



Farm & Garden Newsletter

Woman's National Farm
& Garden Association 2023



Happy Holidays and Seasons' Greetings

Although very busy and somewhat stressful, this is my favorite time of the year. Forget about shopping, decorating, wrapping, partying, sending cards, baking, and all the other required or associated "___ing's." This, to me, is a period to be immersed in the spirit of kindness, peace, human connections, magic, charity, warmth, and blessings. I love evenings with hot cocoa, a cozy fire, a soft fleece blanket, my dog by me, the tree glowing, and watching a schmaltzy Hallmark movie. Even with all the holiday hubbub, it seems like a time to slow down spiritually and appreciate the simpler things in life. On Christmas Eve, my church holds a candlelight service which really brings these emotions to full fruition.

Let us be mindful of others throughout the world and pray that they may be free of worry or want. No matter what your holiday traditions are, no matter what your religion is, no matter how you feel about the holidays - - I wish you a cheerful season filled with your favorite things and surrounded by loving friends and family.

Patty Burnside, WNF&GA President, 2022-2024



Each One, Reach One

The longevity of any organization is directly correlated with its mission and the size of the membership. WNF&GA branches are doing great with fulfilling its mission. We add value to our communities. What we need is membership growth. If each member enlisted at least one new member, we could assure our longevity.

Please introduce others to our association. Recruit family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and people who you know through other groups and clubs - - heck, even strangers with whom you've struck up a conversation.

Take the challenge: "Each one, reach one."

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
rzurbanski@gmail.com
248-961-0705

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

Just Wondering



Throughout my tenure, members have asked me “What’s going on with ____?” Initially it took me by surprise, but I now recognize *lack of communication* is the problem. So, how do we eliminate the problem?

1. Contact me directly with your concerns. Please avoid rumors and hearsay.
2. Read the National Newsletter (this document) which is sent to the branch presidents to disperse every other end of the month. Check with your branch president if you do not receive a copy via email.
3. Make sure your branch lets Cheryl Malin and myself know when your branch officers change. Send us their contact information along with their names and positions.
4. Our webmistress will be asked to put the newsletters on our webpage in the Members’ Section.

Dooryard Day Trip

This may interest some of you if you’ve been thinking of a visit to Northwestern Ohio. In July 2022, a group of our members from the Dooryard Garden Club enjoyed a mystery day trip planned by our previous club president, Phyllis Macke. I should introduce her now as our Dooryard Club Trip Organizer! We began our trip by heading, upon Phyllis’s direction, to Perrysburg, Ohio. The weather, cloudy, and promising a shower, wasn’t going to dampen our adventure. It took us about an hour to arrive at the door of the 577 Foundation (<https://577foundation.org/>) in Perrysburg, Ohio. This wonderful site is open to all, and as it says on their website, provides and encourages lifelong learning of the ecological and environmental sciences.



“Terra Vitis” by ceramicist Laurie Spencer in 2012.

We were free to explore the grounds with our maps in hand. There was so much to see and explore, all within a healthy walking distance. Our first encounters at the entrance were the beautiful gardens, occupied by gnomes and other fanciful creatures. Within that area was what seemed to be a huge beehive, the “Terra Vitis” (see picture on left) After that we explored an interactive children’s play area, and the cottage grounds, which serve as a workshop area, and conference/meeting area. Walking further on, we came upon the Geodesic Biodome which held an array of organically grown plants and featured a beautiful koi pond with a waterfall...such a cozy place to warm up on a cool day. The warm weather this summer day found us relieved to have visited this warm spot early in the day! Outside of this structure were assorted vegetable and flower gardens, in raised beds, being tended by many local gardeners and volunteers. It seems that this site is so attractive and welcoming, that it lures volunteers with some sort of human pheromone! Dozens of volunteers were everywhere, which if you went to visit, you’d completely understand why they do this.

The next path we took brought us past a log cabin, and toward a group of people gathered around a huge kiln. The Kiln Manager, Ms. Beutler, came over to us and very nicely explained how this wood-burning kiln works. It was interesting to learn of the steps taken and the signs watched for to see that it needed more wood added to keep the kiln fired. It took at least three people to add the wood to the kiln. It’s a very hot job, and safety measures are taken seriously!



