



Farm & Garden Newsletter

Woman's National Farm
& Garden Association 2023



President's Message

It's Coming on Fall

by Patty Freier 8/31/2023

Cool temps overnight and crisp air in the morning,
dew on the windshields and lawns.
Sumac and maples changing their hues,
yellow, orange, and red on the roadsides and fields.
Produce stands full of fall fruit and veggies,
the harvest for canning, jams and warm soups.
Orchards for picking, cider and donuts galore,
favorite apples, peaches and pears by the bushel.
Kids back to school, yellow busses on the roads,
keep them safe wherever they go.
Baseball winding down, football ramping up,
tailgating, hot chocolate and spiced drinks.
Sweatshirts and hoodies, scarves and mittens to follow,
and keep a hat handy too.
Fishing and hunting, the bounty is endless,
tight lines and time for orange camo.
Sleeping with blankets instead of just sheets,
it's wonderful being tucked in and cozy.
Soon leaves will be falling, raked, bagged or piled,
be sure to pull out the sticks.
The smell of leaves burning, autumn's own sweet perfume,
unique like no other scent.
Cool temps overnight and crisp air in the morning,
it's coming on fall.
I can hardly wait.

I am sharing this poem written by one of my former students. It is so fitting as I sit here preparing this newsletter. Outside – the leaves are falling, the skies are grey, and a chilly breeze is announcing Fall's message, "I'm here! The wait is over!" Fall definitely is my favorite season. I hope you, too, are enjoying it.



Patty Burnside
National President WNF&GA
2022 -2024

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





National Meeting – Save the Dates

By Patty Burnside

I am currently **in negotiations** with Hershey to secure a block of rooms, speakers, tours, and meeting rooms. I am asking for Thursday 5/16/24 arrival and Sunday 5/18/24 departure. The cost will be \$239 per night for a room with 2 queen beds or 1 king bed. Included in your stay at the Hershey Lodge:

- Complimentary self-parking
- Complimentary individual transportation to and from local Hershey area attractions
- Complimentary guestroom internet access
- Complimentary admission to the Hershey Gardens featuring an \$8 million dollar butterfly atrium and the Hershey Story/Museum (Combined cost of \$30 per person)
- Complimentary access to our 30,000 square foot indoor water complex, state of the art fitness center and resort grounds with tennis, basketball, and an 18-hole mini golf course
- No resort or facility fees
- And of course, a Hershey's chocolate bar upon check-in

You are receiving this information as a courtesy since I have been getting so many questions. No contracts yet have been signed and nothing is confirmed. Please **DO NOT ASSUME** you can book at this time. This article is to let you know that plans are in the works. Rest assured that you will be notified when plans are finalized in writing.



Lapeer Wildflowers Doings

By Barb Reehl

The Lapeer Wildflowers have had a busy summer. The biggest project was rebuilding the Lapeer Courthouse gardens. The decision to replace the flagpole in front of the Courthouse meant the garden surrounding the flagpole for years would be torn up. As with many changes, this was an opportunity for the Wildflowers to reinvent this garden. The area around the new flagpole was bigger and four paver paths had been put in around the flagpole going from the surrounding wall to the center. We had these pathways constructed into the peace symbol and now refer to this as the Peace Garden. With four separate sections to plant we used some of the original plants and purchased many new plants to complete the garden.

In addition to the Peace Garden, the Wildflowers decided on a renovation of the gardens on either side of the steps leading up to the Courthouse porch. Though these gardens had been maintained by the branch for a long time, a more formal look for the Historic Lapeer Courthouse was considered. A background of newly planted grasses and existing hydrangeas form the basis of these two gardens. Additional plants will be added in the spring. The Wildflowers will have a plant sale in the spring to sell plants that were removed from these areas. The Branch also continues to work at the Lapeer Post Office, planting hydrangeas, mums, and daffodils in the front garden.



