



# Wisconsin Gardens

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Fall 2017



## Highlights of "Digging in the Dells" Central Region Convention & A Gathering for Gardeners October 2017

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## Gardening for Good

*Education*

*Service*

*Friendship*



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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## A Message from our President . . . . .

What a summer and early fall! WGCF has been active in communities across Wisconsin “gardening for good”. It is heartening to hear of all of the things that the clubs are doing to make their communities a better place. It also has been a busy time full of educational opportunities. A Garden Study program was offered in Appleton, a Flower Show Symposium in Milwaukee and a Tri Refresher was offered at the Gathering for Gardeners that was held in WI Dells. This is in addition to flower shows that were held across the state. We have been busy living our motto!



The State’s President’s Project is beginning to take shape. You can read more about it in this issue of WI Gardens.

Congratulations to all of those who worked so hard to make the Gathering for Gardeners a success. The speakers were informative and the subjects timely. A special thanks to Gerianne Holzman for being the executive chair of this exciting event and the Coulee District for being the hosts.

We are in the beginning stages of planning the 2018 Gathering for Gardeners. Mark the dates of Oct 12-13 and plan to join us in Stillwater, Minnesota for the event! You might ask, isn’t this a WI event, and why are we meeting in Stillwater? We are celebrating the St. Croix River which is one of the few national wild rivers in the nation. It is the border between the states of Minnesota and WI and an integral part of our State’s President’s project. We are collaborating with the Minnesota Federation of Garden Clubs to present this event. The two states are tied so closely here that the post office for Houlton, WI where our president’s project is, is located in MN! You will be hearing more about this event in the coming months.

I gave a grant writing program to the Executive Committee in September and am giving this program in districts across the state over the next few months. I believe that if you can dream it, it you can fund it! There are lots of resources available to “Garden for Good”. We should find them and use them. Don’t forget to apply for the NGC grant. This application form can be found on the NGC website. The due date is Nov 1.

As we get farther into fall and our plants begin to die or go dormant, I know that all of you will be breathing a sigh of relief, and then waiting anxiously for those seed catalogues to show up in the mail. It’s what we do!

Warm regards,  
*Peggy Grubbs*

### ADVERTISING RATES

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

## State and National Award Opportunities

Char Schulze, WGCF Awards Chair

Garden club projects are much like gardening. We plan, plant, nurture and invest our talents and resources. We are hopeful, creative, determined and hardworking. Garden clubs throughout the state have created projects and worked through challenges to make their projects successful. Wisconsin Garden Club Federation and National Garden Club, Inc. want to recognize and reward your club for its efforts. We encourage you to apply for any of the WGCF and/or NGC Awards listed on these websites: [www.wisconsin gardenclub.org](http://www.wisconsin gardenclub.org) and [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org). The awards year runs from January 1 through December 31. Starting this year, several awards have been changed from certificates or silver trays to monetary awards. Check out the award opportunities for your club today and start preparing your applications. Good Luck!

Awards will be announced at the May Annual Business Meeting.

### Awards Application Deadlines:

*Exceptions to timelines or deadline dates are noted in award descriptions.*

**November 1** Yearbook Awards applications. Submit to WGCF Yearbook Chair, WGCF President, your club's District Director and your club's District Yearbook Chair.

**November 15** National Garden Club Award applications. Submit to WGCF Awards Chair for processing. WGCF Awards Chair submits to NGC Awards Chair at later date.

**December 1** WGCF Award applications. Submit to WGCF Awards Chair.

WGCF President: Peggy Grubbs, 2350 80th Street, New Richmond, WI 54017

WGCF Yearbook Chair: Pat Ritchie, N3752 County Road O, New London, WI 54961

WGCF Awards Chair: Char Schulze, 18975 Still Point Trail, Brookfield, WI 53045

## Flower Show Symposium



The Flower Show Symposium, "What's New Pussycat" held in August 2017, featured presentations on Horticulture by Jim Schmidt of Champaign, IL (above) and on Design by Lynn Fronk of Worthington, OH (above right). Julie Schoenike (right) creates a floral design based on the topics presented during the Symposium.



## Racine Garden Club

submitted by Lynn Felle and Darlene

**ON THE ROAD AGAIN . . . . .** The Racine Garden Club members were out and about on the annual August bus trip and what a bus trip this was. Our bus arrived and we loaded up as fast as we could with anticipation to see beautiful gardens, eat fantastic food, and shop, shop, and shop some more.

Our day started with our president, Lucky and vice president, Sharon serving us delicious Danish pastries from our famous O&H Bakery here in Racine. Along with our pastries, we enjoyed lemonade or apple juice. Yum, Yum. Then we were on our way to the Cantigny Gardens in, Wheaton Illinois.

After arriving at the Cantigny Gardens, we were each given bottled water and we strolled through the many gardens for an hour and a half. There are 22 gardens all together, but some were under renovation. Cantigny Park opened to the public in 1958. It is home to:

- The Robert R. McCormick Museum, a historic house museum interpreting the life and legacy of the Colonel. The mansion reveals the public and private sides of one of America's wealthiest and most philanthropic families.
- The First Division Museum, dedicated to the history of the Big Red One, the famed 1st Infantry Division of the U.S. Army. Many exhibits are interactive and all of them provide fascinating insights about America's military, past and present.
- Cantigny Gardens, created in 1967 by renowned landscape architect Franz Lipp. Nearly 30 acres of formal gardens, theme plantings and statuary render exceptional beauty in all seasons.
- Visitors Center, featuring a popular scale model of the estate, 100-seat theater with welcome film, Le Jardin at Cantigny Park (restaurant and banquet hall), Bertie's Café and the Cantigny Shop.
- Education Center, a prairie-style building opened in 2010 that serves as the hub for more than 300 children's programs, youth group activities, Golden Oak Club meetings (for seniors), fitness classes, horticulture workshops, art classes and more.

Then we were off to lunch at Jameson's Original Char House in Arlington Heights, Illinois. The food was wonderful and thank you to Lucky and Sharon, for the most marvelous cookie bundles for dessert.

