

Wisconsin Gardens

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Door County Days – Revisited Gerianne Holzman, Chair

The best garden club event that I ever attended. Fantastic speakers, tours and great food. Wonderful! These are just a few of the comments received after *Door County Days* Multiple Refresher, hosted in June by the WGCF and the Tri-Council.

The Ridges Sanctuary served as the headquarters for the event with speakers and participants arriving from across Wisconsin and Illinois.

Door County Days began with master gardener, Sue Kunz, inspiring participants with a year-round look at *The Garden Door* demonstration garden in lower Door County. Katie Krouse, enthusiastic director of The Ridges Sanctuary, provided a history of the land and the efforts to save this unique environment. The ridges and swales that make up the Sanctuary were formed over 1400 years of Lake Michigan moving forward and back and depositing sand and silt. The Sanctuary became Wisconsin's first land trust in 1937.

Pitcher Plant Flower



Charlotte Lukes, natural enthusiast extraordinaire, got participants up close and personal with the forest floor as she discussed the hundreds of mushroom varieties in and around Door County. She told how they tasted and which not to eat. (Hint: Do not forage unless you know what you are picking.)



Laura Skoff, WGCF
President

The first day ended with a delightful tour of The Ridges Sanctuary traveling through woods, open lands and the shore of Lake Michigan in Bailey's Harbor. The Range Lights were a special treat to tour and learn the history of the lightkeepers. Ranges lights are two separate structures with one having a red light and the other a white light. Boaters line up the two lights and follow that path to safely navigate into Bailey's Harbor. Free time allowed participants to enjoy the splendors of Door County culminating in a traditional fish boil in Fish Creek.

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Making the World a Greener Place



WGCF is a not-for-profit educational organization founded 1928. It is a member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Mission: WGCF provides education, resources and opportunities for its members to promote and share the love of gardening, floral design, civic and environmental responsibility.

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Message from our President



Another beautiful Wisconsin summer is ending with an assortment of autumn hues, to welcome us to fall as we scan our surroundings. The asters, sedum and hardy mums are blooming in all their glory and the tree-lined hills provide “ooh-and-ah” moments as you travel the countryside. If you are like me, pumpkin and gourd gathering is taking place for outdoor arrangements and open windows for nighttime is a pleasurable perk of the season!

Members throughout the state were busy this summer with club events and their personal growing season. WGCF offered a fabulous bi-refresher course this past June in Bailey’s Harbor. It included classes and tours, of the 1,600-acre Ridges Sanctuary nature preserve, that boast of being the first land trust in the state, founded in 1937. The landscape architect Jens Jensen’s Clearing was also toured, where thousands of people have attended courses while working with nature.

The St. Croix District hosted a fun and educational Native Plant Workshop in Chippewa Falls in July that included interesting speakers and a tour of their Native Wildflower Sanctuary. A good time was had by all! The Sheboygan District held their annual garden walk that included this year’s WGCF Bronze Award winner for horticulture excellence Gary Bieck. His gardens were outstanding as were all the homes on the walk this year!

Please welcome the newest club to our organization, the Garden Club of Greater Milwaukee. Many of the members in this new club were formally affiliated with the Milwaukee Art Museum Garden Club, which has dissolved. The talents and dedication of these members will be paramount in the Milwaukee district. The 90th anniversary of the Milwaukee district will be celebrated October 20 with a flower show, luncheon at North Hills Country Club and fall meeting. With all the recent club and district milestone anniversaries, the strength of our organization and dedication of our members and its leaders should be celebrated.

The Central Region Convention is October 16-18 in Bloomington, MN with speakers from the Audubon Society, a peony auction, and tours to a Japanese Garden and Wildlife Refuge. Registration information is online at ngccentralregion.com. Please continue your tree planting as part of NGC’s Plant America and let your club president know the number and varieties planted to share with our district directors and NGC.

Advice From a Tree
 Ilan Shamir

Stand tall and be proud ▪ Go out on a limb ▪ Reach for the sky ▪ Adapt to change ▪ Branch out ▪ Stay grounded ▪ Remember your roots ▪ Drink plenty of water ▪ Get rid of dead wood ▪ Be confident ▪ Never stop growing ▪ Bend before you break ▪ Turn over a new leaf ▪ Enjoy the view

Laura

Advertising Rates

Size	WGCF	Other
Full Page	\$150	\$200
Half page	\$75	\$100
Quarter page	\$37.50	\$50
Bus. Card	\$20	\$20



Door County Days continued

The eager attendees arrived bright and early on day two to learn about the Dark Skies Program at Newport State Park, located at the far north end of the Door Peninsula. Naturalist Beth Bartoli explained the difficulties of maintaining the park's Dark Skies status to preserve darkness and avoid light pollution.



She encouraged people to experience the area for themselves and shared amazing images of the Milky Way and other celestial bodies. People may do their part to lower light overload by limiting outdoor



lighting and changing out fixtures to aim light at the ground, not into the sky.

Nancy Aten, consulting landscape architect at The Clearing Folk School, discussed Jens Jensen and his desire to create an oasis for creativity and learning in the wilds of Door County.



The Labyrinth at the Clearing



Mertha's Cabin at the Clearing.

Jens Jensen brought this cabin from Newport in 1920 as a guest cabin.

It is now used by students.

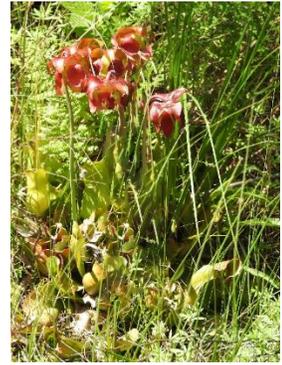
Tony Kiszonas took attendees on a photo journey of the internationally recognized orchid propagation program at The Ridges Sanctuary.



Yellow Lady's Slipper Orchid

While attendees had seen the Yellow Lady's Slipper orchid, first hand, during the previous day's tour, it was just a bit too late in the season to see the threatened Ram's Head Lady's Slipper.

The Ridges is home to 24 of Wisconsin's 40 native orchid species. Door County Days came to an end with a hike and tour of The Clearing Folk School.



Pitcher Plant

After hearing about Jens Jensen's vision, viewing the buildings, council circles, labyrinth, vistas and forest preserve of Jensen's legacy, was a special treat.

The Door County Days team thanks the 33 people who attended the event. Sixteen people refreshed for Environmental School and thirteen refreshed for Gardening School.



Thanks also to the staff of The Ridges Sanctuary and The Clearing for hosting the group, and special thanks to Thymes Catering for delicious breakfasts and lunches.

The Ridges Sanctuary, Wisconsin's oldest nonprofit nature preserve, is located on Highway 57 just north of Baileys Harbor, Wisconsin. The Cook-Albert Fuller Nature Center is open Sunday, 9am – 3pm and Monday through Saturday, 9am – 4pm.



