

Farm & Garden

Spring 2015

Celebrating Our 100th Year





The Faces
Of Our
100th Year
Celebration!



Farm & Garden

IN TOUCH

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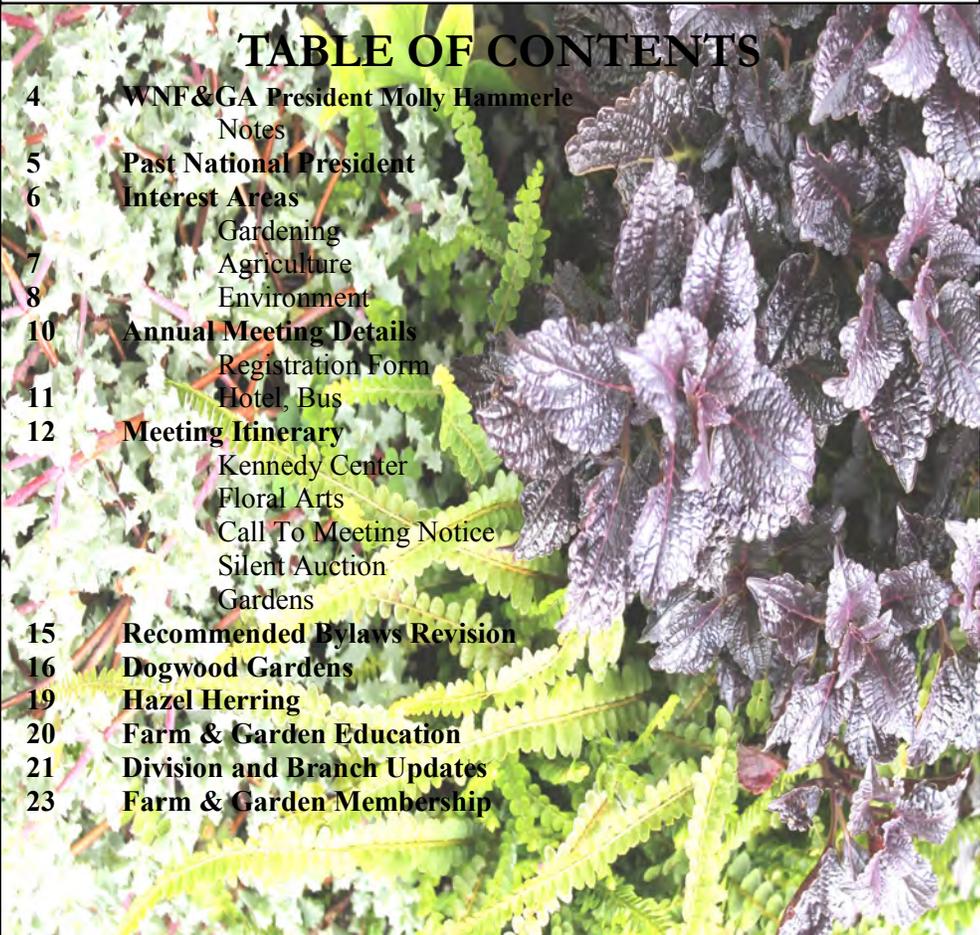
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THE MAGAZINE OF THE WOMAN'S NATIONAL FARM & GARDEN ASSOCIATION, INC.

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JOIN US & GET INVOLVED

To join for single membership, see page 23 or to form a branch of Woman's National Farm & Garden Association, please contact Leslie Morris-Smith 8818 Duveen Dr. Wyndmoor, PA 19038 leslie.morrisrsmith@gmail.com
The deadline is **August 1, 2015** for the next issue of *Farm & Garden*.

Send magazine information to Mary Pat Ford, Editor
1322 Kirks Lane Dresher, PA 19025
215-237-3983 mpf6@hotmail.com

Front Cover : Washington Monument
Back Cover : Smithsonian Castle Garden M.P. Ford

NOTES FROM PRESIDENT MOLLY HAMMERLE

*I*t seems that it is finally spring in our area and while the sun is shining and the temperature is warmer, it is still too cool to be out in the garden. However, in a few weeks we will be able to clean up the flower beds and start planting. Horticulture is one of the main reasons I joined the local garden club. Not only was the programming excellent but I was also able to meet some of my neighbors who were members.

Times have changed and now members are coming from a larger metropolitan area, although still close to our small village. Programming has not changed very much. It still involves speakers, field trips and workshops but I think that is a good thing because it gives us an opportunity to invite new people to attend our meetings.

On another note, in January I attended a luncheon and reception at the University of Michigan Bentley Historical Library in Ann

Arbor at the invitation of the Ann Arbor Branch. This reception was to celebrate the printing of a book written by members of the Ann Arbor Branch.

This book contained a brief history of WNF&GA and a larger part with a history of the 67 years that the Ann Arbor Branch has been in existence. Later we were invited to tour the library in small groups. It was a wonderful celebration of our centennial year.



I will be happy to attend other events or just a meeting but I do need to be invited.

Our annual meeting is coming up in May and it would be wonderful if a large number of people could attend. The committee has been working very hard to

make sure that everything is in order. You will attend meetings, workshops and some great tours.

Please join us at the Washington DC meeting in May.

Molly

Past National President Susan Beasley Herbert Celentano

When I think of Susan Celentano, I think of Four L's- Leadership, Loyalty and Lifetime and Lovely. Susan has spent a lifetime serving our organization in a various capacities for the past sixty years.

In the 1960s Susan attended a meeting of the Dearborn Branch of the Michigan Division, having been invited by her neighbor. At the time, she was married to Paul Herbert and the mother of two young children. Like many of us, she was looking to make contact with other like-minded women and to spend her free time accomplishing worthwhile, meaningful activities. She found what she was looking for there in Dearborn and joined the Branch that very day. A very lucky day for WNF&GA indeed!

While with her Branch she offered her talents by serving on several committees. The Branch had been honored and recognized for it's work in the field of Horticultural Therapy. Susan took a great interest in this field and she became Chair-

woman of that focus. The project flourished because of her dedication and creativity.

Paul Herbert's career was taking off and he was transferred from Michigan to Connecticut in the 1970's. Of course, Susan and the children were moved with him. The very thought that we could have lost this lovely woman makes me shudder. But, that did not happen! Susan remained loyal to WNFGA. In 1983, she founded and became the President of the Charter Oak Branch in Sunbury, CT. That Branch set out to develop two causes: an outstanding Horticultural Therapy program which served the Veteran's Hospital nearby and, an Annual Christmas Green's Market to raise funds for the Veterans.

