

# Wisconsin Gardens



## in this issue:

Notes from our President	2
Scholarship Recipients	4-5
News from Clubs, Districts	6-7
President's Project Report	8
WGCF Life Membership	9
Gardening Study School	11
Dates to Remember	12

## Coming soon! The NEW WGCF Website!

Debby Walters, Webmaster

The WGCF website has a new look and updated content after a summer of work by a dedicated group of information gatherers and writers; the address remains the same: <http://www.wisconsingardenclub.org/>. Much time was spent on reorganizing and expanding the content found on the current webpage; the new site provides extensive information on every aspect of the WGCF. New to the site is an expanded Membership and Clubs section which contains a page about each district and shares a bit about the area and the clubs found there. The sections devoted to special projects, awards and scholarships, education, and flower shows are also revamped.

Included on the site are the forms necessary for every aspect of WGCF activities. These are fillable pdfs which will make everyone's life easier. The site also contains a Members Only section which includes the directory, financial reports, minutes, rules and bylaws. Webstix creates the usernames and a password. As members log into the Members Only section for the first time, they will be able to change their password but not the username. If you have an email account, you will be notified of your username and password. Visitors (members and non-members) to the site will be able to sign up for an electronic newsletter.

People from all areas of the organization provided information for this website, many thanks to everyone who contributed. In order to keep the website viable and up-to-date, it is essential that new information be added. What is happening in your club/district? Are there dates/events that need to be added to the calendar? It is a visual world, do you have pictures to share? Have you read a good gardening article that would inform us all? Perhaps as you read the site, you will see improvements that should be made or have a photo that would add to a page, please submit it.

*(Article continued on Page 3)*



## Gardening Thoughts

*"Not what we say  
about our blessings, but  
how we use them, is the  
true measure of  
our thanksgiving."*

— W. T. Purkiser



WGCF members Gerianne Holzman, Debby Walters, Sylvia Lowell and Karen Lee-Wahl, learn about updating the WGCF website from Tony Herman of Webstix. Debby's special guest for the training was a Monarch who emerged a day late for their District flower show, but during her drive to Madison.



**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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**Notes from our President.....**

Wow! Summer has already come and gone. It is amazing how fast time flies – even when retired. Great early summer plans of revitalizing and painting our potting shed never materialized. However, creating a new pollinator garden with an emphasis on butterflies is a blooming success. The Monarchs were coming even before the Liatris was in the ground. Yesterday, we counted more than a half dozen different types of pollinators on one plant of goldenrod. Rob and I are so excited about the project we certified the entire front yard as a Monarch Way Station. (monarchwatch.org) Since, I was in the garden registering mode, the entire yard is also now a National Wildlife Federation Backyard Wildlife Habitat (nwf.org) and certified as Pollinator Garden in the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge! (millionpollinatorgardens.org) Our NGC president Sandra encourages all garden club members to support these outstanding organizations as part of her president’s projects. You may also access any of these opportunities through the NGC website – gardenclub.org.



The WGCF commanded much time over the summer – most of it very enjoyable. Rob and I loved traveling around the state to the Sheboygan District’s garden walk at Christopher Farms (a must-see for any gardener), to the Tour le Jardin in the Milwaukee District and the Monk Gardens with the Tri-Council. Traveling to West Allis for the state fair flower show sponsored by the Floral Designers of WI club and to Chippewa Falls for the St. Croix District flower show were special judging opportunities. We have a beautiful state and it is fun spending time behind the wheel and seeing seasons progress.

Our WGCF strategic plan is progressing. The Leadership Workshop held in June was a resounding success. Members left with enthusiasm and excitement to share their knowledge with others. Several attendees felt we should “take the show on the road” to clubs around the state. The biggest time expenditure of the summer and most exciting project is our new WGCF website. Many thanks go to Carol Catlin and her son who started us on the path to electronic age with our initial website. Thanks to Susan Johansen for continuing Carol’s journey. Undying gratitude goes to Debby Walters, the website crew and Webstix for creating and developing our new website. It is fantastic, user-friendly and contains a plethora of information for members and the public. All of our forms are downloadable and fillable on your computer, members have their own personal login and the entire WGCF handbook is available for reference. Check it out: wisconsinclub.org. (New content is always welcome.) You can also “like” us on Facebook: Wisconsin Garden Club Federation. More strategic plans are coming regarding convention, continuing education, membership and structure. It is an exciting time to be part of this great organization.

