

# Wisconsin Gardens

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## 2024 Annual Convention

Kitty Larkin, Chairman

Kerry Krokos and Norma McReynolds, Vice-Chairmen

The members of Milwaukee District invite you to join us for the 96th Annual Business Meeting and Convention of the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation, May 19 through May 21, 2024, at the Milwaukee Marriott West, W231 N1600 Corporate Court, Waukesha, WI. All efforts have been tuned to bring a serendipitous event to WGCF members featuring informative and interesting speakers and subject matter.



The convention begins Sunday evening with Mark Dwyer, the recipient of the 2023 Bronze Award.

Monday speakers include Pam Karlson of Illinois, who will share the captivating 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 creative floral designer who began his designing career with WGCF and National Garden Clubs.

Breakout sessions include two workshops, building a wren house and decorating a peace post, both led by WGCF Members. There also will be breakout sessions that emphasize some of the workings of NGC such as Parliamentary Procedure led by WGCF Members and Photography with Kathleen Grieger, photographer, which is currently a botanical arts division that can be included in flower shows.

Rounding things off will be the WGCF Tisket-a-Tasket basket raffle coordinated by Nancy Gregory, 2nd Vice President of WGCF, with baskets donated by clubs, districts and individuals.

Diane Olsen, Convention Vendors Chairman, has invited many vendors to exhibit at Serendipity. There will be melted glass, lanterns, sun catchers, birds and snow scenes, cloth bags, copper garden art, dragonflies, bees and flowers, honey products, embellished fabrics and more.

Convention details and registration coming in a supplement and on our website. Serendipity is calling and you want to be part of the fun.



## Making the World a Greener Place

CONSERVATION EDUCATION SUSTAINABILITY





WGCF is a not-for-profit educational organization founded in 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

WGCF members were busy with many projects during the first months of this president's term. As is typical, the term begins with President's Day attending meetings in each of our Districts to install newly elected officers and discuss my President's Project.

Flower shows were held at the Wisconsin State Fair sponsored by the Floral Designers of Wisconsin, and at the Fox River Valley District meeting. Garden Club of Greater Milwaukee held a dedication of their *Seating Oasis* in Lakeshore Park on the shores of Lake Michigan. This project was funded with a PLANT AMERICA grant and was attended by David Robson, NGC Chair.

St. Croix District sponsored a workshop entitled *Your Garden – A Bird's Paradise* which included four native plants for each attendee. Madison District held a walk displaying exquisite garden designs, including a community vegetable garden planted and maintained by members for its residents to harvest.

The Central Region Convention, *Hats Off to Iowa*, was held at Hotel Fort Des Moines. As the name implies, the focus was on hats and included a workshop making fascinators which this president and her husband attended. A late running meeting prevented Chuck from finishing his fascinator so he was not able to wear it to the dinner. However, Joe Powelka did sport a spider! An article about WGCF's participation appears in this issue of *Wisconsin Gardens* with plenty of pictures. A price can be paid to remove a picture or two from the photos I am giving our editor!

WGCF presented an Environmental School, *The Living Earth*, Series 7, Course 1, on the 30th anniversary of the first Environmental School. In fact, the member who organized that event, Julie Schoenike, is still a WGCF member and attended.

On November 11, Oshkosh Garden Club's annual Scholarship Luncheon, this year honoring Veterans, was held at the Best Western Waterfront Hotel. Dave Kersztyn, President of the Board of Directors of the Military Veterans Museum gave a presentation about artifacts from the Civil War through the Gulf War, including a motor pool full of vehicles. In the last 23 years, funds raised totaled more than \$43,000, and provided scholarships for local students interested in the sciences.

In conclusion, our members held plant sales, were involved in community projects, provided education, resources and opportunities for members to promote civic and environmental responsibilities, and shared their love of floral design and gardening.

*Honoring Veterans and Gold Star Families.*

*Linda*

### ADVERTISING RATES

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

**Contact Laura Skoff, Manager**  
lauraskoff@gmail.com





# St. Croix District Update



## Debby Walters, District Director

In October, the Botany Belles and Beaus hosted the district meeting. Members paired up with a person from a different club, and made suggestions on how to strengthen the district in preparation for the 2025 convention.

The district contributed to a reprint of *Attracting Butterflies to Your Garden with Native Plants*, a publication of Wild Ones. This booklet is

similar to the one handed out about birds at *Your Garden, A Bird's Paradise*. The WGCN logo will appear on the sponsorship page. Copies of this booklet will be part of the info packet people receive at the 2025 convention.

They concluded with members making beaded houseplant stakes, two for themselves and one for the convention. The group recommended the fun activity as a Make 'n Take convention session.

## Lake Wissota GC, Kristen Brown, President

The Lake Wissota Garden Club's first meeting with new officers was in October. They approved the purchase of a Gold Star Marker to accompany their recently dedicated Blue Star Marker. Members enjoyed creating fairy-wand plant-pokes.



They also cleaned out the raised bed vegetable garden at the veterans home.

Their November presenter was Tavis Lynch, the knowledgeable Mushroom Guy. Several members went home with gourmet mushroom grow kits, promising to take pictures of their crop.

After Thanksgiving, several members volunteered to decorate the Art and Performance Center for the holidays. It was fun to provide helping hands and holiday vision. Their Christmas festivities included a silent auction and they sent the proceeds to the Chippewa Humane Association.



## Willow River Garden Club, Charlotte Nicholes, President

In October, their 60th Anniversary Celebration was held at Riverwood Nature Center in Star Prairie.

They enjoyed a great meal, and learned about the club's history from Carolyn Craig, Peggy Grubbs, Sharon Warner, and Lois Sommerfeldt. They are grateful to these ladies for their hard work and dedication.



Willow River GC met at the Deerfield Senior Living Center in November to decorate outdoor containers with evergreens and dried hydrangeas, milkweed pods, and dogwood stems.





WRGC held two workdays at Cyndi Sommerfeldt's house, to make evergreen arrangements for their fundraiser at the Doe on the Go sale. They had a great turnout for both the workshops and the sale. Of the 45 arrangements that were made, only seven were left at the end of the day. They made wreaths from the remaining evergreen boughs. At the December meeting, they enjoyed a holiday potluck and gift exchange.

### Botany Belles and Beaus Garden Club, Wendy Kramer President



Jo Schumacher, Elvera Jacot, Jeanne Niccum, Wendy Kramer

The club sponsored the fall Nature Photography Show, and sent off its order for a Blue Star Memorial Marker to be installed in 2024. In December, they viewed the Holiday Flower Show at the Sunken Garden in the Como Park Conservatory, St. Paul.

### Money, money, money! How do garden clubs fund their local gardening projects and programs?

In 2014, they made birdseed wreaths. In the current conversation, it was suggested they again make birdseed wreaths, and sell them at the ***Doe on the Go Craft Fair*** at the Baldwin-Woodville High School, as the sale in 2014 made almost \$1200.

#### BIRDSEED WREATH

##### INGREDIENTS

2 packets, or 4 teaspoons gelatin, more for a sturdier wreath  
 1/2 cup hot water  
 3 tablespoons light corn syrup  
 3/4 cup flour  
 4 cups bird seed  
 Add variety by adding dried fruits, suet and peanuts

##### DIRECTIONS

Use a Bundt pan or a festively shaped mold. Coat with a non-stick spray.  
 Dissolve gelatin in hot water, mix with corn syrup and flour.  
 Add birdseed, and 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.



Bonnie Ringer, Sue Auld, Bryan Gjevre, Jane Brakefield, Judy Crowley, Jo Schumacher

Club members were encouraged to make and donate ten wreaths, while others contributed baked goods, dried apples, and so on. Beaded houseplant stakes and birdseed bells were added. New members gathered to learn the basics of successful wreath making and another group met to assemble the houseplant stakes. Besides buying in person, people can order and pay online, and we have numerous repeat customers. Last year we made \$2,300, and we exceeded \$2,000 this season.

This has been a successful fundraiser. Besides being our main money maker, participation in ***Doe on the Go*** brings exposure to the club and its activities. A **"Why Garden Club"** display is prominent along with the club's business cards. It's



Judy Crowley, Jo Schumacher, Pat Erickson, Jeanne Niccum, Debby Walters

enjoyable to interact with community members, as this craft fair attracts around 5,000 people. It would not be possible without active participation from club members.



Male . . . . .Female



# Blue Jays

Kathy Shaw

I've always enjoyed having birds around our house, especially blue jays, members of the corvid family along with crows and ravens. Corvids are smart birds with a wide range of vocalizations. Perhaps the loudest is the blue jay, with their raucous jay! jay! calls.



Painting  
by Nathan

When I was doing research for this article, I found out that the noisy blue jays are better tree planters than the squirrels that get all the credit. They have an expandable gular pouch in their throat which allows them to store up to three acorns. With another acorn in their mouth and one in the tip of the bill, they can carry off five at a time to store for later feeding. A single blue jay can bury as many as 5,000 acorns in a single year and only recovers about a third of them. Many of those buried acorns sprout into oak forests.



Blue jays migrating was another surprise as they are around the area all year long. About 10% of blue jays migrate annually, only not always the same ones. Mostly young blue jays are migrating, but some mature birds will move south for the winter too. It's amazing to think that the blue jays we see in winter may not be the same ones we are seeing in spring and summer.

This species is concentrated in eastern half of the United States and the northwest. Their population has remained more stable than most species because they are adaptable to the spread of human population centers.

They are most common on forest edges, and wherever oak trees or birdfeeders can be found. Their diet consists mostly of nuts, seeds, grains, berries, and small fruits, supplemented with insects and other protein. They have a bad reputation for eating other birds' eggs, but it is reported that only about 1% steal eggs.



Blue jays have complex social systems within their flock and usually mate for life. Both parents help with nest-building, incubating, and feeding their young. They usually nest in a vertical crotch in a tree, building an open nest of twigs, grass, bark, moss, and mud, lined with rootlets, and occasionally decorated with paper, rags, strings, or other debris. Each couple will have one brood of 2-7 eggs per year.

Jays communicate verbally and also use their crest for body language. The higher their crest, the higher their aggression level. They have a wide range of vocalizations with over fourteen types of musical songs or calls. They are also mimics, especially imitating the red-shouldered or red-tailed hawks.

