

# Farm & Garden Newsletter

Woman's National Farm & Garden Association 2023



# **President's Message**

So, how was your summer? Did you visit family and friends? Was your garden all you had hoped for? Did that long list of "to-do's" get done? If you are like me, you enjoyed time with the people who are important in your life; your garden was a source of joy, but not quite centerfold-perfect for *Better Homes and Gardens*, and your "to-do" list had some things checked off and more added.

Summer is always too short but provides us with the respite we need to be recharged for both continued and new undertakings by our WNF&GA branches. Many of you are already prepared and involved. If you are not, think about how you can best contribute to your branch activities. Each of us has talents to lend to projects and ideas to help our membership grow. Please share your abilities and visions with your branch friends and board.

As autumn approaches, be sure to partake of the last days of picnics, beaches, flip-flops, outdoor concerts, the blooming of fall mums, earlier sunsets, and so many more late summer activities. Lao Tzu, the 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE Chinese philosopher, is credited with saying, "New beginnings are often disguised as painful endings." And although it seems *painful* to witness the end of summer,

we have new beginnings coming our way to enjoy.

Patty Burnside WNG&GA President 2022 - 2024



#### **Executive Committee**

#### **President**

Patty Burnside 11640 W. Freeland Rd. Freeland MI 48623 pb@chartermi.net 989-284-3455

Vice President Open position

#### **Recording Secretary**

Jackie Wilson 6949 Fredmoor Dr. Troy MI 48098 jackiew1985@comcast.net 248-321-2152

#### **Corresponding Secretary**

Phyllis Macke 128 Cherry Ridge Run Ottawa OH 45875 pjmacke@gmail.com 419-969-0210

#### **Administration & Operations Treasurer**

Mary Lynne Moellering 1280 Seville Rd. Rochester Hills MI 48309 emlmoellering@gmail.com 248-651-7005

#### **Education & Charitable Treasurer**

Suzanne Smith-Oscilowski 416 Gwynedd Valley Dr. Lower Gwynedd PA 19002 suzgarden416@gmail.com 215-740-7264

#### **Advisor**

Rita Urbanski 246 Parkwood Circle St. Augustine FL 32086 <u>rzurbanski@gmail.com</u> 248-961-0705

Please feel free to contact us at any time with questions or concerns.



# **Conservation and Natural Resource Management Scholarship Update**

The 2023 WNF&GA Scholarship for the Study of Conservation and Natural Resource Management was awarded to Jessica Dupont. Jessica graduated in May 2022 from Siena College in

Loudonville, New York, with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science. She participated in the Standish Honors Program and earned a 3.97 GPA.

Jessica works with AmeriCorps Green Initiatives VISTA with YouthBuild USA to help increase the capacity for green construction projects, programs, and job opportunities for youth. Although she has been away at school and work, she has not forgotten her hometown. While home, she began a grassroots Milkweed and Monarch Restoration project. Starting with a pilot project in Lake Plymouth, she fundraised, ordered, packaged, educated, and distributed over 300 baggies of milkweed then guided people through the planting of the seeds. This summer the goal is to establish the community as a monarch sanctuary and bring people together for the love of ecological restoration. She continues to volunteer and is in the process of extending the project through the rest of the town through different councils, Boy Scouts of America, and the local high school.

Jessica has prior experience with wastewater testing and campus sustainability as well as working with children to increase their awareness of sustainability and engage them in age-appropriate activities. She has received numerous accolades and is passionate about sustainability.

Beginning her graduate studies at Bard College in Fall 2023, she will be studying at the Center for Environmental Policy where she hopes to develop the background and skills to make a difference in the conservation field. Her Master's Degree will be in Climate Science and Policy where she hopes to pursue an active career in resource conservation and climate mitigation and adaptation. Her plan for life is to make as big of an impact as she can wherever she goes through grassroots planning, community engagement, and education.

Jessica is extremely grateful for the confidence WNF&GA has placed in her and is more committed than ever to achieving her goals!

