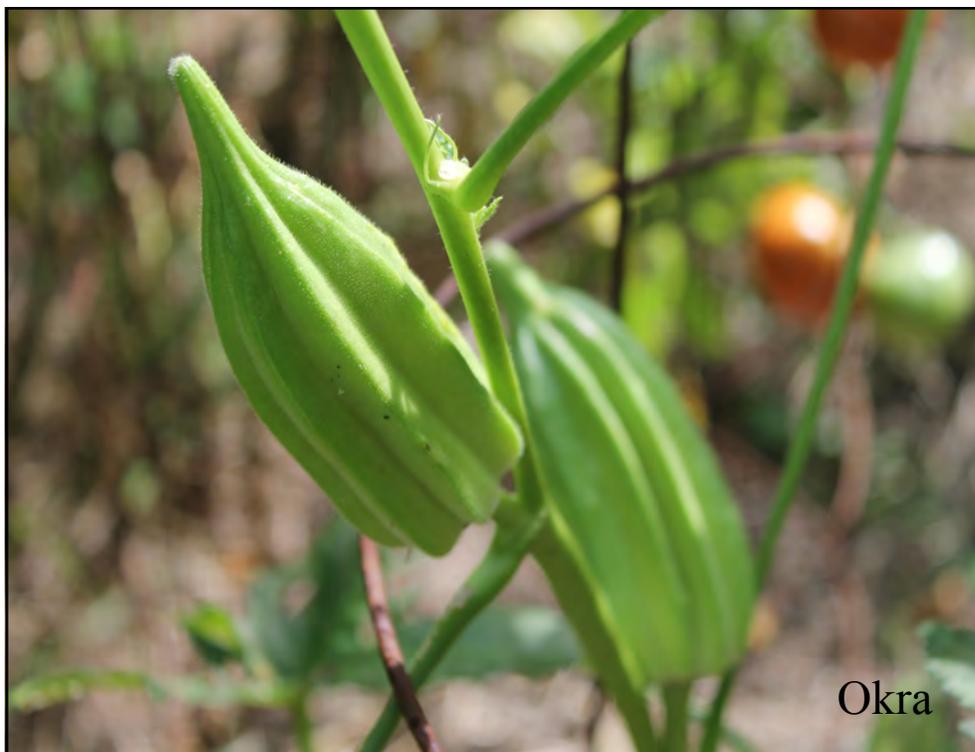


Seven-spotted Lady Beetle
Source: University of Florida

For more information check out the following:

1. *Bringing Nature Home* by Douglas Tallamy- published in 2007, this informative book provides an engaging account of the interactions between plants and wildlife and the ever-increasing importance of our suburban gardens.
2. The Xerces Society - www.xerces.org - International, nonprofit organization that protects wildlife through the conservation of invertebrates and their habitat.
3. Penn State Entomology - <http://ento.psu.edu/extension> - Insect advice including insect fact sheets, images and Integrated Pest Management (IPM).
4. Michigan State University Extension - Pest Management [http://msue.anr.msu.edu/topic/info/pest management](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/topic/info/pest%20management) - Comprehensive general information including Integrated Pest Management (IPM).
5. Ohio State University Extension <http://extension.osu.edu/topics/garden/insects-and-other-pests> - Information on insects and other pests and Integrated Pest Management (IPM).
6. Rutgers New Jersey Cooperative Extension <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/garden/> - Information on regional insects, pests and wildlife.
7. UMass Amherst - <http://ag.umass.edu/informationresources/topics/gardening-home-horticulture> - Gardening and Home Horticulture.

NATIONAL PROJECT: LOCAL FOOD INITIATIVE



Okra

A DELICIOUS OPPORTUNITY! GROWING, COOKING AND EATING LOCAL FOOD

Sandy Heng

Local Food – why it matters and what you can do for our Centennial Celebration.

On many a dark morning I carried a lunch bag and water jug on the way to earn a day's wages. I know the indignity of squatting down in the fields amidst the toads and dirt clods to relieve myself, the itchy rash caused by sweat-drenched shirt sleeves brushing against vegetation, and the bliss of shade under a canopy of brilliant gold corn tassels. Gritty and glorious at once, life on the land, raising life from the land, is hard.

The notion of food quality and security is changing from the days of my young adulthood of picking strawberries, cutting

velvetleaf from soybeans and walking miles of fertile farm fields.

As we look toward our future as an organization, it is instructive to fully understand how we came to be here so we may chart a course to tomorrow.

My parents and their generation survived the depression and the food rationing of the war. Feeding people, maximizing production, making it affordable; they dedicated their lives to making sure they did not allow hunger to knock on their back door again. They brought us lettuce in the winter and made good on the slogan 'a chicken in every pot.' They invented irrigation systems to water the lettuce and planted acres of corn to feed the chickens.

Farm and Garden has a long, storied history of helping bridge the gap between farm and city, and we should stop and salute the achievement of the many women who went before us. Today, we think about *what* we will eat for dinner, not *that* we will eat.

A half century later, wisdom suggests our current situation may not be one of nefarious intent but rather one of unintended consequences created in the drive to stop starvation. We now face the challenges of obesity, safety of our food supply and tasteless tomatoes.