Peace Garden at the Courthouse



Garden on one side of the Lapeer Courthouse Stairs



Patty Bradshaw and Sandy Vukonich

The Milford Garden Club

By President Susan Absher



The Milford Garden Club is celebrating its 75th birthday this year. Past presidents and current members felt we were overdue for a permanent logo that would define our organization. Our Logo is a melding of the past and present. The vintage wheelbarrow symbolizes many things to our members: gardening is hard work and a labor of love; it is a “beast of burden” that carries our tools, soil, mulch, and flowers to be planted. In early newsletters, the vine was part of its masthead, and, so, it was incorporated into the Logo.

Today, as robust gardeners, we plan for a three-four season garden, and the flowers in the Logo reflect our passion. We pot pansies when winter is still lurking in the shadows. We anticipate our hyacinth and daffodils pushing through the earth to welcome spring. Clematis, hydrangea, and daylilies are planted to ensure bountiful color and texture for the summer months while helenium and asters brighten an autumn day. Although planting may come to a halt in the winter, we leave the remnants of our garden to provide interest and a safe haven for the pollinators.

The Logo is used for our stationery and notecards. It is displayed on both our Website and Facebook pages. Furthermore, it is used to embroider clothing of the members’ choosing. Twice a year, embroidery opportunities are offered to the members. The clothing is worn at our Plant Sale, Garden Walk, and Garden Maintenance spring plantings and fall clean-ups, and so forth.

The Logo was long overdue, but now we have a consistent and recognizable design that is only Ours, The Milford Garden Club.



Susan Absher, President on left. Nancy Nordin, VP of Programs & Meetings on right wearing embroidered clothing with new logo.

Troy Garden Club

By Linda Forrester & Karol Carter

The summer flew by after another successful mid-July Troy Garden Walk. We enjoyed a few activities in our month off. Thirty members attended our August Members Garden Walk. The Walk featured seven gardens with a pause in between for lunch. A fun day was had by all, with promises to do this again next year. A few weeks later, thirty plus members and guests attended a very interesting field trip arranged by member Mary Schwark. We began with a private tour of the Scarab Club located in the Cultural Center Historic District of Detroit, MI. The Scarab Club, incorporated in 1913, serves as an artists’ club, a gallery, and a studio. TGC member Marilyn Frey is Head Volunteer of the volunteer-maintained Scarab Club Garden. She provided a lecture and tour. We had lunch under the noteworthy ceiling beams in the second story lounge. The beams have been signed by numerous famous artists who have visited in the past. Notable signers include Norman Rockwell, Diego Rivera, and Jackson Pollock. After lunch we walked across the street to the Detroit Institute of Arts museum for a docent-led tour of superb art. It was a very informative day.

In October members helped with Trick or Treat activities at the Troy Historic Village (THV). This year’s theme was Fairy Tales and Folklore. Our print shop location was transformed into a Unicorn hang out by member Debe Hancock. November 1st, we put our THV gardens to bed, just in time to decorate the village for the holidays. At our November meeting, we organize a collection of requested items to stock the Troy People Concerned (TPC) food pantry at St.

Anastasia Church. December we will host a donations' drive to benefit TPC. Our last meeting of the year will be celebrated with a delicious member-provided lunch along with our annual tradition of a rousing performance by the Troy High School Concert Choir. Two TGC Volunteers of the Year will be recognized. We will leave the meeting instilled with the holiday spirit!



Troy Garden Members at the Scarab Club Garden



Mary Bacella, Lenore Treba, Judy Francis, Barb Lepri and Bev Hydo



Jennifer Goldstein enjoying her garden



Marilyn Frey explaining the history of the Scarab Club Garden



Jackie Wilson and Jeanne Bolcer admiring Karen Gray's Garden

Ambler Keystone Chapter Round up of Activities 2023

By Tessie McNeely

The Ambler Keystone chapter has focused on community environmental education and action, through multiple events. We endeavored to bring awareness to our members and to our local community on sustainability and stewardship of the environment.