With our tummies full, we then traveled on to our shopping extravaganza at Pasquesi Home & Gardens Center. Upon arrival, Lucky said "Ladies get your credit cards ready and at the count of 3, we will open the doors"!

As we entered the garden center, we were greeted by staff, who gave us each a folder with the history of Pasquesi's, a \$5.00 gift card, September sales information, and a Melinda Myers' publication on Hydrangeas. We shopped for 1 1/2 hours at their beautiful indoor store and outdoor garden plant area. The baggage area of the bus was FULL!!

Tired, full, and brimming with ideas, we headed home. What a fun day with friends, food, garden ideas and shopping!

A special thank you to Lucky LaMeer and Sharon Tilton who made this event so seamless and enjoyable.



## Scholarship Recipients Announced

Mary Ellen Sedlachek, Scholarship Chair

Mikayla Moran, the only student from Wisconsin who applied for the National Garden Club Federation Scholarship, was awarded the \$4,000 prize. A resident of Oshkosh, Mikayla is presently a junior at the University of Georgia, Athens, studying Consumer Journalism and Consumer Foods, hopefully pursuing a career in the food industry doing research, or working with a manufacturing company as a leader in food production and processing, quality assurance and control, and enforcement of food laws. Along with classes and volunteering for various health-related activities, Mikayla is the Majorette Captain of the University of Georgia Redcoat Marching Band.

The Della Balousek Scholarship of \$2,500 each was awarded to two students from UW-Stevens Point. Luke Scheberl is presently a graduate student at the UW-Madison studying Soil Science, while working as a research assistant. Derek Potratz, an Omro native recently graduated from UW-Stevens Point, will also be working in graduate studies at UW-Madison, studying Soil and Land Management (Agronomy).

The Carolyn Craig Scholarship of \$2,000 went to Cody Becker, a junior from UW-Green Bay, studying Environmental Science/Geoscience. He devised a remote controlled pontoon boat for plankton sampling, and as a commercial pilot created an observation plane for mapping sturgeon in the Great Lakes. He has also been instrumental working with drones.

Christine Larson, a senior from Oshkosh, studying in the College of Natural Resources with an emphasis on water resources at UW-Stevens Point, received the Irene Straus Scholarship of \$1,000. Christine has been involved in various natural resources projects with the DNR, among them monitoring sturgeon harvest on Lake Winnebago.

WGCF Scholarships of \$1,000 were awarded to five distinctive students:

– John Hermus, a junior from Oregon, Wisconsin, is studying in the Department of Natural Resources at Northland College in Ashland. John is an Eagle Scout.

### **“Harvest Fest” AN NGC FLOWER SHOW** A Small Standard Flower Show

Presented by  
**Elmbrook Garden Club**

Brookfield Public Library  
1900 N. Calhoun Road  
Brookfield, Wisconsin 53045

**Wednesday, October 18, 2017**  
**6:00 PM to 8:00 PM**

Member of  
National Garden Clubs, Inc.  
Central Region  
Wisconsin Garden Club Federation  
Milwaukee District Garden Clubs  
Open to the public at no charge

– Haley Lucas from Green Bay is studying Environmental Science at UW-Green Bay. As a swimmer, she will concentrate on aquaculture as a graduate student.

– Also from UW-Green Bay, Heather Lutzow, a junior in Environmental Science, is a member of Ducks Unlimited and the Nature Conservancy.

– Kristina Medo, a sophomore from Wausau studying at UW-Stevens Point, is a nature activist in the area of Wildlife Ecology/Environmental Ethics.

– Andrea Weissgerber graduated from DePaul University in Chicago and is now a graduate student at UW-Madison where she is studying Landscape Architecture.

State students received \$24,500 this past school year to assist them with educational finances. If you know of a sophomore, junior, or senior in a scientific area of study, inform them of the possible scholarships available to them by accessing our websites at:  
[www.wisconsin-gardenclub.org](http://www.wisconsin-gardenclub.org) under Awards/

Scholarships for a student attending an accredited college in Wisconsin or [www.gardenclub.org/youth/scholarships](http://www.gardenclub.org/youth/scholarships) for the National award. Information for the 2018 school year will be available prior to December of 2017, with a deadline for applications no later than February 1, 2018.



## **2017-2019 WGCF Presidents' Project**

### **ST CROIX RIVER CROSSING**

#### **Loop Trail, Blue Star Marker, Gardens**

After a 60 plus year wait, and years of negotiation, a badly needed bridge was built between Minnesota and Wisconsin over the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. According to Wikipedia: "this is a federally protected system of riverways located in eastern Minnesota and northwestern Wisconsin. It protects 252 miles (406 km) of river, including the St. Croix River (on the Wisconsin/Minnesota border), and the Namekagon River (in Wisconsin), as well as adjacent land along the rivers. The St. Croix National Scenic Riverway is one of the original eight National Wild and Scenic Rivers, largely as a result of legislation by senators Walter Mondale of Minnesota and Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin. The largest scenic riverway east of the Mississippi River, it lies within parts of eight counties in Wisconsin: Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Pierce, Polk, St. Croix, Sawyer, and Washburn; and three in Minnesota: Chisago, Pine, and Washington."

This bridge took bipartisan cooperation between representatives of Wisconsin and Minnesota and an act of Congress to be built. A group of 28 stakeholders from all areas affected, worked for years to negotiate a final plan.

As part of these negotiations, a five-mile, walking, biking trail, called the Loop Trail, was created. Peggy Grubbs, our current WGCF president, realized that there was a wonderful opportunity for the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation to be involved in several aspects of this project. Beginning in June of 2016, Peggy Grubbs, Susan Johansen and Carol Howe, all members of the Willow River Garden Club, began working with representatives from St. Croix County to see how we could collaborate together.

The idea of putting in a Blue Star Marker and garden at the Loop Trailhead to honor our veterans, was embraced by St. Croix County officials. We were encouraged to also plant both raingardens and pollinator gardens as part of this project. Because of publicity about the involvement of WGCF, we were contacted by representatives from the US Fish and Wildlife to partner with them in establishing the gardens. They have pledged a substantial amount of money to making this project a reality.