We want healthy food, local food security and good tasting food. At the same time, we face the challenge of balancing the future need to feed 9 billion people in the world by 2050. The mission of our organization is more urgent and necessary than ever as we balance the demands of high quality local foods and the need to insure abundance for everyone in the world.

As individual members and branches, we have many opportunities to celebrate our Centennial and focus on local food. The key is to partner with other like-minded organizations interested in a Delicious Opportunity — Growing, Cooking and Eating Local Food.

Sandy is an Emmy Award winning investigative reporter who has appeared on ABC, CNN, ESPN as well as various publications. She is a former National 4-H Achievement Winner and is currently serving as Vice President of the Ann Arbor, MI Branch of Farm and Garden. She loves to grow heirloom tomatoes, asparagus and okra as well as perennials.

NATIONAL PROJECT: LOCAL FOOD INITIATIVE

Ways to Get Involved in the National Project – Local Food Initiative

1. Teach others how to prepare locally grown foods. Partner with your local farmers market, schools, or other service organizations.
2. Create a 'Harvest Farmers Market' if your community doesn't have one by partnering with 4-H, FFA, and local business to set up a few special sale days in the parking lot of a local business.
3. Create a community "Garden Walk" in the fall that shows-off vegetable gardening and small family orchards. Partner with local garden clubs, landscape companies and others
4. Organize a local food summit for your community to bring together interested organizations.
5. Organize a "Local Food Business Breakfast" by partnering with your local Chamber of Commerce to highlight the economic benefits of locally grown food.
6. Adopt a local school and create a learning garden on the school grounds for the young people to learn to grow vegetables. Fund a hoop house for the school, or fund tools and materials for young volunteers in 4-H or Food Corps.
7. Partner with an organization like the Fair Food Network to encourage policy change so food stamps can be used to purchase locally grown food at Farmers Markets.

Brainstorm. Talk to partner organizations. Tailor your Centennial Local Foods effort to what is needed most in your community. Enhance the connection between Farm and Garden, and fortify the foundation for Farm and Garden's next 100 years!



Heirloom tomatoes

NATIONAL PROJECT 100,000 NATIVE PLANTS

100,000 Native Plants Project Update

The native plant project is in full swing this spring. Guidelines for counting 100,000 native plants:

- Begin recording native plantings immediately; a form on the website will post your work.
- All personal and branch planting activities count, including native plantings in your home garden.
- When scattering wild-flower seeds, estimate the number of seeds disbursed.



Fothergilla major 'Mt. Airy'

*Please remember to count
your native plantings
as seeds,
plugs or plants!
Everything counts.*

Complete the form on the website to help us keep-counting to **100,000**.

For members not using the internet, mail reports to:

Suzanne Smith-Oscilowski
416 Gwynedd Valley Dr.
Lower Gwynedd,
PA 19002

215-616-2403 home
215-740-7264 cell

Please contact Suzanne if you have any questions.

suzgarden1@verizon.net.



Ilex verticillata 'Winter Red'
Winterberry Holly

ANNUAL MEETING DETAILS

Register early to see the exhilarating new musical
KINKY BOOTS

from

Grammy® Award-winning pop icon **CYNDI LAUPER** and
four-time Tony Award® winner **HARVEY FIERSTEIN**
directed and choreographed by Tony Award winner
JERRY MITCHELL.

Charlie Price (Tony nominee Stark Sands) has suddenly inherited his father's shoe factory, which is on the verge of bankruptcy. Trying to live up to his father's legacy and save his family business, Charlie finds inspiration in the form of Lola (Billy Porter). A fabulous entertainer in need of some sturdy stilettos, Lola turns out to be the one person who can help Charlie become the man he's meant to be. As they work to turn the factory around, this unlikely pair finds that they have more in common than they ever dreamed possible... and discover that when you change your mind about someone, you can change your whole world. Featuring a sensational new score, knockout dancing and a spectacularly uplifting story, **KINKY BOOTS** is the must-see new musical that proves that sometimes, the best way to fit in is to stand out!

You can find out more and see a preview at
<http://www.kinkybootsthemusical.com/>.

Dinner will be at B. Smith on New York's Restaurant Row. For more information, go to
<http://bsmith.com/restaurants/new-york/>

WNF&GA TRADITION THE ANNUAL MEETING SILENT AUCTION

Anyone who has ever attended the Silent Auction Fund Raiser at the WNF&GA Annual Meeting knows firsthand what a delightful opportunity this is to raise money for the Annual 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 past donated items include elegant jewelry, artwork, garden books & garden related items, pottery, decorative household items, candles, honey and so much more.