This event was very popular and folks from all over that region of New England looked forward to their annual visit year after year.

As time would permit, Susan attended Division and National Meetings. It did not take long for our National officers to recognize her leadership qualities. She was asked to take on more responsibilities. Susan agreed to help with several special projects for our National Organization. Susan was Horticultural Therapy Chairwoman on the National level. She was a Secretary on the Executive Committee. She was a member of ACWW and CWC. She represented us at a World Conference of ACWW.

Impressed by her organizational skills and leadership qualities, Susan was asked to be first Vice President during Hazel Herring's term 1982 - 1984. During those years the membership had the idea to take up some new causes, so a Committee Special Projects was formed. Susan was asked to serve on that committee. She researched each possibility that

came before them and reported back to the Executive Board so that they could make informed decisions. One of the projects was pertaining to our continued support of the U.S. National Arboretum. Ah Hah!! A seed was planted that would impact Susan's life and the lives so many others well into the future.



Susan was installed as the National President in May 1984. She was one of our youngest Presidents at that time. But age did not matter, as she had proven to be an accomplished woman, a loyal member who was well liked by all who had the pleasure to know her and to work with her. During her term, 1984 to 1986, she established the Alice Wessels Burlingame Horticultural Therapy Scholarship Program. This scholarship supports university students studying in that field. That grant program still exists today.

After her term as our National President, Susan did not retire and fade into the sunset. Oh no, she had just begun to find her niche in WNFGA. It was obvious to her and to many others that our affiliation with the U.S. National Arboretum was a long-standing and sacred commitment. Someone needed to step forward and see to matters of concern and be our representative there. Who better than Susan to take on that responsibility? So for over twenty-five years, Susan trav-

eled from Connecticut to New York City and to Washington, D.C. to attend monthly Stakeholder Meetings. She contacted the USDA and members of Congress if it was necessary to accomplish a goal.

She met with the staff members at the Arboretum and created an atmosphere of team work and cooperation. She saw the completion of the building stage of many of the Collections at the Arboretum, including our beloved Louisa King Dogwood Collection. She also realized that what one builds one must maintain! So she suggested to the Executive Board that we establish an internship program to help maintain the Dogwood Collection. The Board brought this before the membership for a vote. It was agreed upon and is now known as the Renaud/ Peterson Internship Program.

As of this year, twenty four young university students from all over our nation have been supported due to your generosity and the generosity of Mrs. Renaud and Mrs. Peterson. The Interns report back to me that it has been an experience of a lifetime. Along with their mentors at the Arboretum, we have help them learn and grow and become leaders and activists in their chosen careers. I am very pleased to report that Susan and Frank Celentano have notified me that they plan to attend the 2015 Annual Meeting in Washington, DC and to visit the U.S. National Arboretum along with our membership.

Please join me in greeting them and thanking Frank for supporting Susan's efforts for many years and a very special "Thank You" to a lovely leader who spent a lifetime loyally serving WNFG&A!

Audrey E. Ehrler
Tri-County Branch
New York Division

Gardening and Biochar

*W*ant to reduce greenhouse gas emissions? Soil has three times (plants and animals four times) more carbon than the atmosphere so we need to keep or increase the carbon held in the soil for "carbon sequestration." The latest soil additive for our home gardens comes from the 2,000 year old practice of clearing forests for farming in the Amazon and slowly making "green charcoal" from the moldering wood and cuttings. Sounds far-fetched for us doesn't it? Biochar is not fossilized coal, nor is it the same as putting fireplace ashes in the vegetable bed (25% calcium carbonate that increases soil pH). You can't make it by lighting a bonfire in the woods but pyrolysis - baking uncontaminated wood at high temperatures with no oxygen. Sometimes called "Black soils" or "terra preta" (Portuguese for "dark earth"), researchers describe the thin layers developing over decades as soil organisms colonize the complex network of pore spaces, depositing more carbon, until the layer grew to 6' deep. Some studies report double the production on weathered farmland applying 10% biochar but less measurable increases in areas with rich soil. Every ton of biochar holds 3 tons of carbon,

preventing it from contributing to global warming. Reuse of green-waste and burying the green charcoal can be two ways to lower carbon emissions to the atmosphere while gardening and the bonus is poor soils with low nutrient content can be transformed.

That layer of biochar, teaming with organisms, gives plants a huge boost in available soil nutrients. Mycorrhizal fungi are cranking up the phosphorus (possibly 500 times), potassium (K) is added, and nitrogen leaching goes down. Along with holding available nutrients, biochar improves soil texture, doubles water-holding capacity, mitigates drought, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and makes a home for soil organisms. In side-by-side photographs of crops, it is easy to see the amazing gains in vigor and quality on the biochar side. Composting is good but maybe biochar would be better!

With a small yard by the city, I am not going to be burning anything in my yard but I will be buying some products to try. Companies selling biochar-blended soil mixes are proliferating but buyer-beware because there aren't any standards for exactly what goes into the bag. Try a blend from a trusted company. My friend, Mark Highland, who created Organic Mechanic Soil Company partnered with The Biochar Company, LLC a couple of years ago to create a

bagged product with compost, worm castings, and biochar called Soil Reef™ Gardeners Blend. Worm castings and compost provide nutrients, enzymes, and Actinomycetes (bacteria) while biochar is typically inert. Another reason to buy a blend is that biochar gets better as it ages, a process sped up by blending with compost. Ask your local independent garden center for a biochar-blended soil amendment.

There are several ways of making biochar at home according to the Biochar School Page and there is a Biochar Journal that will give you "55 Ways to use your Biochar." The problem with large-scale production allowing all of us to buy bags of it is cost, about \$1000 a ton. But, if you think a hobby involving pyrology (my new favorite word) is for you, then look up some of the websites listed below.

Further Information

<http://www.biochar.org>

<http://www.biochar.org>

<http://www.biochar-international.org>

<http://www.backyardbiochar.net>

<http://www.biochar-journal.org>

INTEREST AREA AGRICULTURE

Sylvia Wilson
Agriculture Director
Cambridge Branch New York Division

Planting For Spring

*S*_{now}, *S*_{now}, *S*_{now}

enough in the Northeast, the crops should be in abundance this year with all of the insulation the winter has provided.

Within a couple of months the farmers in the north east will be tilling the fields, perhaps earlier in the Midwest. A glance at the newly tilled field tells us when the new spring crop has already started to grow and is on its way to maturity. The farmers who dedicate themselves to hours of work raising crops for their own use and business also feed our communities and surrounding states. We are so fortunate to live in a country with little poverty, as there are many helpful hands to assist those in need.

