



Serendipity

WISCONSIN GARDEN CLUB FEDERATION
96th Annual Convention May 19 to 21, 2024



Hosted by Milwaukee District
Milwaukee Marriott West Waukesha, WI

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Hosted by Milwaukee District
Milwaukee Marriott West
W231 N1600 Corporate Court • Waukesha, WI

WELCOME



Kitty Larkin, Chairman, Kerry Krokos and Norma McReynolds, Vice-Chairmen

The members of Milwaukee District welcome you to the 96th Annual Business Meeting and Convention of the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation (WGCF) May 19 to 21, 2024 at the Milwaukee Marriott West, W231 N1600 Corporate Court, in Waukesha, WI. All efforts have been made to bring a serendipitous event to WGCF members with informative and interesting speakers and creative and fun workshops and breakout sessions.

The convention begins Sunday evening when we will hear from Mark Dwyer, the recipient of the WGCF Bronze Award. The evening will end with Mark and our Central Region Director, Lynne Ehnert, being honored at a dessert reception planned by Nicholas Lemus.

Monday speakers include Pam Karlson of Chicago, who will share her inspiring story of building and maintaining a bird oasis, and Virginia Small, an award-winning journalist, who writes and talks about historic landscapes, public spaces and environmental issues. Virginia's presentation will be preceded by a social hour with easy listening music by Frank Sternisha. Tuesday's luncheon will feature Doug Jaeger, a Certified Florist who began his floral designing career with WGCF and National Garden Clubs (NGC).

WGCF members are leading three serendipitous workshops: one workshop for creating a peace post and two workshops on building a wren house. Our breakout sessions emphasize some of the workings of NGC and include parliamentary procedure led by Liz Murken and Kitty Larkin and photography, which is a Botanical Arts Division at flower shows, with Kathleen Grieger, photographer.

Kerry Krokos, Convention Vice Chairman, coordinated the 10 informative education exhibits on display in the hallway. Be sure to check them out along with the Tisket-a-Tasket baskets that districts, clubs and individuals donated for the WGCF raffle which Nancy Gregory, WGCF 2nd Vice President, organized. For your shopping enjoyment, Diane Olsen, Convention Vendors Chairman, invited many vendors to participate in a mini-craft fair.

As you will see, there are many ways that serendipity is part of our gardening experience. Welcome to Serendipity and for joining in the fun.



(n) finding something good without looking for it

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SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MAY 19, 2024

PRE-CONVENTION ACTIVITIES

- 10:00 am-1:30 pm **WGCF Flower Show Judges Council Meeting and Luncheon** Geneva
- 10:00 am-5:00 pm **Ways and Means and Commercial (Vendors) Exhibits** (Diane Olsen, Milwaukee District Director) .. Madison
Educational Exhibits (Kerry Krokos, Convention Vice Chairman) Hallway
- 11:00 am-5:30 pm **REGISTRATION** Lobby
- 11:00 am-5:30 pm **Ticket-a-Tasket, WGCF Fund Raiser** (Nancy Gregory, WGCF Second Vice President) Chippewa
- 2:00 pm **Tri-Council Meeting** Geneva
- 3:30 pm **Board of Directors Meeting** (WGCF Executive Committee, WGCF Chairmen and Committee Members) *Wausau*
- **Inspiration:** Jan Dixon, Madison District Director
 - **Presiding:** Linda McCafferty, WGCF President
 - **Epilogue:** Lynnette Rakun, WGCF Finance Committee Chairman

CONVENTION ACTIVITIES

- 5:30 pm **Social** Hallway
- 6:30 pm **BANQUET, PROGRAM and RECEPTION** Superior, Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Geneva (SWMG)
- **Serendipity Theme:** "As the Worm Turns"
 - **Presiding:** Linda McCafferty, WGCF President
 - **Inspiration:** Marsha Caporaso, Milwaukee District First Vice Director
 - **Honoring:** Past NGC President, Past Central Region Directors, Past WGCF Presidents
 - **Introduction of Central Region Director:** Joe Powelka, WGCF First Vice President
 - **Central Region Director:** Lynne Ehnert
 - **Presentation of Bronze Award:** Linda McCafferty, WGCF President
 - **Introduction of Speaker:** Maureen Wild-Gordon, WGCF Financial Review Chairman
 - **Program:** "Gardening Wonders" - Mark Dwyer
 - **Reception Music:** Carmen Risi
 - **Centerpieces and Table Favors:** Garden Club of Greater Milwaukee
 - **Thanks to Milwaukee District Garden Clubs, Reception Sponsor**



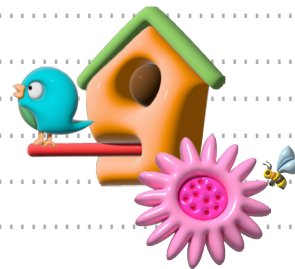
Synonyms: Fluke. Happenstance. Blessing. Break.