Blue Jays like tray or hopper feeds on a post rather than a hanging feeder. Their preferred foods are peanuts, sunflower seeds, and suet. If you have blue jays around your feeders, watch their crests. They will lower them when they are feeding peacefully with family and flock members. The black markings on their face, nape and throats also vary extensively, so you may be able to differentiate specific birds.



Enjoy their antics.

They are good birds to have around and are not as aggressive as you might expect. If other birds scatter when they fly in, they will soon be back to share the feeder with jays.





# Paper Valley Garden Club

**Mary Heiting, President**



In September, Paper Valley Garden Club visited Kimberly Frontida Assisted Living Center. Club members helped residents pot a new plant to keep for their rooms. We had small flags to put in the planting pots.

PVGC teamed with St. Edward's School in Mackville on the National Garden Club, Inc. Smokey Bear Poster Contest again this year. Wisconsin's winning posters were from St. Edward's. Two student's posters placed first at the Central Region and were submitted to National and placed third and fifth there. Here are the winners of the Smokey Bear Poster Contest.

Grade 1 – Miriam Dreblow,

Grade 2 – Peyton Looney,

Grade 3 – Karly Giacomini, Central Region winner and third place at National

Grade 4 – AJ Vosters, Central Region winner and fifth place at National

Grade 5 – Brooklyn Muller

In October we enjoyed a presentation from Phoebe Wei about succulents and decorated pumpkins.

Paper Valley Garden Club meets on the second Monday of each month. Please check our website for locations and times. [papervalleygardenclub.com](http://papervalleygardenclub.com)

PVGC is located in the Fox Cities region of Wisconsin, and includes the communities of Appleton, Fremont, Grand Chute, Greenville, Hortonville, Kaukauna, Little Chute, Menasha, Neenah, New London, and Weyauwega.



## Elm Grove Garden Club

**Cheryl Lausten, President**

The Elm Grove Garden Club is thrilled to welcome three new members. They were enticed to join after participating in some Holiday Workshops given for our members.

In October we assembled fall arrangements with pumpkins as the container.

In November we switched to a winter theme and crafted evergreen orbs, or kissing balls, made with fresh greens collected from our gardens. These evergreen specimens were first used in a mini tutorial on identifying conifers.

It was a great bonding opportunity, and we also enjoyed our Holiday Party.



Every gardener knows that under the  
cloak of winter  
lies a miracle,

a seed  
waiting to sprout,

a bulb  
opening to the light,

a bud  
straining to unfurl.

**The anticipation  
nurtures our dream.**

# Sheboygan District News

Karen Merlau, District Director



The Sheboygan District had its fall district meeting at the Sheboygan County Historical Museum in September, hosted by the Ivy League Garden Club.



We were treated to a presentation by Judy Cardin from the **BUMBLE BEE BRIGADE**. This organization is part of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Their mission is to improve our understanding, management, and conservation of Wisconsin bumble bees.

Judy told us that there are twenty kinds of bumble bees in Wisconsin and provided an identification sheet that should enable us to identify the various types. One species, the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee, is federally endangered. She talked about their habits, lifecycle and hibernation. She provided information to help us learn what kind of plants are recommended to support bees and pollinators. For more information about the Bumble Bee Brigade, visit their website <https://wiatri.net/inventory/bbb>

The **LAKE SHORE GARDEN CLUB** will be celebrating their 75th anniversary in 2024, and in February will be having a luncheon at the Sheboygan Yacht Club. The club was organized in 1949, and has been educating and serving the Sheboygan County area ever since. Membership is also maintained in the Sheboygan County Historical Society, Elwood H May Environmental Park and Bookworm Gardens.

Lake Shore Garden Club has been busy approaching the 2023 holiday season. The garden club was asked by Maywood Environmental Park to teach a class in hand-tied 14-inch evergreen wreaths. The perfect weekend always seems to be right before Thanksgiving! This was the 14<sup>th</sup> year of offering the class to our community!.



We supply everything, wire 14-inch wreaths, dried material from garden club members, pinecones, and a variety of hand-tied bows for a finishing touch. When signing up at Maywood, the public is requested to bring along pruners, gloves and any other items they may like to add to their wreaths. All age participants are welcome and we like no more than 30 people.



We offered a porch pot class in November. It included a black pot, evergreens, dried material, birch sticks, pine cones, and a choice of bows, birds, and tree ornaments on skewers. We limited the size of this class to 25. It filled up in two weeks and was a great event. Twenty-five participated, and ten garden club members made their own porch pots, while also helping participants with various steps to create their pots.

Maywood supplies all the evergreens and red twig dogwood. Members bring in boxwood, yew, holly, curly willow, and even corn tassels. Proceeds from both classes this year went to Maywood and came to \$1,150. Fun for members of Lake Shore Garden Club, and good for Maywood for hosting these two classes.





## Judy Newman, 1941 - 2023



Judith Marie Newman was born June 24, 1941, in Baldwin, WI. She was born to Eternal Life December 2, 2023, at the age of 82 years. Married to Larry for 47 years, she had four children, nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Judy had requested a Private, Immediate Family Only Remembrance. In lieu of Flowers, please send memorials, cards and donations in Judy's name directly to the organization of your choice. Each of these organizations meant a lot to her and she considered them all family. They will honor and celebrate Judith Newman's life in their own best way: Floral Designers of Wisconsin, 1324 Maricopa Dr. Oshkosh, WI 54904, to be used for digitizing WGCF history; Emmanuel Community United Methodist Church, 53215; and Old-World Wisconsin, P.O. Box 347, Elkhorn, WI 53121 or [oldworldfoundation.org](http://oldworldfoundation.org).

**Friend Joe Powelka, WGCF First Vice President, described Judy this way.**

Judy Newman was a force of nature! If you were on her good side, you were golden. If not, then she could be a nightmare.

She was dynamic, always on the move. She generally had an opinion on topics being discussed and she was always ready to defend her view. While she liked to personify a certain allegorical character, I believe that underneath that sometime rough persona she had a heart of gold. Her presence will be sorely missed.

Since I first met her, we have been on good terms. I respected her and she appeared to tolerate me, sometimes more than that. Since that first meeting, my real involvement with her started with my efforts to preserve WGGF history. I met with Judy at her home, and she shared with me the records she gathered for WGCF. We looked forward to working together to document the records and to write a centennial publication for WGCF's 100th anniversary. I will miss her critical and direct input to the process that must continue on in honor of her efforts.

Reading Judy's obituary, she was actively involved in so many different organizations and efforts. And when she was involved, you knew it. Those groups included Floral Designers of Wisconsin, Elmbrook Garden Club, Western Acres Garden Club, Wild Ones, Old World Wisconsin, Schlitz Audubon Nature Center, Habitat for Humanity and her church. She was past-President of Wisconsin Garden Club Federation, Director for Central Region Garden Club, a Horticulture Instructor for National Garden Club and a Master Flower Show Judge. Add to this numerous committee activities coexisting within these organizations, and she had a busy schedule.

My sincere condolences to Judy's family and to the various members of her Garden Club and Flower School/Judge Community, with whom she shared so many years of service.







## GC Greater Milwaukee Programs

Nancy Cody, President

The Garden Club of Greater Milwaukee, GCGM, kicked off our new season of programming in September. Our committee chairs create the programming schedule consisting of a formal presentation each month through June. In the summer we enjoy garden tours at member homes along with our Garden Conservancy tours in August. Our partnership with the Garden Conservancy is our biggest fund raiser. We also enjoy a number of “pop-up” events, such as a tour of a local apple farm, a cooking demo by a local restaurant, a meeting of our new book group, and a floral design workshop.

Prairie Pals Marina Moon, Judy Lasca, Helen Dahms, Grant Kniedler, Nancy Groethe, Dave Wenstrup, Karen Rodgers, Jule Groh, Karen Flanagan, Debbie Vander Heiden, MJ Jansen,



We began the year with a presentation by Eric Manges, Fox 6 Meteorologist, who shared his story of creating a pollinator garden on the station grounds in Brown Deer. We followed in October with an interesting and informative presentation by the staff of the Milwaukee Public Museum and their landscape architectural team. They shared their plans for landscaping the green spaces around the new museum that will be built in downtown Milwaukee. In December, with a current membership of 200 garden enthusiasts, we enjoyed our holiday celebration at our home base, the Woman’s Club of Wisconsin.

While our programs focus on nature, the environment, and of course, gardening, our goal is to offer a variety of opportunities for all members. We look forward to time together enjoying these events in the 2023-24 garden season.



### BLUE STAR and GOLD STAR FAMILIES Memorial Markers Committee

Chuck McCafferty, Chair



The Blue Star Memorial Program has been in existence through the garden club movement for more than seventy years. The National Garden Club is committed to placing Blue Star Memorial Markers on our Highways and Byways in honor of our nation's Armed Forces.

As Chair of the WGCF Blue Star and Gold Star Families Memorial Markers Committee, Chuck McCafferty was invited to and attended dedications of the Blue Star and Gold Star Families Memorial Markers in Pritchard Park, Racine, sponsored by Blue Star Mothers of Southeastern Wisconsin, Chapter 2, and . . .

Blue Star Memorial Marker in Lafayette Township’s Veterans Memorial at Ray’s Beach Park, Chippewa Falls, sponsored by the Lake Wissota Garden Club. The Lake Wissota Garden Club is also in the process of placing a Gold Star Families Memorial Marker adjacent to the Blue Star Marker. Chuck was accompanied by President Linda McCafferty to represent the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation.

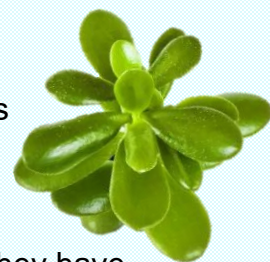
**Each time a Blue Star or Gold Star Marker is dedicated,  
we show our love for this beautiful United States of America and  
our appreciation for the Armed Services of America.**



# SUCCULENTS

Sue Donohoe, Horticulturist

Everyone loves succulents! They are easy to grow, and have health benefits too. Let's take a look at some basic succulent information to get the best growing plants around.



## WATER

Succulents are plants that require little water to grow and look beautiful, and because they have thick, fleshy leaves and stems that store water, they can go for weeks without watering. Keep in mind, however, that while the soil should dry out between waterings they cannot live forever without watering. During the growing season, spring thru fall, check the soil every two weeks. If it feels dry and the pot is light in weight, water until it drains out the bottom. Don't let the plant sit in water in the saucer. In the winter when the plants are dormant, continue to check the soil but watering may only need to happen every other month. Water **ONLY** the soil keeping the moisture away from the leaves.