In this 21st century more modern ways have been tried and tested to grow vegetables. The “hoop house” or the “high tunnels” have been very successful in producing varieties of greens and root vegetables. The temperature can drop to 15 degrees. You wait for the sun to come out and rise above 32 degrees

and these vegetables will be fine inside this hoop house. This is not for all of us to accomplish but how wonderful to find these fresh vegetables at our farmers’ market stands. An recent article in an upstate newspaper reported the success organic farmers are having with the new method of growing vegetables year-round. Farmers has many tasks to do in mastering the farm work, some days they wear numerous hats. They also credit their success in being open with others and sharing ideas.

We can purchase fruits and vegetables at a supermarket. By the time it gets trucked from the west coast the shelf life is only a couple of days. Support your local farmers market - eat smart.

GMO crops are still being questioned by many. A recent article quoted that, “Scientists are not sure consumers are ready for this. It is an expensive

and time-consuming quest and it costs \$150 million or more to add one new genetic trait to a seed.” A Professor at Southern Illinois University has been working on modifying crops to perform better in droughts or where growing conditions are less than ideal. The work involves inserting a protein into plants that create glutamate. It has also shown promise in soybeans and corn. Laws in some states are limiting seed exchanges so that modern hybrid seed producers are selling their seeds rather than the friendly neighbor swap. We must keep our eyes open on these recent events and speak from our hearts. Happy gardening or shall I say “farming”?



What is Biodiversity and Why Does it Matter?

*B*iodiversity is short for biological diversity and is frequently described as the variety of life found on earth.

Biodiversity can be expressed expansively (worldwide) or narrowly (home garden).

There are three types of biodiversity:

1. **Species biodiversity** - number of different species represented in a community; also called **species richness**.
2. **Genetic biodiversity** - genetic variability within a species; border collie versus Siberian husky.
3. **Ecosystem biodiversity** - variety of ecosystems; desert, forest, grassland or coral reef.

Why is biodiversity important?

1. Biodiversity results in a greater number of plant species, which results in a greater number of food crops.
2. Most medical discoveries resulted from research into plant and animal biology. Every time a species goes extinct or genetic diversity is lost, we risk losing a possible medical resource.
3. Biodiversity is an important part of ecosystem services including: purifying water, breaking-down pollution, creating soil, generating oxygen for us to breathe.
4. Biodiversity allows for ecosystems to recover from environmental disturbances like floods or fire. If a small mammal species goes extinct, a forest with 20 other small mammals is likely to adapt better than another forest with only a couple of small mammal species.
5. Genetic diversity enlarges the gene pool, prevents inbreeding and helps species adjust to changes in their environment.
6. Biodiversity enhances the beauty of nature and the wonders of the world in which we live.

What are the threats to biodiversity?

Extinction is a natural part of life on earth. Over the history of our planet most of the species that ever existed, evolved and then gradually went extinct. Species go extinct because of natural shifts in the environment that take place over long periods of time, such as ice ages.

Today, both plant and animal species are going extinct at an accelerated rate because of non-natural environmental changes caused by human activities. Some of these activities have direct effects on species and ecosystems:

1. Habitat loss and degradation
 - clearing forests, draining wetlands, damming rivers, turning grassland into farmland, building human structures in natural environments
2. Spread of non-native species
 - no natural predators in new environment
 - native species may be killed, have their food eaten or lose their habitat
3. Exploitation
 - overfishing, illegal hunting, poaching
4. Pollution
 - runoff, air pollution, acid rain, ozone depletion
5. Climate change
 - accelerated climate change does not give species time to adapt

What can gardeners do to enhance local biodiversity?

As native habitats shrink, become degraded, or are isolated from each other, the role of home gardeners becomes more important.

The US National Park Service estimates that nearly 25 percent of the 20,000 native plant species in North America are at risk of extinction. In order to preserve these species, their plant communities must be preserved.

It is up to home landscapers to create gardens that are more than just beautiful— they must promote biodiversity by preserving not only individual species but entire habitats.

Doug Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home*, suggests: “Gardening has taken on a role that transcends the needs of the gardener. Like it or not, gardeners have become important layers in the management of our nation’s wildlife. It is now in the power of individual gardeners to do something that we all dream of doing: to make a difference. In this case, the ‘difference’ will be to the future of biodiversity, to the native plants and animals of North America and the ecosystems that sustain them.”

Sources: *US National Park Service, National Wildlife Federation, US Environmental Protection Agency, and Encyclopedia of Earth.*

Six Ways Gardeners Can Increase Biodiversity

1. Reduce the size of lawn areas- keep only as much as you absolutely need.
2. Look to the natural environment- model your garden on plant communities native to your area.
3. Design the garden by re-creating the layers of plant growth found in local natural areas- the topmost layer is the canopy formed by the tallest trees, below the canopy is an understory of smaller trees, shrubs make up the shrub layer, wildflowers, ferns and mosses grow nearest the ground.
4. Select plants that feed and shelter birds, butterflies and other wildlife- learn which plants offer food for butterflies and their caterpillars, and which shrubs offer fall fruits to migrating birds.
5. Never plant an invasive species- if they are growing in your yard, remove them.
6. Share your knowledge and encourage others- biodiverse gardens are beautiful and are a critical link in restoring biodiversity to our environment.



Alpine Meadow Ecosystem
Glacier National Park

**"A CAPITOL GOOD TIME!"
WNF&GA 2015 National Meeting Registration Form**

MAY 13-17, 2015 Washington DC
(Please complete a separate form for each guest)

NAME _____ MEMBER _____ (or) GUEST _____
 ADDRESS _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Mobile phone # _____ Home phone # _____
 Email _____ Division _____
 Division Office Postion _____ Branch _____ Branch Office position _____
 National Position _____ Date/Time of Arrival _____
 Arriving by Bus _____ (or) Auto _____ (or) Airplane _____ Rooming with _____
 or Request a Roommate? _____ Regular Diet _____ (or) Vegetarian Diet _____