MONDAY, MAY 20, 2024



Breakfast on Your Own

8:00-11:45 am	REGISTRATION	Lobby
8:00 am-Noon	Ticket-a-Tasket	Chippewa
	Ways and Means and Commercial (Vendors) Exhibits	Madison
	Educational Exhibits	Hallway
9:00 am	96th ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING	Wausau
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presiding: Linda McCafferty, WGCF President • Inspiration: Susan Johanson, WGCF Membership Secretary • Flag Ceremony: Brownie Troop 1427 and Laura Grebe, Troop Leader, St. Dominic School in Brookfield • National Anthem: Marion Books, Floral Designers of Wisconsin Garden Club • Convention Rules: Liz Murken, WGCF Parliamentarian • Introduction of Convention Chairmen: Joe Powelka, WGCF First Vice President • Welcome: Diane Olsen, Milwaukee District Director • Welcome: Shawn N. Reilly, Mayor of Waukesha • Response: Roger Greathead, WGCF Grants Chairman • Credentials Report: Susan Johansen, Convention Credentials Chairman • Registration Report: Norma McReynolds, Convention Registration Chairman • Scholarships: Mary Ellen Sedlachek, WGCF Scholarship Chairman • Grants Presentation: Roger Greathead, WGCF Grants Chairman 	
12:00 noon	LUNCHEON AND PROGRAM	Superior, Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Geneva (SWMG)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serendipity Theme: "When Pigs Fly" • Presiding: Joe Powelka, WGCF First Vice President • Inspiration: Kathy Shaw, WGCF Bird Chairman • Honoring: 4- and 5-Star Members and WGCF, Central Region and NGC Life Members • New WGCF Life Memberships: Lucy Valitchka, WGCF Life Member Chairman • Introduction of Speaker: Nancy Gregory, WGCF Second Vice President • Program: "Birds in the Garden - Creating and Enjoying a Bird Oasis" - Pam Karlson • Centerpieces and Table Favors: Western Acres Garden Club 	
2:00-5:30 pm	REGISTRATION	Lobby
2:00-5:30 pm	Ticket-a-Tasket	Chippewa
	Ways and Means and Commercial (Vendors) Exhibits	Madison
	Educational Exhibits	Hallway
2:30-4:00 pm	Workshop: Build a Wren House	Bayside
2:30-4:00 pm	Workshop: Create a 4-Foot Peace Post	Shorewood and North Bay
5:00-6:30 pm	Social	Hallway
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy Listening Music: Frank Sternisha 	
6:30 pm	BANQUET AND PROGRAM	Superior, Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Geneva (SWMG)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serendipity Theme: "The Trifecta" • Presiding: Linda McCafferty, WGCF President • Inspiration: Pat Greathead, Madison District Treasurer • Honoring: Past Lydia Schafer Recipients, Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design Consultants • Awards: Ruth West Horticulture Award, "...And Then Some" V. I. P Award, Laura Skoff Garden for Wildlife Award, Garden Club of the Year, Creative Horticulture Award and Lydia Schafer Award • Introduction of Speaker: Gerianne Holzman, WGCF Tri-Council Chairman and NGC Third Vice President • Program: "Gardeners as Stewards - We Can All Foster Ecology Resilience and Beauty" - Virginia Small • Centerpieces and Table Favors: Town & Country Garden Club • Thanks to WGCF Tri-Council, Program Sponsor 	