## SOIL



Soil for growing these plants can be purchased at any big box store. Look for cactus and succulent soil. If you want to experiment, try making your own soil using coconut coir and diatomaceous earth, or DE. DE is a type of rock that absorbs water and slowly releases it, and can be found at automotive parts stores, as it's often used to clean up oil spills. Mixed with the coconut coir purchased at big box stores, it makes a medium that will absorb some water but allows for quick drainage so roots dry faster preventing root rot. These two components should be combined with 1 part coir to 2 parts DE.

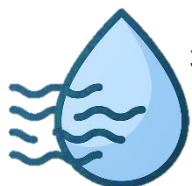
## LIGHT

When purchasing succulents be aware of the light in your home, as most like an indirect to bright light. A few can do lower light as I noted in the plant section. Remember that these plants normally grow in sunny, dry places. Also keep them away from cold winter windows, as they like the temperatures to stay between 50 and 80 degrees. Our winters tend to let cold air in at night so be mindful of this.

## HEALTH BENEFITS

As with most indoor plants, we enjoy health benefits from having them live with us. Here are a few to help you understand just how important these plants can be.

1. Succulents help with breathing more than most house plants. Non-succulent house plants do not continue to produce oxygen all night long like succulents. This fixing of the air we breathe helps us to have cleaner air while breathing in more oxygen.
2. Air purifiers – it has been determined that succulents can remove as much as 87% of the volatile organic compounds in our air. These VOC's as they are known, come from carpeting, grocery bag plastics, cleaning supplies, printers, glues and on and on.
3. Succulents can help in the prevention of diseases by improving the humidity in the air. About 10% of the humidity in our air comes from plants, and more plants = more humidity. Higher humidity can help prevent colds, coughs, dry skin and other winter ailments.





- Succulents can help in our recovery when we are sick. It's been shown that many plants including succulents, lower blood pressure and heart rate. They also decrease the number of incidents of headaches, fevers, and coughs.
- When it comes to focusing, succulents can also help. Our memory, concentration, and retention, can be improved by up to 20% if we surround ourselves with succulents.

## TYPES OF SUCCULENTS

Now that we know just how easy succulents are to care for and how good they are for our living environments, let's look at some of them.



**Echeveria** This rosette shaped succulent comes in colors from pale green to tinges of blue to pinkish/red petal tips. These plants grow from a center point and have no stem.

**Haworthia** This little spiky succulent can be grown in the shadier parts of your house. Their leaves grow by extending upwards and they are usually small plants, fitting in your hand.



**Cacti** These are the little spiny plants that we tend to stay away from, but they are beautiful and can really make a succulent arrangement look stunning. Many bloom in bright colors.

**Fun fact, cacti occur naturally only in the Americas from the Arctic Circle to Chili.**

This plant family has many different shapes and spines.

**Senecio** This plant family comes in many different forms, from trailing to standing upright. Leaves can range from pea shaped to upward, thick branches.



**Sedums** We know the outdoor variety of this plant and there are many indoor varieties as well. Similar to their outdoor relatives, they come in many shapes and colors.



These are just a few to get you started. Other familiar types of succulents are aloe, kalanchoe, Christmas cactus, hoya, and snake plant, another dark space dweller.

Your imagination is the only limit to making a beautiful succulent arrangement for your home. They can be grouped together in one container or group several containers together on a counter or table.

**Another fun fact, all cacti are succulents but not all succulents are cacti.**

Check out <https://succulentsnetwork.com> for more information. There are also informational blogs and podcasts.





# A GLASS ACT

**Karen Thaker, Book Committee Chair**

**A Glass Act**, by floral artist Ron Morgan, is a class act, and Ron does not disappoint in this visually stunning book. Designs are based upon the use of clear glass containers and water. Nothing is obscured. These sleek arrangements highlight what is above and below the water. Ron's sculptural designs are inexpensive and unique.



Consider using three graduated glass cylinders with submerged hydrangea blooms and floating candles on top, or try immersing crisscrossed curly willow branches, with one mum flower floating on top and another at the bottom. These would be elegant arrangements! Or how about house plant leaves wrapped around the inside of a water filled clear container with blossoms on top? Use a different flower, and . . . **VOILA**, an ever-changing display.

Endeavoring to highlight the natural beauty of flowers, Ron incorporates fruits, seedpods, and vegetables. Try filling a transparent container with acorns and standing some rigid-stemmed plant material in it. You will have an arrangement you can easily change out. Other items such as pea pods, citrus fruits, or colorful vegetables make excellent underwater plant supports.



Hints for longer lasting displays include dipping wooden skewers into oil of cinnamon or clove to extend the life of underwater fruits and vegetables. Use fixative aerosol, a spray for pastel or charcoal drawings, on cut fruit to prevent flies. Add Sprite or sugary soda to water to freshen flowers. If you can't change the water daily, just add one teaspoon of bleach per gallon of water.

**So simple, so stunning, so inexpensive...what could be better?**

## Poetry Awards

**Linda McCafferty, President WGC**

The grandchildren of Ann Gratton, Oshkosh Garden Club, won National Garden Club and Central Region Poetry Awards.

**Second grader CHARLIE SCHOOL** was presented with a Central Region First Place Award and a National Garden Club Second Place Award for his poem, **Little Bee**.



### LITTLE BEE

Such a little bee  
Oh me, oh my  
He carries the pollen upon his knee  
Oh me, oh my  
Such tiny specks to see  
Oh me, oh my  
Make the wildflowers grow free  
Oh me, oh my



**BERNADETTE SCHOOL, first grade**, was presented with a Central Region Second Place Award for her poem **Nature Big and Small**.

### NATURE BIG AND SMALL

The whole world is nature.  
Animals live in it.  
Big trees.  
Little insects.  
Caterpillars change to butterflies.  
The tiniest seeds grow beautiful things.







## Grow Potatoes in a Bag?

Jan Blooming, Editor

WGCFF President Linda McCafferty says YES! Almost any vegetable can be grown in a container or bag, and potatoes are no exception. Traditionally potatoes are grown in good soil in a large back yard, but with container planting, you'll need only a sunny corner, a growbag, good soil and compost, and certified disease-free seed potatoes.



Seed potatoes are small potato tubers that you can purchase online or at your favorite garden or farm store. When you plant seed potatoes, you are planting a potato produced by the plant the previous year.

You can sew a ten-gallon bag out of burlap, use a black plastic garbage bag, or purchase a grow bag. Commercial bags often have an opening for harvesting the potatoes, so no more back breaking digging! Most grow bags are 10 gallons. Five-gallon bags are about the smallest you can get away with.

It takes about four weeks for sprouts to emerge from a potato, depending on temperature and conditions. Potatoes sprout best at 65 to 70 degrees. In our climate, **start chitting potatoes** at the end of February, and plant outdoors six weeks later in April or May, or about two weeks before the average last frost.

**Chitting?** Chitting is the process of allowing seed potatoes to sprout before planting. It is also called pre-sprouting or greening. It isn't necessary, but does provide a jump start to the growing season, encourages heavier crops, and shortens the time to harvest.



Place potatoes, **rose end up**, in a single layer in a shallow box or egg carton. The rose end has the most eyes or buds. Locate the seed potato container in a warm dark area, around 70 degrees, to break their dormancy.

When you see sprouts forming, put in a cool spot with moderate sunlight. After several weeks, you should have green shoots around two inches long. Plant smaller potatoes whole. Cut larger potatoes with a sharp knife into chunks the size of an egg with at least three eyes. Allow to air dry a few days to harden or cure. The surface will feel leathery. You can also dip the freshly cut ends in wood ash to prevent rot.

Roll the sides of the bag down, and plant in six to eight inches of soil. As plants grow, add soil and compost. The results are the same as is hilling potatoes grown in your yard. More roots are produced, resulting in more potatoes. Place bags in full sun, poke plenty of drainage holes in the bottom section, and provide nutrients and water.

The plants will grow vigorously and blossom during the summer. Watch for pests, especially chewing insects which can affect the vigor of your plants. Occasionally unearth a small tuber and check for any damage to the young potato. If you use clean, new compost, you are unlikely to have any major soil-borne insect problems.







Linda advised us, that because the plants can sometimes get more than five feet tall, she puts posts at the four corners of the row of bags or sometimes around each bag. She then runs rope around and around the posts to create a fence to contain the plants to prevent them from flopping.

As they grow taller, she tries to corral the branches within the fencing. When the branches begin to turn yellow and start falling, they are basically kept to that area.

While this fencing isn't necessary, it does prevent the plants from sprawling all over like they do in the fields and thus infringe on other areas of the garden.

As summer comes to an end, the potatoes are ready to harvest. It's easy! Just dump it out or open the window in your store-bought bag to see what your plant yielded. The potatoes may be smaller than they would have grown in the ground, but you are likely to have more of them. Besides, small potatoes are more tender and perfect for grilling.



You can see from the photos that Linda had a fine harvest!

Grow bags are an inexpensive way to add growing space.

There are some disadvantages to think about, such as the soil drying out more quickly, plants requiring more fertilizer, and the weight of the bag

making it difficult to move. You will want to choose good quality bags with sturdy handles, and choose the location wisely before filling it with soil.

Advantages include the breathability of bags, excess water drains well, and bags are easy to store over winter. Just spray with water, let dry and fold.

Crops that grow well in grow bags include radishes, lettuce, peppers, carrots, strawberries, kale, green onions, cucumbers, eggplant, tomatoes, and beets. You can also grow a large number of herbs.

Grow bags are an excellent solution for patio or small space gardeners, and you can make your own bags or purchase them. Planting vegetables and herbs in grow bags is a space-saving solution and a fun family project.



# Happy Birthday Marion

Mary Heiting, President, Paper Valley Garden Club

We had a special celebration recently.  
Marion Books, a former WGCF president, celebrated her 90th birthday.



Liz Murken, Mary Ellen Sedlachek, Judy Newman,  
Marion Books, Kitty Larken, and Lynne Ehnert.

Marion has been a member of the Paper Valley Garden Club, Appleton, WI, since 1975. Her birthday was September 17, and the celebration was held October 21 at The Machine Shed Restaurant in Appleton. A beautiful buffet, cake, and a large arch of gold and turquoise balloons, made the festivities so warming.

Members of the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation attended, including camera shy Linda McCafferty and Joe Powelka, as did family and friends, members of the Paper Valley Garden Club and Fox River District, Region 2.