So put your thinking caps on, wrap yourself in imagination, then stroll through your home and garden to search for that perfect item or two (or three!) to bring to the

2013 Silent Auction in
Englewood, New Jersey
Saturday, June 8th, 2013

WNF&GA Annual Meeting Crowne Plaza, Englewood, NJ

June 7 & 8 2013

June 7th 8:00 – 11:30 a.m. Annual Meeting Session #1

1. Call to Order
2. Invocation
4. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
5. Welcome
6. Roll Call
7. Quorum
8. Agenda Review
9. Corrections/Additions 2012 Meeting Minutes
10. Officers' Reports
11. Director and Committee Chair Reports
12. WNF&GA Strategic Plan Review, Discussion, and Approval
13. Annual Awards Presentations

June 8th 8:00 – 11:30 a.m. Annual Meeting Session #2

1. Call to Order
2. Invocation
3. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
4. Bylaws Review, Discussion, and Approval
5. Floral Arts Demonstration
6. Update on National Project: Local Food Initiative
7. Update on National Project: Planting 100,000 Native Plants and Trees
8. Unfinished Business
9. New Business
10. Comments
11. Announcements
12. Adjourn

WNF&GA ANNUAL MEETING – NEW YORK, NY

JUNE 5-9, 2013

The 2013 annual meeting of our WNF&GA will take place in and around the “City That Never Sleeps.” We will be sleeping at the Crowne Plaza in Englewood, New Jersey – just over the George Washington Bridge and with (relatively – it is New York after all) easy access to exciting garden destinations. Fill out the registration form on page 13, mail or use the website to register with a credit card before May 1 to reserve your spot and avoid late fees. We have reserved 50 tickets for a Broadway show and dinner on Thursday, June 6th. Seating is limited so get your registration form in quickly if you’re interested in having a Broadway experience. **Our visit will take us to...**

New York Botanical Garden: Site of the second annual meeting of Woman’s National Farm & Garden Association in 1915. NYBG comprises 250 acres featuring 50 gardens and plant collections, a landmark conservatory, and 50 acres of forest that originally covered New York City. Click here to read about the gardens and collections of the NYBG: <http://www.nybg.org/gardens/full-list.php>. Our visit will include access to a special exhibition called “Wild Medicine.” For more information, go to: <http://www.nybg.org/exhibitions/2013/wild-medicine/coming-soon.php>.

Kykuit – The Rockefeller Estate: A preeminent Hudson Valley landmark. We will tour the main rooms of the six-story stone house and all of Kykuit’s spectacular gardens, including the Italian garden, and several terraced areas featuring classical and contemporary sculptures. For more information, about Kykuit, go to: <http://www.hudsonvalley.org/node/175>.

The High Line: A public park built on an historic freight rail line elevated above the streets on Manhattan’s West Side. For more information, go to : <http://www.thehighline.org/>.

Optional Night on Broadway – First Come First Served:

We have space for fifty meeting attendees to participate in Thursday night dinner on New York’s Restaurant Row followed by a Broadway Show. The cost of \$125 includes dinner and theater ticket.

Time to Enjoy the “Big Apple”: Take the Bus to the 2013 Annual Meeting

Depart: June 5, 2013 Return : June 9, 2013

If you have not been with us on our bus trips to our Annual Meeting, now is the time to find out what you have been missing. Join in on the friendship, movies, games, snacks, and a lot of fun while we make our way to New York in the comfort of a deluxe Bianco Tours bus.

We will begin our trip in Troy, with stops in Western Wayne County and the Toledo area to pick up members and guests for the trip to New York. There will be rest stops and a stop for meals. The cost per person is **\$160**, including tips. Snacks and lunch are on your own. A deposit of \$80 will hold a seat for you. Seats may sell out early so do not delay. Final payment is due on **April 27, 2013**. **NO REFUNDS PLEASE.**

New York Bus Registration Form

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

Make a deposit of \$80 Payable to: Annual Meeting Fund with “bus deposit” on the memo line.

Balance of **\$80** due **April 27, 2013**

Send check and a copy of this form to:

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

248-540-4249 rzurbanski@gmail.com

ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

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

Crowne Plaza; 401 South Van Brunt St. Englewood, NJ 07631 201-871-2020 or 800-227-6963

New York/NJ — June 5-9, 2013

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 date/time of arrival _____
 Rooming with _____ or Need a Roommate? _____
 Regular Diet: _____ or Vegetarian Diet _____

Please note vouchers for breakfast buffet are included for Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Wednesday June 5 | Arrive and check-in (3-6 p.m.) Dinner on your own | N/A |
| Thursday June 6 | NY Botanical Garden Lunch on your own in the NYBG Cafeteria | <u>\$ Included</u> N/A |
| Optional: Broadway Theatre Performance and Dinner (\$125) Cost of event <i>must be included</i> with registration to reserve your place \$ _____ | | |
| Friday June 7 | Session I Annual Meeting Kykuit – The Rockefeller Estate (Lunch and Tour) Dinner on your own | <u>\$ Included</u> N/A |
| Saturday June 8 | Session 2 Annual Meeting Ferry to Manhattan to visit the High Line Silent Auction/Dinner at Hotel | <u>\$ Included</u> <u>\$ Included</u> |
| Sunday June 9 | Committee Meetings as Called Departures | N/A |

| | | |
|--|--|------------------|
| Total Registration | | |
| General Registration Fees (lines labeled “included” above) | | <u>\$ 275.00</u> |
| Optional Dinner and Broadway Show (\$125) | | \$ _____ |
| Angel Fund Donation | | \$ _____ |
| Late Fee - After May 1 (\$25) | | \$ _____ |

Total Enclosed \$ _____

NEW: USE THE WNF&GA WEBSITE TO REGISTER AND PAY BY CREDIT CARD

or make checks payable to: *WNF&GA Annual 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 New York in the subject line).