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS & FEES

Wednesday	May 13	3-5PM Registration	7-9 PM Wine & Cheese Reception @ Hotel	Included
Thursday	May 14	9-3:30 A Day At The U.S. National Arboretum and Annual Meeting		Included
		Session 1: Lunch, Tram Tours, Ed. Program, Formal Group Photo, Ceremonial Planting of the 100,000th Tree		
		4:30-10:00PM A) Dinner On Your Own & Free Time		<i>NOT INCLUDED</i>
		OR		
		B) An Evening At The Kennedy Center		<i>\$ 80 PP</i>
		Includes Dinner & Symphony Tickets		
		Limited To The First 50 Sign Ups First Come First Served!		
		See Page 13, for Further Details		
Friday	May 15	8-10AM Annual Meeting Session 2 @ Hotel		Included
		11AM-7PM A Day At The Capitol, Lunch, Dinner, Sightseeing on your own)		
		7-10PM Monuments By Moonlight Guided Trolley Tour		Included
Saturday	May 16	8-9:30AM Floral Arts Program		Included
		10:30-3PM A Day At Mount Vernon		Included
		(Lunch, Mansion Tours & Self Guided Garden Tours)		
		6- 11PM Gala Dinner, Silent Auction, Live Music		Included
Sunday	May 17	Departure		
		Transportation To/From All Venues in DC		Included
		Buffet Breakfast (Thursday To Sunday)		Included
		Registration Fee		\$ 220
		Optional Evening @ The Kennedy Center \$80		\$ _____
		Late Fee After May 5, 2015 \$50		\$ _____
		Angel Fund Donation		\$ _____
		Floral Arts (\$5 offered to those who qualify)		\$ _____
		TOTAL FEES DUE (No Refunds)		\$ _____

Make Your Check Payable To: WNF&GA National Meeting Fund & Mail With Registration Form

By May 1, 2015 To:

Julia Siefker
 2015 National Annual Registrar
 212 Park Avenue
 Ottawa, Ohio 45875
 Questions? Contact Julia at 419-233-0064
 OR email: jverhoff300@gmail.com

Hotel Booking Information: Double Tree By Hilton Hotel
 Bethesda Washington DC
 8120 Wisconsin Ave. Bethesda MD 20814
doubletreebethesda.com

Guests can call 1-800-955-7359 and request the group rate for Woman's National Farm & Garden Association or the Group SRP/Code: WF5

Room Rate is \$159.00 Per Night (Up to 4 People)
 Hotel Booking Deadline is

APRIL 13, 2015

MEETING DETAILS

May 13 to 17, 2015

Doubletree by Hilton Bethesda

Washington DC

8120 Wisconsin Ave. Bethesda, MD 20814-3624

(301) 652 2000

Bethesda.DoubleTree.com

Call 1-800-955-7359 and request the group rate for Woman's National Farm & Garden Association or the Group SRP/Code: **WF5**.

Guests can go online to www.doubletreebethesda.com, click on the Reservations Tab, enter dates and on the Special Accounts Section enter WF5 for the Group/Convention Code.

The Cost is \$159 a night for up to 4 people.

Check the website for more detailed itinerary

BREAKFAST WILL BE INCLUDED

Time to

See the Dogwood Garden in Our Nation's Capital

Depart May 13, 2015 Return May 17, 2015

If you attended our centennial celebration in the Philly area, you heard firsthand about our Lousia King Memorial Dogwood Garden in the National Arboretum and the wonderful intern program we support there. As a fitting close to our first 100 years and the beginning of the next era, we will be traveling to Washington D.C. for our 2015 annual meeting. A bus from Michigan will be taking us to Bethesda, Maryland where we will be staying at the Doubletree Suites on Wisconsin. There will be rest stops and a stop for lunch. We will again start in Troy, with stops in Plymouth, the Trenton Area, and Toledo. Linda Coughlin will be your bus captain.

The cost will be \$170. The \$80 deposit will remain the same.

Get your deposit in early as seats will sell out. The final payment of \$90 is due on April 10, 2015.

No Refunds Please!

D.C. Bus Registration Form

Name _____ Branch _____ Division _____

Address _____ City _____ St. _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

E-mail _____ Member _____ Guest _____

Make a deposit of \$80 payable to: National Meeting Fund with "bus deposit" on the memo line.

Send check and a copy of this form to:

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

Contact Rita at 248-540-4249 or rzurbanski@gmail.com

MEETING DETAILS

Dear WNF&GA Members,

Greetings from the 2015 National Annual Meeting Planning Committee!

Here is a rundown of the exciting events and activities to date:

Wednesday, May 13: Registration will begin at the Doubletree Hotel on Wisconsin in Bethesda, Md. for early arrivals. That evening from 7-9pm, enjoy a Wine & Cheese Reception as we await the arrival of our members from Michigan and Ohio on the charter bus.

Thursday, May 14th it is up and out early as we journey to the National Arboretum for our first session of the Annual Meeting & Lunch. The afternoon will consist of tram tours of the gardens and the ceremonial planting of the 100,000th tree! A formal group photo will be taken at this time.

Then we head back to the hotel where you can have dinner on your own and a free evening. The National Cathedral and world-class shopping is just a quick shuttle from the hotel, or stroll the area where you can select from a variety of restaurants and pubs to eat and relax. Or you can elect to go on an Evening at the Kennedy Center for Dinner and the Symphony (optional fee of \$80 for the first 50 who sign up on a first come/first served basis).

Friday, May 15, will be the second session of the Annual Meeting in the morning at the hotel. Then we board charters for a day in Washington DC with plenty of free time to tour where you wish. (Lunch & dinner will be on your own). We rendezvous at 7pm for a 3 hour Monuments by Moonlight tour! The tour will return us directly back to our hotel.

Saturday, May 16: Sleep in (a little) or you can gather for the traditional Floral Arts Workshop at the hotel. After, we will travel by charter to Mt.

Vernon for lunch and formal tours of the Mansion. You will also enjoy self-guided tours of the gardens. We will return in the afternoon to rest and get ready for the Gala Dinner and musical entertainment. Don't forget your Silent Auction items!

Sunday, May 17: We say goodbye and depart with wonderful memories of another great National Annual Meeting.

Registration fee for the 2015 meeting is \$220 per person and includes a hot buffet breakfast each morning (Thurs-Sun), charter transportation to/from events away from the hotel, Wine & Cheese Reception, entrance to attractions listed above, lunch & tram tours at the Arboretum, Monuments by Moonlight tour, Floral Arts Workshop, lunch & tours at Mt. Vernon, and the Gala dinner Saturday night.

Julia Siefker will be serving as our Annual Meeting Registrar. Please feel free to contact her with any questions or info at: 419-233-0064 or email jverhoff300@gmail.com.

Registration fees and check made out to WNF&GA National Meeting Fund (2015 Meeting in memo line) and can be mailed to: Mrs. Julia Siefker 212 Park Avenue Ottawa, Ohio 45875.

