



Volume 71, Issue 4
Fall 2020

Wisconsin Gardens



*Dedication of this Blue Star Marker
at the trailhead of the Loop Trail
in Houlton, WI*

Past President's Project

Peggy Grubbs' Past President's project:
Blue Star Memorial Marker dedicated on October 23.
The Memorial Marker is located
at the trailhead of the Loop Trail in Houlton WI
Detailed information about the
Past President's Project is on Pages 4-5.

'PUTTIN ON THE RITZ'

WGCF ANNUAL CONVENTION

May 1-3, 2021

Red Lion Paper Valley Hotel
333. W. College Ave.
Appleton, WI 54911

We plan to have a tour open to all members sponsored by
Tri-Council on May 1. We are contacting all of our previous
speakers and hopefully we will be able to have them present at
this convention. We are adding a breakfast on May 3.

A speaker on mushrooms will be contacted.

"Tisket a Tasket" will take place and
the Fox River Valley District will have a sales table.

You can help WGCF by registering for the convention and
making Hotel reservations. Information will be available soon.

Thank you from the Fox River Valley District
Carol Catlin, Chair and Marion Books, Co-Chair

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message	2
Flower Shows	3
President's Project, 2017-19	4-5
Flower Show Symposium	6-8
Scholarships	9
WGCF Awards	10-11
President's Project	12
Horticulture	12
News from Around the State	13-16
Dates to Remember	17
In Memoriam	17

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.

WGCF 2019-2021 Officers:

President: Lynne Ehnert

**W143 N6828 Aspen Dr.
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051-0925
262-251-0452
lehnert@wi.rr.com**

First Vice President: Laura Skoff

**W131 N8030 Country Club Dr.
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051
414-614-6489
lauraskoff@gmail.com**

Second Vice President: Linda McCafferty

**443 Woodview Drive
Sun Prairie, WI 53590
608-837-2675
lkmccm@gmail.com**

Recording Secretary: Carla Von Haden

**1504 Academy St.
Elroy, WI 53929
920-901-3811
carlav8@centurytel.net**

Membership Secretary: Susan Johansen

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

WGCF Treasurer: Mary Jane Hull

**709 Brookstone Crest
Mount Horeb, WI 53572-3393
608-437-2478
hullmary249@gmail.com**

Central Region Director: Jodi Meyer

NGC President: Gay Austin

**NGC Headquarters:
4401 Magnolia Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63110**

President's Message

After spending much of my time this year working at cancelling things due to the pandemic, I'm happy to say I finally got to do something fun. Shortly after the June Executive Meeting, we took Gretchen Vest out to lunch to present her with the Lydia Shafer award. She was very surprised. We met at a restaurant in Kohler and she was very surprised that her husband arrived about 15 minutes after she did. She couldn't imagine why he would be at the garden club ladies' lunch. Then when she received her award, she was so surprised!



In September, I attended a State Presidents' Zoom meeting where we received information about deadlines for Plant America Grants, Espoma's 'Plant America' Grants, NGC Scholarship, NGC Awards, and NGC Award of Excellence. They also provided information about a new feature on the NGC website 'Find A Club' where people can go on the NGC website and locate a club in their area. All of the information provided was distributed to the WGCF District Directors.

I also attended several Zoom meetings regarding:

- WGCF Website
- Organizational Studies & the Bylaws
- Strategic Planning & the Educational Fund

This involved several strings of emails on each of the topics. This really confirmed for me that people really have something to say about Garden Club and what happens.

In August and September, we worked on putting together two flower shows to ensure all judges that needed judging and exhibiting credits in order to take the Flower Show Symposium in October would have enough credits. That meant that we needed to come up with two flower show schedules and places to hold both flower shows. One was at my house and one at Carol Catlin's house. We also arranged for two panels of judges for each show which meant more people could get credit for the judging. We worked hard to ensure social distancing. Good thing the weather was nice and we were able to be outside. The Lord looks after us Gardeners and lets us have events at our houses so that we have to get our yards cleaned up!

In my situation, our subdivision had our own version of 'State Fair' that day. My house was the Flower Building. My neighbors could not believe that we could set up designs of that caliber in a home! They even learned a little. They are all talking about the 'hairy balls' that were in the horticulture display.

I also attended the Flower Show Symposium. This was the Symposium that almost wasn't. They had so many cancellations (the venue, the horticulture instructor, the design instructor, lunches). Fortunately, teamwork made it all happen. Everyone pulled together and got it done. We even made some new friends that attended from Mississippi. That's what Garden Club is all about! Teamwork!!