The Loop Trail is an important part of the environmental mitigation package of the project. The five-mile long trail goes over both the old Stillwater lift bridge and the new Stillwater Crossing bridge and along both sides of the river. In addition to the trails, there are interpretive panels planned that will highlight both the natural and historic features of the area.

The major focus of WGCF's efforts will be seen at the Trailhead. This area will include parking, flush toilets, pavilions, benches, gardens and the Blue Star Marker. It is the main location for people to gain access to the trail.

The bridge has been open since early August of 2017 and has had tremendous use by walkers and bikers since its opening. A dedicated path, with outcroppings for viewings of the natural beauty of the river was a wonderful addition to the plan.

Construction of the Trailhead is scheduled for the Spring of 2018. Our 2018 Gathering for Gardeners, will be focused along the river in Stillwater and will include a tour of the Trailhead and the dedication of the Blue Star Marker in Wisconsin.

*(The following article was printed in newspapers in northwestern Wisconsin.)*

### **Beauty and function: Wisconsin garden club puts its touch on Loop Trail project**

by **Rebecca Mariscal**, reporter for RiverTown Multimedia

Natural colors will welcome visitors who traverse along the Wisconsin side of the St. Croix Crossing Loop Trail, thanks to Wisconsin Garden Club Federation President Peggy Grubbs.

After learning about the Loop Trail a year ago, Grubbs selected the trail as the garden federation's annual president's project. As a New Richmond native, Grubbs was thrilled to see the focus of the group on this corner of the state.

"This is a perfect opportunity to bring those dollars and projects to St. Croix County and Western Wisconsin," Grubbs said.

To add to what the trail already provides, Grubbs and the garden club has been working with St. Croix County's Ellen Denzer and Tamara Wittmer on the project.

*(continued on page 7)*



"We were just thrilled that someone was coming to us and asking us to help and participate and expand that awareness," Denzer said, "and give us an opportunity to do more than just have stormwater ponds."

The project will include gardens at two different sites - the trailhead that will be located across from Houlton Elementary and a parking lot that will be at the top of the hill near the St. Croix Crossing bridge.

At the trailhead, the club will plant a rain and pollinator garden, and it will also create a veterans memorial garden at the site. An additional rain garden will be at the hill parking lot.

Grubbs' own personal connection inspired the addition of the veterans memorial. One of her fellow garden club members served in the military for more than 20 years and her son-in-law is currently serving.

"Seeing first-hand the impact on the families and the sacrifice that the veterans make, it made it a no-brainer for me," Grubbs said.

At the trailhead, the garden will have a veterans marker to honor those who have served.

"This is going to be a highly visible space, lots and lots of users, Grubbs said. "We thought that having the memorial marker would be significant and that perhaps people can be reflective of that freedom isn't free."

The other types of gardens were selected to be both attractive and useful. The rain gardens will filter water before it goes into the ground, providing

a natural filter. The pollinator gardens will provide food for bees and butterflies, especially the monarchs that are struggling.

All of the gardens will feature plants native to the area, something Denzer said is required by the visual quality manual of the St. Croix Crossing project. Each plant will be labeled by a marker so visitors can identify the plants they see.

Currently the cost of the garden project is expected to be about \$10,000, and the club is collecting funds now.

"We're big proponents of if you can dream it, you can fund it," Grubbs said.

The gardens are designed to add to the already developed Loop Trail project.

"It's going to add functionality, beauty," Grubbs said.

## "Reaping the Harvest" Flower Show

by Debby Walters

DJ's Fiesta Event Center was the site of the Reaping the Harvest Flower Show during Baldwin's Chili Fest on Sept. 29th and 30th. The Flower Show gave the Botany Belles and Beaus club members the opportunity to use their creative talents in floral design and to exhibit flowers and vegetables from their gardens. The club was pleased that many non-members viewed the show also. There were also informative displays about creating backyard habitat and the mighty oak tree. All entries were judged by a three panel team (Carolyn Craig, Lynne Ehnert, Kitty Larkin) and were placed. In addition to the official judging, the public voted for their favorites and a People's Choice Award was given in the design and horticulture categories.

The Reaping the Harvest Show met the requirements of the National Garden Club, Inc. and the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation. The show earned a high score from the judges.



A beautiful coleus was exhibited by Mary Hampton (above left). It won the Horticultural Excellence Award, Growers Choice Award and People's Choice Award. Marilyn Doornink's "Chili Fest" Exhibition Table (above right).

## WGCF Gardening School

Lucy Valitchka, State Gardening School Chair

WGCF Gardening School, Series 8, Course IV,  
Fox Valley Technical College, Appleton, WI  
September 8-9, 2017

After two years with two courses each year, Gardening School Series 8 is completed. We hope all who attended learned more about gardening and will be willing to share that knowledge with others. We are pleased that we will have new Gardening Consultants to add to our roster as soon as all paperwork is approved by our National Garden Club, Inc. accreditor, Bonni Dinneen. She was very helpful for this series. Names of the new consultants will be printed in a future *Wisconsin Gardens*.

Thanks are due to Marion Books, local Gardening School Chairman; Jeanne Baum, registrar; and Gretchen Vest, Tri-Council Treasurer, for their help with this series.

Course IV attendance totaled 18 each day, with one person attending one day and a different person the other day. Eight attendees took the exam and all passed. Four attendees refreshed.

Having a different garden club in our district provide refreshments for each course worked really well. It helped promote our school even if not many from those garden clubs attended.

We did well financially for all courses with some higher attended courses balancing lower ones.

Our last course went very smoothly with well-prepared, knowledgeable instructors. An FVTC instructor was in the building Saturday morning doing some office work. I asked for assistance to make sure the audio visual equipment was all set. He knew what classes we had that day, one of which was "Gardening for Pollinators". He said that his class had recently installed a pollinator garden near our building. He was willing to give a tour of that garden right after the pollinator class. How fortunate we were to see something we just learned in class. When opportunities occur, sometimes the best learning happens. We took advantage of it. *(photos at right)*

Fox Valley Technical College was a great place for our school with all the accommodations we needed. The Agriculture Building administrative staff was very helpful. After we complete our financial obligations we think we will have enough money to donate to a scholarship in the Horticulture/Natural Resources field at FVTC. This is in appreciation for use of their facility at no charge to us. We used their food service for our meals.