Finally, kudos go out to the members of the Botany Belles and Beaus garden club for successfully applying for and receiving a grant of tools from the AMES Company. This partnership with NGC provides federated garden clubs with sturdy American made tools to aid in their projects. Clubs not associated with WGCF/NGC cannot apply. (A non-federated club in Wisconsin was recently turned down.) This is just another reason to belong to the WGCF. Do not forget to get your awards application submitted for WGCF, CR and NGC awards. Many have very simple requirements – check out the awards section - on the website, of course!

“Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.” – Albert Camus.

Enjoy your “second spring” as you plant bulbs, harvest vegetables and clean up your gardens.

*Gerianne*

**ADVERTISING RATES**

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

## Awards 2015 - 2016 WGCF, Central Region, NGC

Sandra Smet

WGCF wants to recognize the good works of your clubs with Awards. But, you have to do your part and apply for these awards. The due date for Central Region Awards was October 1st. Please consider applying for CR Awards next year, all information can be found on CR Website: [www.NGCcentralregion.org](http://www.NGCcentralregion.org) Password: 7states

The WGCF Awards information is available from your District Directors, and on the WGCF website. Yearbooks are due November 1, 2015. All other WGCF Awards are due December 1, 2015.

NGC has several awards and due dates also and can be found at: [www.gardenclubs.org](http://www.gardenclubs.org)

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## WGCF Membership Development Guide

Vern Lowell

The WGCF Strategic Planning Membership Work Group led a discussion at our State Convention last May. We received some great ideas from members on developing a brochure to help garden clubs increase membership by attracting new members and developing existing members. We also learned of and have since studied efforts along the same lines by NGC and other state garden club organizations. We are well on our way to having a draft trifold brochure ready. Our plan is to present our work to the Executive Committee at their meeting on October 15, 2015. When finalized, it will be available on our new WGCF web site and we will have copies available at next year's convention.

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## The Organic Garden's Prayer

by Dawn Mozzarella

My hosta is hole-y, my lilies are laggard,  
My tomatoes are limp on the ground.  
The whole garden, it seems, is long in the tooth,  
The summer has run itself down.  
But if I look carefully, the beauty's still there,  
As color creeps into the trees.  
The asters are awesome, the mums not shy,  
To wear their hue at my knees,  
So I'll look past the black spot,  
I'll forget the new weeds,  
May this be a lesson to me,  
To look for Your best  
And consider myself blessed,

## Garden Therapy Information Needed

Carole Hopp

Bonnie Borne, NGC Therapy Gardens Chairperson for 2015-2017 and the Central Region Garden Therapy Chairperson, Sandra Wales, wish to create a network of Therapy Gardens and Clubs across the country and in Wisconsin that are working on Therapy Gardens. I am looking to compile a list for Wisconsin clubs who have Therapy projects.

It would be greatly appreciated if clubs would respond to me with information of the club, the chairperson for the Therapy Garden project and where it is located (address/city). It would be helpful to have the physical address of the chairperson along with contact information; i.e., email, phone, etc.

Please send this information to me at:  
[carolehopp@wi.rr.com](mailto:carolehopp@wi.rr.com)

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## Environmental Study School

Environmental Studies School, course 4, is rescheduled to June 17 & 18, 2016 due to a lack of registrations.

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## Website article continued.....

The following people are trained to update the website, please send information their way:

Debby Walters - [vikings76@gmail.com](mailto:vikings76@gmail.com)

Gerianne Holzman - [geriannewgcf@gmail.com](mailto:geriannewgcf@gmail.com)

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Carla Von Haden - [wisconsingardens@centurytel.net](mailto:wisconsingardens@centurytel.net)

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Nancy Gregory - [enjaygee@yahoo.com](mailto:enjaygee@yahoo.com)

Ideally, there would be a representative from each district trained to update their district's page. It would be the best way to keep the pages current. If you are interested in being trained, contact Debby Walters.

## WGCF Scholarship Recipients

Mary Ellen Sedlachek, Scholarship Selection Chair



After two years we finally have a national winner. Corinne Marie Demler, a sophomore from Blanchardville, Wisconsin, was awarded \$4,000 by the National Committee for the 2015 - 2016 academic year. Having been a beekeeper since second grade and living on Busy Bee Lane, Cora chose to attend the University of Minnesota where she was attracted to the research work conducted by Dr. Marla Spivak, whose projects include pollinator identification, bee nutrition assessments, and bee breeding programs. She plans a career as a researcher in genetics in the fields of horticulture and apiculture to solve societal and environmental concerns.