You may join a naturalist for an exploration of The Ridges Sanctuary, and learn about this unique habitat. The Ridges is the most biologically diverse area in Wisconsin. This guided hike includes a tour of our Upper Range Light, restored to the period of the last Range Light Keeper. Pre-registration is requested.



President's Project

Jim Vest



PRAIRIE PLANTINGS

Status of the work to reestablish prairie plantings at overlook site.

This information is from Andy Gossens, Site Supervisor.

Since the beginning of the Prairie Plantings Project, **International Crane Foundation** (ICF) personnel have been involved with site preparation. This includes grass and herbicide applications, manual removal of some invasive plant species, and some burning. This cycle continues. There was a tour at the ICF on July 12th, and the site looked rough. It was hard to evaluate effects of previous work.



Wendy McCalvey, Gavin Nimmer, Al Sedlachek, Mary Ellen Sedlachek, Nancy Gregory, Chuck McCafferty, Linda McCafferty, Laura Skoff, and Jerry Skoff

Andy Gossens has been overseeing the work and he assured us the work is on schedule. The oat cover crop's function is mitigation of soil erosion, but it will not cover the entire site. The oat cover is planted on the slope only where erosion is a problem. This area has greened up and it looks like it is working to secure the site. Andy explained that not planting the whole site with oats will make it easier when they go to plant in the fall.

The collection of prairie plant seed is ongoing with over 30 plant species collected. The plan is to collect about 90 species for the fall planting.



FUND RAISING AND EXPENDITURES TO DATE	
Donations, \$12,328	Donations, Districts, 4%
Expenditures, \$9,992	Garden Clubs, 26%
	Individuals, 69%



Laura

STATUS OF THE OVERLOOK STRUCTURE, which is not part of the project.

This is not part of President Laura Skoff's project, but there were developments with the funding of the structure that could impact the prairie restoration work. This information is from Darcy Love, Managing Director, Cranes of the World.

Work has been progressing, and the Overlook Structure is in the design phase. The crane foundation is preparing documents for the project. There have been some delays. COVID and supply chain shortages have had an impact, but they hope to begin construction soon.

Issues with the Overlook Structure will not impact the progress nor the success of the prairie plantings. At the time of the dedication there will be some prairie species visible. Note that it takes 3 years from planting for the full establishment and bloom for prairie plants.



Cookie, the Fantastic Docent, speaking to the group.



Darcy's view of the Presidents Project
"This project will have lasting impact on the species who need this rare habitat to survive. This resulting ecosystem will serve as a living classroom for the future conservation leaders for decades to come. We continue to learn new things from our prairies and wetlands. Each season we learn more about restoration, preservation, biodiversity, and the impact that a changing climate is having on the environment."

Sheboygan District News



IT'S PICNIC TIME! Karen Merlau, District Director

With the improvements in the COVID situation, both the Lake Shore and the Ivy League Garden Clubs in the Sheboygan District were able to enjoy well attended summer picnics in person.



The Lake Shore Garden Club met July 21st, at St. John Lutheran Church in Plymouth. Members brought a potluck dish to pass, and something to be used as a "prize," or "booby prize," in audience participation games. This was all devised by their own Mary Kulhanek. Karen Merlau, Director, received a booby prize book, entitled *Hormones from Hell, The Ultimate Women's Humor Book*. All in good fun, of course!

Members also purchased raffle tickets for a variety of items, and many left very pleased with what they won.

The Ivy League Garden Club met on Tuesday, August 23rd, at the home of Gretchen and Jim Vest just north of Sheboygan. Members brought a wide range of appetizers, salads, side dishes and desserts. Broasted chicken was enjoyed by all.



Carol Miller, Darlene Vanderkin, and Sally Neuhaus



Darlene is ready to head out!



A brief business meeting followed with an update on the Sheboygan County Veteran's Memorial, with news about future expansion. The club is considering making a generous donation toward the work.

Good fellowship made the afternoon delightful!

WGCF President, Laura Skoff, again helping in the kitchen.



SHEBOYGAN AREA GARDEN WALK

The two clubs, Ivy League and Lake Shore, jointly sponsored the Sheboygan Area Garden Walk on Saturday, July 9th. Their first garden walk was held in 1997. The SAGW Committee plans and conducts the annual WALK with the support of their groups. Proceeds from the WALK are donated to local non-profit organizations with a gardening connection. Over \$100,000.00 has been donated since the walks began. This year donations were made to Maywood and Bookworm Gardens.



Featured on the walk was the **PEONY GARDEN** of Gary Bieck. Gary was the recipient of the Bronze Award presented by the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation in April. The 2022 convention was held at the Osthoff in Elkhart Lake, sponsored by the Sheboygan District.



Gary Bieck

The 2023 convention, ***Rolling on the River***, will be held May 21st through 23rd in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

Scholarship Luncheon

OSHKOSH GARDEN CLUB

Invites You!

Featuring "Welcome to My Garden,"

by Larry Conrad

Nov. 12, 2022

Oshkosh Best Western Waterfront Hotel
1 N. Main Street • Cocktails 11:30 • Lunch at Noon

Contact Mary Ellen Sedlachek

920-426-1084

redspark@milwpc.com

oshkoshgardenclub.org

Tickets
\$30

All Are Invited

All garden club members are invited to attend **BOARD MEETINGS** of the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation. It is a great way to get to know the people organizing events!

The next board meeting will be Thursday, October 13, at the Holiday Inn Express in Rothschild outside of Wausau, WI. Future meeting dates are published in the newsletter and posted on the website.

If you have time to join us, send an email to WGCF President Laura Skoff, lauraskoff@gmail.com, as there is a lunch selection to be made ahead of time.



THE WISCONSIN RIVER GARDEN CLUB, Loretta Schoechert

The **Wisconsin River Garden Club** was organized and federated in 1965. They have eleven active members and four alumni members. The theme this year is Let's Dig In and they did!

The club was energized by the idea of implementing a new project. They adopted a large empty cement planter to help beautify Sandlot Park, with the approval of the city park director. Kathy

Kopacz purchased the flowers and members planted, watered, deadheaded, and fertilized. It was a blooming success, enhancing the area for visitors and passing traffic.

Their August meeting was titled *Indoor House Plants*. With fall in the air, it was time to plant a fairy garden, "for the fairies yearning to be back indoors."

Any shape containers with a depth of at least four inches would be suitable, and members were instructed to also bring potting soil, small stones, and gravel for the bottom. Small green plants like pink splash, ivies, ground covers, and succulents would work well. It was suggested that one could search the house and craft stores for items like colored pebbles, doll furniture, and resin figures, and that Pinterest would be a good source of ideas. It was time to use one's imagination. Sharon Wein guided as garden retreats were created, and Sharon and Belinda Enkro were co-hostesses at Sharon's home.