## Happy 90th Marion!

Never cut a tree down  
in winter.

Never make a negative decision  
in the low time.

Never make your most  
important decisions  
when you are in your worst moods.

**WAIT.**

Be Patient. The storm will pass.

**Spring will come.**

*Robert Schuller*



2024  
**CONVENTION**  
information and  
registration



will be coming  
to you soon.

# Fox River Valley District Show

Carol Caitlin, District Director, and Kathy Shaw, President, Waushara Gardeners

The Fox River Valley District held an NGC Inc. Standard Flower Show in September in the World War II Veterans Building, Wautoma, WI. The Waushara Gardeners, the newest garden club in the District, hosted the show entitled *Honoring Our Veterans*. The divisions and classes of the flower show schedule had patriotic themes. Both the WGCF President and Vice President, Linda McCafferty and Joe Powelka, attended.



Ann Gratton

Marion Books



The flower show committee included Director Carol Catlin, Treasurer Ann Gratton, Parliamentarian Liz Murken, and Secretary Kathy Shaw. Waushara Gardeners Debbie Buchholz, Kathy Shaw, Anne LeBouton, and Ruth Caves helped with staging the show.

Liz Murken and Ann Gratton visited The Waushara Gardeners and explained the different arrangements, line, line-mass, and mass, as well as the more creative designs. They explained how to condition flowers for the horticulture division and went through the entry cards that would need to be filled out.



Lynnette Rakun



Sandy Smet



Gerianne Holzman

Kathy Shaw of the Waushara Gardeners, said the classes filled by the first week of September, and what started as a huge empty building that looked too big, became a great venue, with the flower show in the large entrance area. Space was also allotted to flower show preparation, raffle and fund generating rummage tables.

Waushara Gardeners Club submitted many entries, representing their group well, placing in multiple classes. Judges included Lynne Ehnert, Kitty Larkin, Judy Newman, Wendy Kraemer, and Lynnette Rakun, and each spoke on different aspects of the show.

Garden club members can attend Flower Show School offered by National Garden Clubs, to become a judge. The Digital Handbook is offered free of charge online. Take a look.

Mary Ellen Sedlachek







Carol  
Caitlin

Director Carol Caitlin reported that decorations of red, white, and blue allium placed in a wagon full of red, white and blue petunias greeted visitors. A large room was filled with red, white, and blue staging and all of the designs reflected themes revolving around military facets.

Ann Gratton



Liz Murkin



Lynnette Rakun



Kathy Shaw



Gerianne  
Holzman

In addition to 24 flower design exhibits, there were two educational exhibits, twelve botanical crafts exhibits, and 128 horticultural exhibits, consisting of flowers, vegetables, fruit, shrub and tree branches, and potted plants. A plate of 3 large leeks won an award of merit and the highest horticultural award.

Design classes 1, 2, and 3, were required to have all fresh materials, and the coveted Tricolor Award went to the highest scoring exhibit. Table designs Class 4 and 6 required a completed floral design and Class 5 required some plant material. The table artistry award went to a design that used plates in shades of yellow, yellow ribbons, and a yellow rose, to welcome home a soldier.



Ann Gratton

The outstanding educational exhibits were the NGC, Inc. Gold Star Memorial and the NGC, Inc. Blue Star Memorial. Linda McCafferty's President's Project is to raise money to erect a Blue Star Memorial and a Gold Star Memorial at a rest stop in Southern Wisconsin.

Rounding out the flower show was Division IV, Botanical Arts and Crafts. Decorated candle sticks, decorated boxes and notecards were the three classes of botanical crafts.

Thanks to Debbie Buchholz, Susan Herman, Marc Johnson, Ann and Gary LeBouton, Mary Smaby, San Herman, Jill Piel, Chris Yesko, Jackie Shaffer, Ann Gratton, Mary Zwicky, and Kathy Shaw for volunteering more time than expected, and for

centerpiece materials. Centerpieces were awarded to those attending, with six going to the Pine River Park Ice Cream Social the next day.

**The event was a great success,  
with generous comments from visitors.**

# WGCF 2024 GRANTS

Roger Greathead, Chair Grant Committee



The WGCF Grant Committee is pleased to announce that it is accepting applications from its member garden clubs or districts for grants up to \$250. Consideration of awarding more than \$250 will be given if funds are available. The committee is interested in funding projects from garden clubs who have previously not received funding under this program.

Grants may not support annual operating expenses, but shall be used to start a new programs or provide matching funds to contribute to the extension of an existing program. It is expected that the club or district will actively participate in the project. Projects where the money is passed on to another organization without any involvement of WGCF Members will not be funded. Grants are designed to help local WGCF Garden Clubs contribute to one or more of the following:

**Community beautification**  
**Horticultural education**  
**Community gardening**  
**Environmental stewardship**

For ideas and to view projects that have received grants, go to the WGCF website. Under Awards, select Grants. The application deadline for a 2024 WGCF Grant is midnight, March 31, 2024. Awards will be announced at the WGCF Convention in May. Projects should be completed, and a feedback report sent by November 15, 2024.

Please direct your questions to Roger Greathead at roghome@frontier.com or phone 608-692-1816.

The grant application form and project completion form can be found on the WGCF website,

<https://www.wisconsin gardenclub.org/grants.html>

A benefit of belonging to WGCF is the ability to receive support and funding for projects. We hope many WGCF Clubs and Districts will find this program beneficial..

## PRESIDENT'S PROJECT

Joe Powelka, Chair 2023-2025 President's Project

President Linda McCafferty's President's Project is the installation of Gold and Blue Star Memorial Markers at Rock County Welcome Center 22. We have received \$3,255 in donations from 52 individuals, Clubs and Districts to date. This places us at 65% of our target funds raised.



In this holiday season, maybe you can help us achieve our target in less than a year! Wouldn't that be grand?

Please continue to send donations to,

Joe Powelka,  
5361 Betlach Rd,  
Sun Prairie, WI 53590.

Make checks payable to Wisconsin Garden Club Federation and please write President's Project in the memo line. For contributions over \$25, you will receive either a Gold/Blue Star pendent or pin. Please indicate which you would prefer. All contributions are tax deductible in accordance with the 501(c)(3) IRS status of WGCF.





# ARBOR DAY

Karen Merlau, Arbor Day Chair

**Arbor Day is still months away,  
but I want to you to know it will be held on April 26, 2024.**

**In Wisconsin, it is on the last Friday in April,  
and festivities are held each year at  
Maywood Environmental Park.**

I also want to suggest a hiking trail along the shore of Lake Monona in Madison where you can see massive oaks, maples and shagbark hickory trees. It is in the Turville Point Conservation Park. Take the outer loop that goes along the shore. I discovered the trail this past summer when we were visiting Madison. I have never seen as many of the shagbark hickory trees in one area.

Do you know that it takes quite a few years to develop the “shagbark”? I have a younger shagbark hickory tree that we planted years ago and it’s not yet to the point of displaying that shaggy appearance.

Hickories are slow growing. Their wood is noted for its strength and is used in the manufacture of tool handles, baseball bats, and kitchen cabinets. BBQ aficionados also prize the wood for the flavor it delivers when smoking meats. (Not to mention the tasty nuts.) Note that hickories, like black walnuts, produce the plant inhibiting substance juglone, so keep them away from tomatoes and other juglone sensitive plants.

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## PLEASE SHARE

Garden Club Members throughout Wisconsin  
would enjoy reading about your club’s activities and adventures,  
and many of you have received requests from Linda Reuss to submit articles.

**Please send information for a half page to Jan at [bloomingj@hotmail.com](mailto:bloomingj@hotmail.com)**  
for inclusion in Wisconsin Gardens, the newsletter of the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation.  
A photo or two of your members with names would be welcome.

# Milwaukee District

The Milwaukee District meeting, lunch, and program were held October 24 at the Kenosha Tap House. First Vice Director Marsha Caporaso arranged for a speaker and a buffet lunch of chef's salad and flat breads.

Pam Holy, President of the Chiwaukee Prairie Foundation, told us about the history of the Chiwaukee Prairie and the prairie preservation project. The prairie is located just south of the Kenosha, along the Lake Michigan shore. The name, Chiwaukee Prairie, as you might guess, comes from the words Chicago and Milwaukee. One hundred years ago, the area was promoted as a site for a golf course, a hotel, and lots for upscale homes. The stock market crash and depression that followed cancelled those plans, and by the time interest again developed, people stepped up, suggesting the virgin prairie land be preserved. You can learn more at [chiwaukee.org](http://chiwaukee.org).



Pam Holy of the  
Prairie Foundation

Karen Taskonis, President of the Kenosha Four Seasons Garden Club, presented Pam with a check for \$1,500 from the club at the meeting.

Seated at the front were Parliamentarian Kitty Larkin, Interim Director Diane Olson, Recording Secretary Janet Wintersberger, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Director Nicholas Lemus, and Treasurer Kerry Krokus. Not pictured were 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Director Marsha Caporaso and Corresponding Secretary Norma McReynolds.



If you have not looked at the district website, [MilwaukeeDistrictGardenClubs.org](http://MilwaukeeDistrictGardenClubs.org), for a while, please do so. Corresponding secretary Norma McReynolds is to be applauded for the new appearance and the updates!

We are now able to pay for events on line, and make food choices. Do take a look! Thanks Norma.

Four garden clubs recognized members for their service.

Receiving VIP awards this year are Carol Jackson of Milwaukee Ikebana, Chapter #22, Ann Luba of Garden Club of Greater Milwaukee, Terry Modory of Four Seasons Garden Club and Cheryl Booth of Fox Point Garden Club.

Cheryl and Terry



Nancy Gregory, Blue and Gold Star Marker Chair, reported that red, white and blue perennials were planted at the Blue Star Memorial Marker on the grounds of the Milwaukee VA Medical Center across from the Fischer House.



Norma



Nancy



Central Region Garden's Director, Lynne Ehnert, reported on the Oct. 15-17 annual convention in Des Moines. Wisconsin Garden Club Federation is a member of the seven state Central Region along with Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, and Missouri.

In addition to reports from the MDGC officers and chairs of the standing committees, garden club presidents highlighted their clubs' work and projects during 2023.