We look forward to seeing you in May! Check back on the website for updates and other important information.

Sincerely,
Jenny Rose Carey
Kathy Beveridge
Audrey Ehrler
Susan Hunt
Kelly Oklesson
Julia Siefker
Rita Urbanski

(With the help of Carole Bordelon of the National Arboretum and the Members At Large!)

An Evening at the Kennedy Center

Join the **first 50** members who sign up for this optional trip to the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts!

On Thursday evening, May 14th, you will arrive by 5:30 pm to enjoy fine dining at the Center. At 7 PM you will attend the National Symphony Orchestra, with guest conductor & violin, Leonidas Kavakos.

An outstanding program has been planned:

Pictures At An Exhibition by Mussorgsky and Orchestrated by Ravel.

Pelle`as and Me`lisande by Sibelius.

Violin Concerto No.1 by J.S. Bach will be performed by Leonidas Karakos accompanied by the orchestra.

Additional fee for this event is \$80 per person, first come first served and limited to 50!

Tickets will go fast so sign up early on the National Annual Registration form located on page10.

WEBSITE PAYPAL ACCOUNT UPDATE

You may recall we tested the use of PayPal on the www.wnfga.org website last year for Annual Meeting registrations. Due to security concerns the Executive Committee has opted to drop our PayPal account and return to mailing your payment along with the registration form to the Annual Meeting Registrar.

For 2015, the

Meeting Registrar is Julia Siefker.

PLEASE NOTE: Julia's address has changed to 212 Park Avenue Ottawa, Ohio 45875.

It is listed correctly on the 2015 registration form.

(Her old address is listed in the Fall issue of the Magazine)

THE FLORAL ARTS

It's Floral Arts time !!!!

We had a wonderful time last year creating centerpieces for Saturday night's dinner tables and will do the same this year. It will be informal as to style and arrangement, but some of our WNF&GA pros will be there for direction or use your own inspiration.

Please preregister on the registration form and include \$5 to defray the cost of supplies.

Join us for a frenzy of Floral Arts creativity, and still have time for more fun afterward!

Contact :

Kay Buszek

rkbuzsek@gmail.com

MEETING DETAILS

WNF&GA NATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING CALL TO MEETING NOTICE

Please allow this announcement to serve as notice to all registered members of the Woman's National Farm & Garden Association that the 2015 National Annual Meeting will be May 13th to the 17th, 2015 in Washington Dc. The business sessions of the meeting are scheduled for the mornings of Thursday, May 14th and Friday, May 15th for the purpose of any and all business matters of the organization brought before the Executive Board and general membership attending. A full business meeting agenda will be available on the WNF&GA website at www.wnfga.org after May 1st, 2015.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Molly Hammerle
WNF&GA NATIONAL PRESIDENT

SILENT AUCTION 2015

YOU are to be thanked
for last year's overwhelming success
through your generous contributions and powerful
bidding. This upcoming meeting, tote along an
appealing item or two (whether large or small),
that will stimulate an exciting round of bidding.
As a Farm & Garden tradition, this rousing
auction is held during Saturday
evening's festivities.

Sue Vette
Michigan Division Troy Branch
susanvette@att.net

Washington, D.C. Garden Sites

Our trip to DC for the National Annual Meeting is approaching fast!

The Planning Committee has put together an awesome itinerary, but there is still so much to see and do. Below we have listed a "Bucket List" of places to see and gardens to tour that you may want to enjoy during our free times scheduled for Thursday evening and Friday during the day. Feel free to GOOGLE the individual venues for more info and Metro stop locations. Wednesday night during the Wine & Cheese reception will be a perfect time to share your info and recruit other members to develop your own memorable side trips!

Bishops Garden at Washington National Cathedral <http://www.cathedral.org/visit/gardenTours.shtml>, 3101 Wisconsin Ave NW, Washington, DC 20016 (202) 537-6200, + \$6 entry fee

Dumbarton Oaks <http://www.doaks.org>, 1703 32nd St NW, Washington, DC 20007
(202) 339-6401, + \$8-\$10 entry fee

Hillwood Gardens <http://www.hillwoodmuseum.org>, 4155 Linnean Ave NW, Washington, DC 20008
(202) 686-8500, + suggested donation of \$15 for entry fee

Kennilworth Aquatic Gardens <http://www.nps.gov/keaq/index.htm>, 1550 Anacostia Ave NE, Washington, DC 20019 (202) 426-6905, + no entry fee

National Botanical Gardens <http://www.usbg.gov>, 100 Maryland Ave SW, Washington, DC 20024
(202) 225-8333, + no entry fee

National Garden of Art and Sculpture <http://www.nga.gov/content/ngaweb/visit/maps-and-information/sculpture-garden.html>, 7th Street and Constitution Avenue, Washington, DC 20565
(202) 289-3360, + no entry fee

Eagles at the National Arboretum

There was an article this week in the Washington Post mentioning the hatching of Bald Eagles at the National arboretum.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/eaglets-believed-to-have-hatched-at-national-arboretum-in-dc/2015/03/16/cf87e0ea-cbfd-11e4-8a46-b1dc9be5a8ff_story.html

Check this link out for the online version of the article. Its been over 70 years since bald eagles have nested at the National Arboretum.



WNF&GA

Recommended Bylaws Revision – Financial Review Requirements

The Executive Committee of WNF&GA recommends and asks the membership of WNF&GA to consider a change to the by-laws to make the duties of the E&C Treasurer (Article V: Section 5-G) consistent with the duties of the A&O Treasurer (Article V: Section 5-F) and the expectations stated in Article XI: Section 2 regarding the requirement to have the financial records of the organization reviewed by an auditor or a CPA every two years.

The following change to the wording of the by-laws is recommended:

Replace Article V: Section 5-G. Education and Charitable Fund Treasurer, bullet number 9

“Working with the Finance Committee, submit a financial report of the review/audit to the Association for adoption every year.”

With the following two bullets (taken verbatim from Article V: Section 5-F, bullets 11 and 12)

“9. Recommend to the Executive Committee an auditor/CPA to review the records at least every two years.”

“10. Working with the Finance Committee, submit to the Association every two years a financial report of the review/audit;”

If this change is adopted, the current Article V: Section 5-G, bullet #10 would become bullet #11.

To review the current by-laws in detail, please visit the Members Area of the WNF&GA website: www.wnfga.org/for-members/.