\$18,750 in Scholarships Awarded



Mary Ellen Sedlachek, Scholarship Selection Chairman



The **Kitty Larkin National Scholarship** of \$4,000 was presented to Jennifer Shanks, a junior from Baraboo, attending Northland College and studying Ecological Restoration and Sustainable Agriculture. She hopes to pursue a career in land stewardship to restore

and protect lands and the ecosystems that inhabit them. She has a particular interest in prairie restorations and reintroducing the use of managed fire for ecological management.

The **Della Balousek Scholarship of \$2,500** each for upper class and graduate students was awarded to Matthew Boehlke, who is returning to school after several years and is now a junior at the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point. He studies Urban and Community Forestry and has done extensive work at Monk Gardens.



Another Balousek Scholarship went to Caden Ehlers. Growing up on a farm in Neilsville, Caden decided to study Forest Management and Community Forestry. Approaching his senior year at Stevens Point, he hopes one day to have his own forestry business.

The third Balousek Scholarship will definitely assist Elizabeth Schmutzer. She is from Wisconsin Rapids and a sophomore at Stevens Point. She has so far paid her own academic fees and studies Environmental Education and Interpretation.



Myrtle Ogilvie Scholarship - \$1,250 Underclassman
Riley Sondelski, from Mosinee, is a freshman at the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point. She transferred from North Central Technical College and is majoring in Wildlife Ecology.

Irene Straus Scholarship - \$1,000 Upperclassman and Grad Students

Ashley Fritz, Lake Mills, is a senior at the University of Wisconsin Madison and is studying Landscape Architecture. She currently works for a landscape architect and anticipates a fifth year of education before graduation.



Wisconsin Garden Club Federation Scholarships - \$1,000 Upperclassman and Graduate Students

Griffin Geib, Luxemburg, is at the University of Wisconsin Green Bay studying Environmental Science. He is in his junior year and has done research in Yellowstone National Park with elk populations.

Cecilia Vanden Heuvel, also a junior, studies Botany, Environmental science, and Conservation Biology at the University of Wisconsin Madison. She is from Green Bay, and is concentrating on tree physiology.



Hannah Fenrick, Fond du Lac, a former Kohl's scholar and a sophomore, studies Biology at Stevens Point and has been involved in the Experimental Aircraft Association for several years.

A junior, Sydney Ellis, a twin from Irma, is at Stevens Point studying Forest Management. She has extensive employment and volunteer commitments.



Elizabeth Suchan, also at Stevens Point and a senior studying Water Resources, assists her family in the operation of their family farm in Whitelaw. She will graduate in May of 2023.

This year, three students applied for the national scholarship and twenty-six sent entries to the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley. Wendy Kramer and Debby Walters assisted in examining the applications and selecting the appropriate students.



St. Croix District News

Native Plant Gardening for All Workshop held Friday, July 29, 2022

Planning Committee consisted of Sue Wallace, Ginger Wierman, Debby Walters and Carolyn Craig

The St. Croix District Garden Clubs hosted the *Native Plant Gardening for All Workshop*, Friday, July 29, with over 70 guests and speakers. The group included five WGCN officers and three of the six District Directors.



The Planning Committee had hoped to have 40 participants. Instead, registrations were stopped at 66 and another 20 were turned away. The meeting room just couldn't hold any more.

The workshop was based on Doug Tallamy's research as presented in the books, *Bringing Nature Home* and *Nature's Best Hope*. He stressed the value of planting native species throughout our communities for the benefit of insects, birds, wildlife, and ultimately, the human residents.

The keynote speaker, Carmen Simonet, a Twin Cities landscaper, has designed with native plants for the past 25 years. She shared design tips to make a native garden attractive to neighbors and how to care for plants in an urban setting.

Mary Jo Fleming took us through the seasons of plant blooms and talked about the concept of layering, utilizing trees, shrubs, and plants to benefit insects, pollinators, birds and wildlife. Barb Barrickman guided the group through the process of creating a functional rain garden for those with wet areas.

Speaker Hans Klug was from Dragonfly Gardens Greenhouse of Amery. Hans propagates the native plants that they sell and he shared tips on how to begin a native plant garden from plants and seeds. Dragonfly also supplied 2000 plants, 264 of which were given to participants. From the looks of people carrying trays of plants, those for sale went quickly!



1st VP Linda McCafferty, Chuck McCafferty, and President Laura Skoff, choosing plants.



Kristen Brown showing her garden

The workshop included three tours, the Wildflower Sanctuary established by the Lake Wissota Garden Club, where fifty-eight native plants were in bloom, and Kristen Brown's and Gail Fox's gardens, filled with feasting bees and bugs.

The Arrangements Committee thought of everything to accommodate guests and speakers. Judy McQuillan and Debbie Armstrong arranged for box lunches and snacks. Debbie Woodford and Sandy Kenner handled the budget. Shirley Mlsna arranged for bags stuffed with information. Sue Wallace worked on room set up, name tags, equipment rental, and maps and signs. Road construction and street tar gave a few hiccups, but the group managed to overcome the problems along with other last-minute needs.

St. Croix District funded this endeavor along with grants from the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation, the National Garden Club, and Thrivent. This allowed the registration fee to be reasonable.

This seminar met our club's duty to host a district event and our set aside of \$100 in our budget for District meeting was used to defray the cost of morning coffee, treats and staging supplies.



The Arrangement Committee, Debbie Armstrong, Debbie Woodford, Shirley Mlsna, Sue Wallace, Judy McQuillan, and Peg Sprague





St. Croix District Continued

Debby Walters, District Director

Thank you, WGCF, for your support of the Native Plant Gardening for All Workshop. Members from throughout the state attended and a WGCF grant helped to keep the registration costs reasonable. Evaluations were positive and attendees requested another similar workshop. We'll see how ambitious we are! Though a joint effort, Lake Wissota Garden Club members shouldered the burden of details since it was held at Irvine Park in Chippewa Falls. Thank you so much!

Throughout the summer, the district's clubs have been busy touring and maintaining community gardening projects. Fall will be no less busy!

The Botany Belles and Beaus sponsor an annual nature photography contest during Baldwin's Chili Fest. Amateur photographers submit photos in six categories and the public votes for their favorite. Club members visit with voters, and always get a list interested in the garden club. They offer two educational programs. *Harvest Time* is geared for youngsters, and is co-sponsored with the Baldwin Public Library. Another activity, making Christmas Ornament Stakes, is co-sponsored with the Woodville Public Library. Besides regular meetings, members will also be busy making bird seed wreaths for the *Doe on the Go* craft sale. This is always a successful fundraiser and a way to interact with the community.