Nancy Cody, President Garden Club of Greater Milwaukee



Lynne Ehnert



Barbara White  
Fox Point  
Garden Club



Darlene Otwaska,  
Co-President  
Racine Garden Club



Karen Taskonis, Four Seasons Garden Club,  
and Diane Olsen, Interim District Director



The Milwaukee District Garden Clubs are hosting the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation's 96th Annual Convention, May 19 - 21, 2024. It will be held at the Milwaukee Marriott West in Waukesha.

### The theme is SERENDIPITY.

Kitty Larkin, convention Co-Chair, told us about the planning and securing speakers. She emphasized garden club members are needed to help fill goodie bags, serve as pages, help with registration, take meal tickets and more to make our state convention a success.



Kitty

Co-Chair Judy Newman showed the group the birdhouse we will have an opportunity to paint in one of the fun workshops!

Kitty and Judy have compiled a list of needed volunteers, and it is on the district website.

**Milwaukee District garden club members  
are asked to take a look to see how they can help!**



Judy



## Nominating Personnel Committee

**Linda McCafferty, WGCFF President**

The Nominating Personnel Committee is an important position on the WGCFF Board of Directors. In accordance with Standing Rules, it

Shall screen and select qualified candidates to serve as officers of WGCFF. The Nominating/Personnel Committee consists of a chairman and one representative from each WGCFF district.

Those representatives could be the District Directors; alternatively, the District Director could appoint someone from their District to serve on the Committee. Ideally, the chair of the Committee should have been with WGCFF long enough to be familiar with a number of its members and their involvement with WGCFF affairs and past responsibilities.

WGCFF bylaws provide that

Elected officers of WGCFF shall be a President, First Vice President/President-Elect, Second Vice President, Recording Secretary, Membership Secretary, and Treasurer. The First Vice President shall become President-Elect at the close of the Fall Executive Committee Meeting in even numbered years.

The Parliamentarian is a position appointed by the President.

**Currently there are neither a Chairman nor members of the Nominating Personnel Committee.** It is crucial that the positions be filled in order to nominate the Second Vice President, Recording Secretary, Membership Secretary, and Treasurer to be elected for the 2025-2027 term when Joe Powelka steps up as President and Nancy Gregory takes over the reins of First Vice President. This will take place at the April 27-29, 2025, Convention in St. Croix District.

Granted, this is a bit in the future. Shakespeare declared, "the swiftest hours, as they flew," and Alexander Pope stated "swift fly the years." And, of course we have heard tempus fugit, **TIME FLIES**. Faster than we can say Jack Robinson, it will be time for a new slate of officers.

**There are many WGCFF Members who are qualified to perform this very important task.**

**Please tell me you will.**



**PBS Wisconsin's GARDEN and LANDSCAPE EXPO, Madison, WI**

Friday through Sunday, February 9 – 11, 2024

**WGCFF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, Rothschild, WI**

Thursday, February 15, 2024, bantr Hotel

**ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL, Series 7, Course 2, Sheboygan, WI**

Spring postponed until Fall.

**WGCFF ANNUAL CONVENTION, Milwaukee, WI**

Sunday through Tuesday, May 19-21, 2023

**NGC ANNUAL CONVENTION, Denver, Colorado**

Sunday through Wednesday, June 2 – 5, 2024



*Save these Dates*



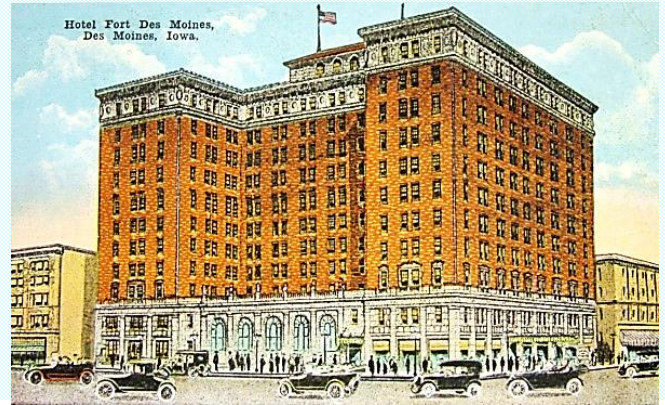


# HATS OFF TO IOWA

## Central Region Convention

Linda McCafferty, President Wisconsin Garden Club Federation

The 2023 Central Region Garden Clubs, Inc., Convention, *Hats Off to Iowa*, was held October 15 through 17 at the historic Hotel Fort Des Moines. Constructed in 1919 to rival the grand hotels of the era, Hotel Fort Des Moines is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A recently completed three-year renovation meticulously preserved its retro light fixtures and ornate furnishings. The hallway carpeting on the way to our rooms celebrates historic events from conception to today.



Because Iowa is known for its landscape of rolling plains and agriculture, the schedule of activities featured a tour of *Living History Farms*, an interactive 500-acre outdoor museum in Urbandale, Iowa. Its mission is to tell the more than 300-year-old story of how Iowans transformed the Midwest's prairies into productive farmland.

A second outing took us to *The World Food Prize Wall of Laureates*, a world class museum that recognizes agricultural and humanitarian pioneers and their efforts toward alleviating world hunger. It celebrates the spirit of giving, and emphasizes the importance of global food security.

**NGC President Brenda Moore at *Living History Farms***

An NGC **Artistic Crafts Extravaganza Flower Show** was held in conjunction with the convention. Several of our WGCN members participated in flower show and in the silent auction. We also discovered gently-used, prized treasures at the ever-present ways and means tables.



**Central Region  
Director Lynne  
Ehnert**



**Carol Caitlin,  
Blue Ribbon**



**Gerianne Holzman,  
two Blue Ribbons**



Director Lynne is  
delighted that Wisconsin  
Garden Club members  
received awards!



**Liz Murkin, a Blue  
Ribbon and a Red  
Ribbon**





For those not interested in touring, there were workshops, *Making Your Own Fascinator*, in which Chuck and I obviously participated, and *Creative Options With Gourds*, creating a piece of jewelry with a small gourd.

**WGCF First Vice President Joe Powelka went to the *Making Your Own Fascinator* workshop. Here he is wearing his purple spider.**



Interspersed throughout the convention were Executive Board and Judges Council Meetings and Central Region Director, Lynne Ehnert's, first Business Meeting.



**Front row, Brenda Moore, Marion Books, Linda McCafferty, and Kitty Larkin. Second row, Liz Murkin, Diane Powelka, Lynne Ehnert, Kerry Krokos, and Carol Caitlin. In the back, Wendy Kramer, Gerianne Holzman Joe Powelka, and Chuck McCafferty.**



**Dr. Mary Skopec**

The food was absolutely delicious! Each meal included a program, the first featuring Dr. Mary Skopec of Iowa Lakeside Laboratory, who discussed the classes and research conducted with respect to environmental concerns.

NGC President Brenda Moore, in spite of an extended overnight delay in North Carolina waiting for her connection to Iowa, arrived in good spirits. She described her fourth and final book, *My Green Is Gone*, and discussed *Leadership*. She is the author of "The Saved Seed," and co-author of "The Frightened Frog," two NGC children's books that serve as educational tools and resources for garden clubs nationally in their youth programs.

Members of Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa, Inc., our host garden club, shared some of their favorite floral designs. For the final banquet and program, attendees were encouraged to wear the fascinators they created in the workshop, or other hats of their choice.

**It was truly an appropriate ending for a wonderful convention celebrating *Hats Off to Iowa*.**



# Madison District Happenings

Jan Dixon, Director

**Mound Vue Garden Club**, Barbara Case, President, got together in October for a presentation by club member Ed Glover on Crevice Gardens, a novel way to grow alpine plants. In November, Susan Stanford from Dane County Land and Water Resources gave a workshop on native plant milk-jug propagation. In December, the club gathered with homemade appetizers and desserts for a holiday party.

Fall started off quietly for **Sun Prairie Garden Club**, Diane Powelka, President, but in November, Rachel Lambert from Tallgrass Restoration gave a wonderful presentation on Hardscaping for your Landscape.

**Sugar River Gardeners**, Annette Stratman-Durrer, President, made photo greeting cards in October for the residents of Four Winds Manor. Lisa Johnson, from the UW Extension, spoke in November about gardening in our age of climate change. December was the club's annual potluck and cookie exchange.

**Sunset Garden Club**, Jaci See, President, had a presentation in October by Paul Dearlove from Clean Lakes Alliance, a non-profit dedicated to improving and protecting the water quality of the lakes, streams and wetlands of the Yahara River watershed.

Also in October, several members got together to plant daffodil bulbs in two club community project gardens. November was a wreath workshop by Gerianne Holzman. In December, the club enjoyed a meal and each other's company in the annual holiday gathering. A charitable donation was collected that went to Second Harvest Food Bank and NGC National Disaster Fund.



Mid-town Police Precinct. Part of the bulb planting crew, Sunset Garden club.

In the early fall, **Olbrich Garden Club**, Laurel Neverdahl, President, had a Share Around the Table about favorite vegetables and recipes. October saw representatives from *The Road Home*, a non-profit whose mission is to provide housing for homeless women and children, give a slide presentation. In November, the club watched a DVD with photos of three of the gardens from last summer's District Garden Walk.



Designers Dawn Mozgawa and Gerianne Holzman generously giving of their time demonstrating types of floral arrangements.

Dawn



Gerianne





# West Side Garden Club

Diana Peterson, President

In October, **Westside Garden Club** member, local artist, and WGCF Book Chair, Karen Thaker, led the club in a workshop making paper beads and jewelry.



December is the annual workshop, where members create a seasonal arrangement for display.



Westside Garden Club holiday workshop

The West Side Garden Club located in the Madison, WI area is over 100 years old and currently boasts over 60 members. We are involved in several service projects, but one in particular has just been honored by the Police Chief of the Madison South Side Police Station.

Led by longtime member, Kathy DeMetts, many of our members go once a week from spring through fall to plant and maintain the gardens around the South Side Police Station. They work hard at keeping the gardens looking beautiful, and the police officers that work there often have coffee near the gardens on their breaks as well.



The Police Captain was so pleased with the work our members have done at the station, that he recently treated those West Side Garden Club members to breakfast at a local Denny's Restaurant. The Police Captain attributes the work we do at the station to prompting the neighborhood to take care of their yards as well.

The District Fall Membership Meeting, hosted by Westside, was a potluck dinner followed by a presentation on bumble bees by Jade Kochanski from the Department of Entomology at UW Madison. November saw Gerianne Holzman and Dawn Mozgawa give a workshop on floral arrangements for the Garden Expo Flower Show. Participants brought their own material and tried their hand at a category of their choice. Refreshments were served.