Series 9 Gardening School should begin two years from now, which is the schedule WGCF currently follows. Plan ahead in case you want to become a Gardening Consultant. It is worth it.

## Hilary Grace Garden

2015-17 President's Project

Danielle Kemp, Development Program Manager at UW Health, recently sent a note to Gerianne Holsman, with comments that were made by patients at UW Hospital. On the patient survey, there were open-ended questions about their hospitalization and what was the best thing about their stay..

Here are a few of the comments from the past few months:

- "Loved the outdoor garden"
- "Liked the nurses, food delivery and flower gardens"
- "We went outside to the Healing Garden ~ it felt GREAT. Thank you."
- "Loved new garden! Need to plant Sage."
- "Lovely garden"
- "The garden was a huge help to be able to go out there and see it our my window."

Danielle commented, "Thank you again for the generous donation to help with the plantings in the future. We are so grateful for this amazing partnership we've struck with you and honored to have been chosen for your President's Project.



Pollinator Garden at Fox Valley Technical College





**CENTRAL REGION CONVENTION**

Central Region Convention attendees were entertained and inspired by the speakers: Jane Buck (left photo) who spoke on Invasive plants; Neil Dibboll (right photo) presented information of the importance of prairie plants; Diane Schulte (below left) who demonstrated floral design; and Lizzie Condon (shown with Lynne Ehnert, below right photo) who spoke about International Crane Foundation and cranes, which are one of the most endangered families of birds.



Everyone was treated to cake in Celebration of 85 Years of Central Region (above left); Michigan members invited others to the 2018 Convention (above center); NGC President Nancy Hargroves told of her plans for her term of office (above right). Several WGCF members attended Central Region Convention (photo below)..



## Honorees and Designers for Central Region Convention



Honoring NGC President Nancy Hargroves  
(left photo)  
Designer: Lynne Ehnert

Honoring Central Region Director Fran Stueck  
(right photo)  
Designer: Kitty Larkin



Anita Bierbaum, IL President  
Designer: Judy Newman



Sue Fuhrman, IN President  
Designer: Suzanne Potts



Julienne Bramer, IA President  
Designer: Marge McGoff



Carol Brodbeck, MI President  
Designer: Liz Murken



Bonnie Schwichtenberg, MN President  
Designer: Betty Beck



Karen Blackmore, MO President  
Designer: Diane Olsen



Peggy Grubbs, WI President  
Designer: Dawn Mozgawa

## **Digging in the Dells**

### **Gathering for Gardeners & Central Region Convention**

**Gerianne Holzman, Executive Chair**

Members, friends and guests Dug into the Dells in early October at the 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Central Region (CR) Convention and the Gathering for Gardeners 2017. Volunteers spent hundreds of hours preparing for the event culminating in a fantastic four days of learning, socializing, eating and having fun. The CR convention began with a “whoop” as Lizzie Condon of the International Crane Foundation (ICF) took attendees through the history of the ICF and especially their very successful whooping crane program. Brought back from the brink of extinction through the efforts of the ICF, the whooping cranes once again grace the skies on the migrations through Wisconsin.

Early risers enjoyed a wonderful breakfast and learned what NOT to plant and how to get rid of invasive plants. Jane Buck, the CR Invasive Species Chair shared fact and fiction related to uninvited guests in our gardens and country sides. Participants jumped from Invasives to Natives at the lunch time presentation by Neil Diboll of Prairie Nursery. Neil told of his early struggles to convince people that natives are not weeds including the ultimate moment when Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*) was listed as a “perennial” in gardening magazines. Suddenly, native plants were hot and the rest is history.

A death in the family of floral designer Ardith Beveridge had the event planners scrambling to fill her spot. Luckily, with Ardith’s connections, Diane Schulte, floral design manager of Metcalfe’s Market was able to fill in. Diane had no idea what to expect with the donated plant materials and managed to create marvelous designs enjoyed by all.

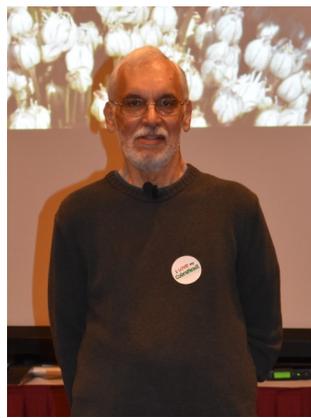
The Chula Vista Resort’s lobby was abuzz with excitement as attendees came together to board the bus for the Gathering for Gardeners (GFG) day long tour. First stop, the Aldo Leopold Center to learn about Leopold’s legacy, the environmentally friendly welcome center and the wonderful surrounding landscape. After a great lunch, it was back on the bus for the short journey to the International Crane Foundation. Despite the gray skies, all were excited to meet every species of cranes in the world and to see firsthand the great work of the ICF. Of special interest was the garden club’s involvement with the early days of the ICF including funding the original prairie planting and honoring the Foundation’s founder, George Archibald, with the NGC Award of Excellence.

Back at the hotel, Noel Valdes, inventor of Cobrahead garden tools presented an easy way to get huge harvests with raised veggie gardens consisting of large mounds of soil instead of beds confined to boxes. Nathan Larson of Community GroundWorks and the Wisconsin School Garden Network inspired attendees to work with kids in school and community gardens. Working in collaboration with several institutions including UW Madison, Nathan helps to teach instructors on the benefits of school gardens and the benefits of kids learning to eat healthy. A death in the family of Rob Zimmer also prevented him from speaking at the GFG. Luckily, Mark Dwyer of Rotary Gardens was able to fill in at the last minute and present great information on shade gardening with Hostas and native plants. Mark gave great ideas for plants to use in the shade that go way beyond the expected ferns. Dinner brought Mark back with a presentation on creating winter interest in the garden. Amazing photos of the Rotary Gardens and personal spaces in the winter reminded all the cold-hardy attendees of the beauty to be achieved even with a blanket of snow.