BIRDSEED WREATH

Creating a birdseed wreath is inexpensive and fun. You could make a gift OR use as a club fund raiser.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 packets, or 4 teaspoons, of gelatin, or more for a sturdier wreath
- ½ cup hot water
- 3 tablespoons light corn syrup
- ¾ cup flour
- 4 cups bird seed
- Add variety by adding dried fruits, suet and peanut



DIRECTIONS

- Use a Bundt pan or a festively shaped mold. Coat with a non-stick spray.
- Dissolve gelatin in hot water.
- Mix gelatin and water with corn syrup and flour in a bowl.
- Add birdseed.
- Press into a mold.
- Wait a day or two for the mixture to dry, and is fully hardened.
- Remove and hang with ribbon or twine.

September marks the start of Lake Wissota's 2022-23 calendar year. Last week 11 LWGC members partnered with our local ADRC at Kamp Kenwood to help 80 registrants from local nursing homes and assisted living facilities create their own succulent gardens.

Members will help with set-up and selling tickets at Chippewa's Oktoberfest. Fall meetings will focus on ideas for using Mother Nature's Garden bounty, and talents for painting paving bricks and creating kissing balls. After we put our six local gardens to bed for the season, our winter activities will kick into high gear. We'll submit grant requests to our Community Foundation, prepare our WGCF and NGC Award submissions, plan activities for our youth garden club, change out the seasonal niche designs at the Heyde Center for the Arts, order our bare root trees for our early Spring Sale and make plans for our Christmas potluck. We'll stay busy.



The Willow River Garden Club toured Winter Greenhouse for *Autumn Splendor* in September, and our monthly meeting at Bonnie Schwichtenberg's included information on growing tulips and daffodils. In October, we'll meet at Leslie Ender's home. She is a former member and a commercial grower, and will explain purchasing, lifting, and storing bulbs. In November, we will again have a wreath making workshop at the home of Peggy Grubbs.

State Fair NGC Flower Show

Thanks go to Lynne Ehnert and Wendy Kramer, who contributed to these pages.

Competition was fierce at the NGC Flower Show at the Wisconsin State Fair. The show was presented by the Floral Designers of Wisconsin Garden Club.



Judy Newman



Wendy Kramer

This table design, created by Wendy Kramer, won the Award of Design Excellence and the Table Artistry Award. The class was *Just Dill with It*. This was an Exhibition Table which required herbs in the overall design. Wendy used dried black painted fantail willow, jalapeno peppers, mini red and yellow peppers, curly and flat leaf parsley, dill, and aspidistra leaves. Her pun to describe this design was, *I beg your parsley, but let's get hot and 'dill' out!*



The creative arrangement, pictured in the photo of Wendy Kramer with Laura Skoff and Linda McCafferty, won the Designer's Choice Award.

The theme of the show was **NO PUNS INTENDED.**

The class was *Puns of Steel*, a creative design using a metal sculpture. This design was staged on a 24-inch black square top pedestal with a red circular underlay. Wendy used a black three ring metal sculpture, 30 inches tall, and incorporated dried painted Schubertii allium and painted dried leaves.

The pun for this design was, *Hey hot stuff! Let's forge together through these balls of fire.*



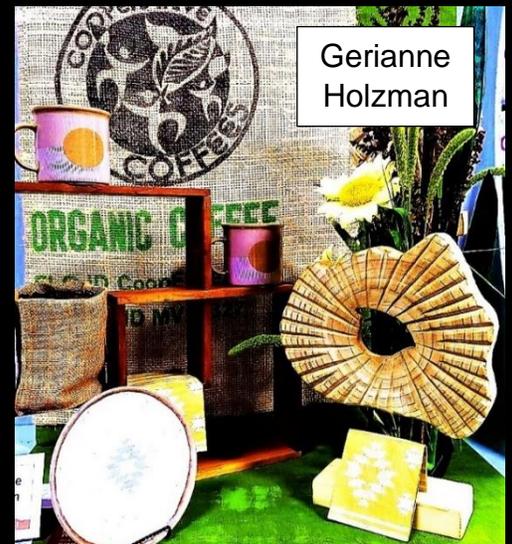
Liz Murken



Mary Kozlowski



Norma Reynolds



Gerianne Holzman



Poster Contest

Pat Ritchie, Chair

Please contact schools, scout troops, home school friends, and after school programs, or any groups that have children in grades 1-5. Invite them to participate in the Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest. Entries are sent to Pat Ritchie, N3752 County Road O, New London, WI 54961, and will be due January 15, 2023. Please contact Pat with questions at peritchie48@gmail.com.

Information will be given out at the Fall Board meeting October 13. If you don't receive information from your District director after the fall meeting, please contact them.

The rules are much the same as last year, and there will be a winner at each grade level. Please participate and grow our numbers. Include the following information on the back of the poster, child's full name, address, phone number, school name and the participating Garden Club.

The address and phone can be the school's so there is a way to contact the child. If the information is not complete, a winning poster may not be sent on to the National Garden Club, Central Region, or the National Garden Club contest.

Thank you for your help in this fun and educational event.



AWARDS

If you have been taking photos of your club's activities this past year, consider applying for Garden Club of the Year. A book of evidence is super easy to assemble and a monetary award of **\$250** is awarded to the club that compiles the most points.

The Conservation Award also has a **\$250** monetary award.

Sending in your yearbook could bring your club a \$50 yearbook award, as each district is judged individually. All the details are on our website under the Awards Section. There are applications to fill out. Send your application to WGCFA Awards Chair Doris Weber or Pat Ritchie by December 1.



Winners will be announced at our Convention May 21-23, 2023 in Onalaska.



BE ON THE LOOKOUT

Scam email messages are appearing with some frequency in members mailboxes, asking for gift cards or money. Senders state that they are officers in our organization and they want particular items for a worthy cause, or money for club fundraising, or ask for donations to raise funds for veterans, and so on.

Please be aware that these are scams and that no one on our Executive Committee or Board of Directors would ever solicit members in this manner. The originating email address is not the actual address of the supposed sender, so take a close look! A phone call is all it takes to confirm if the request is valid.





Madison District Happenings

Maureen Wild Gordon, District Director

In October, the Olbrich Garden Club is celebrating 60 years of service to the Olbrich Botanical Gardens, our community, and the Madison District. The club was founded in 1962 as The Garden Center Club to promote funding for a much-needed building at Olbrich, for the enjoyment of garden clubs and community groups.



Nancy Green and Chris Schleicher holding the quilt Chris made and designed in honor of the 60th Anniversary to be used as a fundraiser.



The dream was realized in 1978. The Olbrich Garden Center, now referred to as the Atrium, was completed with \$380,000 in funds from private donors, the Garden Center Club, and the City of Madison. The club was renamed Olbrich Garden Club in 1988.

Madison District congratulates them in meeting this milestone.

Olbrich GC members with Laurel Neverdahl, Olbrich President, are presenting a \$1,000 donation to staff members Jake Immel and Joe Vande Slunt for Olbrich Botanical Gardens Pollinator Project.