Submitted by Suzanne Smith-Oscilowski

Chairperson of the 2023 WNF&GA Scholarship for the Study of Conservation and Natural Resource Management

# Sarah Bradley Tyson Memorial Fellowship Update

The 2023 Sarah Bradley Tyson Memorial Fellowship was widely marketed to the appropriate departments of universities in states where the WNF&GA has branches: Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, and Michigan.

Five applicants submitted their proposals in mid-May: two from The Pennsylvania State University (Penn State), one from the University of Michigan, one from Michigan State University and one from the Culinary Institute of America.

Applications were evaluated in late May and early June by three WNF&GA members. The 2023 SBTMF recipient - Pradip Poudel, a Ph.D. candidate at Penn State in the Department of Plant Science - was notified of his award in mid-June.



A superior written recommendation was provided by Dr. Francesco Di Gioia of Penn State. Dr. Di Gioia is an assistant professor of vegetable crop science in the school's Department of Plant Science, and he is Mr. Poudel's primary Ph.D. advisor. A second superior recommendation was provided by Ms. Leigh Whittinghill of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. She was Mr. Poudel's mentor in the Masters of Environmental Science Program at Kentucky State University. Ms. Whittinghill's position at CAES is assistant agriculture scientist, Department of Environmental Science and Forestry.

The following paragraphs are essential components of Mr. Poudel's application:

My academic journey began with a Bachelor of Science in agriculture degree from Agriculture and Forestry University, Rampur, Nepal, in 2018. During my undergraduate studies, I became passionate about

research and Extension activities, participating in different student and farmer engagement activities by organizing events such as free-soil testing and plant health clinics. Through these collaboration and event-organizing experiences, I developed leadership skills and a deeper appreciation for research and Extension activities' importance in transferring first-hand information directly from the lab to the farmer's field.

To pursue my research interests further, I completed my Master's Degree in Environmental Studies at Kentucky State University, where I focused on saffron production as an alternative high-value crop for farmers seeking an option to traditional tobacco production. My thesis evaluated the effect of bio-fungicide and planting depth treatments on saffron production. During my master's, I also worked on a project related to nutrient management practices for vegetable production in different urban agriculture settings.

Currently, I am pursuing my Ph.D. in Agricultural and Environmental Plant Science at PSU. My research focuses on zinc biofortification of microgreens species using different agronomic approaches, and I am also doing a side-by-side comparison of different soilless vegetable production systems for their yield, nutritional quality, and resource use efficiency. My goal is to continue to be involved in research as a scientist in the field of sustainable vegetable production and nutritional quality, either in academia or industry.

On behalf of the WNF&GA, the SBTMF committee is pleased to be able to encourage and enable Mr. Pradip Poudel's research-based education in such an important field.

### **WNF&GA Charitable Affairs Highlights – 2023**

NOTE: This section features funding which is given only within the WNF&GA branches.

#### Bess Mueller Floral Arts Fund (Educational) - Funded \$500

This fund is available for Branches or Divisions. It may be used to support judges' schools, flower shows, floral arts programs, workshops and guest speakers. The events must be open to the public.

Bess (Bessie) Mueller was born in Corunna, Ontario, but lived in Port Huron, MI since the 1940's. She was an active member of the Port Huron Garden Club from 1965 – 1978. Bessie was a philanthropist who chose to remain tight-lipped about her endeavors. She was described as a woman who quietly spent her life supporting a variety of causes and people. The Bess Mueller Floral Arts Fund was established to support Flower Show Schools which would properly train flower show judges.

#### Rochester Garden Club (RGC) is awarded \$200.

The Rochester Branch will present "Flower Arranging at the Farm" on 7/27/23 at the Van Hoosen Farm. The first half of the program provides information on the basics of flower arranging; including handouts and a demonstration by a garden club member. Instruction will show how to take a purchased bouquet and turn it into a floral design. After refreshments, each participant will create their own arrangement. In advance, RGC member designers will have made examples of arrangements which will be offered as door prizes. Members will circulate answering questions.

#### Waterford Garden Club (WGC) is awarded \$300.

Waterford Branch will offer a "presentation / workshop on floral displays and flower arranging". Waterford Township residents will be given the opportunity to learn how to grow their own flowers. Instruction on how to choose plants for their particular garden location, color selection, planting and maintenance tips will be offered. Attendees will learn how to display cut flowers. Written materials will also be provided.