The final day of the event began with a return of Joe Cook, the WGCF 2017 Bronze Award recipient. Joe described the outstanding program created by the Sparta High School Earth Club to recycle all of the school district’s food scraps. Food processed in the only high school food digester in the country results in fertilizer for area gardeners. While those in attendance did not actually hike the Ice Age Trail, they did get a virtual tour of the only national trail in Wisconsin via a presentation by Luke Kloberdanz of the Ice Age Trail Alliance. Luke spoke of the importance of preserving this important piece of geological history along with getting kids outside and walking the trail.

Worms, worms and more worms were at the heart of Bernie Williams talk on the dreaded Jumping Worm. Surprisingly, there are NO native worms in Wisconsin. They were all pushed away during the Ice Age and even our beloved night crawlers are invasive. However, they do live somewhat in harmony with the forests, gardens and fields. Not so the many varieties of Jumping Worms that come along and destroy all of the underlying vegetation. Much work is being done to determine a control method for these new pests. Fun was in the air for the afternoon sessions of painting a garden scene while drinking good Wisconsin wine conducted by Deb Burkhalter and the floral design workshop led by Diane Schulte. Everyone left both classes with their own masterpiece. Not to be left out of the fun, the rest of the group boarded a boat to meander through the curves and crevices of the Wisconsin River. They even saw the famous jumping dog and the sun managed to peek out of the clouds.

*(continued on page 13)*



A wonderful variety of Speakers, Tours and Workshops were offered at A Gathering for Gardeners.

Top row of photos: Bernie Williams, Mark Dwyer, Noel Valdes, Nathan Larson.

Luke Klobberdanz (photo at left); Melinda Myers (right);

Photos below: Deb Burkhalter (left); Diane Schulte (center), Joe Cook (right).



(continued from page 11)

Rounding out the four days was an opportunity to meet author and media personality Melinda Myers. Melinda personalized books during a special reception then entertained the audience with special ideas on attracting pollinators to gardens. Melinda's reminders included the need to help the pollinators all year long by providing protection, food and water. She also showed that pollinators are a lot more than cute bees and butterflies and cover a huge spectrum of animals.

Along with all of these wonderful programs, members and friend enjoyed the outstanding floral designs to honor the CR presidents, director and our special guest NGC President Nancy Hargroves. Tables were graced at every meal with beautiful centerpieces and table favors. The raffle, silent auctions, live auctions and vendors were productive and WGCF's own Mary Kulhanek made a special appearance as the auctioneer.

Thanks go to all of the volunteers for their amazing hard work and thanks to their families for supporting them during the planning and days of the events. Thanks to the Chula Vista Resort staff for great service, support and delicious food. Thanks to our sponsors, presenters and vendors. Finally, thanks to the members of the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation for supporting this new idea and for giving us a chance to try something different. It was grand!



*Many thanks to all our olunteers who assisted with the many aspects of Digging in the Dells. Your help is greatly appreciated!!*

Mike Banks  
Eugenia Beecher  
Barbara Beres  
Carol Bessler  
JoAnn Blonien  
Kathy Casberg  
Carol Catlin  
Diane Clark  
Peg Culpitt  
Lynda Curl

Marilyn Doornink  
Lynne Ehnert  
Peggy Grubbs  
Gerianne Holzman  
Carol Howe  
Mary Jane Hull  
Margarete Hummelbeck  
Susan Johansen  
Debbie Keesler  
Wendy Kramer

Rita Kranz  
Mary Kulhanek  
Betty Lackas  
Kitty Larkin  
Shari Lee  
Sylvia Lowell  
Vern Lowell  
Eileen Miller  
Dawn Mozgawa  
Kristin Nussdorfer

Marlene Pelton  
Carol Rabe  
Judi Ruedy  
Laura Skoff  
Veronica Sustar  
Lucy Valitchka  
Gretchen Vest  
Carla Von Haden  
Doris Weber

*Many Thanks to all who contributed to the Raffle and Auctions which were a part of the 2017 Gathering for Gardeners:*

Item	From
Handmade quilted throw	Sherry Freiberg ( Gerianne's sister)
Basket of Chicken related items	Doris Weber & Carol Rabe
Painted Glass Luncheon Set	Mary Kulhanek
Poppy/Red Themed basket	Sunset Garden Club
Bucket of Garden Tools	Fiskars Corporation
Metal Girl & Butterfly Garden Sculpture	Mound Vu Garden Club
Cross Stitch throw	Mary Kulhanek
Garden Cart with Accessories	Sheboygan District
Mum plant and Gift Certificate	Shady Lane Nursery
Garden Cart with accessories	Milwaukee District
Glass Bee solar garden art	Laura Skoff
Bohemian Crystal vase and pillows	Laura Skoff
Basket of Tools	Dramm Corporation.
Mouse Ears Hosta	Judi Ruedy
Basket of wine, gift certificates etc.	St. Croix District
Sights and Sounds Basket	Indian Head District
Wall pocket with dried flowers	Bay Gardeners
Packers and More Basket	Coulee District
Painted Potty seat	Coulee District
One year subscriptions ( 3 separate)	Wisconsin Gardening Magazine
Framed Print	Milwaukee District
Basket of Bulbs and Books	Madison District
Snack Basket	Wisconsin River Garden Club
Handmade Satinwood/Silver Pen	Lynda Curl
Designer's Dream Basket	Carol Larson
Basket of Wine and glasses	Coulee District
Frog Activity Basket for 8	Paper Valley Garden Club
One night stay for 4	Chula Vista Resort
Small and large Cobra weeders	Cobra Head (Vendor)
Tea Pot Gift Set	Whispering Winds Farm ( Vendor)
Metal Goose Watering Can	Red Shed ( Vendor)
Metal/Glass Bee Garden Sculpture	Red Shed ( Vendor)
Antler Wind Chimes	C.R.. Crafts ( Vendor)
Teapot Garden Sculpture/Bird Feeder	VLK Creations ( Vendor)
Basket for Travel	Charlie's Travel( Vendor)
Wisconsin Bird House	Ken's Birdhouses ( Vendor)
Felt Chicken and acorns	Autumn Rose Designs ( Vendor)
Fused Glass Frames	Glass Hysteria ( Vendor)
Silver/Teal Charm Bracelet	Dream Weaver ( Vendor)
Fused Glass Coasters & Stand	Luci Art ( Vendor)
Fused Glass Yard Stake	Luci Art ( Vendor)