Linda and Chuck McCafferty's gardens at the Sun Prairie Garden Walk,

Sunset Garden Club has been busy touring gardens this summer: They went to the Teaching Gardens at the UW Extension in June, the gardens at the Ice Age Trail Alliance headquarters in July, and the Humming Bird Garden of Kathy and Mike Rock in August.



PLANT DANE IS NOT A DOG . . .



When I first looked at Maureen's information below, and read **PLANT DANE**, the image of a Great Dane Dog flashed in my mind. Instead, **PLANT DANE** is a Dane County program providing residents access to native plants free or at discounted prices. It's open to schools, neighborhood associations, youth groups, faith centers, clubs, municipalities and residents, in Dane County, Wisconsin.

The Plant Dane program has been running for two years. 4,700 native plants have been grown and distributed to fifteen schools and sixteen community centers. Plants, donated from community members or grown by local volunteers, are given to schools and community groups that apply for them.

Sun Prairie Garden Club had a garden walk fundraiser in May. It was well attended. They are also involved in Generations Park, a previous WGCF President's Project, which continues its transformation. Native species from **PLANT DANE** were established, gravel is in place for the Council's Circle, and they are they waiting for the seating to arrive and be set up.

Westside Garden Club held the public celebration of their 100th Centennial Anniversary at the UW Madison Arboretum on August 7th. Nancy Mohs, club president, gave the toast for 100 years, and Susan Day, Communications Manager, shared the rich history of Westside's involvement with the Arboretum. Several members dressed in period dress for the event.



Nancy Mohs giving the Westside GC Centennial Toast.

Madison District in planning a Garden Walk for July 2023. Stay tuned for more information in the coming months.



Indian Summer

What is Indian Summer?

It seems any unseasonably warm autumn day is referred to as Indian Summer. Traditionally, it refers to something more specific. Here are the criteria for a true Indian Summer.

As well as being warm, there is no wind and the atmosphere is hazy or smoky. The nights are clear and chilly. The haze and swing in temperature between day and night is caused by a polar air mass converting into a warm, stagnant high-pressure system.

The time of occurrence is important. The warm days must follow a spell of cold weather or a good hard frost, but also be before the first snowfall.

Indian Summer must also be between St. Martin's Day, November 11, and November 20. All Saints, November 1,

Debby Walters

brings winter, and St. Martin's brings Indian summer.

Why Is it Called an Indian Summer?

The term may have come from the Algonquian people once located in the northeastern United States. They believed the condition was caused by a warm wind sent from the great spirit. Another origin states that Native Americans would use this brief period of warm weather to gather a final round of supplies before winter sets in. November is the time to get in one last harvest.

From **Sandy Griswold, of the OMAHA SUNDAY WORLD-HERALD, November, 1922 . . .**

The characteristics of Indian summer are a mild temperature, gentle southwestern breezes, unusual brightness of the sun, extreme brilliancy of the moon, and a clear, blue sky, sometimes half hidden by a veil of gray. Hazy day breaks are redder than the splotch on the blackbird's wing, sunsets are laden with golden fleeces, and the wood valleys are a glow with fires of richly tinted leaves. still clinging to listless limbs. or lying where they have fallen.



SAME OLD, SAME OLD



Debby Walters

Have you checked out WGCF's Website or Facebook page lately?

Guess what? Apparently, we aren't doing much, **WHICH ISN'T TRUE!**

The only way to let the members and the public know what the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation has to offer is to promote our activities.

A couple of pictures from a symposium, a flower show, a garden tour that your club hosted, a hands-on event, a new community garden . . . the list goes on and a short paragraph is all it takes.

Clubs and districts are encouraged to send information/photos about their activities and events to contactwgcf@gmail.com.

Do you have an upcoming event to add to the WGCF calendar? Send that too.

Information is generally posted within a day or two.

Reminder: You can post on the Facebook page without sending it to contactwgcf.



Milwaukee District News



Diane Olsen, District Director

The Milwaukee District is wrapping up their 90th year; and they hope all of you can attend the 90th Anniversary Celebration and Flower Show, ***Celebrating Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow***, October 20, 2022.



All are welcome, and the Milwaukee District looks forward to making happy memories at their celebration.



The group will gather at the North Hills Country Club, N73 W13430 Appleton Avenue, in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin, for a 9:00 am meeting and a fabulous luncheon starting at 12:30 pm. They will be surrounded by beautiful floral arrangements created by members.

The registration deadline is a firm OCTOBER 6th. The country club requests a two week notice for the meals. Go to <http://gardenclubs.weebly.com/important-dates>, the district website for the registration form.

The flower show, *Celebrating Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*, is being presented by both Town and Country Garden Club and by Western Acres Garden Club.

All district members are invited to enter the MDGC Anniversary Flower Show. All garden clubs are encouraged to enter at least one floral design. This show includes a Botanical Arts Division if you are a crafty person. Take a look at the schedule on the district website at gardenclubs.weebly.com/flowershow.

Flowers by Cammy in Waukesha is offering a 10% discount on all flowers purchased for use in the flower show. Just mention the anniversary, flower show, or the Milwaukee District. You can reach them at flowersbycammy.com or 262-547-5821. If you know what you need, contact them to place an order.

It's been such a wonderful year. Please come celebrate with all of us! Diane

MILWAUKEE DISTRICT is also having an on-line **HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER** **FEATURING ST. NICHOLAS INSPIRED GIFTS**

All-Season Ornaments, Greeting Cards with a Brooch attached, Sun Catchers and Trinket Boxes

You are invited to go **saintnicholasinspired.com**, **October 27, 28, and 29**

These gift items were designed in the United States and handmade by craftsmen in Thailand out of nickel, brass and copper. All items are shipped in a gift box.

You can order and have your purchase sent as a gift. MDGC will earn 25% of the profit.



Again, the dates are **October 27, 28, and 29.**

Questions? Please get in touch with Laurie Wareham at 262-290-7929 or at laurieikebana@wi.rr.com.

Two Milwaukee District clubs made a day of it, by visiting **NORTHWIND PERENNIAL FARM.**

In 1991, three friends and business partners, Steve Costner, Colleen Garrigan, and Roy Diblik, discovered a 10-acre farmstead tucked away in the rolling hills of Wisconsin.

By combining their talents, and maintaining the character of the farm, they knew that they had the opportunity to create something uniquely different. Today we know it as the absolutely best place to learn about perennial garden plants, and find them available for purchase.

Northwoods offers creative containers, education, like the perennial of the week, workshops and classes of all sorts, knife sharpening, and a barn full of wonderful gifts for yourself or friends.

Their nursery grows 65,000 native plants and regionally durable perennials. They pot plants throughout the growing season. If they are out of a plant, chances are there will be another crop in a couple weeks.