"Community Seed Library for Floral Beautification of Waterford" – WGC members will collect seeds from their own plants and purchase others. The seeds will be packaged and available at the Waterford Township Library. Community members will be encouraged to contribute seeds from their gardens.

#### Hazel Herring Civic Improvement Grant - Funded \$3,000

This grant (formerly award) was established in 1983 through a donation made by Mr. Jack Herring in honor of his wife, Hazel J. Herring. Mrs. Herring served as WNF&GA president from 1982 – 1984. The grant may be used to assist Branches or Divisions implementing their civic beautification projects.

The Hazel Herring Grant was originally established as an award for a completed project. Its focus was changed, with Hazel's approval, to that of a GRANT to be given to a Branch or Division project of "improvement" through civic action or improvement through beautification.

Projects which will be considered include community gardens, landscaping of historic landmarks or community properties, establishment of playgrounds, open space parks, picnic areas and similar endeavors which will benefit and improve public spaces. It can be part of a continuing large project, but a new phase.

#### Lapeer Wildflowers Branch is awarded \$1,500.

The Lapeer Wildflowers will replace the flower bed in front of the historic Lapeer County Courthouse. During the installation of a new flagpole, the existing flower bed which the branch has maintained for years, was destroyed. A larger garden space, surrounded by pavers, has been provided. The members will plant a low maintenance bed with predominately perennial plants, a few flats of annuals and mulch. They will also add a rock with "Maintained by Lapeer Wildflowers" etched on it.

#### Port Huron Garden Club is awarded \$1,500.

The Port Huron Garden Club maintains eight flower beds. The Port Huron Marina Bed, installed and nurtured since 1992, is in need of renovation and repair. This bed was established through a Hazel Herring Civic Improvement Grant awarded thirty-one years ago. In 2018, this bed received mulch "infested" with thistle, which took over the bed. Members have spent 30 hours per year attempting to irradicate or control the thistle. Due to the size of the bed (50ft x 14ft), the decision was made to hire a landscaping company to remove and replace all the soil. The majority of the plants in the bed were annihilated by the invading thistle. The club plans on replanting the bed with perennial grasses, shrubs and Knockout Roses. New, clean mulch will also be applied.

Submitted by Karol Carter Director of Charitable Funding

#### **CHARITABLE AFFAIRS 2023**

Note: This section lists <u>all</u> funding given. The following scholarships, internships and sponsorships have been funded by the WNF&GA in 2023.

FUNDING SOURCE CODES provided. SOURCES listed at bottom of document.

#### **SCHOLARSHIPS**

**Burlingame/Gerrity Horticultural Therapy Scholarship** 

Chairperson: JoAnn Preston

Funded: \$3,000 (3) \$1,000 Funding Source - RJEE&AD

Deadline: May 15th

Award – Mallory Smyth (\$1,000) Horticultural Therapy Institute Denver, CO

#### WNF&GA Scholarship for the Study of Conservation & Natural Resource Management

Chairperson: Suzanne Smith-Oscilowski

Funded: \$4,000 (1) recipient Funding Source – RJEE&AD

Deadline: May 15th

Award – Jessica Dupont M.S. student at Bard College – Climate Science and Policy



#### Sarah Bradley Tyson Memorial Fellowship

Chairperson: Mary Schwark

Trustees: Suzanne Smith Oscilowski & Karol Carter

Funded: \$4,000 (1) recipient Funding Source - BNYMEE&AD

Deadline: May 15th

Award – Pradip Poudel Ph.D. (2<sup>nd</sup> yr.) student at Pennsylvania State University – Agriculture and Environmental Plant