Cindy Nuss (left) and Joanne Pekter (right) work in the native plant demonstration garden in Twining Valley Park, Upper Dublin, PA, October 2023

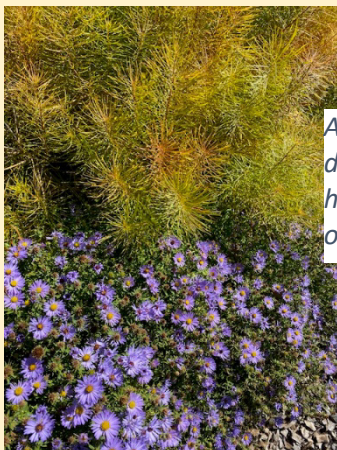
1. **Book Review & Discussion:** Robin Wall Kimmerer's book, *Braiding Sweetgrass*, was an educational focus. In January, chapter members discussed the author's philosophy of balanced reciprocity between the living world and humans, and how this philosophy should affect human action upon the environment. In March, in a joint meeting held with the Bucks County WNFGA Branch, we watched a video presentation by Robin Wall Kimmerer, followed by group discussion of lessons learned and future implementation of environmental sustainability objectives.

2. **Community outreach:** In March, April and May, the Ambler Keystone branch members participated in several local Earth Day events including a) a table and poster on native plants, emphasizing the need for habitat stewardship, at the Upper Dublin Environmental Day, b) a table, poster and literature at the Hatboro Environmental

Day, c) a table at the Ambler EarthFest with educational outreach, and d) a table with educational materials and native plants at the Skippack Spring Fest. WNFGA representatives answered questions around growing native rather than invasive plants, and sustainable stewardship of the land. Homeowners were particularly interested to learn which native plants would be best for their property, and which would be best to support insects and pollinators.

3. **Native plant demonstration garden:** The chapter continued work on our lovely and highly educational native plant garden, under the direction of member Cindy Nuss. This garden features over 150 different species of native perennials, trees, shrubs, ground covers and vines. Plant tags with Latin and common names were installed this spring, as well as an accessible pathway made of permeable macadam. Members work in the garden on a weekly basis. In the later part of the year, the garden was expanded with hundreds of new trees, shrubs, and perennials. The public has been very interested and supportive of the garden and the gardeners, frequently stopping to chat about the plants and the mission of the garden. The chapter held our yearly native plant sale at the demonstration garden. This allowed customers to see how mature plants would look in a garden setting. Support for the garden is contributed by the Parks and Recreation Department of Upper Dublin, PA.

4. **Native seed saving:** Chapter members harvested seeds from dozens of native plants, including plants in the demonstration garden. Seeds were cleaned and packaged. Seed packets will be deposited into the local library seed bank, for free distribution to community members.



Autumn flowers in the native plant demonstration garden, *Amsonia hubrichtii* and *Symphyotrichum oblongifolium*



Autumn flowering, eye-catching yellow *Helenium angustifolius* in the native plant demonstration garden



Preparing for Hershey Gardens By Patty Burnside

If you go to [Home - Hershey Gardens](#), you will find an excellent orientation to view before the National Meeting. Be sure to open the categories in the top green banner. There is even a drone aerial overview of the grounds. From the home page, *Twigs & Gigs*, the newsletter for the gardens is accessible and is interesting to read. A recurring event is the Eco-Fiction Book Club. There you will find a listing of current books being read that may be of interest to you. For more information on the book club contact Vera Kolstrom at velkolstrom@hersheygardens.org or 717-508-5970.

Perhaps you are planning to extend your stay. Information on other attractions can be found at [Unwrap Your Chocolate Adventure | HERSHEY'S CHOCOLATE WORLD](#). Of course, there are other non-Hershey attractions for this popular tourist town that can be located through [hershey pennsylvania attractions - Search \(bing.com\)](#). Finally, our contact at Hershey Entertainment noted there are some stores and boutiques in the town of Hershey as well as a Tanger Outlet Mall just outside of Hershey.

Before arriving for the National Meeting, you are encouraged to do some reconnaissance through the Internet. There may be some interesting places or events that you won't want to miss.

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.

Presidents: 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.

Directors and Chairpersons: 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.