Lynne

ADVERTISING RATES

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



“Fairy Tales Galore” Flower Show
 Sleeping Beauty by Kitty Larkin (top left)
 Sleeping Beauty by Lynn Laufenberg (above center)
 Wizard of Oz by Helen Surridge (above right)
 Three Little Pigs by Kitty Larkin (left)
 Alice in Wonderland by Dawn Mozgawa (right) **BEST OF SHOW**

“Summer’s Beauty” Flower Show
 Featuring Summer’s Beauty by Carol Catlin (below left)
 Beauty Structurally Different by Liz Murken (bottom center)
 Simple Beauty by Kitty Larkin (below right)
 Looking Down to Admire Beauty by Liz Murken (below center) **BEST OF SHOW**



Completion of President's Project 2017-19

Peggy Grubbs, Past President

Finally!! The Blue Star Marker and Garden that was the focal point of the 2017-2019 President's Project has been completed! All that remains to do is to have the dedication which will happen in October, 2020.

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 on making a difference in the proposed Loop Trail.

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 rain gardens and pollinator gardens as part of this project. We had this all set to go with help from a local elementary school. Shortly before our planting date we learned that the state contractors had gone ahead and seeded the area, despite having been provided with revised plans. The County at this point had no control over the area as it had not yet been released to them by the state.

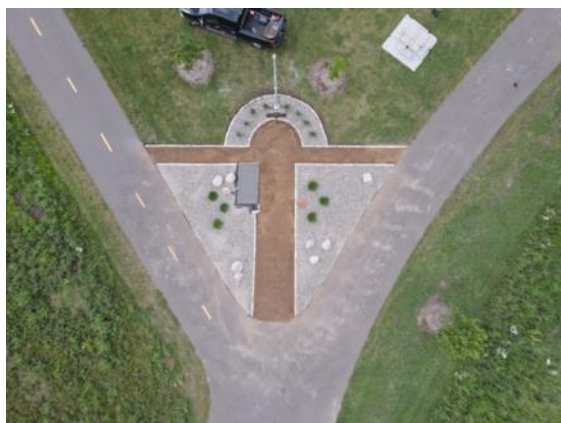
We learned along the way that working with several government agencies was a challenge. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation had a say in deadlines as did their contractors. The project suffered significant setbacks as the weather and seasonal delays kept occurring. When we finally got an okay from the State and County to proceed last fall, our landscaper was not available. We were all set to begin construction in April of this year with a May dedication when Covid struck and everything shut down again.

On June 19th, our long anticipated garden and Blue Star Marker was finally installed along with a flagpole. It took another 3 weeks to get the lighting installed and flag flying. It took another three weeks to get the bench installed.

The Willow River Garden Club planted additional pollinator plants in the garden and have been maintaining them along with a gardener from St. Croix County. It has been striking to see people emerge from the tunnel that is part of the Loop Trail and watch them stop, go up to the marker and then take pictures.

Many, many thanks to the WGCF clubs and individual members who contributed to this project. Our final project cost was over \$12,000.

We are most happy that this WGCF project has been completed and will serve as a reminder of the sacrifices that are made on a daily basis to keep our country free.



Drawings and plans for the President's Project 2017-2019



Work in progress for the President's Project!!



President's Project 2017-2019

DONORS TO PRESIDENT'S PROJECT

Gerianne Holzman	Kitty Larkin
Executive Committee Members	Lynne Ehnert
Sheboygan District – Ivy League Garden Club	Madison District
Sheboygan District – Lake Shore Garden Club	Milwaukee District – Western Acres Garden Club
St. Croix District–Lake Wissota Garden Club	Fox River Valley District
Peggy and Will Grubbs	Milwaukee District
Indianhead District	Sheboygan District
Larry and Joan Goebel	St. Croix District
Fox River Valley District – Blue Star Garden Club	Floral Designers of Wisconsin
Fox River Valley District – Green Thumb Garden Club	Joan Burk-Miller
Fox River Valley District – Oshkosh Garden Club	Carolyn Craig
Milwaukee District – Elm Grove Garden Club	Char Schulz
Milwaukee District – Elmbrook Garden Club	Community Foundation
Milwaukee District – South Shore Garden Club	Coulee District – Hill and Dale Garden Club
Fox Valley Region Community Foundation	Carol Howe & Susan Johansen
Madison District – Mound Vue Garden Club	Anne Marie Foundation
Madison District – West Side Garden Club	Thrivent Grants
Maureen Wild Gordon	St. Croix County
Tri-Council Schools	Miscellaneous
St. Croix District – Willow River Garden Club	TOTAL DONATIONS \$12,095

EXPENSES

Sewah Studio – Marker	\$ 1,470
Earthworks Landscaping Company	\$ 6,975
Gertens for additional plants	\$ 250
Flagpole, Lighting and Bench	\$ 3,400
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$12,095