Science program

#### **INTERNSHIPS**

#### **Francis Plate Bequest to Student Conservation Association**

Coordinator: Suzanne Smith-Oscilowski Funded: \$2,000 Funding Source – RJEE&AD

#### Renaud – Peterson U.S. National Arboretum Internship

Coordinator: Mary Pat Ford

Funded: \$7,000 Funding Source - RJEE&AD

#### **WNF&GA Temple University Ambler Campus Internship**

Coordinator: Suzanne Smith-Oscilowski

Funded: \$2,000 Funding Source - RJEE&AD; TF

#### **SPONSORSHIPS**

#### **Bess Mueller Floral Arts Education Fund**

Chairperson: Kim Vance

Funded: \$500 Only WNF&GA Branches or Divisions may apply. Funding Source - RJEE&AD

Awarded to: Rochester Garden Club - \$200 "Flower Arranging at the Farm"

Waterford Garden Club - \$300 Presentation / workshop on floral displays and flower

arranging + "Community Seed Library for Floral Beautification of Waterford"

#### **Hazel Herring Civic Improvement Grant**

Chairperson: Gerry Howard

Funded: \$3,000 Only WNF&GA Branches or Divisions may apply. Funding Source – AEPSSE Awarded to: Lapeer Wildflowers - \$1,500 Replace garden at historic Lapeer County Courthouse Port Huron Garden Club - \$1,500 Renovation of garden bed at Port Huron Marina

previously installed through HHCIG in 1992.

#### **Frysinger International Project Fund**

Chairperson: Kay Engelhart

Funded: \$2,000 Funding Source - RJEE&AD

#### **FUNDING SOURCE CODES**

**E & AD** – Earnings & Annual Donations

RJEE&AD – Raymond James Endowment E&AD BNYMEE&AD – BNY Mellon Endowment E&AD

AEPSSE - American Electric Power Stock Share Earnings

**TF** – Tiberio Foundation

**RJEE** – Raymond James Endowment Earnings

Submitted by Karol Carter Director of Charitable Funding



Summer should get a speeding ticket!



#### **Waterford Branch**

The Waterford branch has been very busy! The beginning of May found several members attending the Troy-hosted Michigan Spring Council Meeting. Our current secretary at the time was voted in as Michigan Division President - congratulations to Sue Malone! Later that month we had our annual Spring Plant Sale. Most of our plants come from the gardens that we take care of and from members' gardens. We were grateful to everyone that made it successful.



At the beginning of June, members had an evening meeting with speaker Allen Chartier about hummingbirds which was very insightful on their migration patterns and favorite types of plants. The following week was our Spring luncheon, attended by many of our members. Our club was also able to enter the Waterford Riverwalk Outdoor Art Exhibition by purchasing two "rubber duck" cutouts of plywood that we decorated, and which are now on display with other ducks along the Riverwalk. We have started our weekly garden maintenance at the gardens that we maintain; weeding is usually the order of the day.

With some hard work from one of our members, Jamie Schutt, we were able to secure the Bess Mueller Floral Arts Grant. This grant helped our branch realize the goal of starting a seed library at the Waterford Township PublicLlibrary providing annual, perennial, and vegetable seeds to our local community. We will finish off our grant requirement this fall by having a floral arranger come and speak to us and demonstrate how to arrange flowers that were grown from the seed library. This has also inspired us to start another seed library at our local Senior Center. We are looking forward to helping our community grow. August finds us back at the Michigan Renaissance Festival maintaining three gardens. This is always a fun project in which members enjoy being involved.

We have had fun attending garden walks in Clarkston, Troy, and Rochester hosted by other WNF&GA branches. Our summer field trips took us to Hidden Lake Gardens in Tipton and Applewood Estates in Flint. Several members were able to enjoy both field trips.

Submitted by Carrie Sue Cempura Waterford Branch President



#### **Northville Garden Club**

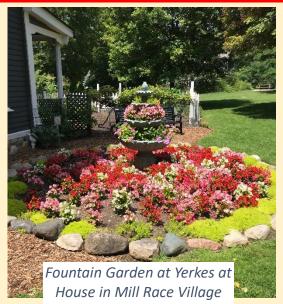
In 1972, The Northville Historical Society opened Mill Race Village in Northville, Michigan. A charming collection of donated labeled historical buildings and lovely grounds are taken care of by volunteers. The community enjoys attending tea parties, holiday events, and car shows. Teachers take their elementary school students on field trips and have classes in the old school. A visitation makes a great history lesson for the whole family to see how life was once upon a time.