TUESDAY MAY 21, 2024



	<i>Breakfast on Your Own</i>	
8:00 am–Noon	REGISTRATION	Hallway
8:00–11:00 am	Ticket-a-Tasket	Chippewa
	Ways and Means and Commercial (Vendors) Exhibits	Madison
	Educational Exhibits	Hallway
9:00–10:00 am	96TH ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING RECONVENES	Wausau
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Presiding: Linda McCafferty, WGCF President</i> • <i>Memorial Service: Laura Skoff, WGCF Memorials and Tributes Chairman</i> • <i>Awards: Wisconsin Civic Achievement Award, Certificate of Merit, Kuether District Membership Award, Yearbooks, Pat Dvorak Yearbook Theme Award and Knox Garden Club Visibility Award</i> • <i>Invitation to 2025 Convention: Hosted by St. Croix District – Debby Walters, Convention Chairman</i> 	
10:30–11:45 am	Workshop: Build a Wren House	Bayside
10:30–11:30 am	Breakout Session: Photography – Kathleen Grieger	North Bay
10:30–11:30 am	Breakout Session: Parliamentary Procedure – Kitty Larkin and Liz MurkenWausau	Wausau
11:00 am	Pull Winning Ticket-a-Tasket Tickets – Winning Tickets Will Be Posted	Chippewa
11:30 am	Pick Up Winning Ticket-a-Tasket Baskets	Chippewa
12:00 Noon	LUNCHEON AND PROGRAM	Superior, Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Geneva (SWMG)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Serendipity Theme: "Compost Happens"</i> • <i>Presiding: Linda McCafferty, WGCF President</i> • <i>Inspiration: Karen Merlau, Sheybogan District Director</i> • <i>Honoring: Judges Council Presidents and Judges</i> • <i>Awards: Flower Show Awards, Wisconsin Judges Council Educational Award and Ruth Smith Evaluation Award</i> • <i>Final Credentials Report: Susan Johansen, Convention Credentials Chairman</i> • <i>Final Registration Report: Norma McReynolds, Convention Registration Chairman</i> • <i>Introduction of Speaker: Carol Catlin, Floral Designers of Wisconsin Garden Club</i> • <i>Program: "Serendipity Designs" – Doug Jaeger assisted by Paul Averdung</i> • <i>Epilogue: Elvera Jacot, Botany Bells and Beaus Garden Club</i> • <i>Centerpieces: Floral Designers of Wisconsin Garden Club</i> • <i>Thanks to Floral Designers of Wisconsin Garden Club, Program Sponsor</i> 	
2:00 pm	WGCF 96th Annual Meeting and Convention ADJOURNS . . .	Superior, Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Geneva (SWMG)



Serendipity

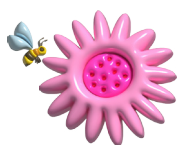
Risk-taking, trust and serendipity are key ingredients of joy.

Without risk, nothing new ever happens.

Without trust, fear creeps in.

Without serendipity, there are no surprises.

~ Rita Gelman, American author





Used in a sentence: It is a pleasure to experience the serendipity of nature.

WORKSHOPS AND BREAKOUTS

WORKSHOP: CREATE A 4-FOOT PEACE POST

2:30 to 4:00 pm, Monday in Shorewood and North Bay

Participants will decorate a 4-foot cedar poles that is topped with a solar light. The poles will withstand the weather because they have already been primed and painted. There will be assorted tiles, rub-on transfers and paint to with which to decorate your pole. This workshop is closed.

WORKSHOP: BUILD A WREN HOUSE

2:30 to 4:00 pm, Monday in Bayaside

10:30 to 11:45 am, Tuesday in Bayaside

Participants will work with a partner to assemble a wren house that is primed and painted with pre-drilled screw holes. Once assembled, you can channel your inner creative self and make the house your own by applying rub-on transfers or painting. Maureen Wild-Gordon is coordinating the workshops with the help of Mary Ripple and Mary Weber. Cost per bird house is \$10 and extra kits are available for purchase.

BREAKOUT: PHOTOGRAPHY

10:30 to 11:30 am, Tuesday in North Bay

Many garden club members have become more interested in photography as smart phones have continued to improve their cameras. Our workshop leader, Kathleen Grieger, will share tips about how to see and capture the serendipity of nature. You'll be inspired to take better photos for yourself or for entering in a photography class in the Botanical Arts Division at a flower show. Cost is \$5.

BREAKOUT: PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

10:30 to 11:30 am, Tuesday in Wausau

Do you want your meetings to get done more quickly and in an organized manner? Then use parliamentary procedure because it can help you stay on track and out of trouble. Which is proper: "I want to make a motion" or "I move that..."? Our workshop leaders - WGCF Parliamentarian Liz Murken and Milwaukee District Parliamentarian Kitty Larkin - will answer that question and discuss the fundamentals of parliamentary authority to help your garden club conduct meetings and do business efficiently and effectively. Cost is \$5.

EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS

The following educational exhibits are located in the foyer or hallway outside of the meeting and banquet rooms:

- **American Rose Society - Greater Milwaukee Rose Society**
- **Arbor Day** - Karen Merlau
- **Awards** - Doris Weber
- **Environmental Concerns** - Pat Greathead
- **Environmental School** - Karen Merlau
- **Gold Star Marker** - Ann Gratton
- **Herbs** - Pat Greathead
- **Horticulture in a Flower Show** - Sue Donohoe
- **National Garden Week** - Doris Weber
- **Wisconsin Orchid Society**

VENDORS

Our garden-themed, mini-craft fair is located in the Madison Room. It is open from 12:30 to 5:00pm on Sunday, May 19, all day Monday, May 20, and from 8:30am to 12 noon on Tuesday, May 21.

- **Buzzy Bees Honey** - honey and bee products
- **Bob Schaefer Garden Art** - copper garden ornaments
- **Lynda Wallis Nature-Themed Art** - cards, note paper, mugs and totes
- **The Cadillac of Sweatshirts** - Linda Menge, aka the sweatshirt lady, with embellished sweatshirts
- **Susan's Floral Fantasy** - quilted totes, geode and gemstone jewelry
- **Carole Nawrocki Designs** - fused glass garden art
- **Bobs Mostly Bowls** - wooden bowls, charcuterie boards
- **Fresh Jewelry Company** - real flowers encased in clear acrylic and wrapped in sterling silver

TISKET-A-TASKET

Districts, garden clubs and individuals have created baskets for the Tisket-a-Tasket raffle. They are in the Chippewa Room which will be open from noon to 5:30pm on Sunday, May 19, all day Monday, May 20, and from 8:30 to 11:00am on Tuesday, May 21. Winning tickets will be pulled and posted at 11:00am Tuesday, May 21. Be sure to check to see if you won a basket before 11:30am. Proceeds from this fundraiser go to the WGCF.



GUEST OF HONOR



LYNNE EHNERT

Central Region Director
Sunday Banquet, May 19, 2024

It is serendipitous that Lynne Ehnert is our Central Region Director. As a child she did not enjoy weeding the vegetable garden or cutting grass and did not have an appreciation for picking the wild flowers growing along the road. She was not planning to follow in her mother's footsteps and be a gardener or join a garden club.

And then, in 1997, Lynne attended the National Garden Clubs (NGC) convention with her mother, Kitty Larkin, and was pleasantly surprised. When she got home, Lynne joined a garden club and the rest is history. She has held several chairmanships and offices in her club and in the Milwaukee District and Wisconsin Garden Club Federation (WGCF). A former president of the WGCF, Lynne has participated on the NGC Youth Committee, NGC Awards Committee and was NGC Member of Honor Chairman. Lynne is also a Master Flower Show Judge.

Meeting new people while traveling across the United States and some of the South American Countries for garden club activities, has solidified Lynne's interest in the environment. She says, "Let's smile a little more. It's more than just planting a tree or sowing a seed. It's about improving lives while sharing and caring."

BRONZE AWARD WINNER



MARK DWYER

Landscape Prescriptions by MD
Sunday Banquet, May 19, 2024

The Wisconsin Garden Club Federation (WGCF) is pleased to honor Mark Dwyer with its coveted Bronze Award. Mark has devoted more than 30 years to developing beautiful and environmentally-friendly landscapes in Wisconsin.

For 21 years, Mark served as Director of Horticulture of the Rotary Botanical Gardens in Janesville, WI. He has taught college-level landscaping courses and written many articles about horticulture and nursery management for *Fine Gardening*, *Horticulture* and *Nursery Management*. Mark has been a frequent guest on the Wisconsin PBS Radio program, "Garden Talk," and for 13 years he posted almost daily on his Rotary Botanical Gardens blog. He has been a guest speaker for many organizations, garden clubs and Master Gardeners' Associations. Mark is a regular presenter at the PBS Wisconsin Garden and Landscape Expo in Madison.

In 2019, Mark resigned from his directorship at the Janesville Rotary Gardens and began his own business, Landscape Prescriptions by MD. His current business focus is on landscape design, public speaking and writing. He is also the Garden Manager for the Healing Garden at Edgerton Hospital and Health Services in Edgerton, WI. This 3-acre, all-accessible garden was designed by Mark in 2010. It is open to the public and includes native prairie plants, raised beds, sensory plants, a gazebo, water features and public art displays.