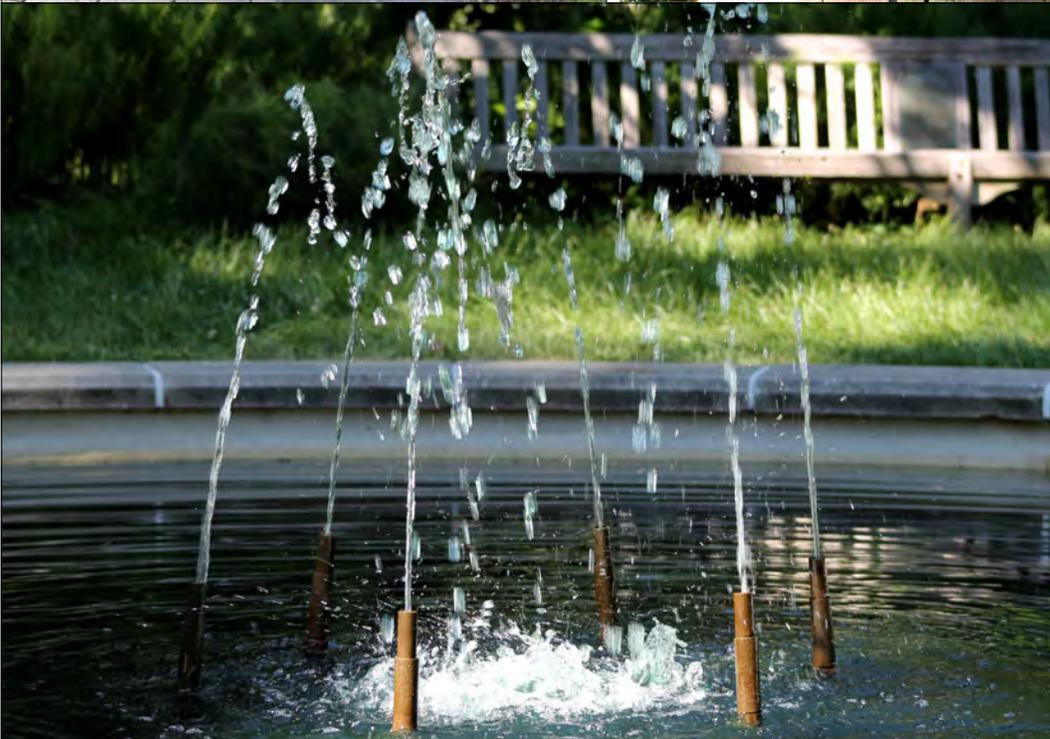
Facts About the Dogwood Gardens

1948 - Mrs. Frank L. Ball suggested a Dogwood Garden in the U.S. National Arboretum. Preliminary plan :800 by 700 feet. Various species of dogwoods for about \$3,000.

1951 - Teakwood bench, a copy of Mrs. King's design to place in Dogwood Garden. Bench manufactured in England.

Continued on page 17..





1952 - Garden dedicated. Mrs. Truman had members to tea.

1956 - Three additional benches were added in memory of Mrs. Robert A. Ware, Mrs. Ford, and Mrs. Walter A. Douglas.

1960 - The Garden is named "The Mrs. Francis King Dogwood Garden."

Continued on page 18...

MEETING DETAILS

Continued from page 17.

1964/1965 - Mrs. Walter A. Douglas Overlook dedicated next to the Dogwood Garden and overlooking the Anacostia River.

1967 - New variety of azalea developed at Arboretum and named, "The Margaret Bell Douglas" and planted at the overlook in tribute to Mrs. Douglas.

1968 - Director of Arboretum suggested a fountain as focal point in Dogwood Garden. \$3,000 was approved.

1969 - Letters were sent to Washington to reroute the proposed Washington Freeway to avoid disturbing the Dogwood Garden and Overlook.

Since then we put in the flag pole and plantings (\$5,000) and built the gazebo in the Gotelli Dwarf Garden for our Diamond Jubilee, which has a time capsule in it. Hazel Herring orchestrated the successful fund raising collecting \$25,000!

At some point we added more benches. And then there was the Walk to the Garden...

Nearby restaurants

Benihana

7935 Wisconsin Ave Bethesda, MD

301-652-9391

Japanese, Sushi

Maki Maki

Grill

8023 Wisconsin Avenue

301-913-9888

Asian, Sushi

Guapos

8130 Wisconsin Ave Bethesda

301-656-0888

Tex-Mex

Manny & Olga's Pizza

8118 Woodmont Ave Bethesda, MD

301-656-1450

Pizza (Take-out)

Sala Thai Restaurant

4828 Cordell Ave Bethesda, MD

301-301-654-4676

Thai

Woodmont Deli

8225 Woodmont Ave Bethesda, MD

301-657-2711

Deli

Woodmont Grill

7715 Woodmont Avenue

301-656-9755

American

Black's Bar and Kitchen

7750 Woodmont Avenue

Contemporary American and Seafood

Olazzo

7921 Norfolk Avenue

301-654-9496

Italian

Pizzeria Da Marco

8008 Woodmont Ave.

301-654-6083

Yamas

Mediterranean

4806 Rugby Ave.

301-312-8384

Mia's Pizza

4926 Cordelle Ave.

301-718-6427

Caddies

4922 Cordell Ave.

301-215-7730

American Bar

Black Finn

4901 Fairmont Ave.

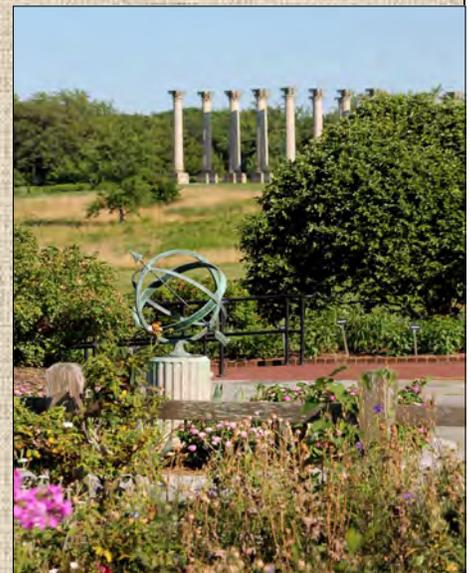
301-951-5681

Irish American

Rock Bottom

7900 Norfolk Ave.

301-652-1311



HAZEL HERRING



Hazel Marie Jackson Herring

Hazel Marie Jackson Herring, age 92, of Austin, passed away on February 8, 2015, after a brief stay at Westminster Healthcare Center. She was born on December 9, 1922, in Queen City, Texas, to her parents Charles Alfred Jackson and Gladys Milton Hunt Jackson. Hazel is predeceased by her parents, sister, Ruby Jackson Gunther, and husband of 62 years, Jack Herman Herring. The family would like to offer a heartfelt thank you to the medical and care giving people who were so very kind to Hazel offering their tender care. They are Dr. Michael Pellegrini, the Seton Hospital ER and Sixth Floor staff, Westminster Healthcare Center, the numerous care givers with Health at Home and Brookdale Personalized Living, and Hospice Austin. Spiritual care was offered through Westminster Presbyterian Church by Rev. William Clark, Pastor, and the fellowship of Westminster Presbyterian Church. The family also thanks the friends who are residents of Westminster Manor who were so faithful in their visits to Hazel.