They are located in Burlington, Wisconsin.

These ladies are with the Elmbrook Garden Club, and also at Northwind.



Roy Diblik, above, is a co-owner of Northwind Perennial Farm, a perennial garden designer, a nurseryman, a gardener and a writer. He has been growing perennials and native plants since 1978.

Here is Roy, leading a tour of MAMGC members around Northwind Perennial Farm.

Above are Flo Paulson, Rose Heald, Manpreet Kaur, Judy Newman, Dawn Wallace, and President, Shelley Swanson

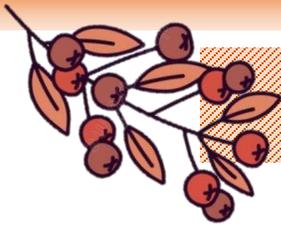


The MAMGC members went on their way to Lake Geneva, ten minutes south, for a lake cruise. Can you tell there is water outside the windows?

Barb Mann and Charlotte Castleberry are on the left.



Lilly Harris, Debbie Vander Heiden, and Brenda Rosen Schaff



Organizational Studies

Lynne Ehnert, Chair

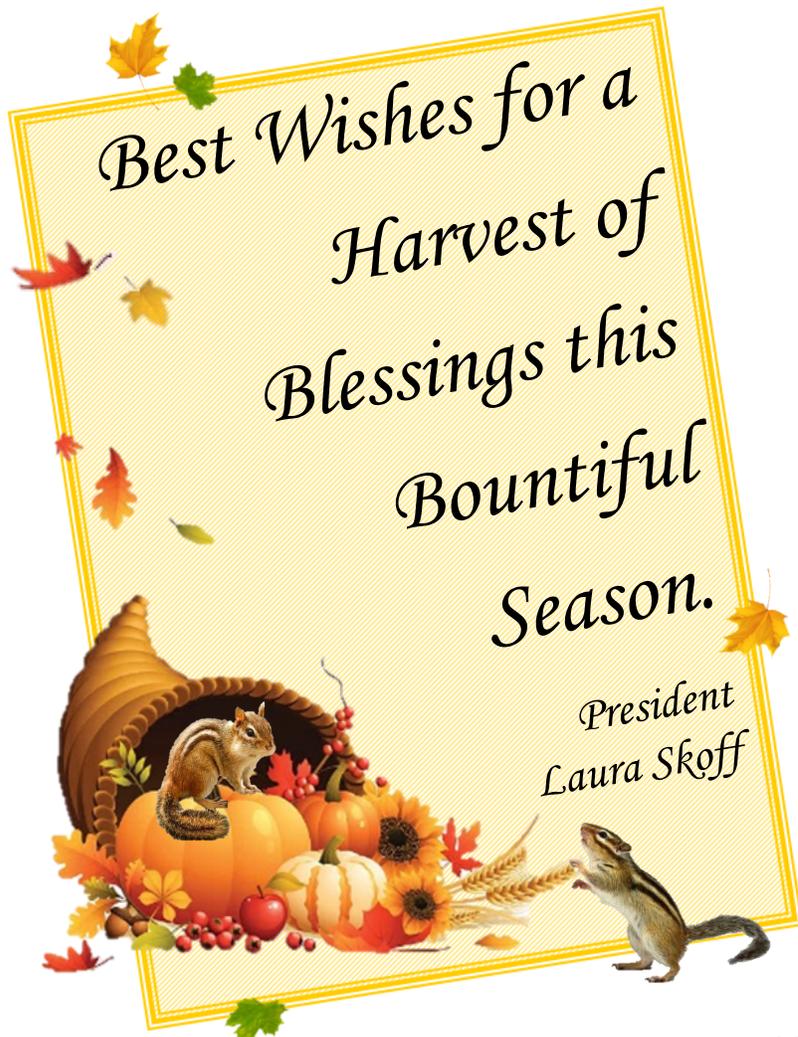
The Organizational Studies Committee has updated WCGF awards, procedures, convention procedures, and standing rules.

As a committee, we review the information and make proposals for change to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee reviews the information, and approves and or revises the proposed revisions. After that, the changes are posted at <https://www.wisconsin-garden-club.org>, on the Wisconsin Garden Club Federations website. The information is located under the members only section. Please take a minute to review the website, as it has up to date information.



The awards procedures include updates to the scales of points, taking them out of the text of the procedures and making them appendices at the end. We also made separate fillable pdf forms for ease of judging. There is also information on the new longevity award.

The convention procedures were updated to include current processes and remove processes that no longer exist. Procedures were added for the parliamentarian that relate specifically to the convention.





Harvest your Herbs, then what?

Lynn Kassouf, Greater Milwaukee Garden Club



Herbs are so easy to grow, few of us can resist buying the seed packets or tiny plants early in the season. Our good intentions to use these fresh herbs cooking favorite dishes is often challenged as the plants flourish with great gusto.

Take heart!  The time needed to preserve your herbs for future use is not as big an investment as you feared.

However, herbs are not all created equal, and you should choose wisely when deciding to dry or freeze them. The April issue of the Old Farmer's Almanac provided a handy table, reproduced at the right, to help you make the choice.

Drying can be done one of several ways. If you dry herbs on the stem, you can easily remove the dried leaves by grabbing the stem with your fingers and running them from the stem to the tip.

- The tried-and-true method of tying bunches of herbs to hang upside down in a cool, dark, dry place works for most herbs. Drying in the sun, however, can cause herbs to lose flavor and color.
- If you have access to a dehydrator, you can strip the leaves and place them in a single layer at the lowest setting (95°F) until the herbs crumble easily. Herbs with tiny leaves can be dried on the stem and removed afterwards.
- When dry, crumble the leaves with your hand inside a paper bag, and store in tightly sealed jars in a cool, dry place.

Freezing is the best way to preserve the flavor of delicate herbs. There is no need to blanch before freezing, however, they should be dried after rinsing.

- Place sprigs in a single layer in a freezer bag and lay flat. Store this way until ready to use. Grab out what you need, use immediately, and keep the rest frozen to prevent botulism.
- Chop rinsed herbs and place in an ice cube tray with enough water just to cover. When the water freezes, remove cubes and store in a freezer bag or container until ready to use.

Whichever method you choose, always rinse in cool, running water before you begin.

Herb	Freezing?	Drying?
Basil	Yes	Yes
Chives	Yes	No
Cilantro	Yes	No
Dill	Yes	Yes
Fennel	No	Yes
Lemon balm	Yes	No
Lemon verbena	Yes	No
Marjoram	Yes	No
Mint	Yes	Yes
Oregano	Yes	Yes
Parsley	Yes	Yes
Rosemary	Yes	Yes
Sage	Yes	Yes
Savory	Yes	Yes
Scented geranium	No	Yes
Tarragon	Yes	Yes
Thyme	Yes	Yes



Parsley



Rosemary



Basil



Sage



Chives



Oregano

IKEBANA

Ikebana International, Milwaukee Chapter 22, is a member of the Milwaukee District Garden Clubs and the WGCF. Their mission is to stimulate, cultivate, and perpetuate Ikebana, or Japanese Flower Arranging, and related art and culture.