Questions: call Kathy Beveridge 215-262-1372; kathleen.beveridge@comcast.net.

No refunds. Late fees apply after May 1, 2013. No Exceptions.

Call hotel directly to make room reservations **800-227-6963**.

Mention “WNF&GA 2013” for group rate of \$139.

ANNUAL MEETING DETAILS

Crowne Plaza Englewood Hotel

The Crowne Plaza Englewood Hotel will be a wonderful place for the 2013 Annual Meeting of WNF&GA. Ideally situated off Route 4, two miles from the New Jersey Turnpike and just 10 miles from Midtown Manhattan, the hotel provides access to the most popular area attractions. Convenient to LaGuardia, Newark, and Kennedy airports, the Crowne Plaza Englewood offers thoughtful amenities, and outstanding service.

While in northern New Jersey, we can browse through the Shops at Riverside or catch a performance at Bergen Performing Arts Center. Nearby Yankee Stadium and Meadowlands Sports Complex promise fun for all ages, and Times Square and Broadway are just a short bus ride away.

While staying at the Crowne Plaza Englewood we will enjoy great amenities, including an indoor pool, Fitness and Business Centers, free Wi-Fi access, room service from the on-site Carlyle's Restaurant, and free shuttle service to local attractions.

Reserve your double or single occupancy room for just \$139 per night plus 15% tax. To make your reservation, call central reservations at 1-800-227-6963 or dial the front desk directly at 201-871-2020.

Mention “WNFGA 2013” to receive our group rate.

Getting There

The Crowne Plaza Englewood is located at
401 S. Van Brunt Street in Englewood, New Jersey 07631.

By Car: From I-95 at the George Washington Bridge, take I-95 to Route 4 West. Drive approximately 1.7 miles and take the Van Brunt Street Exit. The hotel will be on your right across from ‘The Gym.’ From I-80, take the Garden State Parkway North to Exit 161 onto Route 4 East. Drive for approximately 8 miles. Take the 2nd Grand Avenue exit toward Englewood. At the stop sign, make a right onto Grand Avenue. Make the next right – Ramp onto Route 4 West. Take the Van Brunt Exit. Hotel will be on your right across from ‘The Gym.’ Parking is free.

By Air: Airport options include John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK) – 25 miles, Newark Airport (EWR) – 21 miles, and LaGuardia Airport (LGA) – 13 miles. There is no hotel transportation to and from these airports. The following car services were recommended by the hotel. Call to arrange a ride. Cedar’s Limousine – Charbel Abousleiman (888-233-2778) or charbel@americanlimo.com. Pegasus Transport Service, Inc. – Margaret Dixon (800-877-3427) or Margaret@blackcarservice.com.

By Bus: WNF&GA members and guests from Michigan and Ohio can sit back and relax while our driver takes care of everything. See page 12 for the form to sign up to take the bus.

We will check in on Wednesday June 5th and check out on Sunday, June 9th
We are staying a total of four nights (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday).

NEW YORK GARDEN TOURS

NEW YORK GARDEN FASHONISTAS

Sharee Solow
Ambler Keystone Branch,
Pennsylvania Division

The High Line

Like standing-room only on a bus at rush hour, the abandoned train line that blocked the sun was just an urban given when I lived on the West Side of Manhattan years ago. The 1999 proposal by the Friends of the High Line to create a public park on top of it rather than accept its demolition was a grand vision worthy of a great city. Today, that non-profit conservancy continues to raise 90% of the operating budget for this internationally acclaimed success story. Roughly two miles of open-space held by historic steel beams some thirty feet above the street connects to the neighborhoods below with elevators and steps taking people

from concrete to greenery in moments. The third and final section is now being sandblasted before adding the iconic “Greenblack” color and we can cross our fingers that it will be complete before our tour date .

Kykuit

Arguably one of the most famous families in America, as well as one of the wealthiest, the Rockefeller family’s home is now a historic site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. For over 100 years, the six-story stone house and terraced gardens of Kykuit have been carefully maintained and the collections of artwork expanded upon by each generation. In recent times, Governor Rockefeller added classic automobiles and horse-drawn carriages to the displays of Pablo Picasso, Alexander Calder, and Henry Moore.

New York Botanical Garden

NYBG in Bloom is the iPhone App that you can download before taking on the Victorian-style glass-house framed by 250 acres of gardens and more than 30,000 trees that make up the New York Botanical Garden.

In full bloom for us will be the 344 cultivars of Daylily Walk, the award-winning Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden, the three-acre rock garden, and the conservatory pools with water lilies and lotuses.

The Home Gardening Center has a series of model gardens for teaching the home gardener how to create a beautiful, productive, and trouble-free garden. The Forest Stewardship Plan manages the 50-acre Native Forest (the largest remaining expanse of the woodland that once covered New York City) where 100 trees came down during hurricane Sandy, some in place since the civil war.