Hazel grew up in the Rio Grande Valley, graduated from Lyford High School, where she met Jack Herring, her future husband, and attended Texas College of Arts and Industries, Kingsville. Her working years were as the Chief Deputy in the Willacy County Clerk's Office, Raymondville, and as a secretary in the Texas House of Representatives, Austin.

Hazel was married to Jack Herman Herring on February 5, 1943. He predeceased Hazel on February 21, 2005. During their years together they lived in Bay City, Texas, Houston, Texas, Findlay, Ohio, and retired to Austin, Texas. Two children, daughter, Judith Ann Herring Winter, married to William C. Winter, and son, David Robert Herring, were born in Bay City. The children both reside in Austin.

Hazel's spiritual life was centered on her church and mission trips. Her memberships included First Baptist Church, Bay City, Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church, Houston, First Presbyterian Church, Findlay, Ohio, and Westminster Presbyterian Church, Austin, where she served as a Deacon and Elder.

Hazel thoroughly enjoyed being a participating member of all the social organizations in which she was affiliated. She was a National President of Women's National Farm and Garden Association and through WNFGA she was a delegate to the Associated Country Women of the World, a UNESCO group, and represented WNFGA at the U.S. National Arboretum where they planted a dogwood tree in her honor. Hazel was a member of the National Society of Colonial Dames of America, Beta Sigma Phi, Findlay Country Club, Findlay Square Dance Club,

Austin Country Club, Onion Creek Club, Tarry House, Austin Woman's Club, Docents of the Texas Governor's Mansion, Austin Symphony Guild, The University of Texas Chancellor's Council, and the English-Speaking Union.

Travel occupied Hazel's time when family and volunteer commitments did not require her attention. She was a world traveler and so enjoyed meeting the people of different cultures and seeing all of the varying flora and fauna. Favorite events were her swim in the Amazon with some residents, sitting with curious penguins in Antarctica, and riding an elephant in India along a flower strewn path.

A Memorial Service was held at 2:30pm on Monday, February 16, 2015, at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 3208 Exposition Blvd., with the Rev. William F. Clark, Jr. officiating.

In lieu of flowers, those desiring may make memorial contributions to Westminster Presbyterian Church, 3208 Exposition Blvd., Austin, TX 78703; The Friends of the Neill Cochran House Museum, National Society of Colonial Dames of America, 2310 San Gabriel, Austin, TX 78705; or

Women's National Farm and Garden Association, The Hazel Herring Award

Corresponding Secretary Audrey Ehrler, 5004 Harbour Dr., Oxford, FL 34484; or a charity of their choice.

See more at: www.legacy.com/obituaries/statesman/obituary.aspx?pid=174141849#sthash.g9eSfwkm.dpuf

FARM & GARDEN EDUCATION

Welcome To The United States National Arboretum

As your representative to the U.S. National Arboretum for the past ten years, I have had the pleasure of visiting our beloved Louisa King Memorial Dogwood Collection many times. It is lovely there in every season of the year, but Springtime is truly the best time to plan a visit the U.S. National Arboretum.

On May 14, 2015, I will be waiting to greet you there along with the wonderful Arboretum Staff Members -Scott Aker, Carole Bordelon, Joan Feely and George Waters. Former Renaud / Peterson Interns, Kelley Okleson and Joseph Meny will be there to greet you also. Joseph actually will be leading one of the workshops that you will be attending. Kelley lives and works in the D.C. Metro area where we not have a Branch or Division. So, she has joined WNFGA as a Member-At-Large. She is on the planning committee for the 2015 Annual Meeting.

Your continued generosity, year after year, has made this Internship possible. Each year, I wait with great anticipation to learn who has received this coveted grant. Each year, I have not been disappointed with the selection. They have been fine young students from all over our nation with aims and goals similar to our values and beliefs.

The funding for the 2015 Internship has been sent to the Arboretum. Once again, I await word about the fortunate recipient. I am hopeful that he or she will be there to meet and greet you in Mid-May.

As I have said many times before, the Dogwood Collection in the U.S. National Arboretum is a place of beauty, peace and grace. You have helped build this lovely memorial garden, you have helped to maintain it, now come see what you have supported for many years.

Donations to the Renaud/Peterson Internship Fund should be sent to E&C

Treasurer, Susan Hunt.
238 Causeway Street,
Medfield, MA. 02502

Checks should be made out to
WNFG&A. Write Arboretum
Internship on the memo line.

Thank you for your long standing
generous support.

Respectfully submitted,
Audrey E. Ehrler

OHIO DIVISION UPDATE

As of January 2014 only four Branches remained in the Ohio Division. In December, a special meeting was called by Ohio Division President Julia Siefker for the purpose of discussing and deciding the future of the division. Present were Julia Siefker, Treasurer Janet Leingang, Recording/ Corresponding Secretary Carol Schortgen, Margaret Latham of Tawa Branch, and members of the Dooryard Branch. Vice President Ann Hermiller was excused. Treasurer Leingang gave the financial report and an update on the status of the Ohio Division concerning its nonprofit status with State of Ohio Attorney General's office.

After much discussion a motion was made and by unanimous vote the Ohio Division was officially dissolved, Tawa and Dooryard Branch have voted to each remain as a "branch at large" and remain affiliated with the National level of WNF&GA. A second motion was made and by unanimous vote the remaining funds of \$7,853.35 in the Divi-

sion treasury were donated to the National Arboretum in Washington DC. Part of this amount was earmarked for special recognition of the Ohio Division in the Louisa King Memorial Dogwood Garden to honor the memory of the Division.

Members were advised that any memorabilia can be sent to the Hilda Justice Center at Ambler Campus of Temple University. Documents and written items or photos can be sent to the Schlessinger Library for Women at Harvard University for archival purposes.