One of the stunning gardens at Mill Race Village, which the Northville Garden Club beautifies as part of their community service, is the Yerkes home. William and Sarah Yerkes built a nine-room carpenter gothic style house with a floating staircase (no visible supports) in 1875.

We are very delighted with how the fountain garden turned out this year. Vegetables (potatoes, green beans, peppers, corn, tomatoes) were

also planted. In the fall season, the fresh produce is harvested and donated to Northville Civic Concern, a local food bank to help the community.

Our branch is proud of Suemarie Klimek, Second Vice President of the Northville Garden Club who is also now the Treasurer of the WNF&GA - Michigan Division.



Sally Hayes retired from being the Treasurer after 20 years. Kathy Galarneau, outgoing President and the next Treasurer, thanked Sally for her dedication and doing a marvelous job managing the finances. A delicious happy retirement cake for Sally was enjoyed by all

For more information on the Northville Garden Club, please visit our website <a href="https://northvillegardenclub.com/home">https://northvillegardenclub.com/home</a>

And our Facebook page

https://www.facebook.com/thenorthvillegardenclub



Submitted by Dana Whelan Photos by Dana Whelan

## WNF&GA is a Wonderful Part of my Life

I am a 28-year-old member of the Rochester Branch. Gardening has always been a part of my life and WNF&GA is a major part. Memories of gardening in my past...Mom's Swedish parents had a cherry orchard near the shores of Lake Michigan in Mears, Michigan, and as farmers they raised food for themselves. Grandpa grafted half a dozen varieties of apples on one tree, and ripe pears right off the tree are the best. Dad's parents gardened on a second city lot in Kalamazoo. With three boys during WWII, Grandma used her farm upbringing to feed the family. We ate prune plums off the tree in the backyard. She also liked flowers. I remember a quarter of the lot would be planted in Dahlias brought up from the basement each spring. Dad did lots of gardening, raising vegetables in the backyard. He let us fill our Red Ryder wagon with tomatoes we helped grow and sell around the neighborhood. None of the neighbors had vegetable gardens.

I've done some gardening at all the houses we've owned. When we moved to Rochester Hills, Michigan, my new neighbor, Lucille Tucker, made sure I knew about Woman's National Farm and Garden. I think her husband had grown up on a farm and did more of the gardening. She was a consummate clubwoman, serving as treasurer and organizer. Rochester Branch was still preparing hot lunches for the meetings at the Congregational Church and serving tea with gloves on from silver tea sets. This no longer happens and small pieces of one tea set have been donated to Van Hoosen Farm. My girls were still in school, and I was a stay-at-home Mom (SAHM), so I could attend day meetings. I am a more casual dresser, so I think Lucille was disappointed when I wore jeans to meetings, but she didn't say anything. She supported me in the club activities and encouraged (cajoled) me into entering flower shows to be judged.

I became branch Environmental Chair my first year and continued for many years. It takes a while to learn these jobs and just as you get the hang of it your term can be over. I attended several National Meetings; then my family had a few financial changes, and I cut back on many of my volunteer activities. But I kept my WNF&NA membership because I enjoyed it so much. I appreciated that someone sponsored me for one year and I paid it forward later. I couldn't commit to office until things settled, and then I was able to step in for the Vice President

who moved, and I served as President. I'm proud of my service as Rochester Branch became The Rochester Garden Club during my term.

Many activities are available to members - Herbs, Arts and Crafts, Van Hoosen Farm, Memorials, Public plantings, International Teas, Greens Market, Daffodil Days, and more. National trips to Nashville, Grand Rapids, Pittsburgh, D.C., and Philadelphia were great. Garden Club has given me much - friends, activities, service, and joy.



Submitted by Karin Bickle

#### **Due Dates for Newsletter Articles**

To include all branches, directors, and chairpersons, I randomly assigned due dates for newsletter articles. If you can't do your designated newsletter issue, please ask another officer to write the article. You can also contact someone else from the list who has a later deadline and trade months. *Please*, *let me know if you make a trade*. If you have a new branch board president or communications officer, please

- 1. Pass this deadline information to the new branch president.
- 2. Notify Cheryl Malin and me immediately.