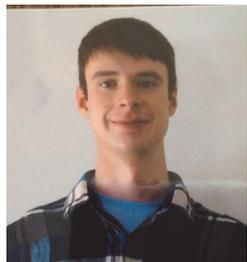
A second selection for the National Scholarship, Junior Brent Arnoldussen, from Appleton, Wisconsin, attending the University of Wisconsin - River Falls, was given the Carolyn Craig Scholarship of \$2,000 and a WGCF Scholarship of \$1,000. As a student assistant for Dr. David Zlesak, this diligent working young man eventually plans to earn a PHD in horticulture and conduct research on sustainable and organic pomology (fruit), olericulture (vegetable), and community food systems. He has had extensive experience in aquaponics and organic gardening.



Della Balousek Scholars include Samantha Rae Lindblad and Shaylee Carol Church from the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point and Nathanael Dean Holmes from the University of Wisconsin - River Falls. Each received \$2,500.

Samantha Lindblad, a sophomore from Hayward, majoring in Forest Recreation, hopes to become an herbaceous and woody plant specialist. This 3.8 GPA has worked at a greenhouse in her hometown for the past three summers.

Shaylee Church majoring in Wildlife Ecology is a senior with plans to become a wildlife biologist. This Stoughton native has volunteered at the Four Lakes Wildlife Rehabilitation Center where she cared for injured and orphaned juvenile and adult songbirds and has traveled to Costa Rica to study Tropical Ecology.



Nathanael Holmes, one of eight children, from Ellsworth, a junior majoring in Horticulture with a 4.0 GPA, will make a wonderful addition to the landscaping field. As an intern for the City of Cottage Grove for the last two years, he has gained professional experience designing and installing new gardens throughout the city. He is currently the Senior Floral Purchaser for the University of Wisconsin - River Falls Horticulture Society.

Sydnie Marie Hefty, a sophomore from Grafton, received the Irene Straus Scholarship of \$1,000 to continue her studies in Natural Resource Management. Sydnie is focusing on youth programming and camp management, since she has been involved in camp counseling at Camp Evelyn for two years. While at Stevens Point, she has worked as a student custodian.



## *Congratulations to all WGCF Scholarship Recipients !!*

WGCF was able to grant five \$1,000 scholarships to Anna Glynn Radke, Avery Joel Hackett, and Tony Willman from the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point, and Nicholas Peter and Brent Arnoldussen (on previous page) from the University of Wisconsin – River Falls.



Anna Radke is a senior from Wilton, studying hydrology, soil science, and chemistry enabling her to do Environmental Monitoring. Growing up on her family's farm, she is used to working hard doing most everything necessary to succeed. She has worked as a teaching assistant and a math and science tutor for the University. She is dedicated and will graduate with highest honors.

Avery Hackett grew up in Holmen surrounded by twenty acres of family land on which his love of nature developed. The sophomore studying forest management and soil science is not only a religious leader for CRU on campus, but has received the Army Male Leadership Award, as well as the Boomerang Award at Festival Foods. He intends to expand his knowledge of the preservation of forest processes and ecosystems as they interact.



Our fisheries biologist is Tony Willman, a sophomore from Oshkosh studying in the Natural Resources College. Maintaining highest honors, Tony also works 10-15 hours a week at the Phoenix Behavior Health Services with autistic patients. Last summer he worked as a boat driver and did maintenance work for the Canadian Border Outfitters. An avid fisherman, Tony continues to show his love of the water in the U. of Stevens Point Fisheries Club where he learned to shock fish, use fyke nets, and record information on fish.

Nicholas Peter, a junior from Athens, is studying Horticulture with a Landscape Design option. His last year in high school at Agricultural Technology Days hosted by River Falls, he tied for first place in the Nursery and Landscape category. Greenhouse management and landscape design are two of his favorite classes. For two summers he was a potting assistant at Grass Creek Greenhouse, Athens. Then he worked at Down to Earth Greenhouse & Landscaping in Wausau, the summer of 2013 and at Schalow's Nursery in Marshfield, the summer of 2014. He also has been a resident assistant for the past two years.



Scholarships for the 2016 – 2017 school year will be available December 15, 2015. The National Scholarship is available to sophomores, juniors, seniors, or graduate students whose primary residence is Wisconsin, at [www.gardenclub.org/youth/scholarships](http://www.gardenclub.org/youth/scholarships) with a due date of February 1, 2016, to our state chairman. Our State Scholarships are for state residents attending a Wisconsin school and can be accessed at [www.wisconsin.gardenclub.org](http://www.wisconsin.gardenclub.org) under Awards/Scholarships.