President Siefker thanked all those who attended this meeting for their efforts and dedication in the difficult and painful decision of voting to dissolve the Division. Special recognition was made to Treasurer Janet Leingang for her hard work and diligence in working with the Ohio Attorney General's Office.

Respectfully submitted
Julia
Siefker

Marcia Mandell Garden Walk Country Garden Club of Northville Michigan

The Country Garden Club of Northville will hold its 22nd annual Garden Walk on Wednesday, July 8, 2015 from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM.

Whimsical Wonderland is the featured theme woven through the six unique and diverse private gardens located in Northville

**FARM & GARDEN
DIVISION &
BRANCH UPDATES**

Township. Tickets are still a great value at \$10 and can be purchased in advance starting June 8th at Gardenviews Garden Gallery, 117 East Main Street, Northville, MI, 248-380-8881 and at the gate on the day of the event at Mill Race Village, 215 Griswold Street, Northville, MI.

You may also order tickets by using the form on our website: www.cgcnv.org. Your ticket will include an invitation to visit Cady Inn, the traditional centerpiece of the garden walk, at Historic Mill Race Village just north of Main Street. Garden club members will be serving complimentary homemade light refreshments in this appropriately theme-decorated historic inn setting. Guests are invited to enjoy live music and to shop the garden market featuring garden plants, arts & crafts and garden related items on the village grounds.

In addition to the inn, the grounds include a blacksmith shop, a one room schoolhouse, a church, several early 19th century Northville homes and a country store that invite you to come in for a visit. Strolling the village and vendor tables is like experiencing a trip back in time to a turn of the century summer fair. A lunch break between garden stops can also be enjoyed in any of the local restaurants or sandwich shops within walking distance in the quaint and unique downtown of Northville.

Proceeds support donations to non-profit organizations at local, state and national levels and scholarships for high school students who want to major in environmental, horticultural, agricultural and other earth science related studies. What a great way to enjoy a "Somewhere In Time" summer day while supporting a worthwhile cause!

In spite of Arbor Hospice moving to Ann Arbor, we are still making flower arrangements and delivering them to hospice facilities and nursing homes on a weekly basis with flowers donated by our local Trader Joe's and Busches Market. In addition to our planned attendance at the spring council meeting and Dafodil Day, several of us will be working with the community in a children's hands on gardening experience at Maybury State Park this spring.

Passings

Anne Weiss

Scholarship Committee-Hort. Therapy. Literary Advisor and Mother of Current Tri-County Treasurer, Jean Roberts. Died in February 2014.

Bernice Wallman

Flower Show Committee- Flower Show Judge-Prize Winning Floral Designer-Advisor to the Entire Division and Branch. A member of The Slate Valley Garden Club in Granville N.Y. Died in June 2014.

Rose Anne Golden

Past Branch President-Served four year term. Hort. Therapy- Hosted 2006 Exchangee from Iceland- Served on Washington County Board of Elections. Died in September 2014.

Lorraine Bardin

Oldest Long Standing Member of the New York Division- Past Branch President-Flower Show Committee- Flower Show Judge. Prize winning Floral Designer, Council Member to National for many terms-- National Flower Show Judge- Judged the 90th Anniversary Flower Show in Michigan. Member of the Slate Valley Garden Club in Granville New York. Died in November 2014.

Hazel Herring
(See Page 19)



FARM & GARDEN DIVISION & BRANCH UPDATES

Update on the Visitors Center

The Pennsylvania Division Ambler Keystone Branch held their February meeting in the newly completed WNF&GA Visitors Center (below). See our progression since May at the Executive Board Meeting at Temple Ambler University (right).



One Hundred Years of Growing and Giving: Woman's National Farm and Garden Association 1914-2014

Our Centennial book is a 72 page soft cover edition that encompasses the history of our organization with emphasis on the post-Chronicle years 1984-2014. The 100th celebration is included in the publication. The book is filled with pictures and features the founding history, the presidents, interest areas, leaders and special projects. Overall, the book is divided into decades in order to provide a greater understanding of the events that influenced each era, with special emphasis on interest areas and projects that developed along those themes. The book will be on sale at the annual meeting in Washington DC for a cost of \$20. This is a limited edition publication that will be cherished for years to come.

Preorders encouraged - Reply to mpf6@hotmail.com

**Club Branch
of the
Woman's National
Farm & Garden Association
will host Michigan Division's
62nd annual International Tea**
at Meadow Brook Hall,
a National Historic Landmark
and the former home of
Matilda Dodge Wilson,
WNF&GA National
President from 1964-1966.**



**In 2014, Meadow Brook's gardens
were designated as a
Proven Winners Signature Garden.
Meadow Brook Hall
is the Troy Garden Club's
generous co-host
of the 2015 International Tea!**



**PLEASE SAVE THE DATE:
Thursday, August 27, 2015**

The International Tea™

Membership Request for Members at Large

Join Today!

New Member Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Telephone _____

Secondary Contact Information- In Case We Lose Touch With You

*Members at Large is a designation for members who are loyal friends and do not have the convenience of a branch but wish to be involved with the organization. Members At Large receive all national communication including the magazine **Farm & Garden** published twice yearly.*



Annual dues

\$15.00

*Make checks payable to Woman's National Farm & Garden Association (WNF&GA)
Mail to Audrey E. Ehrler 5004 Harbour Drive Oxford, FL 34484 352-399-5079*

Hazel Herring Civic Improvement Grant Application

Application being made by (Branch Name): _____

Division (If Applicable) _____ Number of Members: _____

Project title: _____

Project cost: _____ (Estimated, if necessary)

Person submitting application: _____

Address: _____

Phone _____ FAX/e-mail: _____

Application must include the following:

1. A completed application form
2. A written description, no more than three pages in length describing the Project, the Goal, Sweat Equity (who will be involved in the project) and the Total Cost for completion.
3. A copy of this application should be sent to the Branch and Division President for their records.
4. Four digital photos in a .jpg format to be emailed or sent with the application on a CD-Rom to be used in Power Point presentations.

Mail completed application and photos to:

Gerry Howard
212735 Scott Road
Davisburg, MI 48350
Phone: 248-634-3766
gerryhoward323@yahoo.co

Grant recipients are then required to:

Submit a report to Gerry Howard at the above address no later than **May 1, 2015**
(to be processed in time for the Annual Meeting)
and include the following:

1. Brief description of the completed project
2. Include 4 photos as described above.
Please mark with Branch/Division name, date of project and title.
3. Name of person who made application, telephone, e-mail and address



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