*Featured Plant Material
Design by Sandy Ingram*



*Featured Plant Material
Design by Lynnette Rakun*



*Panel Design
by Carol Catlin*



*Featured Plant Material
Design by Lynn Laufenberg*



*Featured Plant Material
Design by Liz Murken*



*Featured Plant Material
Design by Marion Books*

FALL FLORAL FANTASY

WGCF Symposium 2020
Kitty Larkin, State Symposium Chairman

As many of you know, I often use the phrase "Compost Happens" and while working with the 2020 Symposium the phrase was used quite often. We carefully checked all of the judges credentials to see how many judges needed additional judging and/or exhibiting credits. Several were lacking both types of credits so we planned two flower shows in different parts of the state to accommodate those needing credits and involved them in exhibiting and judging by having each show judged by two different panels of judges. This called for double sets of entry cards and awards with the exception of the Best of Show Awards which needed both panels to agree on this award.

Our first compost landed when we needed to replace the Horticulture Instructor who stepped back for personal reasons, but we were very fortunate that Judy Newman, NGC Horticulture Instructor was able to fill the position for us. We had double checked with the Fox River Valley Technical College in Appleton and were told that everything was still set for the symposium to be held in the Agriculture building. However a couple of days later the next layer of compost landed when we were told that the facility would not be opening for classes this fall.

Lynnette Rakun came to our rescue by securing the Weill Center for the Performing Arts in Sheboygan as our venue. This is the same location where our last Flower Show School Series was held so we were familiar with the facility and knew it would serve us well so we would be able to meet all of the restrictions for social distancing.

It is good to be able to apply a little compost to our floral and horticulture activities and two layers of it isn't too bad but more than that becomes a little much and burn-out could result. Unfortunately it wasn't finished with us yet, as our Design Instructor was caught with a health issue and needed some surgery to pull her through and she was unable to fulfill this teaching assignment, but is now well. We were down to two weeks before the Symposium was to be held but still did not want to cancel the Symposium after all we'd been through to make it happen. Upon contacting the NGC Symposium Chairman we were able to come up with the name of one person who might be able to help us out. A telephone call to Jo Krallman of Arkansas, proved her to be the savior of our Symposium. With the approval and driving abilities of her husband, she was able to teach our Design Course. Two judges from Mississippi joined us for this adventure and stuck with us through all of the changes. Four individuals were able to write the point scoring test to advance their credentials and nine were able to refresh their Master status. Compost Happened for all of these individuals but all gained a lot from the experience.

Many thanks to Liz Murken, Flower Show Schools Chairman and Credentials Chairman, for serving as Local Chairman of this Symposium and seeing it through the myriad of changes. Creative Flower Arrangers and Western Acres Garden Club sponsored the two Flower Shows for the judges to obtain their necessary credits and Floral Designers of Wisconsin along with Southern Wisconsin Judges Council gave bountiful donations which helped this Symposium take place. **TEAM work is the key to success!!**



*Crassula Displays provided by
Horticulture Instructor Judy Newman*



All designs on this page were created by
Design Instructor Jo Krallman.



SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2020-21

Mary Ellen Sedlacek, Scholarship Chair

The Wisconsin Garden Club Foundation with the help of the Fox Valley Region Community Foundation was able to award \$10,500 to ten deserving students, out of a total of forty-two who applied from our state.

The **Myrtle B. Ogilvie Scholarship** of \$1,000, will be enjoyed by Clara Sallman, a freshman at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, from Delavan, transferring from technical school to study Biology Ecology and Environmental Biology. One of five children, Clara was homeschooled and assisted in her family's beekeeping business.

The **Balousek Scholarships** of \$2500 each are going to Victoria Chanez, Colby Powers, and Tou Vue. Victoria Chanez graduated from Oshkosh West High School with highest honors. As a junior at UW-Platteville, she is studying Environmental Engineering. Victoria has had experience as an intern for the City of Oshkosh, assisted the DNR with geese banding, raising pheasants and sturgeon.

Colby Powers from Stevens Point, transferred from UW-Platteville to UW-Stevens Point to study Forest Management. He is able to work 35 hours a week while maintaining highest honors in his studies.

Tou Vue from Eau Claire chose UW-Stevens Point to study Forestry and Ecosystem Restoration. Tou works at McDonald's and Menard's, while also maintaining a leadership role in the Hmong culture.

The **Irene Strauss Scholarship** will be granted to Erik Janssen, homeschooled along with four siblings by his mother K - 12, attended UW-Fond du Lac and transferred to UW-Stevens Point. A senior in Forestry, with an extensive Boy Scouting experience, he plans to continue with a Master's Degree.