We had a good conversation with Ms. Beutler and found that we had many connections with her family right in our hometown of Ottawa. We enjoyed sharing tidbits of family history with her and had made a new friend by the time we parted. It’s certainly and small world!

Bev Gustwiller, Holly Huber, Mary Jo Bockrath, Mick Brickner, Phyllis Macke. Sadly, we lost our dear friend and member Bev last May. She is sorely missed by all who knew her. She truly loved gardening and sharing her talents for it!



We walked on to reach a bird blind and then a path down to the Maumee River. We abandoned the thought of walking the entire path down, as we realized we would have to make it back UP to the top again. A glimpse of the lovely Maumee was caught as we made our way back to the 577 Garden Library.

This last stop on the site found us checking out the pottery, spun wool, and an impressively large collection of gardening books. I found a lovely blue piece of pottery to purchase because...well...a girl has to shop!!

While still in Perrysburg, we made a quick trip though Woodlands Park with its unique and large pieces of sculpture, metalwork, and other varieties of outdoor

artwork. We stayed within our vehicle for this tour as it was raining, and we didn't want to look like drowned garden rats at our next stop. As with any trip I've ever been on, we simply HAD to stop for lunch somewhere...delicious! A few miles back down I-75 brought us to Bowling Green, Ohio, a college town in which you can easily find your way around during the summer when BGSU students aren't as plentiful. Phyllis led us to Beckett's Burger & Bar Restaurant, previously known as Kauffman's Bar & Restaurant, THE place to go to, back in the day. Every one of us enjoyed our meals, as tasty as they've always been!



On the road again, we traveled up Route 6 and took a trip into the past at the Wood County Museum and



Historical Center. After a tour of the 1869-1971 Infirmary & Contagious Disease buildings (think polio), we found the less inhibiting and more tranquil herb gardens and compost bin exhibits that the residents once tended. Surrounding the building complex was a very solid stone wall, hand-built by a resident who lived out his life at the Wood County home. The stones he used were all dug from the surrounding fields that the residents farmed. Historical plaques are found throughout the site, many which we read with interest mixed with sadness, seeing how people were treated for illnesses back in the early years. It makes you quite grateful to be living in today's world!

Before we ended our day, we stopped at McClelland's Daylilies near Findlay, Ohio. There you'll find row upon row of an almost endless selection of daylilies to wander through. A dream come true to a daylily lover; with pamphlet list in hand, you mark your choices. Mr. McClelland, himself, will go out and dig healthy starts of whatever you'd like, while Mrs. McClelland will give you some valuable tips to help your plants thrive. Your job is to get those daylily starts in the ground properly and enjoy your efforts for years to come! Well, what a day...and what a trip! We thank you, Phyllis, for our fabulous day! I was surprised by all the sites, right within a day's drive, that I'd never seen before. You are truly a supreme trip coordinator! Life is good, and friends, flowers, and a great day trip make it even better!



Dooryard Garden Club
By President Mary Jo Bockrath
Ottawa, Ohio

Ch..., Ch..., Changes

Several Branches have or are about to change officers. Those changes make it very hard to send information to the correct officers if both Registrar Cheryl Malin and President Patty Burnside are not notified of said changes. It also makes a delay or no news getting to the members through their officers.

Please, always send Cheryl and Patty any changes in officers.

By Karol Carter

The Finance Committee (FC) of WNF&GA annually determines the funding available for charitable distribution. The committee consists of the FC Chairperson, President, Vice-President, Administrative & Operational (A&O) Treasurer, Educational & Charitable (E&C) Treasurer, and one member appointed by the Executive Committee to be approved by the Executive Committee.

All Scholarships, Fellowships, Internships, and Sponsorships are considered “External Funding.” WNF&GA members or their immediate families are not eligible to apply for or receive this type of funding.

The President or Charitable Affairs Director (chairperson) appoints, with approval, a chairperson for each Scholarship, Sponsorship (Grant,) or Fellowship. All descriptions and applications with instructions for submission may be viewed on the WNF&GA web site. Each chairperson must select at least one or two WNF&GA member(s) to serve on their “committee.” They are tasked with reviewing each application and selecting the eventual recipient(s). Each chairperson submits their final decision, including the amount of funding to be awarded, to the WNF&GA President, the E & C Treasurer, and the Charitable Affairs Director. The E & C Treasurer is responsible for distributing all financial awards, generally after the WNF&GA annual meeting.