*Editor's Note: Check with family members and friends about their children's/grandchildren's career goals. You might just know someone that you can suggest the WGCF and NGC Scholarship programs to. We need to help promote the Scholarship programs since that may not happen at the colleges they attend.*

## News from around the State..

### Botany Belles and Beaus Garden Club

**Karen Niccum**

Beautification of our towns and villages is so inviting to visitors. As part of that beautification process of the Village of Baldwin, Botany Belles and Beaus GC plants flowers around the windmill at Windmill Park. This year we added a hosta garden in the shaded area of the park where we have already planted Limelight Hydrangeas. Our members enjoyed providing and planting hostas from their gardens.

A special part of the project was to place a lovely park bench in the garden, provided by our club. The bench is in memory of Sue Hielkema, a member of the Botany Belles and Beaus. Another hard-working member is Elvera Jacot, (photo below) pushing the wheel barrow filled with hostas from her gardens. She is an inspiration to newer members. With all of the rain this summer, the plants have had a great start.

We have enjoyed helping to provide a restful garden where community families can come, relax, and enjoy the beauty of God's creation.



*Beautifying the community of Baldwin is an ongoing project.*

Photos by Anita Voiles

### Wisconsin River Garden Club Celebration

**Libby Rosandick**

How do you celebrate a 50th anniversary? With a tea and garden party, of course, if you are the Wisconsin River Garden Club. On Tuesday, August 25, the group celebrated 50 years of friendship and gardening at the South Wood County Historical Museum in Wisconsin Rapids, complete with vintage hats and white gloves, from "back in the day".

Historical Society president, Phil Brown, welcomed the group and gave some historical background on the museum, formerly the Issac Witter home, including the fact that because she wanted more space for the garden, Mrs. Witter had the house next door moved a few blocks away to open up the space.

In 1965, a group of about 20 young Wisconsin Rapids women met to form the Wisconsin River Garden Club. Two of those charter members were present to celebrate - Mary Jo Hane of Wisconsin Rapids and Jo Wittchow of Onalaska. Several other former members also attended.

Members were treated to a tour of the museum gardens by master gardeners Mickey Erickson and Betty Havlik, project co-chairmen of the museum gardens, which have been maintained by the Wood County Master Gardeners since 1997.

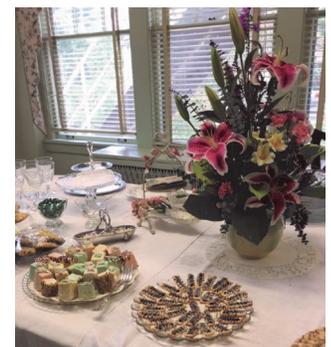
The celebration concluded with a tea including scones, tea sandwiches, and petit fours, made by committee members, along with tea, coffee, and lemonade served elegantly as in days gone by.

The Wisconsin River Garden Club continues to be active in the community and is affiliated with the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation. Some of their local projects include maintaining the terrarium at McMillan Library, spring clean-up of three gardens at Historic Point Basse (Nekoosa), and helping with the companion zoo gardens at the Wisconsin Rapids Zoo.

Membership is open to those interested in learning about gardening and participating in service projects.



Photos by Loretta Schoechert



## Sheboygan Area Garden Walk

Doris Weber

Sheboygan Area Garden Walk raised more than \$30,000. The 10th annual Sheboygan Area Garden Walk was held in July with 2,600 visitors taking in the acclaimed Christopher Farm and Gardens.

Jay Christopher, the property's owner, was on hand throughout the day to greet and share information with the guests.

Proceeds from the walk will be donated to Bookworm Gardens, \$12,200; Elwood H. May Environmental Park, \$12,200; Meals on Wheels, \$8,000; and Boy Scout Troup 801, \$400.

The Garden Walk is staffed by volunteers from Ivy League Garden Club, Lake Shore Garden Club, Town and Country Club, and UW-Extension Master Gardener volunteers.

Next year's Sheboygan Area Garden Walk will be on July 9, 2016.



*Hill and Dale Garden Club members enjoy assisting the students and staff of Royall School District with the many aspects of school gardening, from planting to harvesting.*

Photos by Carla Von Haden

## Gardening with the School Children

Carla Von Haden

Over three years ago, our Hill and Dale Garden Club of Elroy was asked if we would consider being a Community Partner for the PEP grant proposal that the local school superintendent was submitting. After discussion at a Club meeting, we decided to sign on to the project - never realizing the amount of time we might spend, the fun we would have with school gardening classes, or how much we would learn along with the school children.