The club had a magnificent display at the Wisconsin State Fair. A couple months ago, they displayed floral arrangements at the Pabst Mansion on Wisconsin Avenue in Milwaukee. Laurie Wareham contributed these photos from both events.

They have about twenty members and get together once a month at Havenwoods State Forest on the north side of the city. Lunch follows a meeting, a demonstration, and a workshop activity. At their September meeting, the workshop involved shibori, a Japanese resist tie-dyeing technique that has been used for centuries. The term itself means to squeeze, ring or press. It's about creating patterns on a piece of fabric by preparing it in a way that will resist the dye in certain areas, and is famous for its indigo blue dye.

Contact Lynda Curl, President, at texgirl@wi.rr.com if you'd like to join in or have questions. They will be doing a chrysanthemum arrangement at their meeting on October 12.





*Madison District
 Congratulates
 Olbrich Garden Club
 Celebrating
 60
 Years of Service*



Gratitude

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life.
 It turns what we have into enough, and more.
 It turns denial into acceptance,
 Chaos to order,
 Confusion to clarity.
 It can turn a meal into a feast,
 A house into a home,
 A stranger into a friend.
 Gratitude makes sense of our past,
 Brings peace for today,
 And creates a vision for tomorrow.



Meadow Blazing Star, A Monarch Magnet

Debby Walters

Several years ago, Debby Walters spotted a prairie plant at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum that was covered with monarchs. There were at least two dozen, and that's a lot of butterflies!

Tall and purple with tufted flowers, it was a liatris, but what variety? After doing some research, Debby discovered that it was *Liatris ligulistylis*, or Meadow Blazing Star. Since that time, she tried at least four varieties of liatris in her gardens. They all attract bees and insects, but only Meadow Blazing Star draws numerous monarchs.

Meadow Blazing Star features concentrated nectar and is a long blooming, late season plant that fuels monarchs before they migrate south. It prefers full sun and will grow up to five feet tall in good soil. The plants do not like wet soil. The stalk tends to flop so it sometimes needs staking.

Native plant nurseries usually carry the plants and recommended spacing is one to two feet apart. If sowing seeds, plant them after the final frost in the fall. Mature plants can also be divided in the fall. To really attract monarchs, experts recommend planting five to ten plants and then sit back and enjoy the show. Debby will be adding more to her garden. She advises not to settle for anything but Meadow Blazing Star.

THE MONARCHS DO NOT SETTLE FOR ANYTHING LESS.

Whitefish Bay Garden Club Project



Nancy Sturino and Marlene Jaglinski, Silver Spring Park Chairpersons
“GROWING A GREENER VILLAGE, ONE GARDEN AT A TIME”,
Is the mission of the Whitefish Bay Garden Club.



Since its founding over 60 years ago, with the creation of Riveredge Nature Center, the club has been



interested in protecting the environment. They've rescued a butterfly garden, created pollinator pockets, and educated the public about native plants.

design and building of the rain garden, and the bioswale was designed by Strand Associates. Marek Landscaping constructed the two green infrastructures with additional money from The Fund for Lake Michigan.



Anise Hyssop

In spring of 2020, the reed canary grass was mowed low by the Village. Marek Landscaping treated the mowed area with industrial strength vinegar, and then covered the area with black geothermal fabric. The plants were “cooked” all summer. In fall, the remaining plants received a second vinegar application and were again covered with fabric through late spring, 2021.



Spencer Charczuk, a village staff engineer, and Anne O'Connor, Whitefish Bay Garden Club Co-President

In 2017, the club focused on the 1-acre Silver Spring Park on the lake bluff in Whitefish Bay. It was an eyesore, overrun with invasive reed canary grass, burdock, and garlic mustard. However, they recognized the potential and concentrated on three goals. In collaboration with the Village of Whitefish Bay, they would install a bioswale and a rain garden, reduce stormwater runoff, and improve Lake Michigan water quality.

Second, they would remove and suppress invasive plants and replace them with native, pollinator friendly plants. Third, they would educate the community through signage, social media and in-person events about projects and plantings they could replicate on their own properties.



Black Eyed Susan

Achieving these goals would convert approximately 1,000 square yards of park land into a sustainable environment with native perennials, shrubs and small trees. It would

create habitat for wildlife, especially pollinators as they travel the Lake Michigan flyway, and would reduce water runoff. It would provide a place for the community to appreciate the beauty of nature.

The scope was daunting. Village leaders trusted the garden club's vision and helped secure grants. The Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewage District funded the



Purple Allium

In Phase 3, Johnson's Nursery submitted the landscape design which included over 600 native plants. With additional funding from the Fund for Lake Michigan, Sweetwater, and the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation, the planting took place. A walking path and benches were installed. Large signs and smaller plant markers with QR codes were placed around the park. Silver Spring Park was officially reopened in October of 2021, with Village officials, club members, funders and Village DPW staff present to celebrate this truly collaborative project.



Nancy Sturino and Marlene Jaglinski

Silver Spring Park has become a destination for walkers and bikers. In fact, the park is so popular, the first wedding was celebrated there in September!



Cardinal Flower

The vision of the Whitefish Bay Garden Club and the Village of Whitefish Bay has been achieved with hard work, and the dedication and generosity of those willing to invest in our environment for the good of all. Working together they have created an environmentally friendly park, protecting both Lake Michigan and our native pollinators and wildlife.

WGCF Life MEMBERSHIP

The WGCF Life Membership is an Honorary Membership established in 1968. It originated to support the WGCF Memorial Scholarship Fund and shows pride in the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation.

New Wisconsin Life Members are announced and honored at the WGCF Annual Convention. There is a one-time life membership contribution of fifty dollars which is credited to the Memorial Scholarship Fund. A Life Member continues to pay annual club, district and WGCF dues. Life Memberships may be given at any time in the year. Recipients receive a certificate and Life Membership card. Memberships may be purchased by an individual or presented as a gift.

Non-garden club members may be honored with a WGCF Life Membership, also. To honor a WGCF Life Member, fill out the form for Memorial Scholarship Fund Donations.

A Life Membership is given one time to any person. Donations "In Honor" or "In Memory Of" may be given many times to the same individual. The form for Life Membership is found on the WGCF Website under Forms.

Fill it out and send it, along with a check made out to the WGCF Scholarship Fund, to the current WGCF Life Membership Chair, Lucy Valitchka, N 2695 Meade Street, Appleton, WI 54913.

Lucy's email is Lmvalitchka@new.rr.com, if you have questions.