The **five WGCF Scholarships** of \$1,000 were awarded to the following students: Shannon Lamb, a junior from Dane, has been funding her own education while attending UW-Platteville. Having studied in the Netherlands, her major is Environmental Horticulture.

Gabrielle Bolwerk, a native of Neenah attends UW-Stevens Point and is studying Soil and Land Management. She possesses an excellent work history while maintaining 3.96 average.

Leah Gastonguay, also from Stevens Point, is the Botany lab manager studying plant diseases in grape vines and is an undergraduate teaching assistant.

Isabel Krueger, a junior from West Bend, studied in Costa Rica and plans to join the Peace Corps. Her majors at Stevens Point are Forest Ecosystem Restoration and Management and Spanish.

Our last UW-Stevens Point student Jordyn Kurer is also from West Bend. Jordyn took Advanced Placement courses all through high school and now is studying Natural Resource Planning.

Wisconsin did not have an applicant for the National Garden Club Scholarship. Given the number of applicants that Wendy Kramer and I had to peruse, it took a bit longer than normal. Our hope is that these students are able to continue their studies this fall.

WGCF Awards for 2021

Doris Weber, Chair

The WGCF Awards year runs from January 1st to December 31st. I know 2020 has been a very different time for all of us with stay at home, shut downs, stay safe, social distancing, wash your hands, masks, and the list goes on and on. But this should find everyone with a great amount of time to spend on WGCF Awards. We're all hoping 2021 will be the year to receive awards for your garden club.

I am waiting at my mailbox for all these wonderful award applications to arrive soon. I know time seems to be flying by quickly, but a full two months remains to check out the WGCF Website for a listing of all the awards, requirements, and application process.

Let's also not forget to recognize our members who are all volunteers, to award someone in your club or District for "And Then Some" award. Remember, each District needs to submit someone, and do it now instead of waiting until the last minute.

Congratulations to 2020 WGCF Award Winners!!

Lydia Shafer Award
Bronze Award
Garden Club of the Year Award
Ruth West Horticulture Award
Conservation Award
Wisconsin Civic Achievement Award
Kuether District Membership Award
Pat Dvorak Yearbook Theme Award

Flower Show Achievement *Standard*

Dorothy Nelle Sanders *Small Standard*

Wisconsin Judges Council Educational

Flower Show Schedule

Ruth Smith Evaluation
Murken Memorial Scholarship Fund
Nancy Gotham Endangered Species

Gretchen Vest
Larry Conrad
Lake Shore Garden Club
Lake Wissota Garden Club
Lake Wissota Garden Club
Lake Wissota Garden Club
Sheboygan District
Wisconsin River Garde Club

"Sowing Creatively"
Floral Designers of Wisconsin
"Celebrating 150th Anniversary of
Chippewa Falls"
Lake Wissota Garden Club
"Autumn Treasures"
Botany, Belles & Beaus Garden Club
"Autumn Treasures"
Botany, Belles & Beaus Garden Club
Gerianne Holzman
Milwaukee District
Elmbrook Garden Club

“And Then Some” Award Winners

Coulee District
 Fox River Valley District
 Indianhead District
 Madison District
 Milwaukee District
 St. Croix District
 Sheboygan District

Rita Kranz
 Diane Ladwig
 Helen Pederson
 Pat Greathead
 Veronica Wallace-Kramer
 Bonnie Ringer
 Kathy George



Past Coulee District Director Carla Von Haden presented the “And Then Some” Award to Rita Kranz (above photo) and Madison District Director Maureen Wild Gordon presented the “And Then Some” Award to Pat Greathead (photo below).

Sheboygan District Director Gretchen Vest presented the “And Then Some” Award to Kathy George (above photo)



“And Then Some”

A retired business executive was once asked the secret of his success. He replied that it could be summed up in these three words – “and then some”.

“I discovered at an early age”, he declared, “that most of the difference between average and top people could be explained in these words. The top people did what was expected of them – “and then some.”

“They were thoughtful of others; they were considerate and kind – and then some. They met their obligations and responsibilities fairly and squarely – and then some.”

We are thankful for these people who make the world more livable, for their spirit of service is summed up in the three little words, “and then some”.

THE PRESIDENT'S PROJECT—UPDATE

LEAF OUT WISCONSIN-LITTLE SPROUTES FOR SAPLINGS

Kerry Krokos President's Project Chair

Now that Fall is here, here are the most recent tree counts for the State Project. (This is based on the information sent to me) Thanks to everyone who continues to think "Trees".

St. Croix-Carol Howe: Total is 70.