<p>NOV – DEC 2023 ISSUE</p> <p>DEC. 15, 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AGRICULTURE - JOETTE KUNSE JKHORSES@COMCAST.NET • OH DOORYARD BRANCH – MARY JO BOCKRATH BOCKFARM@BRIGHT.NET
<p>JAN – FEB 2024 ISSUE</p> <p>FEB. 15, 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articles from Branches • MI Division's annual reports for 2023 - Sue Malone smalnewgc@gmail.com • Articles from Branches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Franklin Branch (co-pres.) - Barbara Borden bborden123@gmail.com & Amy Stevenson amystevenson960@gmail.com <p style="text-align: right;">(Jan- Feb continued on next page)</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Romeo & Juliet Garden Club - Kathy Bruggeman kathysellsfast@gmail.com ○ Grosse Pointe Shores Branch – Shirley Hartert shirleyhartertpta@comcast.com ○ Plymouth Branch - Judy Krieman jjkrieman@gmail.com ○ PA Bucks County Branch – Barbara Shaeffer bjshaef@gmail.com
MAR – APR 2024 ISSUE APR. 15, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 Nominations announced for 2024 – 2026 (Nominating Committee) • National: Call to Meeting 2024 - Patty Burnside pb@chartermi.net • Articles from Branches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Saginaw Branch – Kathy Meinschein kmeinl77@gmail.com ○ Port Huron Garden Club – Ginny Paknikar caring4u27@yahoo.com ○ County Downs – (co-pres.) Pamela Haxton phaxton6@gmail.com & Justina Misuraca jmisuraca@gmail.com ○ NY Cambridge Branch – Bea Peterson beapeterson@gmail.com ○ Moonglow Branch – Ginger Dean gingerdean25197@outlook.com
MY – JU 2024 ISSUE JUNE 15, 2024	<p>Announcement of elected Executive Committee for 2024 – 2026 (Nominating Committee)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articles from Branches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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



How to get an Amaryllis Bulb to Rebloom

As Christmas approaches, many of us will purchase amaryllis bulbs, and did you know they can be rejuvenated to bloom the following year? Here is how according to Longfield Gardens' website at [How to Get an Amaryllis Bulb to Rebloom \(longfield-gardens.com\)](https://www.longfield-gardens.com/How-to-Get-an-Amaryllis-Bulb-to-Rebloom):

Save the Bulb and Enjoy Another Year of Flowers

There's nothing difficult about getting an amaryllis bulb to bloom a second time. But you do need to be prepared to wait almost a full year for more flowers. During that time, you'll be helping the bulb build up enough energy to bloom again. Here's how to do it:

Remove the Flowers and Stalks. Snip off the flowers as they fade and then cut the stems short, to within an inch the bulb. If you grew the bulb in water rather than soil, transplant it into a pot with a drainage hole, leaving the top half of the bulb above the soil surface. Be sure to select a pot that's deep enough to accommodate several inches of roots beneath the bulb.

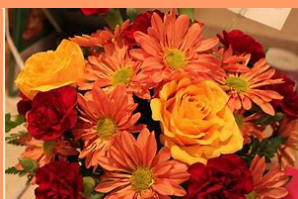
Give It Sun. After the bulb has flowered, it will send out 3 to 6 long, strap-like leaves. As with other flower bulbs, amaryllis use their leaves to produce energy for next year's flowers. During this time, it's important for the plant to receive plenty of light. Grow your amaryllis like a houseplant for the rest of winter and spring. After danger of frost

has passed, you can move the pot outside for the summer. Once outdoors, keep your amaryllis in a sunny spot, but protect the foliage from hot afternoon sun.

Feed and Don't Overwater. Amaryllis are happy to grow in pots and this is also a good way to minimize the risk of overwatering. The bulb should stay dry and the soil should be barely moist -- never soggy. If your summers are wet, you may need to shield the pot from rain. Fertilize once or twice a month so the leaves stay lush and green.

Let It Rest. In late summer or early fall, stop watering and move the potted bulb to a cool (55°F), dry location, away from bright light. A basement or garage is ideal. The leaves will gradually wither as the plant goes dormant. Leave the bulb alone and don't water it.

Repot for a Second Appearance. After your amaryllis has rested for 2 to 5 months, you can start again. There's no rush, so if you have several bulbs you may want to start them at different times. Repot the bulb using fresh growing mix. Water once and move the pot into a bright, 60-65°F room. Water sparingly until the bulb is in active growth.



**"Autumn...the year's last, loveliest smile"
- William Cullen Bryant**