Through this project, we are helping with summer school classes, spring and fall after-school gardening classes and the school's annual Health Fair.

The after-school classes, one day a week for four weeks, last an hour and a half. Activities in spring classes included making pots out of newspaper, planting seeds that can be taken home, transplanting seedlings from the high school greenhouse, instruction on various vegetables & what part of the plant we eat, making bird feeders and other crafts. In the fall, we spend time harvesting and then cleaning up the garden. On a recent day there were 33 children (from grades 1-4), one classroom teacher, and six Garden Club members harvesting pumpkins, melons, squash & gourds, pulling up the vines, & carrying them to a nearby compost pile, finding an occasional slug (not really part of the assignment but definitely interesting to the students who found the slugs) and then hauling three very full wagons of produce down a hill to the elementary school. The after-school classes always involve a healthy snack and this fall the students have helped to make salsa and cole slaw. Carrots, squash, potatoes & onions were used for a recent roasted vegetable creation. We have noticed a difference in the students' willingness to try a variety of vegetables. If you serve cole slaw with pretzels, it's 4:00 p.m. and they haven't had much to eat since lunch time, then they are more willing to sample cole slaw.

The summer school classes for children going into K through 6<sup>th</sup> grade, have been all about working in the school garden - from prepping the soil (after someone has tilled it), putting down paths to divide the garden into quadrants, planting seeds and seedlings, and weeding. Lessons on health and nutrition, safety with tools, and caring for plants are a part of our rainy day activities. There are four one-hour class sessions each session with class sizes of 12-16. Since many of the young gardeners repeat the class several times, we are constantly looking for new craft, snack & planting ideas. Lessons for the classes are planned by the elementary teacher Mrs. Michele Hackett, with input from Garden Club members, High School horticulture teacher Mrs. Beth Kolodzinski, and Mrs. April Martell of the UW-Extension Office. This team effort of discussion and sharing of ideas has worked very well.

This project has involved our participation in an annual Health Fair at the elementary school. On the days of Health Fair, we have 30-minute sessions with all students from grades 4K through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. We try to incorporate short lessons on topics such as how seeds sprout, the importance of gardening, helping them learn about names of vegetables, and sampling new & different vegetables.

## President's Project Report

Nancy Sloan & Jan Dixon, Project Co-Chairs

When the idea was presented at UW Hospital and Clinics for a garden and green space for patients, families and staff, it was originally thought that it might be an easy endeavor. The old helipad site was chosen not only for its size, but because it had the best access to the most patient rooms. But the progress ground to a crawl as the engineers made sure building codes were adhered to and both the garden and the radiology department, which sits under the helipad, were safe from the added weight of the steel structures, hardscape and plantings. Everything has finally been approved and the steel will soon be going up. Construction is due to be completed by next spring.

Ken Saiki Design is the landscape architecture firm responsible for the plan. They want to use native plants with an emphasis on the color purple, which was Hillary Grace's favorite.

The President's Project is two fold. One half of your money donated to the project will be set aside and returned to the individual districts to be used for their own "Gardening for Good" project in their local communities. To have your donation used this way, send a check to WGCF treasurer Lynette Rakum and in the subject line write "Gardening for Good" and indicate your district.

You've seen the overhead plan for the garden in the summer issue of Wisconsin Gardens. As you can see from the pictures below, the garden area is still a blank slate. In the subsequent issues, you'll be watching the development of the garden from the ground up. It's exciting to be involved in such a worthwhile project from the very beginning!



To date, donations for the President's Project have been received from the following clubs and individuals:

Indianhead District

Madison District

Lake Wissota Garden Club

Elm Grove Garden Club

Lake Shore Garden Club

Botany Belles & Beaus Garden Club

Joan Goebel

Blue Star Garden Club

Hill and Dale Garden Club

Parkway Garden Club

Ivy League Garden Club

Joyce Beth

Carolyn Craig

Gerianne Holzman

Oshkosh Garden Club

Wisconsin River Garden Club

Paper Valley Garden

Elmbrook Garden Club

Many thanks for your donations to the President's Project!

## Endangered Species

Laura Skoff

The Endangered Species Act was passed by Congress in 1973. Its purpose is to protect and recover imperiled species and the ecosystems upon which they depend. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service oversees the federal level of rules & regulations and each state defines its own list and is governed by their own Department of Fish & Wildlife. The most recent Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Endangered Species List has over 130 plants, wildlife, and fish listed as endangered.