# Sheboygan Environmental School

Deborah Lisberg and Jeanne Genske

The mission of the Environmental Schools is to encourage us to cherish, protect and conserve the living earth. The courses teach participants environmental literacy, appreciation of the natural world, encourages action for sustainable development and appreciation of all natural things.



Pat Greathead and  
Maureen Wild Gordon

In October, twenty-four students attended the WGCF sponsored Environmental School at Maywood Environmental Park in Sheboygan. "It was a valuable use of our time," says Deborah Lisberg. Deborah, a Wisconsin Master Naturalist, and Jeanne, a Master Gardener, attended the school.

The initial overview explored facts from scientific studies. The object was to increase awareness of the human footprint on our planet. This was not an easy conversation. Population growth, consumerism, and reliance on fossil fuels stress our environment, and will eventually overwhelm the carrying capacity of the world. We are not on a sustainable trajectory. Change is necessary.

The focus began locally. Speaker David Kuckuk spent 30 years at Maywood as Director. He began with *Ecosystem in a Cup*, a hands-on activity. We examined the soil in a cup, identified contents, and drew conclusions about its origin. We were asked to consider how even one human action could disrupt the balance of the ingredients in the cup, and consider possible consequences.

## Fun Fact: SOIL contains the greatest number of living things!

Speakers included Jim Knickelbine, the Executive Director at Woodland Dunes Nature Center, Kendra Kelling, Maywood Director, Paul Pickhardt, Biology Professor at Lakeland University, Janet Raddatz, a Master Naturalist, and James Van Akkeren, the Chairperson of the Maywood Property Stewardship Committee. Their presentations examined backyard habitats and beyond.

Invasive species seldom support insects and native wildlife. Garden club members are aware of the importance of pollinators, know insect numbers are crashing, and plant native species and eradicate invasive plants.

On a global perspective, we learned unchecked consumerism is not sustainable, and people should ask how much items are needed by evaluating the global cost. Wind and solar, renewable energy sources, must be in the future. Each of us made a pledge to make a lifestyle change with these goals in mind.



Janet Raddatz continued with tips on networking, and Kendra Kelling gave an overview of the Sheboygan River recovery effort and a historical perspective on environmental actions and leaders.

**Deborah and Jeanne both recommend participating in future offerings of this class.  
The speakers were phenomenal.**



# Rex Begonias

Jan Blooming, Editor

Rex begonias are shade tolerant tropical plants, often called pointed or fancy-leaf begonias. They frequently have large, asymmetrical leaves six to nine inches long, in shades of green, red, silver, brown and even purple. Leaves can be round, smooth, jagged, and hairy, ranging in size from miniature to giant.

Blooms are usually pink, small, and not showy. Many growers pinch off the flowers and showcase the electrifying foliage. It is a lovely houseplant.



## GROWING CONDITIONS

Rex begonias prefer bright, indirect light year-round, and will thrive under fluorescent lights. They are not aggressive bloomers, so they tolerate less light. They do not like direct hot sun if outdoors.

Rex begonias require even watering, but do not overwater. Keep an eye on the soil and water if it dries out. They like humidity but do not mist, as this could cause powdery mildew. Bacterial leaf spot can occur if the plant is kept too wet, and root rot can also be a complication.

Mealy bugs can cause problems, especially indoors. Isolate infested plants and manually remove the insects with a fingertip or cotton swab. Next, spray the plant with neem oil or insecticidal soap. Multiple applications may be necessary to eliminate mealybugs and other pests.

Use a pebble tray under your begonias, and add water as it evaporates to keep the humidity high, creating a greenhouse effect. A pebble tray is a container that holds water filled with pebbles so that your plants sit on the pebbles and not in the water itself.



Do rex begonias go dormant in winter? Yes, to some degree, as all plants have a period of slower growth with less light. Rex begonias will not produce vigorous growth in the winter, and at times it may seem as though they are not growing at all. The plants may droop or shed leaves, as they are preserving energy for spring.

Rex begonias prefer average to warm temperatures between 60 and 85 degrees. Keep them away from cold drafts and windows that can cause temperature fluctuations.

## PROPAGATION

Few rexes can be propagated by seed, but rhizomes may be divided when repotting. A rhizome is a thickened plant stem that grows underground horizontally. Rhizomes send out roots and shoots from nodes. It may be cut into pieces and if the section has at least one node you will get a new plant.

Remove the plant from its container and pull the rhizomes and roots apart. Immediately replant the two sections in containers filled with potting soil. These plants can be divided at any time of year. They will just respond more slowly in the winter.





To propagate rex begonias from leaf cuttings, remove a leaf from the parent plant and use a sterile razor to cut through the underside veins about a quarter of the way from the stem. Roots will sprout from these cuts, so take care not to damage the leaf. Press the leaf onto the seed starting mix. To keep the cuts in contact with the soil, push T-pins into the leaf or use small stones to hold it in place. Use what is needed to hold the leaf flat.



Cover the top of the pot with plastic wrap to maintain humidity. Keep the pot in a warm, bright location with the temperature above 70°F degrees. Bright light will help plantlets form, but avoid direct sun. Grow lights provide ample light without burning the leaf. New plants begin to form in about three to four weeks. The plantlets can eventually be divided and planted in individual containers.

Inserting a leaf with a stem directly into the potting soil also works. A rooting hormone could be helpful. Rexes have a shallow, knobby rhizome that spreads best in a shallow pot. You can also sprout leaf cuttings in a container of water.

## POTTING AND PRUNING

While rex begonias do not require pruning, touch-up trimming can be beneficial to redirect plant growth or remove dead leaves.

When potting rex begonias, use a ceramic or terra cotta pot with drainage holes. Fill it with a quick-draining porous potting mix soil or add perlite to commercial potting soil. Use liquid fertilizer with high levels of nitrogen weekly at quarter strength when actively growing. In the winter, use a balanced fertilizer about once a month.

Ideally the container should be two or three inches wider than the plant's root ball. Your begonia can stay in the container as long as the rhizome does not touch the sides. At that time, either divide or repot in a planter a few inches larger with fresh planting medium.



Lava Red

Gryphon



Rose Frost

Berry Swirl



Fireworks

## VARIETIES



Iron Cross

There are gorgeous varieties of the rex begonia. *Boston Cherries* and *Chocolate* have red and silver spots on dark leaves. *Fireworks* has wing-shaped silver leaves that are etched with purple. *Snow Queen* has silvery leaves, and *Gryphon* has green leaves that turn red even when grown indoors. Many of our grandmothers grew rex begonia *Iron Cross* that displayed a green leaf with a dark brown cross in the center of the leaf.

Rex begonias live only a few years, so plan ahead and divide your plant or start cuttings for the next generation by spring of the third year. If you have not yet had a rex begonia, consider acquiring one to brighten a spot in your home.

Happy Gardening!



## PRICE INCREASE

Jan Bloomingj, Editor

**Sewah Studios of Marietta, Ohio**, founded in 1927, is America's leading manufacturer of cast aluminum roadside markers. The company is the source of the Blue and Gold Markers installed and commemorated by garden clubs throughout the United States. A Blue Star Marker honors men and women serving in the United States Armed Services. In 1945, the National Council of State Garden Clubs, now NGC, Inc., adopted the program and began placing markers along highways across the Continental United States, Alaska, and Hawaii.

The Gold Star Families organization provides support to those who have lost a loved one in service to our country. Their mission is to offer honor, hope and healing, by remembering fallen heroes and coming together.

Chuck McCafferty, Chair of the WGCF Blue Star and Gold Star Families Memorial Markers Committee, recently received a letter from Sewah detailing a price increase. He sent the information to District Directors asking them to forward it to club presidents for distribution to members. **THEORETICALLY, EVERY WGCF MEMBER SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED THIS PRICE INCREASE NOTICE.** He also forwarded it to those clubs who are thinking about installing markers suggesting they proceed quickly to avoid the increases.

The letter from Sewah says they are grateful for their longstanding relationship with National Garden Clubs, Inc. but note problems. Maintaining a strong labor force has required an increased labor cost of 40%, and along with rising material and shipping costs, they have had to reevaluate their pricing.

Chair McCafferty reports the cost of a marker with a 7-foot post will go from \$1995 to \$2350 in 2024. The cost for a marker with a 10-foot post will go from \$2095 to \$2460 in 2024. Again, if your club is considering the installation of markers, think about making the commitment promptly.

**QUESTIONS? Contact Chuck at [ikmccm@gmail.com](mailto:ikmccm@gmail.com) or 608.772.1943**

## WEBSITE

Debby Walters, Webmaster

Please, please, please . . . send pictures of your clubs/districts activities to [contactwgcf@gmail.com](mailto:contactwgcf@gmail.com) to keep the WGCF webpage fresh and interesting.

Remember too . . . your club is responsible for having a **SIGNED PHOTO RELEASE FORM** for each of your members. This release form should not be sent to me; clubs just need to have them on file . A three-ring binder works well with the signed forms in alphabetical order.

Since clubs, WGCF and NGC all have slightly different forms, you might want to rewrite one that includes all three levels of the organization for use with your club.







# Milwaukee Clubs

## Barbara White, Co-President Fox Point Garden Club

A Fox Point Garden Club member asked for our help in creating a natural habitat in a neighboring town. She lived in Glendale, and the area of concern was along Crestwood Creek. Not too long ago, the town cut down diseased ash trees along the creek. The Fox Point Garden Club decided to contribute funds, plants, and hands, to help beautify the area. The project grew and neighbors enthusiastically joined in the fun, weeding and removing buckthorn, helping to plant native perennials, and water. The Crestwood Boulevard Project has become quite a success.

In addition to maintaining our perennial mound along Santa Monica Boulevard, we continue to plant daffodils along another main thoroughfare, North Lake Drive in Fox Point and the neighboring town of Bayside.



## Laura Skoff, President Hawthorn Garden Club

Members of the Hawthorn GC made pinecone bird feeders with peanut butter and birdseed to hang on trees in their yards at their November meeting. Following their club theme for the year *The Art of Functional Gardening*, pinecones were collected from members' pine trees and utilized to provide natural feeders for the varied bird species that visit.

Club President Laura Skoff gave a program on using native plants and trees to attract birds to ones garden, and each member received a copy of the Wild Ones Handbook.

