

Wisconsin Garden Club Federation (WGCF) – Madison District Home Garden Tour 2023

When: 9am-3pm on Saturday, July 15 and 10am-3pm on Sunday, July 16

Tickets Cost: \$15 (Children under 12 free)

Where: Begin at Hometown Junction Park, Railroad St., Verona, WI OR at 1030 Middleton St., Madison, WI

Tickets can be purchased at the above two gardens.

Fundraising proceeds will be used for a scholarship awarded to a first-year college student who is studying horticulture or environmental issues and also for district projects.

The WGCF – Madison District Home Garden Tour features five gardens in the Madison Westside neighborhoods of Fox Ridge, Glen Oak Hills, Midvale Heights, two gardens in the Verona area, and a Sugar River Gardeners Community Food Garden in Verona. The gardens do not use synthetic chemicals, are pollinator friendly and are excellent examples of sustainable gardening. Each garden has been developed to match the unique interests of the gardeners.

Explore the delights of a hummingbird friendly garden. Enjoy the interaction of pottery and plants or the interaction of quilts and plants. Wander through a restored prairie garden. Marvel at the range of *Clematis* in one garden. Examine the character of six unique evergreens and check out the community vegetable garden. We hope this tour will provide you with ideas for your own garden and that you enjoy the tour.

Dorothea Murphy – 459 Rushmore Lane, Madison



Dorothea has been working on her garden since 2008 when she became a Master Gardener. Dorothea is also a quilter and displays quilts around her garden (weather permitting). Her garden is a pesticide free Monarch Butterfly Way Station and each year she lets areas reseed in order to attract pollinators. Dorothea's garden is beautiful filled with color featuring 15 different *Clematis* plants, daylilies, *Hostas*, poppies and a very interesting Serviceberry tree. She shares the garden with rabbits, chipmunks, squirrels, voles, and the occasional fence-climbing cat!

Beth Rathmussen –122 Frigate Drive, Madison



Beth has been gardening at this location for 53 years. Her garden features a hill with a tiered, very textured display of green plants which started with a forget-me-not plant which is still in place. Some unique features of the garden are a Korean fir (*Abies koreana*), purple concord grapes, and many pottery pieces throughout the garden made by Beth and her son.

Michael and Kathi Rock – 5118 Buffalo Trail, Madison



Hummingbird and wildlife gardening have been Kathi and Michael's passion for over 20 years. The garden started with one hummingbird feeder and a pot of *Salvia splendens* in a city yard filled with trees, shrubs and turf grass. Their garden has been transformed with many unusual flowers, including 50 plus varieties of *Salvias*, and nearly 20 hummingbird feeders at the height of the season.

Ken and Jean Nordlund – 1030 Middleton St, Madison



Over several decades, Ken and Jean have cultivated a well-integrated garden of trees, perennial flowers, grasses, annuals, and vegetables. There is a hidden treehouse and a collection of uniquely interestingly misshapen evergreens. Additionally, Ken has developed a pollinator prairie on an adjacent parkland.

Eugenia Beecher – 501 Toepfer Ave., Madison



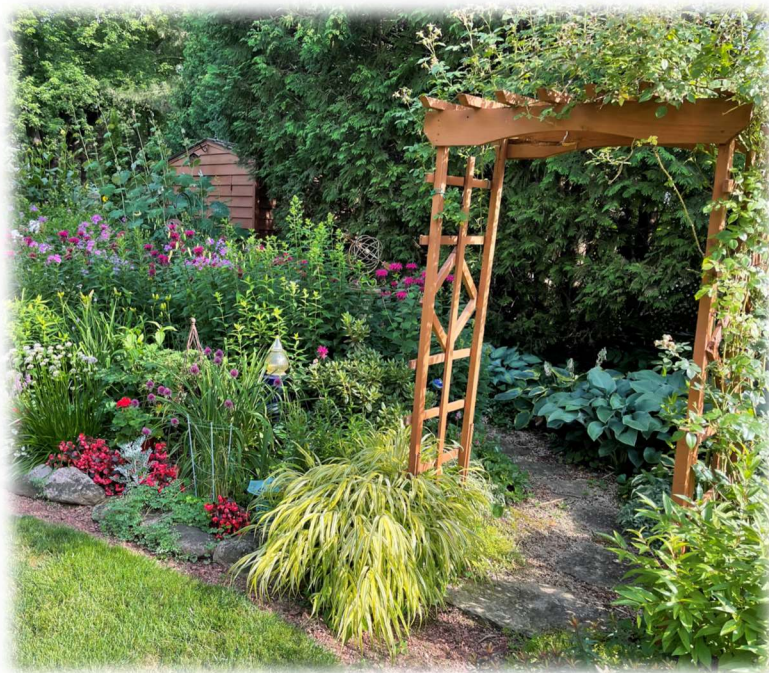
Bienvenue aux Papillons reads the hand-painted sign in a flower bed, warmly welcoming butterflies to feast in Eugenia's garden. 21 years ago, the only vegetation on the property, besides grass, consisted of a birch tree, a *Ginkgo* tree, foundation yews, arborvitaes, and ditch lilies everywhere. The upgrade began with regrading an uneven slope on the north side. After the regrading, a stone wall was built around the perimeter. A brick patio and flag stone path were completed, and the garden began. Flower beds abound around the whole property as well as raised beds for vegetables, and pots full of flowers, vegetables, and herbs. The terraces are planted with prairie and pollinators plants and on the north terrace there is a rain garden. There is a small waterfall off the patio making this an exciting urban garden to visit and relax in.

Roy and Rayanne Predretti – 530 Harvest Lane, Verona



The theme of Roy and Rayanne’s garden is “continuous blooms” From tulips and daffodils in spring, to asters and mums in the fall, color abounds. There are numerous varieties of *Clematis*, coneflower, *Coreopsis*, *Hibiscus*, *Hosta*, *Rudbeckia*, tall phlox, and whatever else strikes their fancy during visits to local garden centers. Several wind spinners and obelisks provide visual interest.

Karen Lee-Wahl – 901 Maple Road, Verona



Karen’s garden dates back to 1993 when she started removing sod and expanding it each year. It is a combination of perennial plants, shrubs, annual flowers and garden art with potted plants as accents. Flowering shrubs added to the landscape provide year round structure and interest, and are tidy with low maintenance. Plants have been chosen to bring blooms to all months of the growing season and attract pollinators. Use of leaf mulch and ground covers provides less dependence on bark mulch. There is a small area with raised beds where leafy vegetables like kale and tomatoes grow. Karen is very happy to have a daylily from her

mother's garden that must be at least 65 years old. Her daughter also has a division of that plant so it will live on for the next generation!

Sugar River Gardeners – Edible Raised Beds – Home Town Junction Park, Railroad St., Verona



The raised beds are a project of Sugar River Gardeners of Verona to offer free vegetables to the public. The site is one of three in Verona that the club plants and maintains every year. They also have raised beds at Harriet Park and Central Park in Verona. Garden club members and volunteers from the community are involved at all locations. The Hometown Junction site has three beds with a rhubarb patch between two of the beds. The public enjoys strolling by and picking a cherry tomato or some lettuce for their supper or perhaps other vegetables grown there like green beans, peppers, or even some wonderful herbs.