The process of selecting our “winners” is rewarding. I am inspired and impressed by the quality of our applicants. Reading their applications confirms to me that our future in the fields of agriculture, horticulture, conservation & natural resource management, and horticultural therapy is in good hands. I am also impressed with the educational or civic minded projects our branches pursue. WNF&GA member Gerry Howard has been chairperson of the Hazel Herring Civic Improvement Grant for many years. Thus, you are encouraged to be a part of Charitable Affairs for as long as you enjoy it.



Source: Master Gardeners

Did you know that if holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) finds its leaves are being nibbled by deer, it switches genes on to make them spiky when they regrow? So, on taller holly trees, the upper leaves (which are out of reach) have smooth edges, while the lower leaves are prickly.





Plymouth Garden Club

In these days of hustle and bustle, Plymouth Garden Club is growing. We are well aware that the general population might see a garden club as an activity that is dated and non-productive. Our members have done the one thing that fights that thought. We actively talk about garden club and make a point to invite potential members to our meetings.

Since we conduct our meetings at the Plymouth Public Library, we are easy to find. We post our emblem at the door and invite anyone interested to come in. Once in, they will see well-appointed tables with centerpieces, themed items, and polka-dotted, laminated tablecloths. Of course, we have delicious food to be served after the business meeting and the program. A guest is asked to attend three meetings to make sure that Plymouth Garden Club fits her needs. It is then that she may join our group of gardeners.

Programming is another key to our success. Our Vice-President finds speakers or demonstrators for each meeting, providing the interest and education any gardener would want. No one wants to spend time attending business meetings planning more work. Where is the fun?

In addition to making social connections, we garden in our downtown area and in Garden Club Park. The profit from our Christmas Greens Sale provides for college scholarships.

We are by no means a group of old ladies sitting around and talking gardens, which is a common misconception. When was the last time you actually invited a friend, neighbor or acquaintance to your garden club?

"Hey, your garden is lovely. Would you perhaps like to attend a Plymouth Garden Club meeting?"

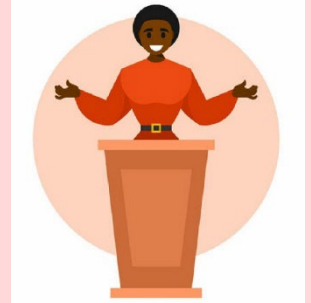
"Why, yes, our gardening at the park is great fun. Would you like to come to one of our meetings?"

"Plymouth Garden Club is going on a field trip. Would you like to come along?"

These are simple but very productive questions.

Invites and programming - - keep those in mind as you are planning for the coming year. They are the two key points that keep us going.

Judy Krieman
President



God Rest ye Merry Gardeners

(Sung to the tune of "God Rest ye Merry Gentlemen")



God rest you merry gardeners.
Let nothing ye dismay,
For Spring is soon to come again
With lengthening of days,
The sun will warm the soil once more
And send Jack Frost away.
Oh, tidings of composting and Joy!
Compost and joy!
Oh, tidings of composting and joy!



Cambridge, NY Branch Ending

It is with heavy hearts that the long-standing Cambridge, NY Branch members have decided to disband. Their branch has shrunk as members have moved, passed away, or aged out. They are no longer able to do fund-raising and are not recruiting new members. Only three or four members usually attend meetings. Member Edna Baker said it would be hard for interested members to combine with NY's Tri-County Branch due to distance.

Per WNF&GA Bylaws, the Cambridge Branch has decided to donate their treasury of about \$5,000 to the Renaud-Peterson U.S. National Arboretum Internship.

Edna reported that longtime member Bea Peterson is seriously ill and can no longer serve as branch president. Please reach out to Bea with cards which she will appreciate. Her address is 211 Wood Park Lane; Hoosick Falls, NY 12090.