*Editor's Note: As we celebrate the 90th year of Wisconsin Garden Club Federation, I thought it would be interesting for our members to learn about or be reminded of the variety of President's Projects and Themes which have been supported by WGCF Presidents.*

*Additional Projects will be included in the Winter Issue of Wisconsin Gardens.*

## **Kathleen M. Larkin (Kitty) WGCF President 1983-1985**

*"Trees have a way of talking to us. Oh not in so many words. But they tell us things just the same - if we listen and observe and are still. A forest can be both cathedral and classroom to the receptive and a single tree can furnish enough food for thought for the lifetime of man." Esther Baldwin York.*

"Planning Tomorrow's Resources Today" was the theme that set the tone for the September 1983 - September 1985 term with "GREEN ACRES" being the project that was adopted by the Board of Directors as its special project. This project encompassed the planting of 100 acres of fir trees in a prominently visible area of the Chequamegon Forest in cooperation with the U.S. Forestry Service at a cost of \$60.00 per acre. Each District received a "Grandchild Tree" - a blue spruce approximately 2' high - to be used as an award to the club selling the most acreage. The "Grandchild" was a seedling from the 1983 White House Christmas Tree which was cut in the Chequamegon National Forest. Each tree was to be used in turn for some civic planting by the winning club.

Additionally a series of environmental seminars titled "A Day of Discovery in a Forest Environment" were held throughout the state dealing with water quality, reforestation, keeping our ecosystem in balance, and those concerns that are unique to the area in which each seminar was held. Each participant received a cutting of an energy tree for planting as a souvenir of the day. Trees are intimately linked to three necessities of life - food, energy and water. These programs helped to insure that future generations may utilize and enjoy our planet's most precious resources tomorrow.

This president was a member of the Governor's Arbor Day Commission and thus met R. Bruce Allison, author of *Wisconsin's Famous and Historic Trees*. To help celebrate Arbor Day the WGCF Executive Committee purchased enough copies of this book so each club could present one copy to a local school or public library of its choice making an impact on all the people of Wisconsin. WGCF was selected as a winner in the Organizations category of the 1984 National Arbor Day Awards Competition. The National Arbor Day Foundation wrote "The judges were extremely impressed with your multi-faceted project ' Planning For Tomorrow's Resources - Today' ". This covered all of the WGCF projects along with all the Arbor Day events planned by the individual clubs. This President did go to the Awards Banquet in Nebraska City, Nebraska to represent all of our members and receive the award.

*Be still and know the beauty of the forest. Tall giants that have stood some thousand years. Make not a sound in all their massive splendor - This peace is ours, and hushed are all our fears." Eleanor Hillman*

WISCONSIN GARDENS October 1984

"We often wonder about the projects that WGCF adopts - are they short lived projects that end when we enter a new administration? Recently we had a follow-up on one of our latest projects that can give us a true sense of fulfillment. John C. Wolter, Forest Supervisor, Chequamegon National Forest, sent an article on the Black Lake Interpretive Trail that appeared in the Phillip Bee, a local weekly newspaper in Phillips, Wisconsin. "Hiking trail logs Black Lake history - The mysterious depths of Black Lake become clearer to hikers who tour this lovely spot near Loretta. With a 1983 donation from the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation, the United States Forest Service has constructed a four-mile, interpretive hiking trail around Black Lake in the Chequamegon National Forest. A pamphlet, available at the head of the trail, explains the logging history of the lake and of nine sites around it. Each site is marked by a numbered, wooden post. Be finding the number in the pamphlet that corresponds to the number of each post, hikers can learn quite a bit about the history of the lake." The article then continues on to describe the entire trail and tell what each marker interprets. "To get to the Black Lake interpretive Hiking Trail and Campground in the Chequamegon National Forest, take Highway 70 west from Fifield. About five miles west of Loretta, take Highway B about four miles to the junction of Highway W. Take a right and drive north to Forest Road 174. Follow this three to four miles and you will be at the site.



## Carolyn A. Craig

## WGCF President 1985-87

As my term began on September 12, 1985, **VISIBILITY THROUGH ACTION** was the theme chosen to inspire WGCF's activities on the local, district & state levels. Indeed, **ACTION** on the part of our 119 clubs and 2,441 members provided **VISIBILITY** throughout the state with many significant and successful projects accomplished.

– Early in the term, National Council of State Garden Clubs sponsored a Waste Awareness Conference in Washington, DC, attended by all state presidents and Waste Awareness Chairmen. This inspired my President's Project of holding a similar **Waste Awareness Conference** at the Trees for Tomorrow Natural Resources Education Center in Eagle River June 2-3, 1987. Karen Allen, who accompanied me at the DC Conference, and Julie Schoenike, Trees for Tomorrow Advisory Council, led WGCF's conference. Garden club members from all over the state were able to go back to their communities and become catalysts in helping them develop sensible, safe alternatives to pouring toxic wastes down the drain, flushing them down the toilet, or throwing them away with the garbage! The nine garden club districts also sponsored "Watch That Waste" programs at their spring district meetings in 1986, in cooperation with the DNR.

– Sales of specially designed Dwarf Lake Iris napkins provided \$850 toward the purchase of land for The Nature Conservancy's **Chiwaukee Prairie** project near Kenosha. The State of Wisconsin Natural Areas matching grant program doubled this gift for a total of \$1,700. This president attended the dedication ceremony, where **PURPLE FRINGED GENTIAN** AND **WHITE LADIES' TRESSES ORCHIDS**, in full bloom, were symbolic of our need to continue supporting land restoration and preservation projects.