In addition to the displays, Bronx Green-Up provides assistance and advice to thousands of community gardeners. And the newest program, The Edible Academy, will teach how to grow fruits and vegetables, as well as make the important connections between plants, gardening, nutrition, and the benefits of a healthful lifestyle. It will include a LEED certified growing facility on 1.5 acres.

Each of these important destinations will show New York to its best advantage as a fashion icon not just on the runway but in the landscape as well.



High Line Public Park

The Context for Planning

As the Woman's National Farm & Garden Association approaches the 100th anniversary of its founding, the group's leadership and members undertook a planning initiative to address current challenges and ensure a strong future for the organization. The Vision and Planning Steering Committee was formed and, over the course of nearly two years, examined trends, revised the mission statement, identified core values and a vision statement, then moved on to identify strategies, priorities, and goals for the organization over the coming three year period. This draft document represents the fruits of their labor.

Purpose, Direction and Principles

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

Core 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: We envision a future in which WNF&GA is recognized for its national efforts to promote partnerships with other organizations in support of agriculture, horticulture, and environmental stewardship.

Key Challenges: The following challenges were identified by members of the Vision and Planning Steering Committee and the Executive Committee of the WNF&GA as those needing to be considered and addressed by any strategic priorities going forward.

1. Declining membership and the increasing average age of current members, suggesting the need to engage new members in existing branches and to form new branches.
2. Members perceiving limited value from the national organization and being unaware of the impact of their dues to the national organization, suggesting the need to provide good value and demonstrate high impact in all national activities.
3. Lack of a national goal or vision that members can engage in and get excited about, suggesting the need for a visible national project(s).
4. Limited member interest in national officer succession and time to give to national activities, suggesting the need to create engagement opportunities that do not require extensive time commitments.
5. Lack of visibility of the WNF&GA regionally and nationally.
6. Limited funding, including a single funding stream (member dues) supporting the organization, suggesting the need to diversify funding. Dues are insignificant and unlikely to enable the organization to accomplish its mission.

Priorities and Goals:

1. **Local Food Initiative : Centennial Project**
Taking advantage of the national trend toward supporting local food production and eating local, WNF&GA will develop a local food project that taps into our interest in gardening and farming and has potential for good local and national visibility.
 - a. Identify and pursue opportunities for partnerships at the national, regional, and local levels.
 - b. Encourage and select projects that demonstrate high impact on key areas of concern.
 - c. Build in multiple, low-effort engagement opportunities and include a call to action and an invitation to join WNF&GA in every communication pertaining to this initiative.
 - d. Create a web-based resource to provide relevant educational materials to members and the public.

- e. Create a communication strategy that both educates the public and highlights the 100 year anniversary of WNF&GA.
- f. Create visible, educational events that engage many members and partners.
- g. Work toward a visible presence for WNF&GA at local farmers markets and county fairs. Provide educational information and invitation to join the branch. Ask branches to commit to this.

2. Native Plant Initiative: 100,000 Native Plants

Educate members and the public around the importance of native plants to environmental stewardship while engaging as many members as possible in a project that appropriately celebrates the 100 year anniversary of WNF&GA.

- a. Identify and pursue opportunities for partnerships at the national, regional, and local levels. (Consider Arbor Day Foundation, master gardeners, and all native plant organizations in the states where WNF&GA has a presence.)
- b. Encourage and select projects that demonstrate high impact on key areas of concern.
- c. Build in multiple, low-effort engagement opportunities and include a call to action and an invitation to join WNF&GA in every communication pertaining to this initiative.
- d. Create a web-based resource to provide relevant educational materials to members and the public. Include a form to submit plantings that qualify for the project.
- e. Create a communication strategy that both educates the public and highlights the 100 year anniversary of WNF&GA.

3. Communication/Membership Development Initiative:

Create effective messaging to encourage awareness of WNF&GA and interest in membership.

- a. Develop messaging to convey value and promote widespread visibility to encourage membership.
- b. Engage a national PR resource (volunteer or hired) to help publicize.
- c. Emphasize 100 year anniversary.
- d. Develop video content on WNF&GA for You-tube, Google Channel, and other appropriate media.
- e. Identify and recruit a national spokesperson.
- f. Create web-based resources for easy branch creation. Develop a support system for those creating new branches.
- g. Develop and implement a geographic strategy for inviting new branches.
- h. Develop and implement a member at large cultivation strategy.
- i. Develop and implement a member appreciation strategy.
- j. Create a structure to assign people to cultivate new and potential members including, perhaps, a membership chair.
- k. Create a procedure for engaging members when a branch folds.
- l. Develop messaging around dues and donations impact – how their money is used.

4. Funding Diversification Initiative:

Identify alternate funding streams and evaluate for mission fit and sustainability.

- a. Explore ways that similar organizations are funded.
- b. Create a task force to evaluate and select strategies.
- c. Implement one or two selected strategies for diversifying revenues.
 - i. Include a request for donation to national on a standard dues application.
 - ii. Explore online membership form and dues payment. Consistent forms branded for WNF&GA might help create a national identity.

Adoption of the Plan:

The membership of WNF&GA will review, consider, and discuss the plan at the 2013 Annual Meeting in New York with a view toward approving and implementing it over the following three years.