### PEANUT BUTTER PINE CONE

Wild birds are resourceful, but Wisconsin weather can be harsh. One of the best ways to help your backyard birds stay healthy is by providing them a food source.

#### Supplies:

- Pine cones
- Peanut butter
- Birdseed
- String
- Butter knife
- Shallow plate or bowl



#### Instructions:

1. Collect dried pine cones from nature.
2. Tightly tie a six-inch piece of string around the base of the pine cone.
3. Using butter knife, spread peanut butter evenly around the outside of the pine cone.
4. Dip the pine cone in a bowl or plate of birdseed until fully covered.
5. Hang in a tree for your local birds to enjoy!





## MILWAUKEE DISTRICT GARDEN CLUBS LIVING ART FRAME WORKSHOP, A SUCCESS!

Nicholas Lemus, Second Vice Director

Nancy

Milwaukee District Garden Clubs had their first fundraiser with Nicholas Lemus as Second Vice Director. Part of the money raised will go to scholarships, with the remainder going to administration costs. The fundraiser was a living art frame workshop at Boerner Botanical Gardens in September. Nancy Cody, the President of the Garden Club of Greater Milwaukee, led the workshop. She did an outstanding job. She does her research, is well prepared, and is a knowledgeable florist as owner of *Rose and Twig Floral*.

Twenty-three signed up with twelve from GCGM, six guests of Nicholas Lemus, and one each representing South Shore GC, Elm Grove GC, Western Acres GC and Four Seasons GC. Participants laughed, chatted and had a ball as Nancy instructed how to make the hanging succulents frame with Spanish moss and air plants.

Nancy added a surprise mini-pumpkin created with Spanish moss, succulents and dried flowers from her garden. Everyone had a great time and many thanked Nancy and Nick for arranging such an awesome workshop.

One person gave an extra donation to add to the fundraising pot ear marked for scholarships, and another said, "We learned a lot about succulents and how easy they are to grow and maintain. The venue could not have been better. I'm hooked on succulents, and I'm impressed with the quality of this workshop."



**A huge thanks to Nancy,  
her helpers, and those that attended for their support.**

Nick looks forward to doing another fun fundraiser next year and hopes many more of you join in to keep the south eastern clubs connected. Check out the district's attractive and updated website and please encourage others to see what the district has to offer. Change is in the air! We continue to evolve as all things that stay alive do.



## MILWAUKEE DISTRICT GARDEN CLUBS, continued.

### Kitty Larkin, President Western Acres Garden Club

Member Lynne Ehnert reports that Western Acres Garden Club met and wove Christmas Ornaments out of wheat. Items can be used as Christmas tree ornaments or package toppers for gifts. Fun was had by all sharing stories of things we made as kids.



Kitty Larkin, Connie Sandell, and Judy Newman



## IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL MILWAUKEE CHAPTER #22 GARDEN CLUB

### Lynn Laufenberg, President

Even Kaye photographed her own creations.



### Kaye Vosburgh's Sogetsu Riji Program in November was well received.

National Third Vice President Gerianne Holzman, Milwaukee District Director Diane Olsen, and the President of the National Rose Society Diane Sommers, were in attendance. A number of other garden club members not in Ikebana International Milwaukee Chapter #22 Garden Club also enjoyed the presentation.

Kaye explained design principles, plant material care, and Ikebana concepts, as she constructed nine arrangements for her demonstration.

She answered questions from the audience, and autographed books after the program. Her completed arrangements were happily purchased after the program by those attending.



### ADVERTISING GUIDELINES for Wisconsin Gardens Newsletter

We invite you to share an upcoming club or district event, memorial or congratulations, in our quarterly newsletter. It will be sent to members via email and is available to the public through our website!

#### COST

Members,  
Non-members,

Half page \$75  
Half page \$150

Quarter page \$37.50  
Quarter page \$75

Forms can be found on the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation website under FORMS.  
Fill it out and enclose with a check made out to WGCF. Submit to:

Laura Skoff, Advertising Director  
W131 N8030 Country Club Drive  
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

### Need help with designing your ad?

Email your copy to Laura at [lauraskoff@gmail.com](mailto:lauraskoff@gmail.com), and our editor will help create your ad!  
Copy is due one month before publication.  
The Spring issue will be published April 1, 2024.



# You Can Make a Difference

Pat Greathead, Chair Environmental Concerns

## 2024, A Year to Decide What You Can Do for Earth's Environment

Take a minute and decide what you could do in 2024 to improve the earth's environment. But you say, "I'm just one person. What can one person do?" Well, you can learn what is best for your home, yard, company, town, and state, and ask others to join you.



### HERE ARE SOME IDEAS.

When you shop, purchase items in glass or metal, not plastic, and keep reusable bags and travel mugs in your vehicle. Combine as many trips as possible when you run errands, stop at the bank, or hairdresser, attend meetings or go to the garden store, and so on. Use your vehicle less often, and perhaps take up bicycling and definitely walk more.

Reduce your footprint. The average American creates 4.9 pounds of solid waste daily. Some of this waste might go to composting, recycling, or is burned for energy production, but half goes to landfills, so learn where you can recycle.



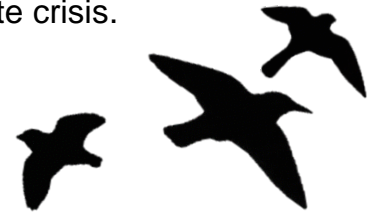
If your local electric provider offers wind, solar, or geothermal alternatives to fossil fuels, take it. Alliant Energy sells wind power at 1¢ more per kilowatt. Lowering your thermostat in winter and raising it in summer, can save 10% on your bill. Changing your HVAC filter every three months helps the environment and your system.

Invest in rain barrels to harvest water for your garden and yard. If you have city water with chlorine, let it sit for a day to reduce chloramine and chloramines for your houseplants.



Try growing some of your food and learn about edible weeds! You'll save money and reduce trips to the grocery store! Buy organic and GMO free. You might eliminate meat and dairy products a couple days a week, as some claim that these products are fueling the climate crisis.

Be bird friendly, and place decals on windows to reduce bird window strikes. Plant trees, especially oaks that host more than 500 species of moths and butterflies.



Grow native plants in your gardens to ensure nectar and fruit all season long. Birds will then have insects and caterpillars to sustain them and their broods! By paying attention to our own gardens, we can help with the survival of pollinators, birds, reptiles, spiders, and many other species.



These are but a few ideas you can incorporate into your life to help future generations.

**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**



# Green Smoothies

Jan Blooming, Editor

The nutrition of a smoothie depends on its ingredients and their proportions. Green smoothies are a delicious way to get your daily dose of fruits and vegetables, and they make a healthy snack!

They typically consist of about half green vegetables, with the remaining ingredients being mostly fruit. Many green leafy vegetables have a bitter flavor, but adding less-bitter baby spinach and fruits can make a green smoothie quite tasty.



There are many reasons to add green smoothies to your diet. They are said to increase energy and improve focus and mental clarity! They are supposed to curb food cravings, lowering weight, and fight aging by giving you healthier skin, hair and nails. Green smoothies boost your immune system, reduce inflammation, increase flexibility, stabilize sugar, hydrate and detox your body . . . or so they say! According to the internet, we should all be drinking smoothies!

Well, it may be that not all of the above is entirely accurate, but more fruits and veggies would, no doubt, benefit most of us!

Dozens of green smoothie recipes can be found on the internet, or you may use ingredients you have on hand and purchase a few others. They include apples, celery, blueberries, citrus fruits, peaches, cauliflower, bananas, chia seeds, avocados, and fresh ginger. Also, on the list are plants you could grow in your garden, such as strawberries, cucumbers, cilantro, parsley, basil, Swiss chard, collard greens, celery, broccoli, kale, spinach, and mint.



January is a good time to think ahead! Why not choose a few plants from the list, and find a space on your balcony or a tiny plot in your yard for a green smoothie garden. You will have fresh ingredients on hand when you want a tasty smoothie for a quick meal or snack!

Creating a smoothie is not difficult, but here are a few suggestions. Wash and prep vegetables by cutting into chunks. Put in the greens in the blender first, adding water not quite to cover and blend at high speed. Add the other fruits and vegetables and blend until smooth. Ingredients such as protein powders, yogurt, sweeteners, and crushed ice or ice cream, may also be added.

The mixture may be thick, and if you like it this way, fine. If you do not enjoy pulp in your juice, pour the mixture through a mesh sieve, and use the back of a spoon to press the pulp to extract as much liquid as possible. Pour the strained juice into glasses and enjoy!

## Coming in Spring 2024

Endangered Species, Flower Show Schedules and Evaluations, Flower School Schools, Habitat for Humanity, Birds, Horticulture, National Garden Week, Operation Wildflower, Scholarships, Yearbooks, Program, Membership

A garden is half-made  
when it is well planned.

The best gardener is the one  
who does the most

**GARDENING**

by the  
winter fire.

### Send Corrections and Updates To

**SUSAN JOHANSEN, Membership**

2249 122nd Street, New Richmond, WI 54017  
715-781-6825      h23j19@gmail.com

### Wisconsin Gardens Newsletter

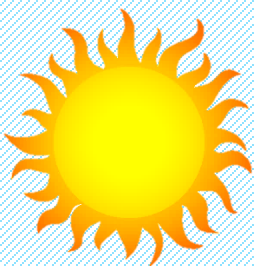
#### DEADLINE AND PUBLICATION DATES

Winter Issue, December 1 – January 1

Spring Issue, March 1 - April 1

Summer Issue, June 1 – July 1

Fall Issue, September 1 – October 1



I picture you looking out the window this memorable morning, sipping your cup of coffee, and seeing the sun reflecting off the snowy ice crystals.

What's so memorable? Well, by the grace of God, we're enjoying another lovely day, while some dear friends no longer have the opportunity. You and I have been gifted time, time to enjoy family, friends, and this world around us.

Spring is right around the corner. I look forward to this evening, wrapping up in a blanket in front of a fire, and browsing through a couple plant catalogues. I might even make a few selections. Have you started your plant wish list? Did you keep a journal last year noting what went well and what might be improved? Are you the sort of person who makes a to-do list . . . I keep sticky notes on my computer screen. Only way I can manage my day! I love crossing tasks off!

Whatever your approach to this New Year, I wish you the joy of continued learning, and the opportunity to share your discoveries with others.



*Jan*

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**Editor reserves the right to edit contributions for size and content.**



As recommended by the Organizational Studies Committee,  
to be voted on by members at Annual Meeting.