Sheboygan-Gretchen Vest: Had 30 with 50 added from a member of Lake Shore GC. Total now is 80.

Milwaukee-Cheryl Lausten: Had 19 with 11 added (2 were planted in a public area) Total is now 30.

Madison-Maureen Wild-Gordon: 2 total (from Westside Garden Club) Total is 2.

Indianhead-Susan Wallace: None to date.

Fox River Valley-Sandi Smet: 1 club (Paper Valley) for 52 trees with additional 3 from Green Thumb GC. Total is 55.

Coulee-Debbie Keesler: 2 clubs (Hill and Dale GC, and Bangor GC) 2 trees. Total is 2.

HORTICULTURE

Pagoda Dogwood *Cornus alternifolia*

Sue Donohue, Horticulture Chair

Many of us are familiar with the many trees and shrubs in the Cornus family, but not are as beautiful as our native Pagoda Dogwood. This small-scale tree can be found in every county in Wisconsin. We are so lucky we can grow this beauty no matter where we live.

Slowly growing to 15-25' tall and wide, this horizontal branching tree can be grown in sun or shade (which produces a more layered look) and is resistant to both deer and black walnut trees. The horizontal branching is one of the many qualities that makes this a great specimen tree for any yard. And while the branching is unique, so is the leaf arrangement - unlike all others in the dogwood family, Pagoda's leaves are alternate arrangement not opposite.



In May the tree is covered with 2" white, lightly fragrant blooms, loved by the early pollinators, followed by blue-black fruits that the birds will enjoy. In the fall be prepared for a rich maroon color before leaf drop.

This dogwood loves good air circulation, so keep it open, cool and moist soil along with a good layer of organic mulch or shredded leaves. Pruning is only necessary for shape and should be done when the tree is dormant. While mainly disease resistant, powdery mildew can be a problem in very wet years.

If you are looking to plant a new tree (and we all should be), give Pagoda Dogwood some consideration, you will not be disappointed.

News from Clubs around the State

Lake Wissota Garden Club Participates in NGC Monarch Project

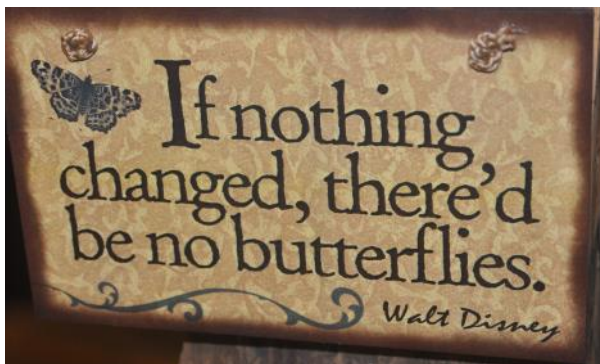
Ginger Wierman, Co-President of Lake Wissota Garden Club



Lake Wissota Garden Club member Kristen Brown, an Interpretive Guide at the Butterfly House at Beaver Creek Reserve in Eau Claire County, is shown sorting common milkweed seed collected by LWGC members in response to National Garden Club's request to collect seed for Monarch Watch.

Monarch Watch, an affiliate program with the Kansas Biological Survey, focuses on the annual North American migration of the Monarch butterfly, an indicator species for the need for pollinator habitat conservation. The program involves more than 2,000 schools, nature centers, and other organizations in the U.S. and Canada, as well as an estimated 100,000+ students and adults who participate in tagging activities each fall.

All National Garden Club members were asked to collect milkweed seed native to their area and send the seeds to Monarch Watch which will start plugs in the spring for monarch way-stations. LWGC members collected seeds from three varieties of milkweed plants: Swamp, Common and Butterfly weed. Common milkweed yielded the most at three cups of seeds.



News from Clubs around the State

Botany Belles and Beaus Garden Club

In the Ground – Finally!!

In January 2020, the Botany Belles and Beaus Garden Club received a \$1,000 National Garden Club Plant America Community Project Grant. Knowing how important trees are to the environment and for habitat, the proposal was to plant trees at Viking Middle School. Sixth grade students in media specialist's Jason Glampe's research class investigated native tree species and made recommendations to the Botany Belles and Beaus Garden Club for the types of trees to purchase and plant. Just prior to the Covid shutdown, club members met with a group of 6th graders to discuss their recommendations. Based on input from students and club members, it was decided to plant white oak, white cedar, sugar maple, elm (Dutch Elm disease resistant), blue beech, willow, and Black Hills spruce.