<u>Presidents</u>: Please look at this as an opportunity to brag about your branch's history, members, projects, outreach, focus areas, activities, accomplishments, ways of doing things, interest areas, or anything else you would like to share with the Association.

<u>Directors and Chairpersons</u>: This is your chance to let the members know the details of the role you play, tell the history or background of your committee, attract others to your committee, or encourage someone to assume your role when you are ready.

SEPT – OCT 2023 ISSUE OCT. 15, 2023 ARTICLE DEADLINE	GARDENING (OPEN POSITION)  REPORT FROM ACWW - KAYE ENGELHART KENGELHART@HOTMAIL.COM  ARTICLES FROM BRANCHES  LAPEER WILDFLOWERS - PATTY BRADSHAW PATTYBSHAW4513@GMAIL.COM  MILFORD BRANCH - SUSAN ABSHER MEDUSASTARE@YAHOO.COM  CLARKSTON F & G CLUB - JOAN HARBAUGH JOANCHARBAUGH@GMAIL.COM  PA AMBLER-KEYSTONE BRANCH - TESSIE MCNEELY TESSIEMCNEELY@VERIZON.NET  OH TAWA BRANCH - RHONDA RAINEY RAINEY45881@GMAIL.COM  TROY GARDEN CLUB - LINDA FORRESTER LINOZFOR@ATT.NET				
NOV – DEC 2023 ISSUE DEC. 15, 2023	<ul> <li>Agriculture - Joette Kunse <u>jkhorses@comcast.net</u></li> <li>OH Dooryard Branch – Mary Jo Bockrath <u>bockfarm@bright.net</u></li> </ul>				
JAN – FEB 2024 ISSUE FEB. 15, 2024	<ul> <li>Articles from Branches</li> <li>MI Division's annual reports for 2023 - Sue Malone smalonewgc@gmail.com</li> <li>Articles from Branches         <ul> <li>Franklin Branch (co-pres.) - Barbara Borden bborden123@gmail.com &amp; Amy Stevenson amystevenson960@gmail.com4</li> </ul> </li> <li>(Jan- Feb continued on next page)</li> </ul>				

	<ul> <li>Romeo &amp; Juliet Garden Club - Kathy Bruggeman kathysellsfast@gmail.com</li> <li>Grosse Pointe Shores Branch - Shirley Hartert         <ul> <li>shirleyhartertpta@comcast.com</li> </ul> </li> <li>Plymouth Branch - Judy Krieman jjkrieman@gmail.com</li> <li>PA Bucks County Branch - Barbara Shaeffer bjshaef@gmail.com</li> </ul>
MAR – APR 2024 ISSUE APR. 15, 2024	<ul> <li>2024 Nominations announced for 2024 – 2026 (Nominating Committee)</li> <li>National: Call to Meeting 2024 - Patty Burnside pb@chartermi.net</li> <li>Articles from Branches         <ul> <li>Saginaw Branch – Kathy Meinschein kmeinl77@gmail.com</li> <li>Port Huron Garden Club – Ginny Paknikar caring4u27@yahoo.com</li> <li>County Downs – (co-pres.) Pamela Haxton phaxton6@gmail.com</li> <li>Ny Cambridge Branch – Bea Peterson beapeterson@gmail.com</li> <li>Moonglow Branch – Ginger Dean gingerdean25197@outlook.com</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
MY – JU 2024 ISSUE JUNE 15, 2024	Announcement of elected Executive Committee for 2024 – 2026 (Nominating Committee)  • Articles from Branches  • Bloomfield Hills - Bobbi Polk bobbipolk@gmail.com  • Trenton Branch (co-chair) – Rose Maki rose817@comcast.net & Teresa Vallar tvallar@comcast.net  • NY Tri-County Branch – Joanna Prouty joannaprouty@aol.com  • Indian Village Branch – Renata Miller Miller.renata@yahoo.com  • Rochester Branch – Jenny VanDusen jenvandusen@comcast.net