Indian Village Woman's Garden Club Celebrates 75 Years

Wow! 75 years strong! What a perfect cause for the elegant celebration held at the Whittier in Detroit on Friday, December 8, 2023. The Indian Village Garden Club invitation read as follows:

We are thrilled to invite you to the Woman's Garden Club 70th Anniversary Celebration Gala! This momentous occasion is a tribute to seven decades of shared passion, growth, and blooming friendships nurtured in our beloved club. The evening's program includes special recognition awards for our long-time members who have made significant contributions to our club. A lavish dinner will also be served, providing an opportunity for us all to reminisce and forge new memories.

With semi-formal attire and valet parking, this classy and sophisticated gala was a celebration long in the making. The members were recognized for their longevity and commitment to their community, including letters and proclamations from Michigan's governor, the National President of WNF&GA, and the Michigan Division President.



Cinda Schantz, Michigan Division Vice-President, presents Indian River President Renata Miller with a letter of commendation from National President Patty Burnside on behalf of the Executive Board.

Port Huron Garden Club

Thanks to the leadership of Cathy Busdicker and the ladies of her committee, our 89th Christmas Green sale was a great success again this year. The Christmas Greens were hand-delivered to customers for them to enjoy during the holiday season. Everyone also enjoyed a tasty lunch provided by the food committee headed by Sandy Sharpe.

In April, we were delighted to see the results of the Daffodil Project as the daffodils we planted last fall showed their yellow color. Cathy Busdicker, JoAnn Brooks, Ginny Paknikar, and Kathy Emery planted 300 bulbs this fall as part of the annual event. What a great way to introduce Spring with daffodils in bloom!

We were honored to have been awarded \$1,500 from the WNF&GA's 2023 Hazel Herring Civic Improvement Grant. Our thistle had invaded the garden bed at Port Huron Marina, and it had to be cleaned up and replanted. Our Civic Improvement Co-Chairwomen, Janet Knust and JoAnn Brooks worked with a local landscape company who removed the thistle, replenished soil, and replaced dead bushes and trees.

Port Huron Garden Club was established on January 24, 1934, under the leadership of Mrs. David McMorran. In January we will celebrate our 90th birthday and our new executive board will be installed. To celebrate our club's birthday, Julie Moulds, our historian, is very busy preparing several events to take place throughout the coming year. Please send best wishes as we celebrate this special occasion for our club.

Likewise, we extend our best wishes to our sister garden branches for a very happy 2024.

Ginny Paknikar
President



Preparing to deliver orders for greens delivery.



*clean up at 1 of the branch's 6 gardens.
Back left to right: Kelly Bringard, Cathy Busdicker, Cindy Friend, Colleen Everett, Janet Knust. Front left to right: Julie Moulds, Linda Kearns.*



*Attending Daffodil Days. Back standing: Cathy Lozen, Julie Moulds, Margo Fox
Sitting left to right, Colleen Everett, Cathy Busdicker, Marion Forrest, JoAnn*



National Meeting 2024

by National President Patty Burnside

The Executive Committee is in final negotiations with three hotels to get our members the most cost-effective venue for our meetings, outings, and meals. More information will be coming your way soon through your branch president. Post-Covid prices are higher than ever for transportation, food, housing, room rental for meetings, AV charges, admission fees, etc. Please note that the fiscally responsible committee is working very hard to keep the trip costs down for our members.





Looking for a Few Good Women or Men

by National President Patty Burnside

In an ideal world, I would be able to call each of you individually to learn your strengths and to ask you where you see yourself best serving WNF&GA. Many have volunteered in their positions for a long time and would love to mentor their replacements to carry on the organization. When one joins an organization, she/he is obliged to participate, utilize her/his talents, and assume occasional leadership roles. Is it your turn?

Please consider putting yourself in one of those roles that needs to be filled. What are you interested in? How can you use your aptitudes for the betterment of WNF&GA? In what committee or position would you best fit? These are the kind of questions I would ask you in a conversation. Following that, I would ask you to step up and be involved. Since it would be impossible to call all of you, I must rely on you to drop me a note on your willingness to be one of the "Few Good Women or Men." Or if there is someone in your branch whose abilities you admire, also send me a message with that member's contact information and I will contact her/him.

My Saginaw Branch's motto is "Whatever you like to do, we have a place for you." What would you like to do? Just let me know and the Executive Committee will get you involved.



Happy
Holiday