Many thanks to the Baldwin Greenhouse for obtaining the trees and keeping them healthy until students could be involved in planting them. The intent was to plant them in May with the 6th graders who made the original recommendations. Due to Covid-related delays, nine family groups and Garden Club members met in August to put the trees in the ground. Each family unit was responsible for one of the trees. The white oak and white cedar were bare root stock and were planted in April. A total of 16 trees were planted, some along the sidewalk, some to eventually shade the ball diamonds, some along old County Road B, some at the entrance to the parking lot, and the willow closer to the prairie area. The students and parents were enthusiastic and look forward to seeing the trees mature in the coming years.

Besides the money from the National Garden Club grant, the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation grant purchased mulch and funds from Botany Belles & Beaus also supported the project. WGCF's goal this year is to involve young people in the planting of trees.

"The best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago. The second best time is now." – Anonymous



Botany Belles and Beaus Garden Club members (in turquoise shirts) worked with families and students to plant trees. From left to right: Club members Marilyn Doornick, Ruth Anderson, Karen Niccum, Jeanne Niccum, Dru Kreinke, Jean Peavey, and Debby Walters. (Photos on this page and page 15)

Paper Valley Garden Club

The Paper Valley Garden Club met at VandeHey's nursery for a wonderful program on Peonies and Hydrangeas presented by the staff of the nursery. (6 ft. spacing and outdoors was set up by the nursery).

Peonies: Peonies are hardy herbaceous plants. Their origin is Asia, southern Europe and western North America. The common garden peony is *Paeonia lactiflora*. Most species derive from this peony. Peonies are hardy to Zone 2 and long-lived. They can reach 2-3 feet tall and many flowers can be 3-4 inches across.

Tree peonies derive from *Paeonia suffruticosa*. Tree peonies are shrubs that branch at the top of slender cane like stems. They drop their leaves in fall. They are less hardy and their blooms can be 6-7 inches across. Contact the American Peony Society for further information. www.americanpeonysociety.org

Peonies need a well-drained site with at least six hours of sunlight to bloom well. Planting and transplanting peonies are best in the fall. They have very large, fleshy roots. Feed peonies with a low nitrogen fertilizer in spring and fall. Prune out the center canes to provide better air circulation. Removing side buds in spring will produce a stronger stem holding a large blossom. Ants are drawn to the nectar of the peony bud but do not harm the plants. Simply wash the bud or blossom off before bringing it into the house.

Peony blossoms can be cut in bud, refrigerated, and brought out weeks later for blooming.

Hydrangeas: Hydrangeas are the fastest development of new cultivars in all of the shrub world!!! Most Hydrangeas prefer well drained, fertile soils. Add compost to soil and prepare for lots of moisture. Also, most prefer partial shade. The Arborescens type prefer shade. Annabelle, is the primer plant in this category. Annabelle features very large blossoms and often the stems can't hold the weight of the blossoms. Incrediball hydrangea has been developed to have stronger stems to hold up the large blossoms. Prune in late March or late fall when dormant. You can cut the plants all of the way to the ground every other year.

Endless Summer Hydrangea sports a blue color when planted in acidic soils. In the Midwest where soils are alkaline, the blue color is more difficult to achieve. Using miracid in spring can help. Fertilize the plant with a well balanced, granular plant food in early spring.

Mountain type hydrangeas like Tiny Tuff, can be pruned in late March before new growth begins. It is a *Hydrangea serrata*. Munchkin Oakleaf Hydrangeas need to be pruned in mid-summer after flowering. The plants bloom on old wood. Remove 1/3 of stems every year to renew the plant. Fertilize with a balanced, granular plant food in early spring.

Limelight is a paniced hydrangea, about 6-8 ft. shrub and develops very woody stems. They should not be cut down all the way to the ground. Little lime only grows 3-5 ft. Vanilla Strawberry blooms begin whitish and as the season progresses flushes to a medium pink/red.

Firefly is unusual because it has variegated foliage. Prune in late summer after blooming. Climbing hydrangeas also should be pruned after blooming in late summer.



Botany Belles and Beaus Garden Club members worked with families and students to plant trees at various sites near the school and in the community.

Nature's Best Hope: US!

by Debby Walters

As gardeners, hopefully, most of you have heard of Doug Tallamy and his book, *Bringing Nature Home*. In that book he states, “. . . gardeners have become important players in the management of our nation's wildlife. It is now within the power of individual gardeners to do something that we all dream of doing; to make a difference. In this case, the “difference” will be to the future of biodiversity, to the native plants and animals of North America and the ecosystems that sustain them.” He has now written another book, *Nature's Best Hope* which expands on the ideas he promoted in *Bringing Nature Home*. In it, he is asking people to contribute to Homegrown National Park. Loss of habitat and habitat fragmentation affects insects, birds and animals and it is something that we have control over. Those creatures depend on the native plants that they have evolved with for food and shelter. To create an Homegrown National Park of native plants from coast to coast, Tallamy proposes individual land owners in cities, suburbs, rural areas plant native species and commit half of their mowed area to that end. If everyone did that, there would be corridors of habitat for nature to thrive. It would be lovely but with American's appreciation of manicured lawns, perhaps not realistic. However, what if everyone would decide to devote a corner of their property to an assortment of native plants and incorporate more into our gardens? It would be a start.