Monitoring Progress: Once adopted, progress on completion of the actions outlined in the strategic plan will be regularly monitored to ensure successful achievement of the prioritized goals.

Call for Input:

Members of WNF&GA are invited to submit comments in response to the plan to Kathy kathy@sparknpc.com

FARM & GARDEN COMMUNICATIONS

WNF&GA WEBSITE AS GOOD AS WE MAKE IT

The website of Woman's National Farm & Garden Association is a resource for members and branches everywhere and an inspiration for other seeking information and ways to get involved with our organization. But it is only as good as the information we share on its pages. Please submit stories, pictures, and articles relating to WNF&GA Divisions, branches, members, and interest areas to website coordinator Dee Welsh at dwelsh149@comcast.net.

Dee Welsh continues to oversee day to day needs on our site which is regularly getting updates. We have contacted those responsible for fellowships and scholarships to ask for revised descriptions for the website and permission to post individual contact information. The aim is to streamline response to inquiries about any grant, scholarship or fellowship.

The password for the
Members Only section is
Farm100garden

BYLAWS UPDATE

Revisions agreed to at the last annual meeting are posted on the website. Changes are being reviewed by the Executive Committee so that a final version exists for vote by the membership in June. Will you review them in advance?

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Call them special friends, these are the members of WNF&GA who join our national organization without benefit of a local branch. Audrey Erhler welcomes and shepherds them, always available for contact. The website invites anyone to join as a members-at-large requesting annual dues of \$15. Do welcome them with a personal message! With any questions, contact

Audrey Ehrler
5004 Harbour Drive Oxford
Fl 34484
dogwood16@hotmail.com

HELP! URGENT!

WE NEED TO KNOW YOU!

And how to reach you electronically.

- **Division presidents**, please supply emails for branch presidents. President Julia Siefker needs a list.
- **Branch treasurers**, please include email addresses in your member lists sent to the registrar.
- Best to use Excel spreadsheet.
- Need help? Leslie Morris Smith is a whiz on spreadsheets!
- Leslie.morrisrsmith@gmail.com.

FLORAL ARRANGING

National chair Nora Tebben will lead a workshop during the Annual meeting to create a center table arrangement. Flowers and container provided, but you can bring your own container too.

Bring your own snips.

Cost \$5. Please pre-register so we have enough supplies.

*Contact: Kay Buszek
rkbuszek@gmail.com
or Susan Yeager
yeagerrrsue@yahoo.com*



Members may complete the Judges certification if they already are or become a Master Gardener and attend four WNFGA classes led by the gracious and talented Nora Tebben .

CORRECTIONS

Fall 2012 Magazine

Memorial Chair
Faith Dougherty
9644 Georgetown Pike
Great Falls VA 22066

Past National President,
Susan Celentano [1984-86]
100 Sarah Lane
Apt.18B Simsbury, CT.06070

FARM & GARDEN EDUCATION

THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL ARBORETUM 2013 RENAUD/PETERSON INTERNSHIP

Thanks to the generosity of our members, we once again have sent funds to support another internship at the US National Arboretum for twelve weeks this summer. The student chosen will be working in our beloved Louisa King Memorial Dogwood Collection starting in early May. The staff at the Arboretum is presently reviewing all applications and our intern will be announced in March. I will report on his or her progress at the Annual Meeting in June.

Since 1984 we have supported 22 interns. Each one has added his or her mark to the beautiful Dogwood Collection. Your generous donations to the Renaud/Peterson Fund have helped these students learn and grow and secure meaningful employment.

Mary Bertolini, Immediate Past National President, now has a Dogwood Tree planted in Louisa King's Memorial Garden. The tree, *Cornus angustata* 'Empress of China' is a semi-evergreen with beautiful white flowers. (see photo at right). Donations to this project are received by our E&C Treasurer

Susan Hunt.
238 Causeway Street
Medfield, MA 02052.

CENTENNIAL PROJECT PRESENTATION

Audrey Ehrler will present the
WNFGA Centennial Project



100,000 Native Plants to The Dogwood Garden Club of Queen's Lake in Williamsburg, VA on April 13, 2013. This club was Audrey's home club when she lived in this area early in her husband's career. She remains a lifelong member and has this Club very interested in understanding more about native plants and the project. She will present the introduction created by Suzanne Smith-Oscilowski and shown at the 2011 Annual Meeting.

Audrey will also visit the National Arboretum April 15, 2013 in her role as liaison to see the WNFGA dogwood collection. She is donating money for a tree to be planted in memorial to her dear husband John who died in December 2012.

Audrey E. Ehrler Liaison to the
US National Arboretum
5004 Harbor Drive
Oxford, FL. 34484

Phone: 352-399-5079
Audrey's **new** E-Mail Address:
dogwood16@hotmail.com

A THANK YOU AND A RESOURCE

Carol Ann Margolis

This message came via the website .

In 1976, I received a fellowship from the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association to pursue my graduate education in horticulture at Michigan State University.

Since graduating, I have taught horticulture at North Carolina State University and University of Vermont, helped to develop the National Gardening Association's Grow Lab program, and taught K-12 students science in inner city schools and museums. I currently am the education coordinator of the Albany Heritage Area Visitors Center in Albany, NY.