With the current effects of climate change, widened world deforestation and loss of natural habitat, we are seeing the

smallest species and native plants starting to show extinction. The new NGC theme is "Leap Into Action" with a focus on creating awareness of the plight of amphibians and pollinators. Who knew that salamanders were in trouble due to the production of wood chopsticks? With the deforestation, comes loss of critical habitat. Nearly one-third of amphibian species have been classified as threatened with extinction. Bees and butterflies are dying from habitat loss, air pollution and global warming to name a few. As gardeners, we can help! Plant native species to keep biodiversity alive. Humans cannot live as the only species on this planet because it is **other species** that create the ecosystem services essential to us.

**Will Your WGCF Life Membership Number be 500?**  
**Sylvia Lowell**

The WGCF Life Membership is an honorary designation, which demonstrates pride in the organization while supporting the Memorial Scholarship Fund. This membership may be purchased by an individual or presented as a gift as either a Memorial or Living Tribute. Non-garden club members may also be honored in this way. A certificate and life membership card is given to each Life Membership recipient.

New Life Members presented in 2015 include:

- \* Sandy Kenner # 480
- \* Jeanne Bredbest # 481
- \* Linda Reuss # 482

There are many ways to obtain or present a WGCF Life Membership:

- Donate to the WGCF Scholarship Fund and become a Life Member yourself.
- Purchase a Life Membership for someone else.
- A gardening parent , grandparent or some other family member.
- A library in your town.
- A business that supports your garden club.
- The gardeners on your street

- As a thank you for a frequent club/District speaker
- To recognize the person responsible for your love of gardening
- To thank the owners of your favorite garden center
- Become Life Members as a group of friends; requesting sequential numbers.
- Gift new members of your garden club with the Life Membership.
- Create a plan so all members of your garden club become life members.
- Gift your incoming or outgoing club president/ officers with a Life Membership.

Perhaps, your District will receive the Larkin Life Membership Award at an Annual WGCF Convention. A plaque is presented to the District having the greatest percentage of increase in Wisconsin Life Memberships from January 1st - December 31st of the current year over the previous year. It's easy! Wisconsin Life Members pay a one-time tax-deductible life membership contribution of fifty dollars (\$50.00). Fill in the Memorial Scholarship Fund Donations form, make out a check to WGCF Scholarship Fund and mail as directed on the form. It is important to remember that a Life member will need to continue paying annual club, district and WGCF dues.

*You are invited to  
 Glamour in the Garden*

**Coulee District Meeting**

**Saturday, October 24                      11 a.m.**



**Best Western Midway                      1835 Rose Street                      La Crosse**

**Host club:    Hill and Valley - La Crosse**

***Program: "Companions in the Garden" by Lucy Slinger, FSPA, Ph.D.***

**\$15 Registration                      (608) 788-2404                      crashbergs@aol.com**

## Dig In and Dig It - new WGCF website

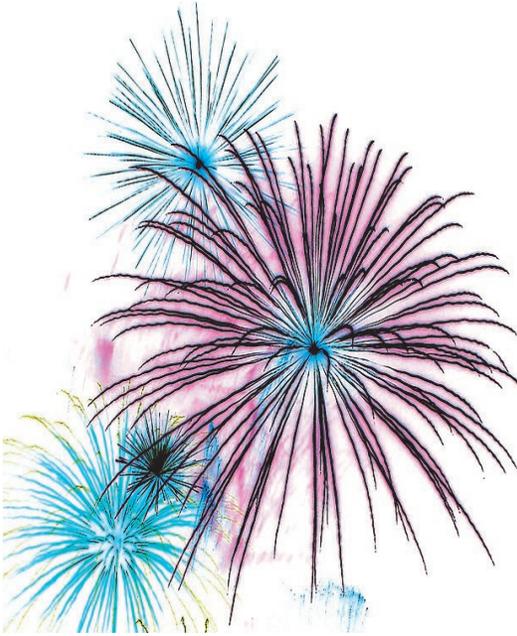
It's finally here – check out the new WGCF website:  
[wisconsinclub.org](http://wisconsinclub.org).

New content, easily navigable pages, interactive forms, photos, video, bylaws, standing rules, awards, convention.... WOW, we have it all. Your website team has been busy all summer creating a wonderful tool for you, our members, AND for anyone interested in the WGCF and gardening.

We encourage members to check out the pages, submit additional content and photos. Something missing? Let our wonderful webmaster, Debby Walter know – she will fix it!

The new website is your WGCF Strategic Plan in action – dig in and dig it – it's cool!