## WGCF Bylaws – Proposed Changes - insert bold, delete cross-outs

Current	Changes	Will Read, If Approved
<p><b>Proposal #1:</b> ARTICLE VIII WGCF BOARD OF DIRECTORS The Board of Directors:</p> <p>Section 1 Board of Directors Shall be composed of the members of the Executive Committee, the Finance Committee, the Organizational Study Committee, the Strategic Planning Committee, the Editorial Staff of Wisconsin Gardens, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, the Auditing Chairman and the Chairmen of all Standing and Special Committees. Any vacancy on this Board of Directors shall be filled by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee.</p> <p>Section 2 Role Shall establish the major policies of WGCF and shall direct the specific duties and activities of all Board of Directors members. Section 3 Meetings Shall meet twice a year prior to and immediately after the Annual Convention in the odd-numbered years and prior to the convention in the even-numbered years. Special meetings may be called by the President or upon request of at least seven members of the Executive Committee. The purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the CALL. At least three days' notice shall be given except in cases of emergency. Section 4 Approval Shall approve the appointed members of the incoming Board of Directors at the Pre-Convention Board Meeting. Section 5 Quorum <b>Thirty members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.</b></p>	<p>ARTICLE VIII WGCF BOARD OF DIRECTORS The Board of Directors:</p> <p>Section 1 Board of Directors Shall be composed of the members of the Executive Committee, the Finance Committee, the Organizational Study Committee, the Strategic Planning Committee, the <del>Editorial</del> Staff of Wisconsin Gardens, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, the Auditing Chairman and the Chairmen of all Standing and Special Committees. Any vacancy on this Board of Directors shall be filled by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee.</p> <p>Section 2 Role Shall establish the major policies of WGCF and shall direct the specific duties and activities of all Board of Directors members. Section 3 Meetings Shall meet twice a year prior to and immediately after the Annual Convention in the odd-numbered years and prior to the convention in the even-numbered years. Special meetings may be called by the President or upon request of at least seven members of the Executive Committee. The purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the CALL. At least three days' notice shall be given except in cases of emergency. Section 4 Approval Shall approve the appointed members of the incoming Board of Directors at the Pre-Convention Board Meeting. Section 5 Quorum <del>Thirty members</del> <b>51% of the</b> members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.</p> <p><i><b>Rationale: Changing the quorum to a percentage versus a number of people allows for three things:</b></i></p> <p><i><b>1) we have people who hold multiple positions therefore only have one vote 2) vacant positions 3) avoids having to change the bylaws when the number of positions held changes.</b></i></p>	<p>ARTICLE VIII WGCF BOARD OF DIRECTORS The Board of Directors:</p> <p>Section 1 Board of Directors Shall be composed of the members of the Executive Committee, the Finance Committee, the Organizational Study Committee, the Strategic Planning Committee, the Staff of Wisconsin Gardens, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, the Auditing Chairman and the Chairmen of all Standing and Special Committees. Any vacancy on this Board of Directors shall be filled by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee.</p> <p>Section 2 Role Shall establish the major policies of WGCF and shall direct the specific duties and activities of all Board of Directors members. Section 3 Meetings Shall meet twice a year prior to and immediately after the Annual Convention in the odd-numbered years and prior to the convention in the even-numbered years. Special meetings may be called by the President or upon request of at least seven members of the Executive Committee. The purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the CALL. Section 4 Approval Shall approve the appointed members of the incoming Board of Directors at the Pre-Convention Board Meeting. Section 5 Quorum <b>51% of the</b> members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.</p> <p><b>Approved by the Exec Committee 11/2/23</b></p>

## WGCF Bylaws – Proposed Changes - insert bold, delete cross-outs

Current	Changes	Will Read, If Approved
<p><b>Proposal #2:</b> ARTICLE IX EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Executive Committee: Section 1 Executive Committee Shall consist of the President, First Vice-President/President- Elect, Second Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Parliamentarian and the District Directors. Section 2 Role Shall have general supervision of the affairs of WGCF between Annual Conventions, make recommendations to WGCF and perform such other duties as are specified by these Bylaws. The Executive Committee shall be subject to the orders of WGCF and none of its acts shall conflict with action taken by the membership. Section 3 Voting Authority Shall have full voting authority, but all members of the Board of Directors have voice with the privilege of making motions. Section 4 Meetings Shall meet three times annually. Special meetings may be called by the President with at least three days' notice. Section 5 Reports Shall report at the Annual Convention. Section 6 Quorum Ten members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.</p>	<p>ARTICLE IX EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Executive Committee: Section 1 Executive Committee Shall consist of the President, First Vice-President/President- Elect, Second Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Parliamentarian and the District Directors. Section 2 Role Shall have general supervision of the affairs of WGCF between Annual Conventions, make recommendations to WGCF and perform such other duties as are specified by these Bylaws. The Executive Committee shall be subject to the orders of WGCF and none of its acts shall conflict with action taken by the membership. Section 3 Voting Authority Shall have full voting authority, but all members of the Board of Directors have voice with the privilege of making motions. Section 4 Meetings Shall meet three times annually. Special meetings may be called by the President with at least three days' notice. Section 5 Reports Shall report at the Annual Convention. Section 6 Quorum 51% of <del>Ten</del> members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.</p> <p><i>Quorum: There are 6 voting members the executive committee (does not include the President and Parliamentarian) and 5 DD's. Recommendation: 51% of the Executive Committee allows for a majority. Using a percentage is advantageous so if members are added or removed, we would not need to revise bylaws.</i></p>	<p>ARTICLE IX EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Executive Committee: Section 1 Executive Committee Shall consist of the President, First Vice-President/President- Elect, Second Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Parliamentarian and the District Directors. Section 2 Role Shall have general supervision of the affairs of WGCF between Annual Conventions, make recommendations to WGCF and perform such other duties as are specified by these Bylaws. The Executive Committee shall be subject to the orders of WGCF and none of its acts shall conflict with action taken by the membership. Section 3 Voting Authority Shall have full voting authority, but all members of the Board of Directors have voice with the privilege of making motions. Section 4 Meetings Shall meet three times annually. Special meetings may be called by the President with at least three days' notice. Section 5 Reports Shall report at the Annual Convention. Section 6 Quorum 51% of the members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.</p> <p><b>Approved by the Exec Committee 11/2/23</b></p>



# WGCF Bylaws – Proposed Changes - insert bold, delete cross-outs

Current	Changes	Will Read, If Approved
<p><b>Section 9 Scholarship Investment</b></p> <p>The Scholarship Investment Committee shall be composed of three members. The member with seniority on this committee shall serve as chairman.</p> <p>1. The President-Elect shall appoint one member in the odd-numbered year and the President shall appoint one member in the even-numbered year, with the approval of the Board of Directors, to serve for three years</p> <p>2. The committee shall be responsible for the investment of all scholarship monies and maintenance of separate accounts for the Irene Straus Scholarship Fund, the Della H. Balousek Scholarship Fund and other scholarship funds. There shall be no comingling of any WGCF</p> <p>Bylaws Revised 8-18-2021 Page 15 scholarship funds, including interest or dividends with any other WGCF funds.</p> <p>3. No member shall serve two consecutive appointments.</p> <p>4. No member shall serve concurrently on the Finance, Organizational Study, Strategic Planning and Scholarship Investment Committees or as Scholarship Investment Liaison</p>	<p><b>Section 9 Scholarship Investment</b></p> <p><del>The Scholarship Investment Committee shall be composed of three members. The member with seniority on this committee shall serve as chairman.</del></p> <p><del>1. The President Elect shall appoint one member in the odd-numbered year and the President shall appoint one member in the even-numbered year, with the approval of the Board of Directors, to serve for three years</del></p> <p><del>2. The committee shall be responsible for the investment of all scholarship monies and maintenance of separate accounts for the Irene Straus Scholarship Fund, the Della H. Balousek Scholarship Fund and other scholarship funds. There shall be no comingling of any WGCF</del></p> <p><del>Bylaws Revised 8-18-2021 Page 15 scholarship funds, including interest or dividends with any other WGCF funds.</del></p> <p><del>3. No member shall serve two consecutive appointments.</del></p> <p><del>4. No member shall serve concurrently on the Finance, Organizational Study, Strategic Planning and Scholarship Investment Committees or as Scholarship Investment Liaison.</del></p> <p><i>Rationale: Committee is not needed as we no longer make financial decisions.</i></p>	<p><b>Section 9 Scholarship Investment</b></p> <p>Delete entire Section – renumber future section.</p> <p><b>Approved by the Exec Committee 11/2/23</b></p>

## WGCF Bylaws – Proposed Changes - insert bold, delete cross-outs

Current	Changes	Will Read, If Approved
<p><b>Section 10 Scholarship Investment Liaison</b>  The Scholarship Investment Liaison to the Community Foundation of the Fox Valley Region, Inc. shall be appointed by the President- Elect every fourth year (beginning in 2003). 1. The Scholarship Investment Liaison is to serve four years for purpose of continuity of communication with WGCF and may serve a total of eight (8) years. 2. No member shall serve concurrently on the Finance, Organizational Study, Strategic Planning and Scholarship Investment Committees or as Scholarship Investment Liaison</p>	<p><b>Section 10 Scholarship Investment Liaison</b>  The Scholarship Investment Liaison to the Community Foundation of the Fox Valley Region, Inc. shall be appointed by the President- Elect every fourth year (beginning in 2003). 1. The Scholarship Investment Liaison is to serve four years for the purpose of continuity of communication with WGCF and may serve a total of eight (8) years.</p> <p><del>2. No member shall serve concurrently on the Finance, Organizational Study, Strategic Planning and Scholarship Investment Committees or as Scholarship Investment Liaison.</del></p> <p><i>Rationale: Removing reference to the Scholarship Investment Committee since it will be dissolved. Because the Liaison is no longer involved in financial decisions, there is no reason they could not participate on the other committees.</i></p>	<p><b>Section 10 Scholarship Investment Liaison</b>  The Scholarship Investment Liaison to the Community Foundation of the Fox Valley Region, Inc. shall be appointed by the President- Elect every fourth year (beginning in 2003). 1. The Scholarship Investment Liaison is to serve four years for the purpose of continuity of communication with WGCF and may serve a total of eight (8) years.</p> <p><b>Approved by the Exec Committee 11/2/23</b></p>