**Surprise someone,
purchase a gift of a Life
Membership!**

DATES

October 13, 2022 WGCF Executive Committee Meeting, Wausau, WI

October 20, 2022 Milwaukee District Garden Clubs 90th Anniversary Celebration, North Hills Country Club, Menomonee Falls, WI

October 16-18, 2022 Central Region Annual Convention, Bloomington, MN

February 16, 2023 WGCF Executive Committee Meeting, Wausau, WI

May 2-5, 2023 NGC Annual Convention, White Sulphur Springs, WVA

May 21-23, 2023 WGCF Annual Convention, Onalaska, WI



Is it too early to think ahead to SPRING PLANTING?

Not really, as we start making lists now.

Plan to plant bird-friendly shrubs and trees to help feed birds in winter. Pick those that have seeds and berries and are native to our region. These plants will be good food for birds and add color throughout the winter months.

- Beauty Berry
- Holly
- Winterberry
- Black chokeberry
- Arborvitae
- Common hackberry
- Crab Apples
- Service-berry
- Virginia Creeper
- Viburnums



As well as providing delicious seeds and berries for your feathered friends, the plants will also provide valuable shelter during the winter.



Help Birds Survive the Winter

If you spend your summer months feeding and watching your backyard birds, then realize they need your attention even more during the chill days of winter. Here are five ways you can keep your backyard birds healthy this season.



KEEP SEED DRY AND ACCESSIBLE

Tube feeders or the classic hopper feeders protect seed from wet weather. Always make sure they are clean and free of fungus, mold, and ants before refilling them. Keep platform feeders clear of snow and ice, and clear a place on the ground so you can scatter seed for ground-feeding species such as doves and sparrows.

DON'T FORGET SHELTERED AREAS

Some birds prefer to stay in secure places, such as thickets or under bushes, instead of venturing out into the open to a feeder. Scatter seed along hedges and bushes, under your deck, and along the borders of wooded areas.

OFFER HIGH ENERGY FOODS

Fat gives birds that much-needed extra energy to get through the hard winter months. Foods such as suet and peanut butter are good supplements to regular feed. Some people worry that birds will choke on sticky peanut butter. There's no evidence that they do, but eliminate worry by mixing peanut butter with corn meal or oatmeal.

Make your own bird suet cakes for a fraction of the cost of commercial products. Recipes may include suet, lard, crunchy peanut butter, oatmeal, cornmeal, whole wheat flour, nuts, dried fruit, sugar, honey, and seeds, both ground and whole. Some directions call for baking the mixture, while others have you heat the ingredients in a saucepan and cool in small containers or muffin tins.



Hang from a tree branch with a loop of twine, or off your deck in a mesh onion bag. You can also dab suet or the peanut butter mix along the petals of a pinecone, or press in holes drilled in a log section. Hang in view of the window, and sit back and wait for the birds. Your kitty will appreciate the entertainment.

PREPARE YOUR BIRDHOUSES

Clean out bird houses after the last nesting of the summer. Fill them with three or four inches of clean dried grass or wood shavings. To keep them even cozier, use removable weather stripping to plug the air vent holes in the houses. While good ventilation is vital during the summer months, the houses should provide shelter from the wind during the frigid temperatures of winter.

DON'T FORGET ABOUT WATER

To prevent mishaps, place several large rocks in your birdbath. There will not be enough room for the bird to bathe, but he will still have access to drinking water. You might also try a heated bird bath.

Be sure to remove the rocks once the weather warms up so the birds can take a bath.





Visit Margie's Garden



Boerner Botanical Gardens are located on the grounds of Whitnall Park in the village of Hales Corners, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin. The gardens are named for Alfred Boerner, who designed the original five formal gardens. The Annual, Perennial, Rock, Rose and Peony Gardens were constructed in the 1930s. Later additions included trial garden, herb garden, lily and shrub rose gardens, as well as the Bog Walk.



Margie's Garden is the new two-acre garden designed with kids in mind. It is located in what was an open grassy area west of the Visitor Center. It opened this past July.

Margie of Margie's Garden

The garden's namesake is Margaret, or Margie, Kezman, a local teacher who died in May 2019. Kezman's husband, Tim, wanted to do something significant to honor his late wife, something that would serve future generations because his wife was a teacher. The long-term plan at Boerner included a children's garden, and that became his choice.

The garden was designed by Milwaukee-based New Eden Landscape Architecture, and includes a playhouse, a twig hut, bug sculptures, and a troll bridge. At the center of the garden is "Margie's Stage, with limestone terrace seating. The garden also includes a bird's nest walk, number garden, woolly mammoth storybook nook, pollinator garden, sunflower garden, and a prairie and wildflower zone.



Landscape architect, Rosheen Styczinski, is the owner of New Eden. She was also president of the Milwaukee Art Museum Garden Club, twice. Rosheen said many of the ideas in the garden were inspired by Margie Kezman and her love of flowers and children.

Large, 6- to 8-foot-tall metal flower sculptures are placed throughout the gardens and there are numerous activities for the children to enjoy when visiting.

The garden is accessible to wheelchairs and strollers, and has plenty of shade and benches for resting. There is no additional fee for Margie's Garden.

Be sure to add this destination to your flower garden bucket list!





Enjoy the little things,
for one day you may look
back and realize they were
the big things.

Robert Brault

Coming in Winter 2023

Arbor Day, By-Laws and Standing Rules, Convention Plans and Registration, Garden Therapy, Land Trust, Nature Conservancy and Historic Preservation, Nominating, Strategic Planning Recommendations, Books, Landscaping Design, Horticulture, Membership Promotion and Web Page

Address, Email, and Phone Corrections

Please send to Membership Secretary

Susan Johansen
2249 122nd Street
New Richmond, WI 54017

Wisconsin Gardens

DEADLINE AND PUBLICATION DATES

Winter Issue, December 1 – January 1
Spring Issue, March 1 - April 1
Summer Issue, June 1 – July 1
Fall Issue, September 1 – October 1



The sun is shining somewhere . . .

The question is whether it is now shining in my garden where the ash trees came down, and must I move the hostas to a shady spot?

Are there sun loving perennials I can plant there instead? Shall I choose to plant berry bushes for the birds and the pollinators? How about establishing another tree, that will shade my condo front porch for the owner after I am long gone? The "make a decision" list is always long

At the end of the summer season, we take stock of our yards and reflect on changes and improvements. As a retired art teacher, I picture of my space as a canvas, imagining what colors and arrangements will bring me and my neighbors joy.

Each day I may choose to be grateful or disappointed. Each day I can delight with what I have or be annoyed with what is missing. Each day I marvel at our world, the dew on the morning grass, the warm sun on my face, and give thanks for my family and friends

I choose gratitude, I choose joy,
I choose miracles of life and beauty in my gardener's world.



Jan

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