Mark holds a Bachelor's degree in landscape architecture from the University of Illinois-Champaign/Urbana and a Master's degree in urban forestry from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. He has taught college students about landscape design and horticulture and shared his knowledge about good gardening and landscape design practices with gardening professionals and the general public.

SPEAKERS, PRESENTERS AND ENTERTAINMENT



PAM KARLSON

"Birds in the Garden - Creating and Enjoying a Bird Oasis"
Monday Luncheon, May 20, 2024

Pam Karlson lives in Chicago, about a half block north of the Kennedy Expressway with an O'Hare runway approach so close that planes fly directly over her house. Despite what may sound like an unfriendly place for birds, Pam looks forward every June to seeing American robins feed serviceberry fruits to their young and ruby-throated hummingbirds sip nectar from penstemon blooms.

Karlson has documented more than 100 species of birds in her 50-foot-wide-by-100-foot-long space filled with more than 200 species of plants. A watercolor painter and graphic designer, she has given presentations to the Chicago Botanic Garden, Wild Ones and at various conferences on creating a bird oasis in the backyard. She's also a Chicago Botanic Garden certified garden designer, and says anyone can create a bird-friendly garden. Pam will share which native plants, shrubs, trees and water sources will provide habitat for birds and other wildlife. She will describe the landscape enhancements in her yard that provide a crucial food source for birds and their chicks.

In addition to her professional work, Pam has been rescuing migratory birds since 2004 as a volunteer with licensed wildlife rescue and rehabilitation organizations.



"I always leave room for serendipity and chance."

~ Ken Stott, Scottish actor



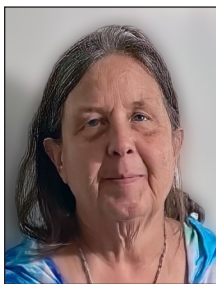
VIRGINIA SMALL

"Gardeners as Stewards - We Can All Foster Ecology Resilience and Beauty"
Monday Banquet, May 20, 2024

In *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, Jane Jacobs wrote that the "ballet of a good city sidewalk never repeats itself...is always replete with new improvisations." Virginia Small is a writer and activist who works in the tradition of Jacobs. She looks at Milwaukee as a sort of dance critic of that always unfolding, urban choreography. She is an insightful observer of the prosaic and the grand, the human and the architectural. She believes, as Jacobs did, that city building is an intimate affair, about knowing neighborhoods and humans first and foremost.

Virginia has expertise in urban and landscape design, and is passionate about sustainability, equitable access to our county parks and preservation of Milwaukee's public spaces. She attended Pius XI High School, where she took her first journalism class, and moved back to Milwaukee a number of years ago after spending many years on the East Coast and in Florida, working for newspapers and a national magazine. She's written about a variety of controversial subjects, from the fate of the Mitchell Park Domes to the destruction of Dan Kiley's landscape architecture at the Marcus Performing Arts Center. She's dug up other stories, too, including the county's quiet razing of a Civilian Conservation Corps building at Witnall Park. Recently, Virginia has been writing more about politics for the *Shepherd Express*, so she's hip deep in the questions of democracy in Milwaukee.

As the author of a book about public and private gardens, Virginia enjoys giving tours of significant local places such as parks designed by Frederick Law Olmsted during Jane's Walk MKE, which is an annual series of walks that she helps organize. Virginia has volunteered, too, with Lake Park Friends, Milwaukee Film and as a writing teacher for the Dominican Center in the Amani neighborhood. Her home is filled with books, art and plants.



KATHLEEN GREIGER

Breakout Session - Photography

Tuesday Morning, May 21, 2024

In the past, when Kathleen (Kathy) Greiger did poetry readings, she would have people close their eyes so their minds could see the image within the words. After she had brain surgery 20 years ago, Kathy's ability to write declined. She decided to grab her camera, and now captures the poetry of nature in her photos.

Kathy's photos have been on display at Boerner Botanical Garden and the Museum of Wisconsin Art (MOWA). They have been sold at Boerner, Mitchell Domes, MOWA and various other places. She has won first-place awards at the Wisconsin State Fair, Fond du Lac art shows, Mitchell Domes and more.

Kathy, who is from Menominee Falls, enjoys inspiring others to look at nature differently...to experience and record the serendipity of nature.