Recently, I used the National Wildlife Federation and Audubon Society websites to access the number of native plants I actually have in my yard; unfortunately daylilies and hostas don't qualify. These useful sites list native plants by zip code and are an easy way to see what is native and what you might incorporate into your plantings. Even though I have natives sprinkled in amongst my gardens and milkweed is beginning to run wild, my “native corner” currently has Pagoda Dogwood, Prairie Drop Seed, St. John's Wort (the native variety), New Jersey Tea, Fleabane (a lovely weed), American Hazelnut, Red Osier Dogwood, Regent Serviceberry, White Cedar and I hope to add some blueberries yet. I tried to neaten it up some this summer since the neighbors have to look at it, but for the first time I had a Brown Thrasher visiting my yard!

A Family Project of Tree Planting

by Lucy Valtichka

My husband, Roy, son Peter, his wife, Shari & I planted 81 trees & shrubs the majority of which were native on April 26. Most of them were planted at the edge of a pollinator prairie Peter is developing on his property. A few were planted near a large pond in that area and some were planted closer to their home located on a hill.

We planted--Burr oak; Concolor fir; Fraser fir; White cedar trees & hazelnut shrubs. The Burr oak is known for attracting many beneficial insects which in turn will attract birds. All of the plantings will benefit wildlife, plus help the pollinator prairie. These tree/shrub seedlings were purchased through the Outagamie County Conservation Department.

Peter put protective guards around many of the trees to protect them from rodents & deer. He & his wife, Shari, have a lovely 22 acre property located near farms and woodland areas.

Everyone can be thinking of similar family projects.

IN MEMORY OF CAROLE HOPP AND COLLEEN WEILER

Kerry Krokos, WGCF State Projects Chair

The Elm Grove Garden Club and Western Acres Garden Club, donated two native trees in honor of two very long-standing and much missed garden club members.

In keeping with the MDGC district director's project and the State president's project, the trees were planted on the Hank Aaron State Trail on Tuesday, September 9th, 2020.

Elm Grove Garden Club donated a Red Oak in honor of Carole Hopp. Western Acres Garden Club donated a Sugar Maple in honor of Colleen Weiler. Both trees will be easy to identify on the trail as they are wrapped in a tree tube for protection during the next few years. In addition, each club president has a formal document from the DNR containing GPS coordinates as well as the location and nearest parking area for each tree. An outing for the entire district to view the trees is in the planning stages for next year.

Thank you to these clubs for honoring Carole and Colleen. Every time we see these trees we will be reminded of how much each of them meant to us.



Milwaukee District Garden Club members who planted the trees to honor Carole Hopp and Colleen Weiler: Mary Catherine Paulus, Elm Grove Garden Club; Cheryl Lausten, District Director and Elm Grove Garden Club; Diane Olsen, First Vice District Director; and Kerry Krokos, Western Acres Garden Club.

Website Updating

by Debby Walters, Webmaster

In a summer affected by many cancellations, many WGCF clubs have creatively conducted their activities. If you have a photo of your socially distanced or “masked” event, please email it and a short description to: contactwgcf@gmail.com and it will be used to update the WGCF website. Also, if committee chairs would look over the information pertaining to your committee on the website and alert me to changes that should be made, it would be much appreciated.

Wisconsin Pollinators

If you are looking for a website that includes articles and information about Pollinators, you can sign up for the newsletter Wisconsin Pollinators at: wisconsinpollinators.com The newsletters and website include a variety of articles and information related to native pollinators and native plants. Recent newsletters have included articles such as beekeeping, native bees, attracting butterflies in the fall, garden pests, and eco-friendly alternatives to road salt.



Elmbrook Garden Club members toured Will Radner's garden during the summer.