– A **Lady of Liberty** campaign raised over 50 cents per member, and \$1,320 was given to the Statue of Liberty's restoration fund.

– WGCF dedicated "Federation Fields", a prairie restoration project, initiated nine years earlier at the International Crane Foundation (ICF). **Midsummer Wildflower Madness**, a one-day wildflower seminar at the ICF, the Aldo Leopold Reserve & the private prairie garden of WGCF's own Marlyn Sachtjen followed.

– "Elements of Garden Design", WGCF's first **Landscape Design Symposium** was held at the George Williams Conference Center in Lake Geneva and sponsored by the Landscape Critics Council.

– Three \$1,000 **scholarships** were given in 1986, and four \$1,000 scholarships were given in 1987.

– Eight **Blue Star Memorial Markers**, which were placed by our state federation along Highway 51 between 1945 and 1959, were located. The sites were inspected, and nearby districts and/or clubs were encouraged to update them. A ninth marker was lost - and later discovered in a city garage in Superior. Many of the markers have since been restored and/or relocated to accommodate highway expansion projects.

– Kitty Larkin was elected by WGCF for ratification as Central Region Director for the 1987-89 term.

– WGCF's first official flag made its debut at the 1986 state convention, created by Margaret Doornink in the style of the new state logo. A beautiful, visible addition for our conventions!

– In August 1986, a camera crew from WEAU-TV, Eau Claire, arrived at my doorstep - with a half hour's notice to do a report on the invasion of purple loosestrife in local wetlands. Much information on the loosestrife problem was given to interviewer, Dan Carlson - thanks to an in-depth article that appeared in the May-June issue of *Wisconsin Gardens*. Close-up shots of loosestrife in garden catalogs were taken - and yours truly was asked to comment on camera. The results were aired on August 3<sup>rd</sup> - and WGCF was **VISIBLE** in a very positive way.

These were among the many highlights of my 1985-87 term. Many wonderful memories! It was a privilege to serve.

Carolyn A. Craig

## **Margaret Doornink**

## **WGCF President 1987-89**

### **The “And Then Some” Award**

Since many of you either do not know or remember how the “And Then Some” Award came about, I was asked to write an article about it.

Margaret Doornink from the Botany Belles Garden Club (as it was known then), served as president of the WGCF from 1987-89. As in the past, I think it was customary for the new president to sponsor a special award to be given out at the state convention each year, usually to be awarded to only one recipient or club. Well, Margaret thought that it would be nice to recognize as many members as possible, so she decided that her special award would be given to a member chosen from each of the districts in the state.

The criteria for receiving this award was that it should be given to a club member that goes “beyond the call of duty”, helping with club projects and activities, generally behind the scenes, not usually in the limelight or recognized for their extra help. Thus the name “And Then Some” was chosen to be used for the award, which she initiated in 1990.

Since Margaret liked to dry flowers and plants, she used her artistic talents to create beautiful designs by gluing them on special WGCF imprinted cards that also had the recipient’s name, the date, and signed by the presiding state president each year. When she became ill, and could no longer do the cards, she asked Carol Larson from Foxboro to take over the task, and she has done a wonderful job since then. Margaret passed away in 2010, but her memory lives on through this special award.

by Marilyn Doornink

## **Elaine Seeliger**

## **WGCF President 1989-91**

"Open your doors - make new pathways" with the ultimate goal, "as we communicate - educate - and cultivate."

No special project was selected for this term but this President requested all members to join hands and pledge ourselves to "Open Our Doors" to support a Permanent Home Project at Olbrich Gardens in Madison, the Friendship Garden at Washington, D.C., an Environmental Growth and Concerns Seminar, National Convention '91 in Milwaukee and "Make New Pathways" (Central Region logo) as we Communicate - Educate - and Cultivate. National and Regional themes were combined to make WGCF's theme a combination of both themes and projects for this term..

The WGCF Permanent Home Project was completed financially, furnished and made functional as Olbrich Gardens in Madison became our official address. It flourished as the WGCF office for a few years and then our donation was recognized as an endowment and the office was then used by the Olbrich Gardens staff and we are now recognized with a plaque on a unique bridge in the gardens.

WGCF Life Members totaled 220 in 1990 and has since grown to just under 500.

The 62nd Annual National Convention "The World Thru Our Gate" was held in Milwaukee in 1991 with the participation of members from throughout the state. There was a surplus of funds from the convention which later provided us with funds to purchase Past President's pins for former WGCF Presidents and provide pins for future presidents.

## **Judy Newman President 2003-2005 & Carole Hopp President 2005-2007**

### **WGCF President’s Projects- Buds ‘n Sprouts Program**

Also project for Donita Bruder, 2007 2009 Milwaukee District Garden Club Project.

#### **Connecting children with nature through gardening**

The Bud ‘n Sprouts Program at the Havenwoods Environmental Awareness Center, 6141 N. Hopkins Street, Milwaukee, WI assisted children in developing the lifetime skill of gardening, enhancing the personal and social skills and learning about botany, ecology, environmental issues and nutrition.

The program’s purpose was for groups of urban youth (ages 7-12) who participate in local youth serving community agencies. The children who participate reflect the diversity of the city’s population. The majority of the children in this program have not had gardening experiences at home. During the two-hour program each week the children: work in their own garden, take a walk in the Heritage Garden, do a theme activity, eat a garden snack, listen to a story and do some journaling.

Garden club members and clubs donated over \$5000.00 each term to support this program which continues today.

During Judy’s term, Garden Educator Workshops were held and a Buds ‘n Sprouts CD was created with all of curriculum and activities. The CD’s were promoted at WGCF and NGC meetings. At least two programs were created using the information on the CD.