*We expect that the “launching” will occur in mid-October, so check for the new website after October 15th.*



**Milwaukee Art Museum Garden Club**  
 invites Wisconsin Garden Club Members to a  
 Special Lecture - Friday, November 20, 2015  
**“Flowers & Art As Seen in the Collection  
 of the Milwaukee Art Museum”**

featuring  
 Barbara Brown Lee

This well-known and highly-regarded Museum Chief Educator from 1963 – 2013 will share entertaining, priceless, one-of-a-kind stories gathered as she watched the museum's art collection grow to over 30,000 pieces.

*A rare opportunity and not-to-be-missed event!*

Milwaukee Art Museum,  
 700 North Art Museum Drive, Milwaukee,  
 WI

10:30 am Coffee & Bakery Basket

11:00 am Lecture

Send \$10 Reservation Check

**by November 9 to:**

Julianne Salamone, 19260 Alta Vista Circle,  
 Brookfield, WI 53045

Oshkosh  
 Garden Club

**SCHOLARSHIP  
 LUNCHEON**

**Fashions and Culture of the  
 Civil War Era**  
 presented by Historical Timekeepers, Inc.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2015

Oshkosh Convention Center  
 2 N. Main St.

Cocktails 11:30 a.m.  
 Lunch Noon

For tickets  
 Or more information

Contact  
 Mary Ellen Sedlachek

920-426-1084 or  
 redspark  
 @milwpc.com

WWW.OSHKOSHGARDENCLUB.ORG

## Gardening Study School

Lucy Valitchka

Series VIII

Fox Valley Technical College, Appleton, WI

Classes will be held on Fridays and Saturdays.

2016

Course 1—April 8 & 9

Course 2—September 9 & 10

2017

Course 3—April 21 & 22

Course 4—September 8 & 9

Planning has begun for Wisconsin Garden Club Federation's next Gardening Study School to be held at Fox Valley Technical College, Appleton, WI.

State Chairman, Lucy Valitchka, and Local Chairmen, Sandi Smet and Marion Books will provide registration information in the 2016 winter edition of *Wisconsin Gardens*.

Please reserve these dates if: you are a consultant and need to refresh (every five years); need courses to complete studies as a consultant, or want to begin studies to become a Gardening Study School Consultant.

The school is available for WGCF members and the public. Master Gardener Volunteers often attend to fulfill their yearly required 10 hours of continuing education hours.

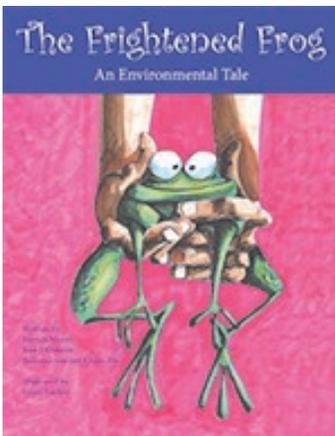
## Backyard Wildlife Habit

Sandy Nelson

The bee is an important part of everyone's habitat. I moved from an area where I had 12 gardens to a townhouse that has a small patio. Talk about a different life-style!! Well I started with a few plants on my patio and a bird feeder. I put bird seed in the feeder, I got birds, not as many as at the lake. I watched them as I sat on my patio, and low and behold I saw a bee on my flowers not just one but a lot of bees pollinating my plants. I then ordered plants at my clubs fundraiser, and even more bees came. I couldn't believe how many there were, I don't know if it's because I had less to look at or what. I then decided to remove the old worn out bushes in front and replace them with hydrangea and rose. I was pleasantly surprised how it looked. Then came the rose beetle and a whole new problem! ! More about that in another article. I have had a good season with my smaller garden, I have it more under control, than I ever did at the lake. It's the same problems just on a smaller scale. Till next thyme. Sandy Nelson

## Book Review

Kay Villa



*The Frightened Frog*  
*An Environmental Tale*  
 By Brenda Moore and Jean Ohlmann  
 Illustrated by Emily Lackey  
 National Garden Clubs, Inc.,  
 2015, pgs. 35.

Suggested retail: \$10.00

Simply fun describes this children's story about environmental awareness. However, adults will enjoy reading this book too. The publication was created by National Garden Clubs, Inc. and is authored by some of our members. The goal of the book is to encourage children to spend more time outside exploring nature and to educate them about the precarious plight of amphibians. The book dovetails with the NCG President, Sandra Robinson's, special project

and encourages us to leap in to action to become environmental heroes.