CONGRATULATIONS

to

*Hill and Dale
Garden Club
Of Elroy*

50th Anniversary



*Thanks for many years of
beautifying your community!!*

DATES TO REMEMBER

2021

February	WGCF Awards Meeting
February	WGCF Executive Committee Meeting
April 23-24	Landscape Design School
May 1-3	WGCF Convention & Annual Business Meeting, Appleton

Address changes and corrections

should be sent to Membership Secretary:

Susan Johansen
2249 122nd St.
New Richmond, WI 54017
h23j19@gmail.com

IN MEMORIAM Colleen Weiler

Colleen Jean Weiler peacefully joined our Lord on March 21, 2020 upon suffering congestive heart failure and was interred on June 20, 2020. She was born in Brooklyn, New York, schooled in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and graduated from Messmer High School where she met her future husband, Edgar Weiler with whom she spent more than 69 years. A mother of 6, grandmother of 12 and great grandmother of 17, she raised her children to school age and then embarked on a career of flower arranging where she worked specifically with dried weeds and wildflowers. She and Edgar collected weeds as they traveled through Wisconsin and carefully dried them so Colleen could use them in arrangements for the classes and demonstrations she was presenting across the state. She did the flower arrangements in the book *PODS - Wildflowers and Weeds in Their Final Beauty* by Jane Embertson.



Colleen and Edgar Weiler

It was a privilege to call Colleen "friend" for more than 50 years of garden club activity while we participated in local, state, regional and national garden club activities, traveling many times throughout the nation as well as internationally. We often drove across the United States and shared many stories and that is when I found out that the fellow my youngest daughter was marrying, was a groomsman in one of her children's weddings. After I finally put a last name on him she was able to share pictures of him that were taken when he still had hair. We had a good laugh.

We belonged to two garden clubs together as well as Judges Council. We chaired the National Garden Club convention together in 1991 and Colleen served on the National Board of Directors for 25 years becoming a Golden Circle Member and served on the National Executive Committee as the National Historian from 2005-2007. She was awarded the Lydia Shafer Award by Wisconsin Garden Club Federation as well as the Horticulture Achievement Award. A lady of many talents she was an Emeritus Flower Show Judge but received many flower show awards presented by others for her talents.

Colleen was a friend to all and she has probably already artistically rearranged the beauty of heaven while waiting for the rest of us to join her.

Kitty Larkin

Wisconsin Garden Club Federation



709 Brookstone Crest
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

Non-Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 2783
Madison, WI

wisconsinclub.org

Deadline for Winter Issue: December 1 — Submissions Welcome
Publication approximately: January 10

Coming in the Winter 2021: Arbor Day, Organizational Studies, WGCFF Convention, Historian, Environmental Concerns, President's Project, Nominating.
Articles also needed by Club Officers & members, please consider writing about your garden club, activities and club projects.

Looking out my window, I find myself reflecting on how amazing our senses are. A recent health “incident” (a reaction to medication, not COVID-19) caused me to spend several hours with limited or no vision, and some/much confusion. That scare made me think about how important our senses are. Over the years we adjust to changing eyesight, changes in our hearing or other senses, but when that sense is completely gone, it really does make a person think about what that particular sense means for us.



During that “incident”, I was repeatedly asked who I am, where I was, why I was there and what could I see. Seeing polka dots on the TV screen and blue-framed glasses on the people on the TV screen was wild! In the midst of some of the crazy vision, I realized I didn't have my contact lenses or eyeglasses. Oh my, the world did start to reappear as “normal” once I had my glasses, and when the swelling left my brain.

I try to promote the attitude of gratitude – and this episode has helped me to have a renewed appreciation for my senses. As we each deal with the challenging times of the pandemic and how we will deal with the changes for our upcoming holidays, let us take the time to thank our Creator for all that we have been given, and the many blessings in our lives, starting with our senses and creativity. Yes, this will be a different holiday season but let us each use our resourcefulness to give it special meaning, rather than complaining that we don't have our typical family gathering. Gardeners are known for taking a bare piece of ground and creating a beautiful garden or landscape. How about if we use that same resourcefulness to get through the challenges of the new ways we will celebrate our holidays?

May you find blessings and gratitude in the seasons ahead.

Carla

Editor:

Carla Von Haden
wisconsinclub.org@centurytel.net
1504 Academy St., Elroy 53929
920-901-3811

Circulation:

Susan Johansen
2249 122nd St.
New Richmond, WI 54017
h23j19@gmail.com

Contributors: Carol Catlin, Sue Donohue, Lynne Ehnert, Peggy Grubbs, Carol Howe, Kerry Krokos, Kitty Larkin, Mary Ellen Sedlacek, Laura Skoff, Lucy Valitchka, Gretchen Vest, Carla Von Haden, Debby Walters, Doris Weber, Maureen Wild Gordon, Ginger Wierman

Published quarterly at Elroy, WI by the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation, member of National Gardens Clubs, Inc. Subscription price \$10.00 per year.

Distribution: 1150

Editor reserves the right to edit contributions for size and content.
Printed by EconoPrint, Verona, WI