DOUG JAEGER

"Serendipity Designs"

Tuesday Luncheon, May 21, 2024

Doug Jaeger eats, sleeps and breathes flowers. Currently, Doug is the floral manager at Pick 'n Save in Oak Creek where he oversees the day-to-day activities of running the floral department. He is a Certified Florist - the only one in the Milwaukee Roundy's Division. Doug became a Certified Florist in 2012 through the Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Floral Association (WUMFA) and is one of about 12 in Wisconsin.

Doug is active in WUMFA having been a past board member and currently serving on the Education Committee/ Instructor and Director for the 414 area code. He attends the yearly WUMFA convention and enters a floral design in the annual floral design competition.

To stay up-to-date on the latest floral trends, Doug attended the American Institute of Floral Design annual convention in Chicago this past year. At the convention, he worked with and learned along-side some of the top professionals in the floral industry (designers from around the world) including Gregor Lersh EMF, AIFD, Hitomi Gilliam AIFD, Per Benjamin EMF, AIFD and Max van de Sluis EMF, AIFD.

Doug is a Life Member of National Garden Clubs (NGC) and attained the status of a flower show judge. He helped establish and was an active member of the Floral Designers of Wisconsin Garden Club. He held many offices and leadership positions including serving as a former Director of Milwaukee District Garden Clubs.

When Doug is not working or attending a workshop, he likes to share what he has learned about the principles and elements of floral design. About 5 years ago, Doug and a friend started a floral design group called "Floral Artisans" who attend monthly classes in his home.



CARMEN RISI

Entertainment

Sunday Evening Dessert Reception

Growing up in a musical family, Carmen has been a performer most of her life. She has sung and played with groups such as Jonathan Overby's Highway to Heaven jazz band and the Kenosha based Twang Shui. Onstage, she has been seen at Milwaukee's Skylight Music Theatre in *Kiss Me Kate* and *Hot Mikado*. She has also appeared with many theaters in Chicago and Door County's Third Avenue Playworks. Carmen's music director credits include the recent *Peter and the Starcatcher* at UW-Parkside as well as *Urinetown* and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Carmen was a school music teacher for many years and currently maintains a private studio of voice and piano students.

ANNUAL MEETING STANDING RULES

WISCONSIN GARDEN CLUB FEDERATION 2024 ANNUAL MEETING AND CONVENTION



The Annual Meeting Standing Rules shall be approved at the opening of each Annual Meeting for adoption by the delegates.

These Standing Rules are those procedures which apply only to the Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation (WGCF). They are based on the most current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, as applicable to the WGCF under the most current bylaws.

1. Only those with Official Delegate cards and paddles shall be seated with the voting body.
2. Minutes of the Annual Meeting, Board of Directors Meetings and the Executive Meeting shall be corrected by a committee of the body, appointed by the President. Approval shall be reported by the Committee Chairman.
3. Guests may be invited to a State Convention, but they may not vote, debate, make motions, hold office, or serve on Standing Committees. They shall pay the same fee as a regular member to attend the meeting.
4. No member shall speak in debate more than once on the same question on the same day or longer than two (2) minutes without permission of the convention granted by 2/3 vote without debate.
5. All resolutions, other than courtesy, to come before the Annual Meeting shall be sent to the Parliamentarian, in writing, at least two weeks before the meeting convenes.
6. No resolutions presented by an individual shall be considered at the Annual Meeting unless approved by the club of the member.
7. In an election year, the names of WGCF Chairmen, as approved by the Board of Directors shall be read.
8. All cellphones must be turned off or set in the vibrating position.

VOTING CREDENTIALS

WISCONSIN GARDEN CLUB FEDERATION BYLAW, ARTICLE XIII, SECTION 3, VOTING BODY

The voting body of the Annual Business Meeting shall be the club delegate(s), the members of the Board of Directors and the Past Wisconsin Garden Club Federation (WGCF) Presidents, who are delegates-at-large. Each shall be entitled to one vote, which shall be cast in person.

1. The club president or alternate shall serve as a delegate.
2. Additional delegates shall be based on paid membership:
 - a. Membership of 25-49 = one additional delegate
 - b. Members of 50-74 = two additional delegates
 - c. Membership of 75 or over = three additional delegates
3. Each club shall be entitled to as many alternates as delegates.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS REPORTS

WISCONSIN GARDEN CLUB FEDERATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MID-TERM REPORTS

All Wisconsin Garden Club Federation (WGCF) Board of Directors (BOD) members must submit their mid-term reports by May 10, 2024 to Susan Wallace, Recording Secretary. The BOD reports are included as part of the annual business meeting minutes and posted in the members-only section of the WGCF website.