The book is well written with rhyming prose and beautiful and colorful illustrations. I recommend that each garden club purchase a copy of the book and develop a few club activities based on its theme. Consider sponsoring a children's reading program at a public library, nearby preschool or public garden; and donate a copy of the book to their local library. Educational references are included in the book to make it easy to jump right in to create an educational program. Teaching packets are also available through the NGC web site.

In addition to the overall story about the frightened frog, the book includes some interesting environmental facts. Did you know that a group of frogs is described as an army? And that having frogs in the environment are a sign of a well balanced ecosystem? Please help carry the NGC program to the public and to educate future generations of children.

Happy reading and ribbit!

## Dates to Remember

### 2015

#### OCTOBER

15 WGCF Executive Board Meeting, Elkhart Lake

### 2016

#### FEBRUARY

12-14 Garden Expo, Madison, WI  
17 WGCF Awards Meeting, Rothschild (evening)  
18 WGCF Winter Executive Committee, Rothschild

#### APRIL

8-9 Gardening Study School, Appleton

#### MAY

2-7 NGC Convention, Grand Rapids, MI  
15-17 WGCF Convention, Osthoff Resort, Elkhart Lake

#### JUNE

16 WGCF Summer Executive Committee, Madison  
17-18 Environmental Study School, Mequon

#### SEPTEMBER

9-10 Gardening Study School, Appleton  
Sept. 26–Oct 2 NGC Fall Executive Board, Portland, ME

#### OCTOBER

7-9 Central Region Convention, Springfield, IL  
20 WGCF Fall Executive Committee, Coulee District

## Address changes and corrections

should be sent to Membership Secretary

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If you move, change your email address or your phone number, please notify our Membership Secretary. We want to have your most recent information so that you can receive this publication and any email notices which are sent. Thank you!



### Memorial Scholarship Fund Donations

Please make checks payable to  
**WGCF Scholarship Fund**  
c/o Community Foundation for  
the Fox Valley Region, Inc  
**4455 West Laurence Street, Appleton, WI 54914**

The enclosed donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is designated for the WGCF Scholarship Fund.

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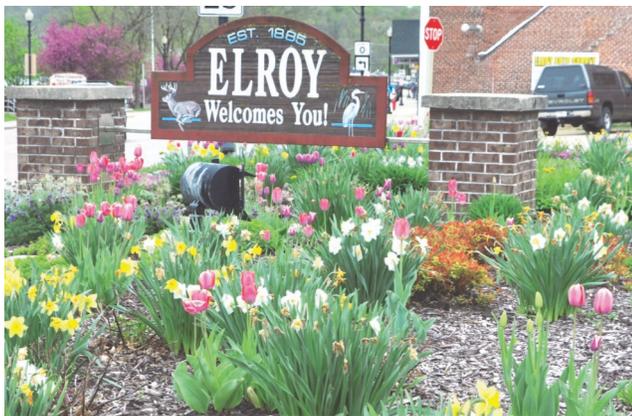
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## Deadline for Winter Issue: December 1, Submissions Welcome

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Due to the variability of bulk non-profit postage delivery, WGCF and *Wisconsin Gardens* takes no responsibility of late delivery of event announcements. Please plan accordingly.

**Coming in the Winter 2016 Issue: Arbor Day, By-Laws and Standing Rules, Nominating, Convention 2016, Outlook Recommendations and Historian. Highlighting All Districts - directors please send reports. Articles also needed by Clubs throughout the state.**



Looking out my window, I find myself reflecting on the wonderful people that I have gotten to know because of our common gardening interest. As I was falling asleep last night, I had this editorial on my mind and had dreams of my mother and aunt, who started my interest in gardening, and also were a part of starting a Garden Club in this community. If they were here to tell us, they would say their interest in gardening came from their parents, and their interest in Garden Club came from hearing of a Garden Club in another area.

Each of us can think of so many people that we share this gardening interest with. I think of old friends & colleagues that I worked with for years & continue to share comments on what new plants we've started or what area of the landscape is being changed by us ..... to the new teacher friend that I work with for school gardening classes where we exchange ideas about school gardens & working with students .....to the Garden Club members who so faithfully show up for the community projects.....to the friends that I see (not often enough) that I became acquainted with because of our gardening interest.....to the school children who enjoy telling of what is growing in their gardens and what they enjoy about the school garden.....to the family members who ask for my ideas about their yards and gardens.

I imagine that your lists could also go on and on. What a delight it is to share this passion for our gardens and our concern for the environment. We all have many opportunities to share our gardening interest, our love of nature, and our concern for what happens around us. Let's all take some moments this fall to thank our gardening friends and let them know of the bounty we have gained from our gardening connections.

*Carla*

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