

Main Identity

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Subject: Notes From Your President

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NOTES FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

THEME FOR 2009-2011

The theme chosen for the 2009-2011 term is “ Our Backyard, A Gateway to the World”. Our planet, Earth, is getting smaller daily due to technology. And the world population is growing. What we do in our backyard affects our families, our neighbors and others around the world. The plants we grow are spread as seeds blow in the wind and are carried by birds and animals that eat the fruit and drop seeds wherever they travel.

Products we use on our lawns and gardens are carried by wind and water to neighbors and then flow into the streams and rivers. Chemical wastes that flow into rivers in our area travel to the Mississippi River and end up in the Gulf of Mexico. In the Gulf of Mexico there is a “dead zone”, where nothing lives. This “dead zone” is caused by pollution, and it is growing and growing. Some reports say that it is the size of the state of Texas.

Rachel Carson, biologist and author of “Silent Spring“ said : “All at last returns to the sea-to Oceanus, the ocean river, like the ever-flowing stream of time, the beginning and the end.”

OUR HISTORY

The Wisconsin Garden Club Federation was organized in 1928. An excerpt from the First Constitution and By-Laws reads: “The object of the organization shall be to help garden clubs throughout the state; to stimulate and develop interest in and broaden the knowledge of gardening; to aid in the protection of trees, plants and birds, and promote civic beautification...”

These are our goals, 81 years later. Members gain knowledge of gardening through the four NGC schools offered in Wisconsin and throughout the country. The 1st Flower Show was held in 1929. The 1st Judging School was in 1930. Flower Show School has continued from 1930 with Series VII finishing in the fall of 2008. Student judges are working on earning exhibiting credits, judging credits and preparing for the handbook exam in October. In 1979 the 1st Gardening Study School was held in Wisconsin. The last Gardening Study Series VI, finished October, 2008. It was held in Fond du Lac. 1988 saw the 1st Landscape Design School in Wisconsin, co-sponsored with Minnesota. Series IX has just begun. Class 1 was held on April 1 and 2 at Longenecker Gardens at the University of Wisconsin Arboretum in Madison. The very first NGC Environmental Study School in the United States was 1993. It was started by Liz Murken and chaired by Julie Schoenike at Mosquito Hill Nature Center. Series IV,

began this year on May 1 and 2, in Milwaukee at Havenwoods Environmental Awareness Center. These schools are excellent opportunities for members and friends to learn more about plants, gardening and the environment.

It was announced at the NGC Convention in Houston, TX, that National Garden Clubs, in partnership with Learn2Grow, has developed an online Garden Studies School. Now one is able to take this course from the convenience of a home on the computer. Go to www.learn2grow.com/ngc for more information.

WEBSITES

There is much information for members about National Garden Club, Central Region and Wisconsin Garden Club Federation on the following websites:

National Garden Club www.gardenclub.org

Central Region is made up of 7 states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa,

Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin. www.NGCCENTRALREGION.ORG

Wisconsin Garden Club www.wisconsinclub.org

NGC CONVENTION

14 WGCF members traveled to Houston, TX, for the NGC Convention, May 13-18th.

Garden tours and committee meetings were held before convention started.

Programs included: "Landscaping with Natives", by Neil Odensald,

Louisiana State Univ. and "Images of Texas: A Flora Response", by Jim

Johnson, Director of Benz School of Floral Design, Texas A&M Univ.

Several awards were presented to Wisconsin Garden Club Members. State

Presidents for 2009-2011 were introduced at the Post Convention Board

Meeting and presented a certificate by Renee Blaschke, NGC President.

President Renee Blaschke's Theme is "The World Around Us-Love It-Beautiful It-Protect It". Her project "Golden Days" promotes planting yellow daffodils across the country. She encourages clubs to remember senior members who are in retirement centers, nursing facilities and those who can no longer actively participate in garden club.

"Beautiful Blight" is a project where clubs are encouraged to partner with other groups in the community to identify blighted areas and to develop these areas into community gardens to provide fresh produce to food pantries, soup kitchens and /or homeless in need.

Members are encouraged to work with youth. There is a new NGC Native Plant patch for Girl Scouts. There is a partnership with Auntie Litter, Inc.. Grants have been applied for to Wal-Mart to distribute an Auntie Litter DVD nationwide. The DVD's will be presented to schools with funding from the grant if it is approved.

WGCF PRESIDENT'S PROJECT

The Robert W. Monk Botanical Garden in Wausau, is off to a great start!

Thank you for your generosity. "Grow Monk Garden" began in Lucy

Valitchka's term of 2007-2009. Please continue to support this project

during the next 2 years. When you are in the Wausau area, stop in to see

how the garden is growing.

From my back yard to yours, Happy Gardening. Be safe and well.

Judy