Officers, District Directors and Committee Chairs, please send reports to Susan at naffer65@gmail.com. BOD members may also provide a verbal presentation in addition to their electronic reports. These are limited to two minutes, except for the President. To expedite the meeting and allow everyone an equal opportunity, timekeepers will announce the expiration of this time limit. Thank you for respecting and adhering to this rule.



I believe in serendipity, but I also believe there are times when you have to be the one who lines up everything so it can fall into place.

~ Susan Stroman, American director and choreographer

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The WGCF Convention Committee extends a grateful thank you to the staff and management of Milwaukee Marriott West for making our 96th Convention a success.

Additional thanks are extended to:

- Flag ceremony – Olivia Jones, Ella Young, Kendall White, Amelia Slaby and Eve Rothwell of Brownie Troop 1427 from St. Dominic School in Brookfield and their troop leader, Laura Grebe
- Special guest – Lynne Ehnert, Central Region Director
- Speakers and presenters – Mark Dwyer, Pam Karlson, Virginia Small, Doug Jaeger and Kathleen Grieger
- Entertainment – Carmen Risi and Frank Sternisha
- Educational exhibitors for the informative displays
- Vendors for sharing their creative talents and wares
- Everyone who donated a Tisket-a-Tasket basket

CONVENTION VOLUNTEERS

A big thanks to everyone – the Milwaukee District Garden Clubs and their members, WGCF officers, board members and committee chairmen and anyone else who helped line up everything so Serendipity could fall into place. Thank you for giving your time, energy and talents:

- Convention chairman – Kitty Larkin
- Convention vice chairmen – Kerry Krokos and Norma McReynolds
- Executive chairman – Linda McCafferty
- Registration – Norma McReynolds and crew: Lynnette Rakin, Linda Reuss, Connie Sandell, Gretchen and Jim Vest and Janet Wintersberger
- Credentials – Susan Johansen
- Pages for honored guests – Chuck McCafferty for Linda McCafferty and Wendy Kramer for Lynne Ehnert
- Education exhibits – Kerry Krokos
- Vendors – Diane Olsen
- Tisket-a-Tasket raffle – Nancy Gregory
- Convention committee chairmen – Kerry Krokos and Dave Zachman, AV equipment; Nicholas Lemus, reception and entertainment; Sylvia Lowell, protocol; Norma McReynolds, logo, program, poster and printed materials; Darlene Otwaska, goodie bags; and Julianne Salamone, food and meals

- Peace posts workshop – Kitty Larkin, Norma McReynolds and Carmel Liberman
- Wren house workshops – Maureen Wild-Gordon, Mary Ripple and Mary Weber
- Centerpieces and table favors – Garden Club of Greater Milwaukee, Western Acres Garden Club, Town & Country Garden Club and Floral Designers of Wisconsin
- Hotel lobby floral design – Nancy Cody
- Floral designs on credenzas in hallway – Lynn Laufenberg and Ikebana International Chapter #22
- Serendipitous items – Lani Becker

SPONSORS

Thank you to the following sponsors for their donations:

- Floral Designers of Wisconsin
- Maureen Wild-Gordon
- Milwaukee District Garden Clubs
- WGCF Tri-Council

REGISTRATION BAGS

Special thanks to Darlene Otwaska for coordinating and assembling our registration “goodie bags.” We appreciate Diane Olsen making the “ask” and securing several items. Thank you to everyone who donated items for the bags:

- Waukesha/Pewaukee Visitor’s Center – pens, hand stress relievers and bags
- Western Acres Garden Club – Serendipity pens
- Racine Garden Club
 - Cookies and plant stakes – Darlene Otwaska
 - Mammoth sunflower seeds – Ruth Mandala
 - Nail brushes – Rose Stehlik
 - Wipes and lifesavers – Heather Hansen
- South Shore Garden Club – lavender sachets
- Diggers Hotline – brochures, pens, refrigerator magnets and bottle openers
- Jung Seeds
- BMO-Harris – note clips
- WGCF – pins
- Red “snap” bags – made by Judy Newman, who was WGCF Convention Vice-Chairman and died Dec. 2, 2023

We apologize if we forgot anyone. We appreciate everyone's help in making this the most serendipitous convention ever!