(continued on page 20)

FARM & GARDEN DIVISION & BRANCH UPDATES



I enjoy speaking to groups about gardening and I will be doing a workshop in early March at the Vermont Flower Show in Burlington, VT (The Butterfly Lady and Who's Got Milkweed?) I would be happy to do a program for you at one of your meetings in NY, MA or NJ.

I really want your members to know how much I appreciated their support in allowing me to achieve my goal of a Masters of Science in Horticulture and hope to hear from you soon.

Carol Ann Margolis
Education Coordinator
Albany County Convention & Visitors Bureau
25 Quackenbush Square
Albany, NY 12207
518.434.1217 ext. 202
800.258.3582 www.albany.org

This is WNFGA making a difference, and here is your chance to benefit your branch!

MICHIGAN DIVISION UPDATE **Rita Urbanski** **Michigan Division President**

Michigan Division is one step closer to a new "look." The by-law committee has finished its job of rewriting the bylaws, which will be voted on at our Annual Meeting in May. We then will be ready to merge our Division and our Foundation into one organization. Hopefully streamlining our operations will make things cleaner and simpler in the future.

Another change that you will see when we meet in June is our leadership. Judy Henning will be taking the helm as our President. I have thoroughly enjoyed working on the National Board as the Michigan Division President. We sadly will be missing the presence of Dr. Marvel Proton at the June meeting. Marvel quietly passed away at her home. She has been in attendance at Annual

meetings as long as I have been involved. She was a gracious, lovely lady.

Once again we will be planting more daffodils to the already 65,000 that bloom at Belle Isle. Daffodil Day which falls on April 17 this year brings 300-400 members to Belle Isle to enjoy a wonderful lunch and learn more about the strides Detroit is taking to improve its image. Sue Mosey, president of Midtown Detroit, will be our speaker this year. Mrs. Bing, the mayor's wife, has commented that the daffodils are a sign of hope for Detroit and we are proud to have a little part in restoring a gem of a park to the area.

The Clarkston Branch welcomed us in October for our Fall Meeting. The theme of this meeting was horticultural therapy and branches displayed some of their projects in this area. We were treated to a guided tour of a local "Garden of Healing and Renewal" at the McLaren Health Care Village. The landscape architect Jeffery Smith gave us insights into the planning and design of this peaceful, calming oasis.

Due to aging we regret to say we lost two Branches this past year, the Flint Garden Club and Lake Pointe Village. Our membership in some of our larger branches has increased. Our latest count is 1530. We are all trying to find ways to attract new members.

We have a bus full of members coming to the June meeting. Many new faces will be among them. We hope to see you there.

FARM & GARDEN DIVISION & BRANCH UPDATES

MICHIGAN SAGINAW BRANCH Vicki Engel, Vice President

Greetings from Michigan... As I submit this article, it's a cold winter's day of 18 degrees. But, in the back of my mind, I know spring will come and bring us a whirl of activities. In May, we will hold the Michigan Division meeting and induction of officers here in Saginaw. Judy Henning, past president of our Saginaw Branch and a very active member, will be inducted as President of the Michigan Division. Congratulations Judy - we have no doubt you will do an outstanding job!

Our yearly and 83rd Annual Greens Sale will seem a long time in the past. Meetings will be winding down in June for the summer. But, the best part of spring for the gardener is the gardening! We'll be planting as all of you will without a doubt be doing. Now more than ever our local communities are facing financial shortages. Taking care of our cities and townships local gardens is not always on the top of the list for funding.

It's of great importance that we do as much as we can. Community workers and public health officials are increasingly concerned about the physical and psychological health of city dwellers. It's no secret we've become way too sedentary. It's not just the older generation. Now it's become our kids and grandkids - the computer generation. It's only when you start to garden that you realize something important is happening, something for your

physical self and mental self. Any gardener can tell you the well-being it brings you. This is where The Woman's National Farm and Garden plays its most important roll. Not only do we plant for the health and beauty to be created but, through our programs, we are doing our utmost to plant these seeds of well-being into the coming generations.

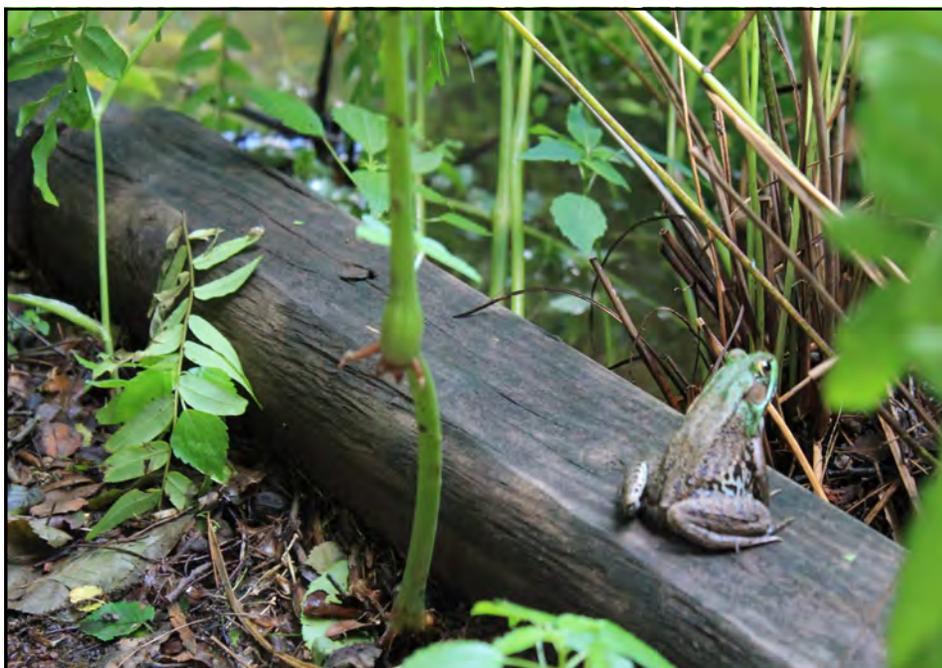
SPRINGFIELD GARDEN CLUB MICHIGAN DIVISION