## Marion Books President 2011-13 & Sylvia Lowell President 2013-15 Generations Park

### TWO WISCONSIN GARDEN CLUB PRESIDENT PROJECTS AND BEYOND

With the support of Marion Books and Sylvia Lowell through their President's Project support we were able to:

1. Install stone pillars, an interior gate and an entrance sign at the entrance to Generations Park;
2. Gain recognition as the only Town of Sun Prairie park;
3. Cause the organization of a Town Parks Committee;

4. Widen the commitment and support for the continued development and maintenance of the park. All of this was made possible through the generous donations from Wisconsin Garden Club members and other fund raisers. It has provided a significant turning point for the park. **THANK YOU!**

In 2014, when the Park Committee was formed, my husband Joe was asked to become a member of the Committee. He felt I should be on the committee and gave up his appointment. It hasn't always been easy working with other committee members as I am frequently ignored or otherwise patronized. Since we are unable to have the Sun Prairie Town Board approve both of us on the committee, Joe always attends as a member of the public and as the representative of the "Friends of Generations Park". The Friends control the remaining balance of the President's Project funds and is focused on maintaining the original native plant focus and the implementation of the projects originally submitted to WGCF. Joe is very vocal in maintaining that focus and in balancing and supporting my efforts towards park improvements.

Since the close of Sylvia's Presidential Project the park has seen the following changes:

- A. Improvement of the front parking area with limestone block retaining walls defining the limits of the parking;
- B. Installation of 5 foot wide granite gravel based paths for walking and maintenance access;

C. Four Eagle Scout projects: (a) a butterfly garden in the area of the original garden by Eric Pursifull - the project has had maintenance issues this year due to the site being under water for almost two months (the spring-summer wet spell resulted in park flooding similar to several years ago); (b) new stairs installed by Will Nelson at the end of the long path along the north property line - the path was an earlier Eagle project completed during the Presidential Project time frame; (c) Jake Vandenberg made Aldo Leopold benches which have been installed at various places in the park. He also donated \$200 excess money he received from his Eagle Scout project, to the Friends of Generations Park; (d) Nicholas Garstka's Eagle project focused on removing invasive trees and plants from the front entrance of the park with a focus on Honeysuckle and Buckthorn - the project has vastly improved the appearance of the front of the park.

D. Girl Scout troop 2529 has worked on a map of the park and has a web site: [troop2529.wixsite.com/generationspark](http://troop2529.wixsite.com/generationspark). They have also sent the information on to the local schools and day care centers.

The Park Committee meets on the 2nd Tuesday but has no set dates. The Chairman holds meetings when he feels there is something to discuss. The committee also has work parties the 2nd Saturday of the month during the spring and fall as the Chairman feels necessary. Joe has called the irregular meeting schedule, the failure to comply with public notice laws and other committee actions to question but to no avail yet. The struggle continues!

Future plans for the park include:

- I. Putting in a council circle (my vision and part of the original WGCF plan);
- II. Expanding the gravel path network;
- III. Creating a maintenance budget for the park;
- IV. Putting in a walking trail in the wet land area;
- V. Installing a privy;
- VI. Finding another area for gravel to be stored.

The success that Generations Park is having illustrates the power of Presidential Projects! The process can have short and long term impact on projects funded through the generosity and vision of the WGCF membership. We will keep you informed as we will continue to develop and implement projects at Generations Park.

Thank you!

by Diane Powelka Operation Wildflower Chairman

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### 2018

February 15 Executive Board Meeting, Rothschild  
 April 26 WGCF Annual Meeting, Rothschild  
 May 1-3 Flower Show School, Course I  
 Maywood Nature Center, Sheboygan  
 October 12-13 Gathering for Gardeners, St. Croix  
 District

## ADDRESS CORRECTIONS

Address changes and corrections should be sent to  
 Membership Secretary Maureen Wild Gordon, 742  
 Oak Ridge Rd., Oregon, WI 53575  
 wildgordon@prontomail.com

### Memorial Scholarship Fund Donations

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



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

CLUB NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_

DONOR NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

#### INDIVIDUAL/CLUB DONATION - MONEY TO BE SPENT IN CURRENT YEAR

DONATION TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS

DONATIONS APPLIED TO PRINCIPAL

INDIVIDUAL/CLUB DONATION

WISCONSIN LIFE MEMBERSHIP

IN HONOR OR  IN MEMORY OF:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

#### SEND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Wisconsin Garden Club Federation



709 Brookstone Crest  
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

[wisconsinclub.org](http://wisconsinclub.org)

**Deadline for Winter Issue: December 1 — Articles and Photos Welcome**

**Publication approximately: January 10**

**Coming in the Winter 2018: Arbor Day; Organizational Studies (*By-Laws*); Design; Environmental Concerns; Historian; Strategic Planning.**

**Articles also needed by Club Officers & members, please consider writing about your garden club, activities, club projects, etc.**

Looking out my window, I find myself reflecting on the recent Central Region Convention and Gathering for Gardeners. After months of planning and preparations, a multitude of emails and phone calls, several Go To Meetings, our Committee feels very pleased with the response and success of being able to bring together gardeners from around the state and Midwest to share our common interest in gardening. What a joy to be able to spend time listening to inspiring speakers, go on interesting tours, and then add in the fun workshops, lively auctions and the delightful times of sharing so many ideas during our meals together. When I spoke with members from another part of the state, they commented on how it was so enjoyable to visit with others, to share ideas of what is happening with projects in their communities and what their Clubs are doing.

On the Sunday before the Digging in the Dells event, I found myself sharing the following “Musings” with the Planning Committee: As I was rushing to take care of some details for church & local groups that morning, I noticed so many things that I could take photos of and then reminded myself that I needed to continue on with my “to do” list, and that made me think of our continually hectic lifestyles. I told myself that I can come back in one week and get the photos of the pampas grass, the cattails, the vine that’s artistically hanging onto a tree, the sandhill cranes who were out for their morning stroll along the road, the puffy & colorful morning clouds, etc.

I think that we each should give ourselves a few hours each week to enjoy the sights of nature that we are quickly passing by on these hectic days, to stop and thank our Creator for the beauty that is around us. Go and sit in a park or a woods, take a longer walk on a trail, or whatever ~ but let’s each give ourselves time to enjoy the fall season.

*Carla*

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