Donna McDonald
General Chair for Daffodils & Duds

The Springfield Garden Club of the Michigan Division of WNF&GA will be hosting a spectacular event, Daffodils & Duds, on Thursday, May 9, 2013 at 11:30 am at the Genesys Conference & Banquet Center, 805 Health Park Blvd., Grand Blanc, MI 48439. This venue will

present you with a style show featuring fabulous fashions from Coldwater Creek modeled by our own Springfield Garden Club members and a delectable luncheon that is sure to please everyone.

If you haven't been present at one of our past Daffodils & Duds, we not only have an amazing Silent Auction but give out great Door Prizes as well. What a perfect way to celebrate Mother's Day with family and friends alike. We promise it will be worth the trip to attend. Tickets are \$27 and reservations must be made by April 28. Please contact Donna McDonald 248-634-1680 (djmcd1@aol.com) or Vicky Buczek 248-625-0395 (vjbuczek@comcast.net) for tickets and/or more information. The fundraiser proceeds allow us to contribute to the 4-H Endowment, community beautification & environmental projects. We look forward to meeting all of you.



FARM & GARDEN DIVISION & BRANCH UPDATES

PENNSYLVANIA DIVISION

Dorothy Zippel
Pennsylvania Division President

In the Pittsburgh area we are fortunate to have two native plant nurseries. In the Fall the Thistle & Twig Herb Branch visited and purchased plants from Sylvania Natives. This nursery is almost in the center of the city. The other nursery is located at Beechwood Farms which is the headquarters for the Western Pennsylvania Audubon Society. Here volunteers collect seeds and cuttings which are then planted or rooted to be sold at their annual plant sale in the spring. Years ago I purchased several plants which have done quite well in my garden. Why not---they are native plants.

One plant in particular that has really taken off is the Great Lobelia *Lobelia siphilitica*. This plant can grow from 1-4 feet in height and has bright blue flowers.

Some years the seeds have scattered and the plants come up in strange places, but those volunteers get transplanted elsewhere or passed along to another gardener.

At Beechwood Farms there is not only the native plant nursery that sells the plants, but there are also interesting programs on how these plants will attract birds, butterflies and beneficial insects to your garden. Using native plants is one way of enjoying natural beauty.

The article on Native Plants featured in the Fall issue was both interesting and informative. These are plants which we should definitely consider planting in our landscape. They don't require much care and are a nice addition to our flower beds.

PENNSYLVANIA KEYSTONE AMBLER BRANCH

Sheila M. Chlebda, President

I am sending thoughts on some of the major events that happened in the last year:

- The Ambler Branch theme for the years 2012-2013 is Science in the Garden, as we have discussed planting natives for a healthy ecosystem for both humans and wildlife.

- Our 2013 year started off with our Pot Luck Dinner/Book Discussion, good food and lively discussion was enjoyed by all who attended. Once again Jenny Rose Carey offered the Carriage House as a place to meet.

- In February we enjoyed our annual workshop on gardening. We shared problems, hoping for some help with solutions, shared successes in our garden and plans for the upcoming season.

- We are all working diligently keeping records of any natives we have planted in the last year for Suzanne Smith Oscilowski who is spearheading this program for National.

- Work on the new Welcome Center is progressing slowly but we are encouraged that it will be ready for the 2014 Anniversary Celebration of the WNFGA. Our branch received an anonymous donation toward the completion of the welcome center.

- Work on the new roof for the Welcome Center starts this spring!



Book and Cook Night Keystone Ambler Branch

FARM & GARDEN DIVISION & BRANCH UPDATES

- We received another donation given anonymously for our branch to start our own website. A committee has already been formed and soon we hope to be up and running.



MORE DIVISION & BRANCH UPDATES

We would love to hear from your Division & Branch. Please share activities, ideas, gardening tips, recipes, photographs and fundraiser ideas with us. Send to the editor,

Mary Pat Ford
mpf6@hotmail.com

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Give the Gift of WNF&GA
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Check page 18 or the website wnfga.org
for more information

Leading Members at Large
Audrey Ehrler at dogwood16@hotmail.com
5004 Harbour Drive Oxford, FL 34484



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